

# Third Culture Kids

## Quotations

„Because of the covid times I have found that everything now virtual has meant pivoting programming and workshops into the virtual space and that has been a lot of strategy because when I am working with younger children you run into safe space, what is child protective measures online, how many facilitators have to be in the room. So really looking at that and then also with international students, what are the time zones they're in.“ (Megan)

„A lot of [the kids] returned to the US and talking about that transition back to the us a lot of them it was abrupt it was very unexpected and working through what does it mean for my identity what does that mean for belonging, what does that mean for grief? Those are some of the big factors for very much globally mobile families.“ (Megan)

„There are a lot of complex things to consider. One is relationships. There is a lot of relational loss and gains for globally mobile families. So, if you think of the third culture kids, they have their nuclear family, but when moving they are losing their relationship with class mates with their friends with their neighbors and even if they're involved in the community. It could be sports or a place of worship. A lot of questions center around this idea of „How do you belong?“ and „How do you build community?“ and „How do you sustain relationships long distance?““ (Megan)

## Vocabulary

Source: Merriam Webster online dictionary [www.merriam-webster.com](http://www.merriam-webster.com)

### General Vocabulary

**Adapt (verb):** to make fit (as for a new use) often by modification

**community (noun):** a unified body of individuals: such as

a: the people with common interests living in a particular area *broadly:* the area itself

b: a group of people with a common characteristic or interest living together within a larger society

**culture (noun):** the customary beliefs, social forms, and material traits of a racial, religious, or social group

*also:* the characteristic features of everyday existence (such as diversions or a way of life) shared by people in a place or time

**Intercultural (adjective):** occurring between or involving two or more cultures

**intricate (adjective):** having many complexly interrelating parts or elements

**nuclear family:** a family group that consists only of parents and children

### Special Vocabulary

**demographic (noun): demographics plural:** the statistical characteristics of human populations (such as age or income) used especially to identify markets

**expatriate (noun):** a person who lives in a foreign country

**mentor (noun):** a trusted counselor or guide

**refugee (noun):** one that flees

*especially:* a person who flees to a foreign country or power to escape danger or persecution

### Discussion Questions

- 1) Is the feeling of home and belonging strictly tied to one location or do you think it can be carried with you when leaving for another country?
- 2) Would you want to work in a job that requires you to leave the country for long periods while also having a family?
- 3) You are a diplomat and you have to leave for a year, but your family does not want to go with you. How would you make it work?
- 4) When abroad, where is the balance between embracing another countries culture and traditions to fit in and maintaining your own?