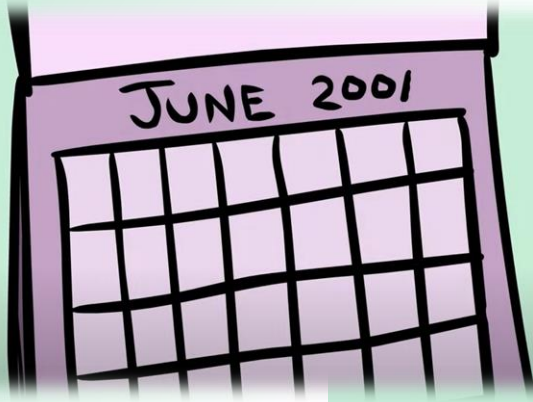


## **It Wasn't Easy Growing Up As An Immigrant**

Adapted from : [https://youtu.be/tlxSJW\\_Q2mQ](https://youtu.be/tlxSJW_Q2mQ)



In June, 2001 I was born to two wonderful parents in the Philippines.



My parents and their family grew up in the Philippines and lived there most of their lives.



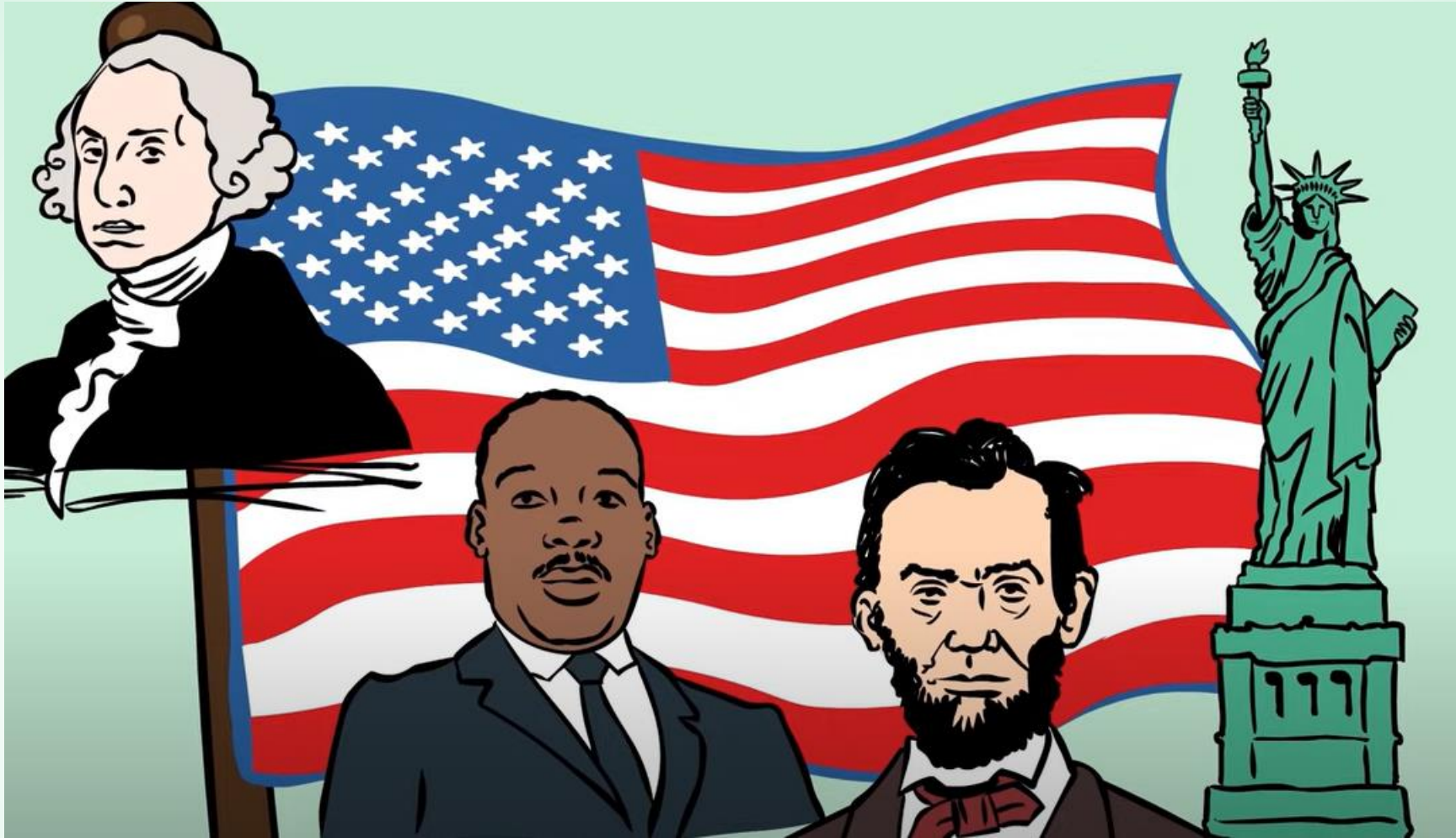


