

I'm Dria from the Philippines

Mabuhay, Kaibigan!*

From an interview by Amie Jane Leavitt

Have you ever dreamed of living on an island? Alejandria—Dria for short—lives on the island of Cebu in the Philippines with her mom, dad, and two sisters. She has an older brother too, but he died before Dria was born. “I know he is still part of our family, and I will see him someday because families are forever,” she says.

*“Hello, friends!” in Tagalog.

I love to dance ballet. Next year I hope to move up to the next level, which is pointe. This means I will get to wear special ballet shoes that help me dance on my toes.



There are many beautiful places to visit in the Philippines. Our home is near the beach, and I love to play in the ocean. One of my favorite things to do is swim. I even taught myself how!



PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF DRIA'S FAMILY, BAG ILLUSTRATION BY THOMAS S. CHILD, PASSPORT STAMP BY ASHLEY TEARE



I love going with my family to visit different beaches. Once we went to Palawan—an island with the world's largest underground river. I went diving there with my snorkel gear and looked at all the colorful fish.



Cut out the stamp and add it to your passport from the January issue.

I LOVE TO SEE THE TEMPLE



We are lucky to live close to the Cebu City Philippines Temple. I was able to tour the temple with my family before it was dedicated. It is such a beautiful, peaceful place. I am grateful that because of temples, my family can be together forever.

READY TO GO!

Dria's bag is packed with some of her favorite things. Which of these things would you pack in your bag?

