

### 3 IN 1-A REFLECTION OF ME.

Everytime I gaze at my reflection in the mirror, not one, but three people would be staring back at me-Mr.Regular, Mr.Unique, and Mr.Determination.

Mr.Regular was born into a family of stellar academic tradition. Growing up in the midst of his country's reformation, he and other boys of his age share a craving for success. He goes to school, pulling all-nighters, earning good-grades in hope of a comfortable life. Outwardly, he is a charming young man. From washing dishes, cleaning the house, pruning his family's oak tree, to tutoring his naughty brother, he does it all without a word of complaint. At times, his parents would be upset with his life-threatening game, like the time he foolishly swam across a swirling torrent to impress the girls. But, essentially, they are parts of a normal teenaged boy's pre-adult phase.

His younger brother, Mr.Unique, as his name implies, is really "unique", both in his actions and his thoughts. He had the envious opportunity of travelling to the US with his family, where his father served as a representative of Vietnam to the UN. Three years in America taught him the value of social activities, of being a "good citizen". He enjoyed playing the Superman's role: opening a door for an old lady, bringing an injured dog to hospital, walking a blind man across the street. It slowly became his nature. Last year, he decided to set up a volunteer group of students at the SOS village for orphans against his parents disapproval. They were worried that it would affect his classwork as the Vietnamese education neglects

the “human being” side of its student. It didn’t matter. He persisted. His grades remained strong and he was living his life to the fullest: full of smiles, laughter, and lessons. Personally, however, he would choose his thick lip, as his distinctive mark. His friends used to comment much about his lip. He admitted that initially it was quite embarrassing and somewhat irritating. Gradually, though, he learned that no one is ever the same. Long arms, beautiful dark eyes, crooked noses, no matter eye-catching or not, are what set you apart from thousands other people.

Mr. Determination, the last of the faction, is screaming for attention. Without hesitation, he took the floor: “My fellows! Mr. Determination is my name and I am determined not to be left out in Anh’s essay on us brothers. Don’t let my size fools you. I am of modest height but my enormous drive for glory compensates for it all. Please be noted here that glory means completion of a job, regardless of successes or failures. Surely my two brothers cannot forget my constant assistance during times of troubles. Regular will always remember the patience I bestowed him to wash all 54 dishes, a product of our family’s reunion. Unique, unlike many of his friends, enjoy challenges and he is now fighting a three-front battle- US college applications, preparation for the Vietnamese university exams, and living up to his teacher’s expectation in the looming national English competition. At times of failures, we were never disappointed because we knew we had given our best efforts. I am proud to say that I am the spirit, the confidence, and the driving engine of our team!”

“Anh, you are late for school! And why in the world are you staring at the mirror?””, my mom’s voice brought me back to Earth.

“Oh, I was just talking to my brothers”, I calmly explained. She shooked her head, thinking I had gone crazy because of the mounting pressure from school. I turned back to the mirror, waving goodbye to my group. “Let us step back into reality and continue that adventure”, I whispered.