My sister Isi was born there too.



After my parents got married, they wanted to immigrate to the United States. It was a dream they had for a long time.





People said the United States was a place where you can have a good life.

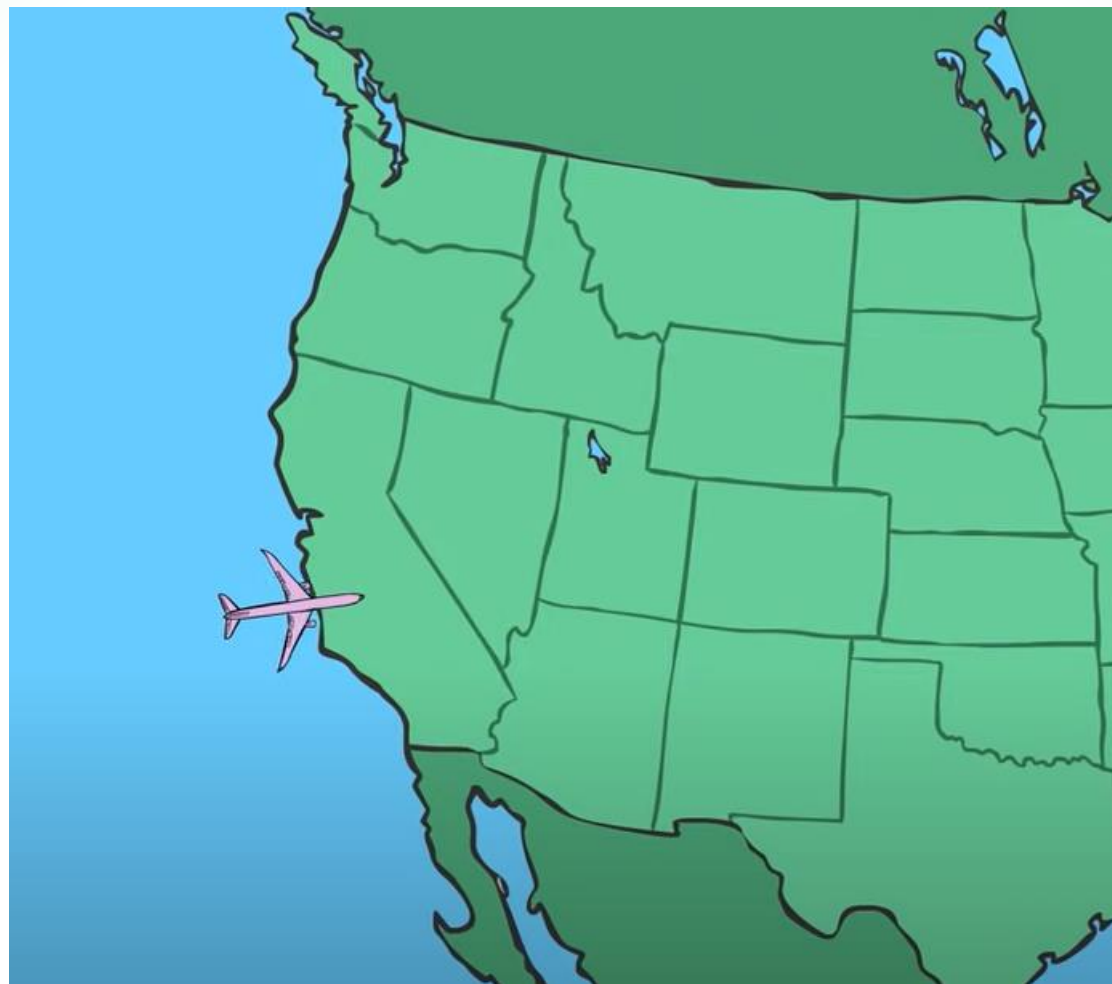


My parents knew we could be more comfortable if we moved to the United States.



