



# A day at the Universal Studios Singapore

Ashley Li

"Ah!" I heard screams and shouts of people from an approaching roller coaster above me. Wham... it passed above me and I could see the feet of the riders dangling like fast moving pendulums... Such excitement! Such energy! Such enthusiasm!

There I was, at the Universal Studios Singapore, a place where fantasy meets reality. I was so grateful that we could include that tour in our Singapore trip. Our school orchestra had organised a cultural exchange with the Nanyang Polytechnic Orchestra. I could not believe I got here and an "Elmo" had just walked past me.

"Hem-hem," a voice said. I looked back and saw my teammates. I was their assigned leader and actually "babysitter". Urgh, I thought, with four junior form students hanging behind me all the time was no fun at all... How could I ever enjoy my trip when I had to look after them, take special care of them to keep them from disappearing, when they never liked to follow rules! Worse still, they just got caught sneaking into their friends' room last night and got a big scolding.

"Yes?" I rolled my eyes and tried to show some patience on my face.

"May I play this?" bold Sasha asked with her finger pointing to the roller coaster, eyes of eagerness begging me to nod.

Did I have a choice? I thought bitterly and said, "Sure, let's go."

"Wait! Wait!" a voice interrupted. "I don't want to play... I'm scared... it's dangerous!" the timid Catherine whined.

"It's not gonna kill you," Sasha, who was

holding Catherine's hand, said, "Com'on, don't spoil the fun."

Catherine shook her head.

"What a coward!" said Sasha, who was abashed that her first attempt failed to convince her, released her hand.

Here we go again... another demand and dispute. Never mind, Ashley came to the rescue... for the 99th time in these 4 short days.

I went up to console Catherine, and my Vice Leader to Sasha.

"I've no intention of spoiling the atmosphere, but I'm really scared," Catherine cried out with her watery eyes, "And Sasha doesn't want to be my friend now."

"No, no, not at all, Sasha will come to you after she's overcome her hard feelings, which," I glanced at my wristwatch, "will be in a few minutes' time." I assured her, feeling compassionate towards her. She was like my little cousin, timid and cute. I continued to offer her words of comfort but it seemed no help at all.

"I'll have you to comfort Catherine, Sasha," I pushed Catherine towards her, half persuasively, half forcedly.

A few minutes later, two big grins appeared on their faces. Phew! That was indeed a hard job, being a nanny and kind, big sister. My Vice Leader looked at me with eyes full of relief and appreciation. I mouthed, "That was nothing. They are so cute and naïve." Back to work, I sighed. I was really beginning to like them. I turned round, "Now, who wants to play TRANSFORMERS The Ride?"