Vinland

By Nohe Duperval

I was in a beautiful place called Vinland where trees were common plants and would grow everywhere. It was just peaceful, and no one had come to destroy our nature. It's been 9 years since the big attack where people came and destroyed everything, but after the attack, we rebuilt everything. Then we came upon an escaped slave who worked as a tree cutter. A king came looking for the missing slave, until the king saw Vinland and saw how beautiful the land was. On the king's behalf, people in armor came out of a boat and attacked our land. They destroyed the trees and the plants, and they made us servants and forced us to help them destroy other lands. Then they put us in their boat and chained us in.

A week after the attack, I have become depressed from cutting those trees down, feeling less than a human being. Every swing I took reminded me of the good times in Vinland. When everyone was sleeping, I took soil from each land and borrowed scraps of wood to make a pot and planted soil in the pot which turned into a beautiful plant. And so, on the 5th week, I escaped the boat to go back and tell everyone to plant trees and grow crops. "WE MUST HELP THE EARTH!" I yelled out. And once I saw that every land suddenly had more trees. When the king came to take the trees, we fought back and, as a result, I am the new king of Vinland.

Nohe is an 8th grader at PS/IS 295.

This story was created in the Adelphi University STEP/LLP program.