Yunmi and Halmoni's Trip

Yunmi settled into the airplane seat and took her
grandmother's hand. It was Yunmi's first airplane trip. Her
grandmother had come from Korea to take care of Yunmi
while her parents were at work. Now grandmother was taking
Yunmi for a visit to Korea to meet all her aunts and uncles
and cousins. Grandmother wanted Yunmi to join
Grandfather's birthday celebration. Yunmi's grandfather had
died many years before, but each year the whole family
visited his grave and celebrated his birthday.

Yunmi was very excited. She had gotten her very first passport for this trip. And she had promised to send lots of postcards to her best friends. It was a long flight from New York City across the Pacific Ocean to Korea. It would take fourteen and a half hours. Grandmother, however, had lots of things to talk about during their flight. She pulled out a thick bundle of photos of Yunmi's many relatives, and began to tell her about each of them. Grandmother said, "I think they will be at the airport. They are so excited to meet you and want to show you all around Korea."

When the airplane landed, they hurried through the airport to have their passports checked. Grandmother walked Yunmi over to the long line that said "Foreigners." The line moved slowly as the officer checked each passport. Grandmother got to stand in the fast-moving line that said "Nationals." Yunmi looked like all the Koreans in the nationals line, but she had to stand in the foreigners line. It made her feel strange.