



Highly Commended

# Science Writing Year 5-6

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## The World in 2050 by Akshaya Thiru

Dear future reader,

Congratulations on chancing upon my time capsule! By reading this entry, you get to know more about me, and a snapshot of my life and experiences in 2050! History is the priceless basis of the future. Science, technology, and human endeavours have certainly led to the life we experience today.

I am Laurelle Smith, a 21-year-old, 4<sup>th</sup> year medical student at the Adelaide Futurist Hospital.

I live in a printed home with my family in Adelaide. Printed homes are the modern way of construction, and my family supports the growth of sustainable alternatives. From hybrid cars to magnetically levitating trains, humans have created new ways of living life on Earth or even space! Even a pandemic was averted with a super immune booster given to all based on lessons learnt from the COVID-19 outbreak 30 years ago!

I have included here a diary excerpt on what a day in my life in 2050 looked like.

### Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> December 2050

"Today, I am very excited to attend my first clinical placement at the Futurist Hospital of Adelaide.

I awake to the sound of construction, as the 3D printing machine whirrs and pauses. The utilities in my household are mostly smart, being voice activated. I meet my robot assistant downstairs who makes me pancakes and sets me up for today.

I walk to the local café, passing the construction site while noticing a 3D printer building a mansion. WINSUN, a construction company discovered 3D printers in 2013. In 2016, this innovation used sand and cement to continuously print 10 houses – each costing a few thousand dollars while leaving no waste.



I enter the café and sit down while watching the Adelaide Advance news. The anchor describes the 'Maglev' train connecting Adelaide to Melbourne and Tasmania. The Maglev is the best alternative to planes as it can travel between cities efficiently. The anchor announces that the Global Rail Track Association & Australasian Railway Association have connected all the world's major cities ensuring passengers that are travelling between 160km to 3200km do not face the expenses or risks of plane trips. It is environmentally friendly as it is powered by electromagnetic energy.



The 'Space Voyager' program begins as the robot waitress hands me my coffee. The holographic host states the launch of the Orion Span Aurora Space Station that is an accommodation for astronauts and civilians. The guests receive the 'astronaut experience' from traveling in no gravity

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to vestibular apparatus training. The 12-day experience costs 9.5 million dollars per guest, excluding the additional paraphernalia.

Fascinated by the news, I walk to the train station and board an autopiloted and flashy Maglev that zipped to my destination instantly.

Within seconds, I arrive at the hospital as my embedded microchip confirms my identity to enter.

Passing the reception, I notice the virtual medical updates mentioning Neuroscientist Randal Koene who aims to produce an artificial brain. He claims that our brains could be digitally uploaded into a mechanical body evolving us into cybernetic organisms. Many agree that we are exceeding the limits of technology and possibly ending humanity, but others believe we are on the verge of unlocking immortality!

I continue reading the “Uses of lab grown organs and medical chips” article. Apparently, 22 people die every day from the delay of organ transplantation. The number of donors is decreasing while the demand is exponentially increasing and research shows that artificial organs are the solution. They are created by merging stem cells and 3D printing.



Medical chips are used to recognise symptoms or diseases before morbidity or mortality ensues. If you are unwell, these detectors identify the health condition stating if it is imperative to seek clinical care. They conduct biochemical tests in our body systems that can prevent pandemics and decrease fatality risks.

I begin by virtually meeting patients from their homes and examining their physiological parameters alongside my supervisor. After several hours, I feel drowsy. I check my wrist and find my health chip beeping indicating low energy. Arriving at the kiosk, I place my wrist under the chip detector. Informing me that I need to consume 100 kJ of energy to increase my adenosine triphosphate levels, I realise that I am running late, I choose a sufficient alternative to food: energy capsules.



I rush back and see a newly admitted patient who fell and conduct an X-ray. Unexpectedly, the artificial intelligence software interpreting the X-rays called Asterix 2050 malfunctions. I read the X-ray studies myself, feeling proud for having concentrated throughout my previous medical school radiology rotations. Ending my shift, I handover care and leave for home.

With the X-ray incident bothering me, I fail to fall asleep. Despite all the technological advances, human and emotional intelligence are important in problem solving and ensuring good healthcare, just as I witnessed today.”

**Word Count: 800**

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