

Silvana Sardi
Gyeong Min Kim: My Korea

Gyeong Min Kim is a teenager who lives in South Korea. He once played his violin in an orchestra but now he only plays for fun. Then one day a friend tells him about a competition and...

Read Gyeong Min's story and find out about his family, his dreams, how he spends his days and the many traditions that make South Korea a fascinating country full of culture.

In this reader you'll find:

- Cultural boxes
- Glossary of difficult words
- Comprehension and KEY style activities
- Exit test
- An audio recording of the story
- Authentic photos

Tags

Traditions | Family and friends | Dreams



Look at the inside front cover flap to find out how to download your free Audio files.

STAGE 1	600 headwords	Elementary	A1	Movers
● STAGE 2	800 headwords	Pre-intermediate	A2	Flyers/KEY
STAGE 3	1000 headwords	Intermediate	B1	Preliminary

Non-fiction / Real Lives / American English

www.eligradedreaders.com

Eli Readers is a beautifully illustrated series of timeless classic and original stories for learners of English.



ELT
A2
Silvana Sardi
Gyeong Min Kim: My Korea

Stage 2 A2

Teen Readers Real Lives

Teen Readers

Non-fiction



Silvana Sardi

GYEONG MIN KIM:
My KOREA



TEEN ELI READERS
Gyeong Min Kim: My Korea
ISBN 978-88-536-3503-7

Silvana Sardi

**GYEONG MIN
KIM:
MY KOREA**

Contents

10	Before you read
12	Chapter 1 <i>Interesting News from an Old Friend</i>
22	Activities
24	Chapter 2 <i>Family Time</i>
32	Activities
34	Chapter 3 <i>What to choose</i>
42	Activities
44	Chapter 4 <i>The Audition</i>
52	Activities
54	Chapter 5 <i>Charlie</i>
64	Activities
66	Chapter 6 <i>Plans</i>
74	Activities
76	Test Yourself
77	Syllabus

Before you read

Reading A2 Key

- 1 Choose the right words (A, B or C) to complete the text about this story.



This story is about a boy called Gyeong Min Kim (1) _____ lives in South Korea. South Korea is a country in East Asia and (2) _____ capital is Seoul. Winter in South Korea is usually cold and dry with some snow, while in summer it's hot and rainy.

Many tourists visit South Korea (3) _____ there are lots of interesting things to see like palaces, Buddhist temples, and also the natural beauty of the countryside. Recently, South Korea has also become famous (4) _____ its popular music, films, and television dramas.

In the story, Gyeong Min talks about his family and friends and what he likes (5) _____ in his free time. There's also information about Korean food and traditions and through Gyeong Min, we learn that Korean people believe that family life is (6) _____ important.

1 A which

B what

C who

2 A its

B his

C her

3 A so

B as

C if

4 A of

B for

C by

5 A do

B done

C doing

6 A very

B too

C much

Writing

- 2 Write a short paragraph about your country and the city or town where you live.

Vocabulary

- 3 Complete the definitions (1-6) with a word from the box. Then match each definition to the correct word (A-F).

talks started plays lives wanted loves

- 1 ☐ Gyeong Min _____ these on his PC.
- 2 ☐ He _____ this meal first thing in the morning.
- 3 ☐ When he was little, he _____ this as a pet.
- 4 ☐ He _____ playing this instrument when he was very young.
- 5 ☐ This person is over 80 years old and _____ with Gyeong Min and the rest of the family.
- 6 ☐ Gyeong Min always _____ to this person in his family when he has a problem.

A mother

B dog

C violin

D grandma

E breakfast

F video games

Before-reading Activity

Listening

- 2 4 Listen to the start of Chapter 1 and decide if the sentences are true (T) or false (F).

- 1 Gyeong Min has already got up when his mum calls him for breakfast.
- 2 Math is the subject he likes the most at school.
- 3 Gyeong Min is having breakfast after everyone else today.
- 4 He always eats a lot at breakfast time.
- 5 On weekdays, he has breakfast earlier than on Saturday and Sunday.
- 6 Gyeong Min doesn't have any brothers or sisters.

T F

☐ ☐

☐ ☐

☐ ☐

☐ ☐

☐ ☐

☐ ☐

INTERESTING NEWS FROM AN OLD FRIEND

▶ 2 “Gyeong Min! Come on! Your breakfast is on the table!” I hear my mom shouting. I open my eyes and realize* that I’m still in bed! I was sure that I was already up and dressed! Oh no! I only dreamed it! Do you ever do that? It happens to me all the time, above all when I’m doing my homework. I start thinking about all I have to do and imagine* that I’ve finished all my math and am playing one of my favorite video games, then suddenly I look down at the paper and I’m still on the first problem! I’m not a big fan* of math – it’s a bit boring, but I’m getting better at it. Anyway, it’s Sunday today so I don’t have to think about rushing* off to school.

Another five minutes have passed and I’m still not out of bed. My big brother, Gyu Min comes in and throws a pillow at me, saying: “Dreaming as usual? Come on or there’ll be nothing left for you for breakfast!” “Oh no!” I say jumping out of bed. I can’t miss breakfast – it’s so yummy! Just look at what’s on the table! The others have already finished but luckily, there’s lots left for me!

Kimchi is my favorite!

realize understand
imagine think and see something in your head

be a fan of like very much
rush hurry



Breakfast time

- 1 Nurungji soup
(made with rice)
- 2 Gyeran-mari
(rolled eggs)
- 3 Jangjorim
with quail* eggs
- 4 Dried cut squid* -
bokkeum (stir-fried)
- 5 Kimchi and
cucumber* Kimchi.