It took a long time. There were a lot of tests and things they had to do.

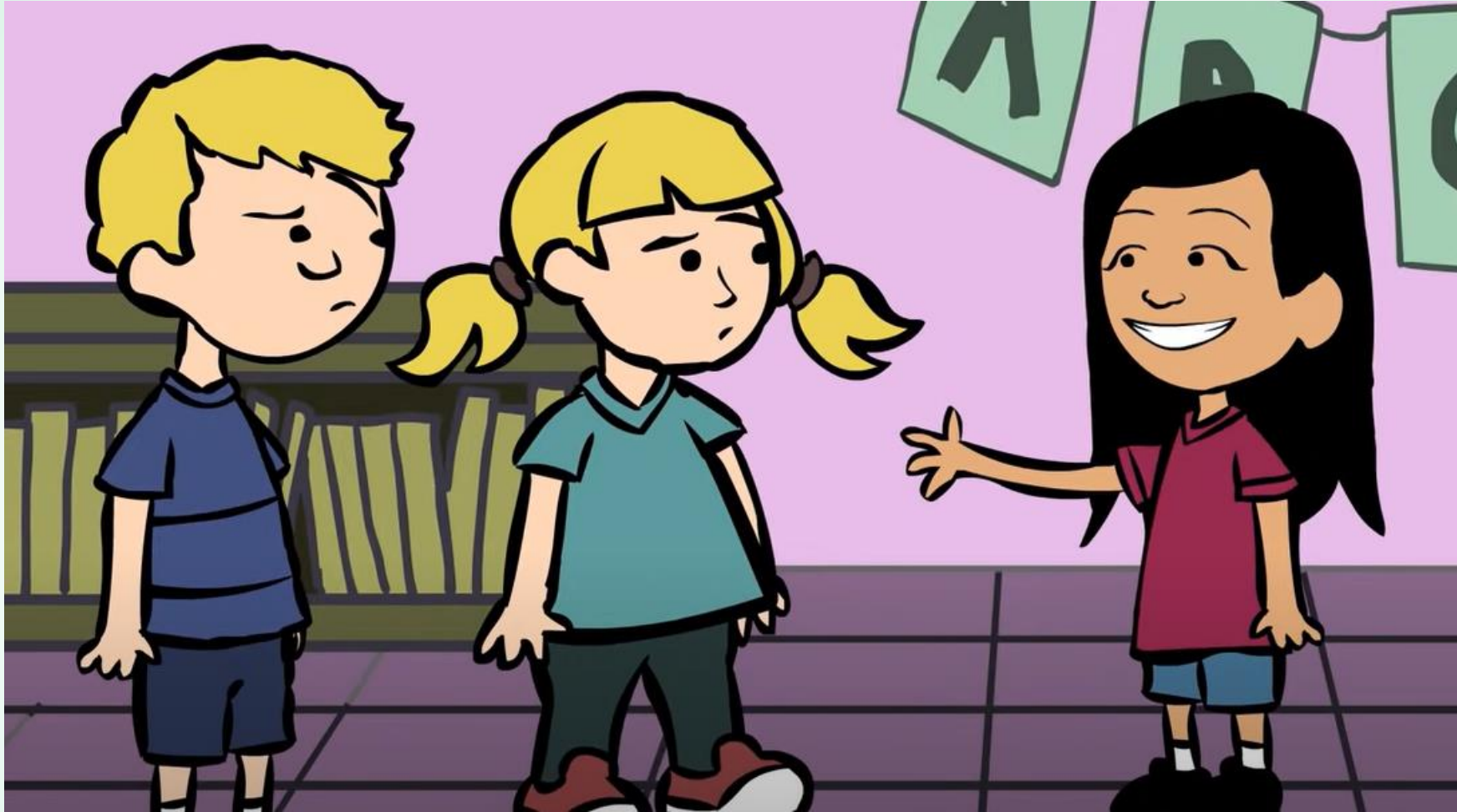




We moved to California in 2004.



At first, everything was okay. Then I had to start school.



Kindergarten was hard. I couldn't speak English and it was hard to make new friends.





I didn't understand what the teacher said.



Then I learned English and I started to like school.



My parents had many rules and traditions, like they did in the Philippines.





