

## My cultural roots in a red cloth

Zayna Waskito, *I Liceo Linguistico*



I have a red cloth in my room, “*kain bali*” is what we call it in Indonesia. *Kain Bali* is often used to practice Indonesian traditional dances, specifically, the Bali traditional dance. However, it could also be used for other types of traditional dances. The *kain* is one of my favorite objects because when wearing it makes me confident, happy and proud. I actually have two cloths, there is the red *kain* and also the blue one. The red *kain* is the one that I use to practice in. The blue one is also a practice cloth but it’s used in my old Bali dance club as a uniform. The blue *kain* doesn’t quite fit me anymore, which is why I use the red cloth more often. I love to practice with it because it has many memories that can take me back to. I remember when I first started it, I joined both the school dance club and also the Bali dance club outside school. I didn’t expect anything from it and joined for fun, but after a few meetings the teacher saw some ability in me and signed me up to some events and also some competitions. Although I didn’t win them all, these contests taught me discipline, confidence and bravery. Sometimes, I do get hurt or mess up, but that’s just how life works; when you fall down just get up again. Although it might hurt sometimes but you’ll get through it. Dancing was always a part of me but it was always a modern dance that I kept in mind; never had I thought of doing traditional dances before. With me trying new things, the *kain* made me realize that all genres of dance brought me joy. The *kain* brings back so many memories and I’m hoping that I could make some more.

This is the picture of me wearing the *kain* for dance practice a while ago