



Highly Commended

Science Writing

Year 5-6

Scarlett Waters

Brighton Primary School



The World in 2050

Scarlett Waters 780 words

A letter to my 11-year-old self

As an 11-year-old in 2021, I'm worried about our Earth's future. Global warming, with temperatures continuing to rise, greenhouse gases. By 2050 it is predicted that 1 million animal species will be extinct and the sea levels will rise by 30cm with devastating effects. I'm worried about the amount of single use plastic we use each year. There's already a rubbish island in the Pacific Ocean, soon there'll be more plastic than fish in the sea, is this the future we want? No, we need to care for our planet to keep it alive.

Dear 11-year-old Scarlett,

Now it's 2050, and I am 51. I think about my childhood and I remember your, or our, worries for our world. It was looking so bleak back then. I think the world was just as it's point before big change. I wish I could go back in time to tell you that your worry was OK, and that concern our type of people, caring people, have allowed us to grow a voice. We roared, and we acted.

I think when you were 9 or 10 the Amazon jungle and Australian bush burned like never before, in "Australia over 17 million hectares were lost". I remember how scared you were. But do you remember your school camp to Kangaroo Island when you were 11? Seeing the resilience of new life budding from blackened trees? That is the type of change I have seen in the past 40 years. Nature now rules our earth with green and focus being on cooling the earth, instead of the concrete jungles that were encouraged before. Everyone has gardens, plants trees, values water and shares our resources, and you'll be so glad to know nearly everyone is vegetarian! You are going to be so glad and surprised to see 2050, it's like all your dreams came true. Now that nature has taken priority, we have been able to save so many animals that were going extinct.

For a long time, men ruled this planet, they thought that women should work, care and clean. In 2026 people made a stand following proof that women global leaders reacted more quickly and decisively in the Covid-19 pandemic. Women across the globe filled the streets with angry and furious faces saying “we want better, we deserve better.” This was the beginning, the beginning of a revolution. Women started getting the same pay and opportunities as men, women's sport became bigger, and best of all women were being heard. The next thing we knew there was the first indigenous woman as Prime Minister for Australia. She listened, she was intelligent, empathetic and strong, and she had feelings that she shared. This was what it took to get what we deserved after years and years of fighting to be equal.

After the woman's rights revolution, the environment became especially important. We knew that we needed to heal and repair nature, and have far less plastic polluting our environment. Back when you were 11 the world “produced 381 million tonnes of plastic waste yearly – this would double by 2034 and deforestation was occurring at a rate of 30 soccer fields per minute”. Then came the campaign of “PFP” which means **Plants For Planet**. Not only did this raise awareness, but people started to act, planting trees and bushes. We even put a stop to cutting down the Amazon Rainforest and Tarkane Wilderness in Tasmania.

PFP started raising environmental awareness towards plastic use and electricity use. Plastic cups and cutlery were banned and you can only find plastic in black markets or very rarely in stores. The government even put tax on buying plastic of \$10 a gram, which meant that a plastic pen cost \$250, that’s an expensive pen. This tax has stopped many people using plastic around the world and now our oceans are recovering from the days when the environment didn’t matter.

In 2021, more electricity was being produced through solar and wind farms. Australia had owned “over 1824 solar farms and 228 wind farms” in 2021 and from then on, we kept on building up on the numbers. Now everyone uses renewable energy and the reliance on fossil fuels to generate electricity is almost none existent.

I know that you are feeling anxious about what was happening to our earth at age 11. I remember it was scary to hear all the terrible things happening to our planet, but after the people of the world worked harder and better together, improvements and positive change happened. Normal people like you, or us, who genuinely care, got us there.

Love from Scarlett in 2050

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