In middle school, I started to feel different from everyone else. For example, I always brought my lunch to school.



My lunch was usually rice and eggs, or rice and sausage. Everyone thought Filipino food was weird.



I felt upset because I didn't have a sandwich like my other classmates.

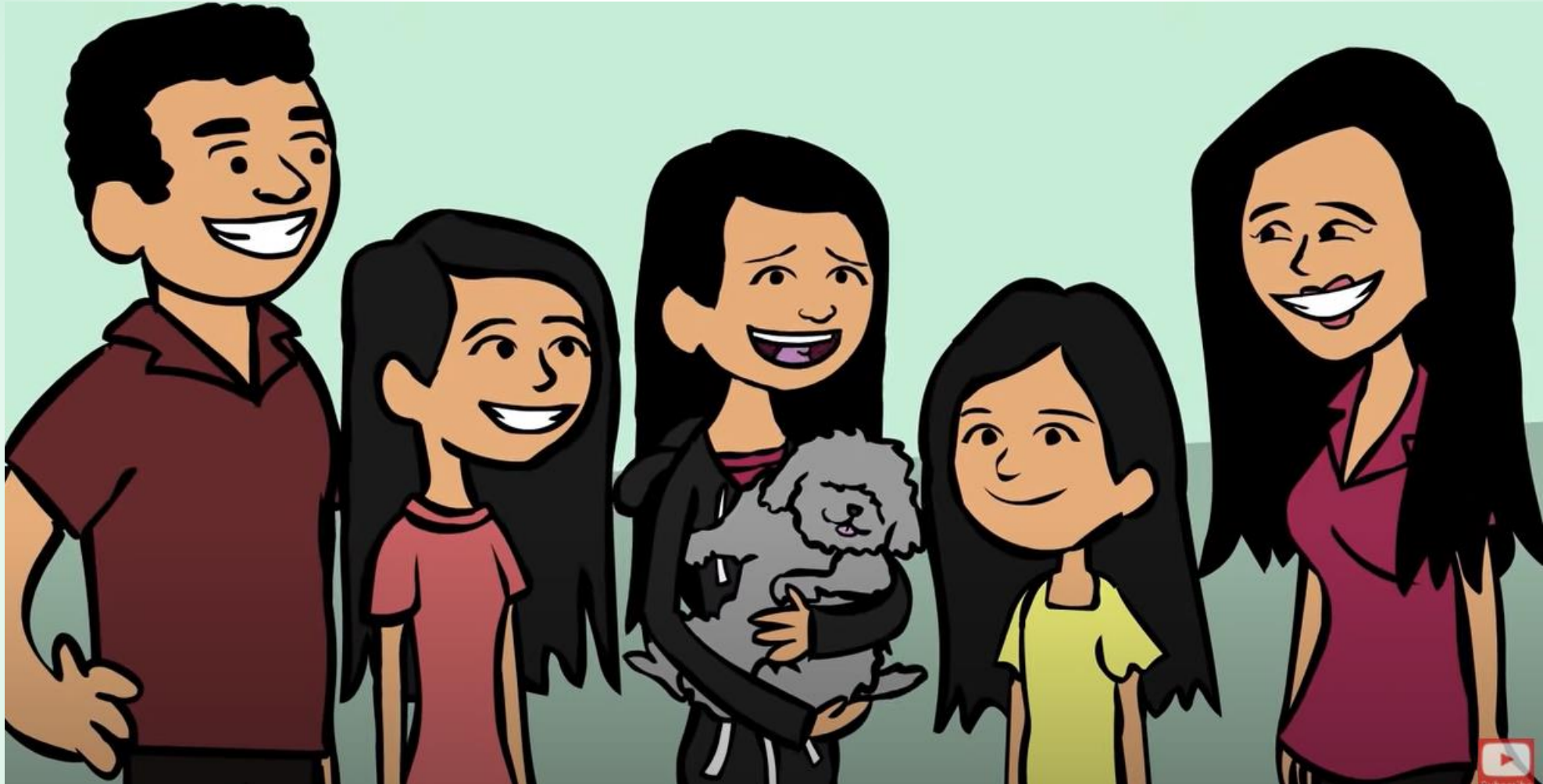




Other people laughed at me because I pronounced things differently.



I didn't like to go places with my dad because he had an accent.



Sometimes it was hard. But I love my parents very much. I am grateful for what they did for my sisters and me.