

Each generation has  
something valuable to  
offer essay



**ASSIGN  
BUSTER**

When I think of my grandparent's era, the image that I normally get is the people in pain of war, and devastated land. However, in my grandfather's deep wrinkled, rough face, there is an important message that is offered to my generation. People tend to get to hear about their grandparents when they are already gone and that was also my case. I was grade 7 when I heard this story and I still feel chill whenever I remind me of this story.

My grandpa was born in northern part of the Korea, where we call "North Korea" these days. He was born before the division of the south and north Korea. Being born in traditional scholar family, he had to follow strict rules of oriental cultures. He might have lead successful career as a scholar if the circumstances allowed him but he wasn't able to. It was first epidemic broke out that pull him down. In his town, numerous people died everyday to the violent epidemic and my grandpa's family could not avoid it.

Leaving my grandpa and his younger brother, all of his family and people in town was dead. In this devastating situation, what he had to do was to get out of the town with his younger brother. But to make the situation worse, soon the bloody war broke out. Being 11 years old at that age, my grandpa was all alone with his 7 year-old brother. I sometimes wonder what would I have done if I were in his shoes. I still didn't get answer to this question but certainly, what my grandpa did was very courageous and stunning.

With his younger brother, he walked to the south, at least 400km for day and night. He didn't give up his fate even though he had lost all his parents and home. He kept trying to change his fate. When he became 17, he joined South Korean army and fought for democracy and to support his new-formed

family. He was faithful to his belief and his actions are still appreciated by the nation. Hearing this from my father, I could do nothing but respect his courageousness and his spirit to overcome the terrible situation around him.

Teenagers and people in their 20's these days often give up their lives for several reasons. In Korea, teenagers commit suicide because of the stress from study. Some die because they cannot get jobs. Some people are being not independent and try to depend on others to solve their problem. From what my grandparent generation had shown me, it became clear that modern people should have such courage and will to change their fate. No matter what we have gone through, it is less than what our grandparents have experienced and they have overcome, and so can we.