

VARVARA VORONA, *5 years old*

Kotsyubynske *village*,
Kyiv region

"I was very afraid of the dark and spiders. But when the war broke out, the parents explained that it was safe in the basement. I was told that there would be a place to sleep and play. And though it was scary, I went there," says Varvara.

Father Vary and his neighbors prepared beds, brought heaters, set up a dining table, and made a play area for children. The family lived in such conditions for ten days.

"At first I was very scared of all the terrible sounds. And then I got used to them," says the girl.

Vary's older brother always reassured her, saying that the explosions were far from

them. While the family lived in the shelter, he learned to distinguish when a rocket falls, when air defense works, and when hail is firing.

One day, the family came out of the shelter and saw clouds of smoke. Vasylkiv was on fire. Then, the family decided to flee to a safer place. At first, we went to our relatives in Khmelnytsky, but the situation there was tense. When rockets began to arrive there, they decided to go abroad. The head of the family stayed to defend Ukraine and took part in the defense.

For reference

Family:

Father - Eduard Vorona, manager, 46 years old; mother - Natalia Krasnyuk, accountant-economist, 45 years old; son - Maxim Vorona, schoolboy, 15 years old; daughter - Oksana Vorona, schoolgirl, 10 years old (girl with severe disability of subgroup A: cerebral palsy, microcephaly); daughter - Varvara Vorona, preschooler, 5 years old.

