



**Amanda León**

**Venezuela**

**"Another Life"**

Venezuelan-American university student Amanda León speaks about how "Never Home," by David Lindes, spoke to her personal experience.

**STEP 1: LISTEN TO "NEVER HOME" (MP3) BY DAVID LINDES**

**Lyrics:**

You packed your bags like children play  
While every thought was far away  
How could you know the way a border severs  
The land, your soul would bear its mark forever

Always missing someone just across the border  
Always far from someplace where your feet belong  
Even when surrounded, always half alone  
Always half a stranger, never home

When you returned, with hopes in hand  
That home would warm your feet again  
You learned, instead, that every land is foreign  
You left your home on every road you've trodden

## **STEP 2: CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING QUESTION BEFORE WATCHING THE VIDEO**

1. We often think of bicultural people as being comfortable and at home in more than one cultural context. How do the lyrics of the song “Never Home” challenge this concept?

## **STEP 3: WATCH THE VIDEO OF AMANDA LEÓN**

**Transcription:** Seguramente todavía hay una división. Tengo la vida que vivo y tengo una vida en mi mente... una vida que hubiese vivido en Venezuela si hubiese crecido ahí. Como, las cosas que estaría haciendo si hubiese crecido con mis primos y hubiéramos sido amigos. Y ahora si estuviese luchando por libertad, por cosas buenas en Venezuela porque hay cosas feísimas que están pasando ahí ahora. Y no sé, siempre hay algo en mi imaginación, como una historia, una vida... otra.

**Translation:** There’s definitely still a division. I mean, I have the life I live, and then I have this life in my mind... the life I would’ve lived in Venezuela had I grown up there. Like, the things I’d be doing had I grown up with my cousins, had we been friends. And right now, I’d be fighting for freedom, for good things in Venezuela, because there are awful things happening there now. I don’t know, there’s always something in my imagination, like a story, another life.

## **STEP 4: ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS AFTER WATCHING THE VIDEO**

1. Amanda mentions “this life in my mind” and “another life” in her imagination. Why do you think she finds these inner creative processes to imagine her life in Venezuela so compelling? How is this imagined life different from a complete fantasy? What emotional influence does it seem to wield for Amanda?
2. Amanda says she imagines herself “fighting for freedom, for good things in Venezuela” in another life. In your opinion, is it possible for someone to both love and leave their country of origin? How do you think Amanda feels, not being present for some of her native country’s toughest times?