



Prize Winner

Science Writing

Year 9-10

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School**



Science Writing Title:

The World in 2050

Your Specific Title

Extracts from Chayse Cortez's diary

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Extracts from Chayse Cortez's Diary

24 April 2050

The alarm blared in my ear, effectively waking me up from my deep slumber. A soft whirring sound filled my ears.

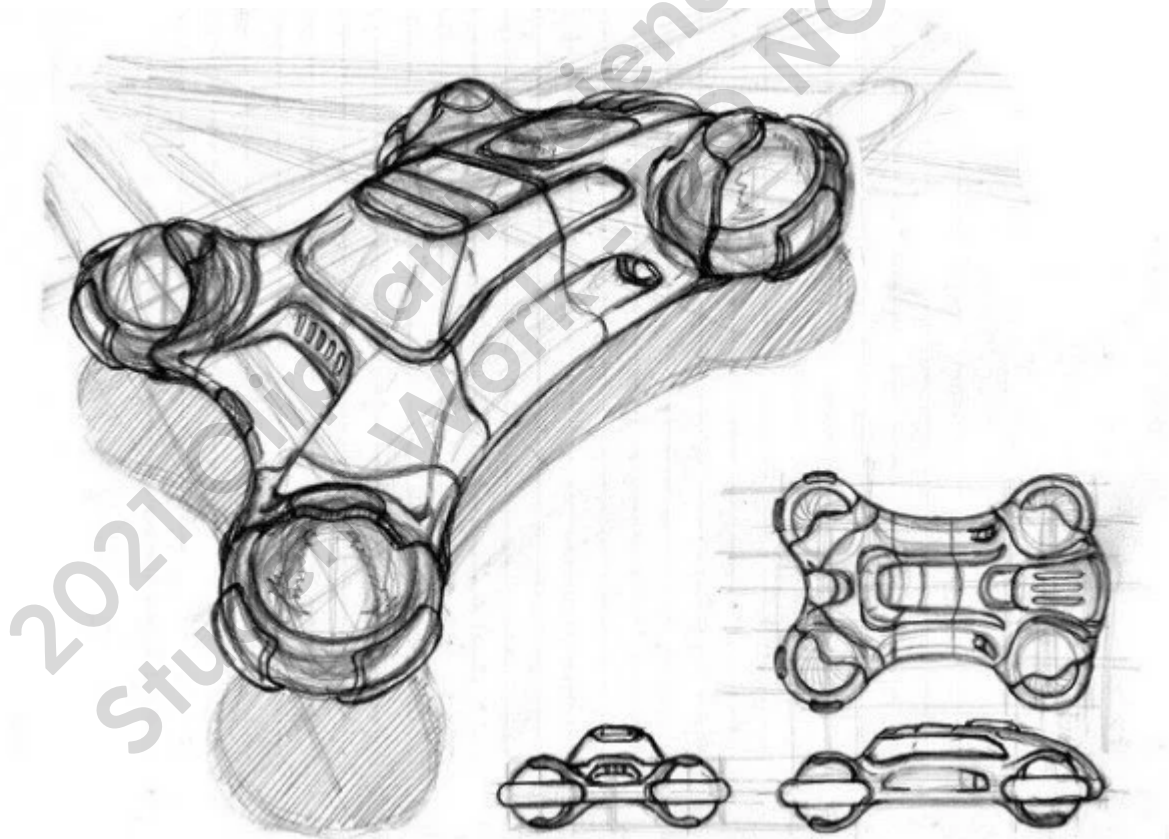
"Good Morning, Ms Cortez, time to get up." The robotic voice said, I slowly peeled my eyes open to be greeted by Tessa, my personal assistant designed to adhere to my every command and to come to my aid. She presented me with a warm cup of coffee as I pulled myself upright.

"Good Morning Tessa, pull up my schedule for today, please."

