



ZLATA SULIMA, *9 years old*

*City of Irpin,
Kyiv region*

During the first four days of the war, Zlata's parents forbade Zlata and her sister Zoryana to leave the house. Adults did not sleep, children did not undress to be ready to run out of the house at any moment.

The fighting was getting closer, and the force of the explosions became more audible. In the break between the fights, the parents decided to leave the city and ordered their daughters to quickly pack up. Things were kept to a minimum because they understood that if the car was shot, everything should fit in a backpack.

"We quickly collected our favorite toys. We cried when we said goodbye to pets - cats, rabbits, parrots, aquarium fish... I really want to take my favorite parrot Romeo along with our bunny and Zoryanka. But mom and dad said we were going for a

couple of days and would be back soon. I really want to believe that my Romeo survived and will fly to me," says Zlata.

They took the only road left at that time, the bridges around the city had already been blown up. As they were driving, there was a fierce battle on the side of the road in the field, and a Russian fighter was circling over their car, each time descending lower and lower above them. "It was very scary," says Zlata.

For reference

Sulim's family:

father Alexander, civil engineer, 44 years old; mother - Oksana, Irpin Mayor's Adviser on International Cooperation, 38 years old; daughter - Zlata, schoolgirl, 9 years old; daughter - Zoryana, schoolgirl, 7 years old.

