

Read the text below and answer questions 1 to 8.

Reflections: My Life's Journey

My life's journey began the minute I was born. Born to a family who lived from hand to mouth I was sold to a rich family a few hours after I was born. Till today I have no idea who my biological parents are. According to Nanny Lye, my adoptive parents loved me very much. They doted on me, showering me with everything that I wished for.

Life was a blissful journey until my adoptive mother delivered a baby boy. My life's journey then became a nightmare! I was downgraded to a mere 'maid' in the household. I was deprived of the love and concern I once had. It was Nanny Lye who gave me a shoulder to cry on. Though she was an illiterate maid from China, Nanny Lye was wise. She consoled me, "Life is a journey that must be travelled no matter how bad the roads are."

At the age of 16, my adoptive parents married me off to an older man. It turned out to be a blessing as my husband was a loving and caring man. He was a hawker selling fried noodles and I helped him with his business. It was hard work but I was grateful for my life's journey had become better.

My husband and I toiled day and night to bring up our two children. In spite of the difficulties we went through, we never gave up. "Life is a journey, not a destination," my husband told me. With tears welling up my eyes, I nodded. He hugged me and we cried, praying for a better journey ahead.

It was a struggle to make ends meet but we managed. Our children, Soon Hock and Ai Mei graduated from university. Soon Hock is now an engineer and Ai Mei has her own fashion boutique.

Today, I thank everyone who has been a part of my life's journey. I realise I have been greatly blessed throughout my life's journey with good friends like Nanny Lye, my loving husband and children and last but not least, even my adoptive parents who took me in and brought me up.

Questions 1 to 8

Answer the questions below.

Choose no more than five words and/or a number from the text for each answer.

- 1 The writer doesn't know anything about her _____ even till today.
- 2 When the writer was young, she had a _____ life as she had everything she wanted.
- 3 After her adoptive brother was born, her adoptive parents no longer _____ her.
- 4 When the writer felt down, it was Nanny Lye who _____ her.
- 5 The writer was married off to an _____ when she was only sixteen years old.
- 6 Although the writer's husband was poor, he was _____.
- 7 The writer and her husband worked hard to _____ their two children.
- 8 Despite the difficulties in her life journey, the writer still feels _____.

Questions 9 to 10

Complete the table below with **a word** from the text.

For each question, write your answer in the space provided.

Meaning	Word
9 suffering from a lack of	
10 worked very hard	