A huge screen projects in front of me, a complicated blur of colors and times was presented before my eyes. (O'Neill, N.D.)

School, first thing in the morning, just amazing.

I got dressed and quickly headed out the front door, not bothering to say goodbye to my parents. Dad's always too busy with work and Mom was doing some weird virtual yoga. As I stepped out into the street, I ducked to avoid some delivery drones and looked out into oncoming traffic, hovering cars - the latest invention, powered by magnetic levitation. (automoblog.net, 2021) I made my way from the crossing to the hyperloop station and caught my usual train to school. (Musk, 2012) Most of the people aboard all looked the same, with their eyes trained on some sort of device.



(Cardozo, N.D)



(Ravenscroft, 2018)

The train came to a sudden stop, and all the lights were snuffed out, leaving everyone shrouded in darkness. Cries of despair could be heard as everyone's devices lost connection to the internet. I've read about things like this: Black Outs; the last one happened during 2035. My parents remember it; it was a couple of years before I was born, but apparently they just lit candles and camped out. That is so weird, people these days are so addicted to technology that they would literally die without it.

BANG! Loud noises fill the compartments as people start pounding on the train doors, but it was no use, our train had not reached the next stop yet and there was no one to help us escape from this stupid mess. We couldn't check the news or ask anybody for help, it's like the whole world just stopped. No cell service, no connection to the world outside and especially no connection to the people around us. Our train started to move again, the back up generators coming on, however, the internet was still down when I got to school, no one knew what to do.

Everyone was looking so lost without their devices, thrown headfirst into a world where they actually interact with people. The whole school day went weirdly, all the teachers were making their students use 'actual pencils'; let's just say their handwriting sucked. All the teachers were so frantic, all their lesson plans were on laptops and the smart boards were also down, so they couldn't do anything. There was one teacher who didn't mind the blackout, she made us play all sorts of games. The popular kids, aka all the kids with over a hundred thousand followers, looked disgusted at the fact that they had no way of accessing their accounts.



(Yola, 2014)

The hyperloop stations were still down when I got there, meaning that I had to walk 10km to get home. Delivery Drones littered the streets and the roads were jammed with line ups of cars because the traffic lights were down. When I got home, the power was back up. My Dad was yelling down the phone at someone and my mum was sitting in front of the TV looking horrified. I dumped my bag on the kitchen table and made my way to the couch. Some News Channel was talking about the blackout. It wasn't just a couple of places. It was the whole of California, some hurricane tripped the wires up and it had disastrous impacts. People were trapped in lifts and mines, some people were even trapped on electric buses. All PA robots, workplaces and schools had problems as well. However nothing was worse than the countless people who died in hospital, the public's life support had shut down and the back up generators hadn't worked which ultimately killed them.

An event similar to this happened in 2016 in South Australia. (ABC news, 2016)The world wasn't so heavily reliant on electricity and technology back then but the effects were still Catastrophic. This is the most devastating black out in more than a decade. I don't want anything to do with technology anymore but I can't live without it. I don't know what to do.

8 June 2050

"You shouldn't be here."

"You are a disgrace."

"You are nothing."

That's what I've been told nowadays, for being different, for having different views, for being the only person who wants fresh air and freedom. Well at least that's what the people who know what I want. It's weird, to say the least, not wanting anything to do with technology in this world. The world that we have created over many, a world that revolves around the internet and metal pieces and a little bit of wire that combine to form stuff we don't even need. Nobody wants anything to do with me. Why? Because, even though I have never known anything different, I want to live when grass was outside everybody's houses, not in

this plastic world where everything works like clockwork and there are no mistakes, no variety.

I want out of this place, out into the real world, but this is the real world - this messed up, picture perfect world that isn't as great as everyone thinks. It's where everyone is free to be who they want but at the same time oppressed by technology all the time. So many people died during that blackout because we got too dependent on technology. I just want a world that doesn't shut down without technology. Is that so bad?

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