



WATCH & LEARN: ART & LIFESTYLE

HEALTH & WELLNESS: CULTURE & FOOD

MEMORIES OF MY MOTHER (2:41 min)

VIDEO Script & Vocabulary (page 1 of 1/v31569)

PRE-INTERMEDIATE (A2 - B1) AND ABOVE

- ◇ Read the script and note new vocabulary
- ◇ Write three sentences using new vocabulary
- ◇ Prepare for the discussion questions

Starting Off

Michelle Zauner is a Korean-American author and musician, best known as the lead vocalist of alternative pop band Japanese Breakfast. Zauner shares her Brief But Spectacular take on making the ordinary beautiful.

- 1 Read the **Video Script** below. The words in **bold** are defined in the **Vocabulary** section. Look up any new words in a dictionary.
- 2 Go to the **Your Turn** section at the end of this document. Practice using new words and expressions from the video script to prepare for your next class.
- 3 Look at the **Discussion Questions** and prepare your responses for the next class.

Discussion Questions:

- ◇ What were some of your favorite foods when you were a child?
- ◇ Do you associate family meals with some of your happiest childhood memories?
- ◇ Why is it that sharing meals plays such an important role in bonding with our families as children and raising our own in turn?

Video Script:

TV Journalist: Michelle Zauner is a Korean-American author and musician, best known as the lead vocalist of the alternative pop band *Japanese Breakfast*. Tonight Zauner shares her *Brief But SPECTACULAR*, **take** on making the ordinary beautiful.



Zauner: My mother was a **homemaker** and I was an **only child** and so we were really **bonded** very early on. I think it was 2014 and she told me that she had stage IV cancer. Being an only daughter, I knew I had to, kind of, take everything on my desk, completely clear it, go home and be with her from beginning to end. In six months, I suddenly found myself **unemployed**, married, without a mother and **estranged** from my father. And I don't think I could quite wrap my head around everything that had happened until I started putting it down on paper.

The first line of *Crying in H-Mart* is: Ever since my mom died, I cry in H-Mart. And I think, in a way, the book is very much about answering that question of, like, why you are crying in a grocery store? H-Mart is a Korean, grocery chain. I drove to H-Mart to be surrounded by her language and the foods that she loved and that we shared together. I don't think I thought much about her **impending** death as a part of losing my culture until after it happened. I think I probably realized that, you know, once I, like, went to a Korean grocery store and I realized, like, I couldn't just call my mom anymore to ask her, like, what **brand** of **seaweed** we used to buy, or, like, what kind of Tin-Jung, **soybean paste** we had at home.

I would say food was a big part of the way that my mother expressed her love. The way that she expressed her affection was really **rooted** in actions; was remembering the kinds of food that you liked and the kinds of foods that you didn't like, and what you would want after a long day. And I don't think I realized that until I was a little bit older.

It's been really fun to see people from all different types of cultures comparing different grocery stores or different types of food or different food memories to the book. I think one of my favorite things that has **come back** to me about the book is children who have told me: "I read your book and I called my mom, I hugged my mom, I **took her out** to lunch."

My name is Michelle Zauner and this is my Brief But SPECTACULAR take on making the ordinary beautiful.

Vocabulary:

- **take** - opinion that is shared publicly
- **homemaker** - a person who spends their time looking after a home and doing housework rather than being employed outside the home
- **only child** - child who has no siblings
- **bond** - form a close emotional connection with someone
- **unemployed** - the condition of having no job
- **estranged** - (of a person) no longer close or affectionate to someone; alienated
- **impending** - (of an event regarded as threatening or significant) about to happen; forthcoming
- **brand** - a type of product manufactured by a particular company under a particular name
- **seaweed** - large algae growing in the sea or on rocks below the high-water mark
- **soybean paste** - thick paste consisting primarily of fermented soy beans, which is used as a base for stir-frying and in a variety of sauces added in cooking or as condiments
- **root** - the basic cause, source, or origin of something
- **come back** - return
- **take (someone) out** - buy a meal at a restaurant for someone

Your Turn! Using new vocabulary is the best way to learn and remember it.

- 1 Choose three words or expressions from the video that are new to you and write a sentence using each one in your notebook.
- 2 Try to use them in a context that is familiar to you to help you retain them.
- 3 Please ask for feedback on your sentences in the next lesson.