



ZLATA SHEVCHENKO, *7 years old*

*City of Irpin,
Kyiv region*

Amongst strangers, Zlata is always trying to find familiar faces. She constantly remembers the friends she left in Ukraine and compares local parks with those where she grew up: there are no better ones than at home in Irpen. The alarm siren in her hometown, which once frightened the girl terribly, now seems better to her than other people's music. Every day, Zlata remembers Irpin and thus inflicts unbearable mental anguish on her mother.

Zlata dreamed of celebrating her first anniversary – 5 years – with a lot of friends, and even made a guest list long before the holiday. But the war shattered this little childhood dream. Birthdays, like Easter, the most beloved family holiday, this time passed without friends and without a dad.

For reference

*Shevchenko family:
father Alexander Shevchenko
(entrepreneur, 35 years old), mother –
Snizhana Shevchenko (event manager, 36
years old), Zlata (6 years old). They lived
in Irpen, near Kiev. After the war,
Snizhana and Zlata were evacuated to
Poland. Alexander defends Ukraine.*

Escaping the bombs, her mother took Zlata to Poland. Dad stayed to defend Ukraine.

Now, the girl is learning to understand a foreign language, and she gets something. She understands that it is dangerous in Ukraine, but she does not understand why this happened. Every night he and his mother pray for Ukraine and its defenders and ask God very, very much for the opportunity to return home.

She began to divide all the gifts that Zlata receives today in a foreign country in half, explaining: "Because there are children from Ukraine who need more ..."