Kimchi

Kimchi is a vegetable
side dish and there
are over 300 kinds
in Korea.



You're probably thinking: "How's he going to be fit* for anything after eating all that?" Well, I'll tell you, I just love breakfast. It gets me ready for the day! On weekends, we have breakfast between 9 and 10. Instead, during the week, it's before 8 o'clock. We usually have breakfast together, I mean, my family and me. There's

quail



squid



cucumber



be fit (here) be able



my dad, mom, brother and my grandma. She's my mom's mom and lives with us. She's over 80 years old and she's fantastic. We laugh a lot together and she's really modern. She even has her own cellphone. She came to live with us after my grandpa died a few years ago.

 **3** I remember just one time when I got a bit upset with my grandma. It was when I was a little boy and I really wanted a dog, but grandma is allergic* to dog hair so, of course, my parents said I couldn't have one, even if she didn't live with us at the time. I was so disappointed* but then one of my mom's friends gave me two hamsters*. I called one Dal-Com-e (sweet) and the other Sang-kum-e (fresh). I had them for 5 years which is really quite amazing because they usually only live up to 2 years. Once I have a place of my own when I'm older, I'll get a dog and look after it the way I did with my hamsters. When I was at elementary school (the time when I wanted a dog) I dreamed of becoming a vet* or working in a zoo. Then at middle school, I began to love computer games (which I still do). I thought about becoming a game planner but I'm not sure if that's the best kind of job for me. Now that I'm a freshman* at High School, I've decided to try and find something else I like that'll be useful for my future.

 **allergic** if you're allergic to something, it makes you feel bad

disappointed upset because something hasn't happened

hamster



vet doctor for animals

freshman first-year student at high school

Today, I'm really happy because I'm going to see my old friend, Tae Yun. We first met in Grade 3 at Elementary school and we immediately became best friends. We often went cycling together or sang at a **noraebang** and we went to the movies a lot. Our moms became really good friends too so our families went skiing together as well. Now, we don't see much of each other because we go to different schools, so it'll be great to see him today. Tae Yun loves music and traveling.



Singing
is great fun!

NORAEBANG

Noraebang is made up of 노래 (nora) meaning 'song' and 방 (bang) meaning 'room' and in fact* it's a singing room. At a noraebang you're given your own private*, soundproof* room, so you can choose who you want to sing with without other people watching you! It's a fun thing to do with friends or the people you work with after a hard day at the office.

in fact really
private (here) only for
you and your friends, not
everybody

soundproof (here) people
outside the room can't hear
the music or you singing



I had a great time with Tae Yun. At first, we wanted to go to a noraebang, but since it was a nice day, we decided to go for a walk in the park. Then, we had a snack together and he told me all his news*.



Here we are!
That's Tae Yun
on the left and
me on the right,
chatting.

He actually told me a really exciting piece of news.

He said there's going to be a competition to become part of a special orchestra*.

All the musicians will be from my city, **Ilsan Goyang-si** and Tae Yun thinks I should try. He says I'm great at playing the violin (that's what friends are for!).

news (here) talking about all the new things that have happened

orchestra group of musicians who play together



Goyang is a city in
the Gyeonggi Province
in the northwest of
South Korea. It's part of the Seoul Capital Area.

ILSAN GOYANG-SI

It's one of the largest cities in this area, with just over
1 million people living there. Ilsan, a planned city, is
in the Ilsandong-gu and Ilsanseo-gu parts of Goyang.

Ilsan has grown a lot in the last 15 years.

There are lots of fantastic things to see like Lake
Park (호수공원) which has the largest man-made lake
in Asia. Every year in the park, there's the
Goyang Korea Flower Show.



Stop & Check

1 Choose A, B or C to make true sentences about Gyeong Min.

- 1 When he was younger, his mom's friend gave him two
A dogs **B** hamsters. **C** birds.
- 2 When he was at Elementary School, he dreamed of becoming a
A vet. **B** doctor. **C** game planner.
- 3 Tae Yun is his
A brother. **B** father. **C** best friend.
- 4 Tae Yun told him about
A a competition. **B** a concert. **C** an exam.
- 5 Gyeong Min started playing in an orchestra in
A Grade 2. **B** Grade 4. **C** Grade 6.
- 6 On weekends, they have their evening meal between
A 7.30 and 8.30. **B** 8 and 9 p.m. **C** 7 and 8 p.m.

Writing - Pair Work

21st
Century
Skills

2 Complete this table about Gyeong Min with information about your partner and yourself.

Name	Gyeong Min	Your partner	You
Nationality	1 	_____	_____
Town / city	2 	_____	_____
Sports	3 	_____	_____
Hobbies	4 	_____	_____
Pets	5 	_____	_____
Musical instrument	6 	_____	_____

Grammar

3 Choose the correct word to complete the sentences.

- 1 Gyeong Min says he's getting *better* / *best* at math.
- 2 His grandma is allergic *of* / *to* dog hair.
- 3 Hamsters usually only live *for* / *since* two years.
- 4 Tae Yun thinks Gyeong Min *could* / *should* try to get into the Ilsan orchestra.
- 5 Gyeong Min usually only plays his violin when he feels like *it* / *one*.
- 6 There's *many* / *plenty* of time before dinner for him to play his violin.

Before-reading Activity

Listening A2 Key

4 Listen to track 4 and choose the correct answer A, B or C.

- 1 What's Gyeong Min's mom good at?

A



B



C



- 2 What sport does his brother play?

A



B



C



- 3 Which country will the other orchestra come from?

A Austria



B Australia



C Iceland



- 4 Which subject is Gyeong Min having problems with now?

A



B



C



- 5 What do Gyeong Min and his mom play after dinner?

A



B



C

