



Encouragement Award

Science Writing

Year 7-8

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The World in 2050

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A world completely engulfed in smog and soaring temperatures, barely grasping the rope of life if not for the assistance of rapidly advancing technology. Alas, none of these technologies are strong enough to undo the once-reversible spell that we have put upon ourselves. This unrecognisable world will be a reality or 'normal' to our children and the generations after. A beach we can no longer enjoy because the waves lapping the sand have poisonous crimson algae. Or simple everyday pleasures like breathing fresh air no longer be real to us, instead breathing through filtration masks because of toxic gases dominating the air.

It is said that by 2050, if we do nothing about climate change and continue along the path we have been travelling on, the global temperature will increase by approximately 3 degrees. Around the world, the air will be much hotter and heavier and sometimes be suffocated by particulate pollution, negatively impacting the health of the global population. This problem is quickly becoming irreversible with once-impossible phenomena occurring, such as the melting of the ice in the Arctic sea, which plays the important role of reflecting the Sun's heat. Forests, oceans, soil and many other natural resources have been the main absorbers of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. However, forests are now being chopped down or engulfed by wildfires in overwhelming quantities so quickly that nature has no time to replenish that same amount of trees to absorb carbon dioxide.

If it affects the environment, it ultimately affects us too. Homes will be destroyed, health will be affected and global politics will be spiralling out of control. With the temperature of the world increasing, the frequency and intensity of natural disasters will increase rapidly, with barely enough time to rebuild before the next one hits. Coastal cities in America and Bangladesh have seen a great surge in the number of hurricanes and tropical storms due to the rising sea levels and increased amount of moisture in the air, killing thousands of citizens and leaving millions without places to live. As occurrences like these become more frequent, insurance companies will soon declare bankruptcy, leaving people to find their own resources and rebuild their lives by themselves, without the support of governments or insurance. Diseases spread by mosquitoes and ticks will become more rampant as these species embrace and benefit from the change in climate. The increasing density of city's populations will only make this problem worse, creating stronger antibiotic resistance. Because of rising sea levels, people in certain areas will have to move to places of higher ground because their homes have been ravaged by floodwaters. On the topic of water, our oceans are constantly becoming more acidic, even to the point that fish can no longer survive in their habitats, creating a shortage in food and a dying ecosystem that the world relies on. Food shortage will also become a bigger problem, creating poverty in areas that were just surviving in the present day world. Although the sea levels around the world are rising, on the mainland, droughts and heatwaves are making vast areas fall into the process of aridification, sometimes going further, into desertification. In these areas, wildlife is non-existent, the change in climate too quick for them to adapt to their changing environment. Soon, words like giraffe, elephant or even kangaroo will be nonexistent in the human vocabulary because of extinction through our actions. Without wildlife being part of the environment, the whole ecosystem will crash, everything will not be functioning properly and soon, humankind will also fall into the same fate of extinction because of a no longer liveable world. With shortages of any resource in the world, only the wealthy will be able to purchase these luxuries, leaving normal commoners to suffer from food and resource shortages, creating further discontent and conflict between countries.

The future of this world seems bleak with problems that seem unsolvable and if we continue to ignore the impact our actions are having on the world that will be the result. However, if we change our ways now,

our world will not fall to such a fate, instead we will live in a healthy world, working in harmony with technologies to enhance our state of living. In fact, instead of going down that alley of doom, our world could change for the better, our planet could be healthier than it has ever been.

A world where the air is always fresh and crisp, where a gentle breeze blows and the sun shines soft rays and where wildlife is everywhere. The spell of climate change has been broken by the constant efforts of governments and citizens with the support of technologies. This new world may even be better than the one we live in now, a healthier and happier planet for our children and grandchildren to live in.

Our efforts to demolish climate change will change the world for the better. Weather patterns will neutralise and extreme weather events will be less frequent and when they do hit, its destruction impact will not be as great. Because of the neutralised weather patterns, food will be bountiful around the world and farmers will be able to make a sustainable living out of their produce, creating better trade opportunities for the country, boosting the economy. Diseases caused by warmer weather such as malaria and dengue would not be as severe in countries prone to these diseases, benefitting the health of the inhabitants of those particular countries. Our oceans, jungles, deserts and forests will be overfilled with life, with species that are thriving working in harmony to maintain the sustainability and liveability of our world. With such harmony, governments and political leaders will be mostly in consonance, having fair and plentiful trade and all working together for the same goal of encouraging their citizens and doing their part for the world to remain in this state. The greatest change in this improved world will be a greater reliance on technology, which would have advanced significantly and made life-changing breakthroughs. Although not to the extent of cars governing the skies, technology will definitely make its mark in controlling the world, impacting some negatively but most positively. Technology means doors to solutions to problems. The technological world is so vast that it can go from everyday problems like the time it takes to cook to saving someone's life by artificially creating a new heart for them, the possibilities are endless. Technology is going to be the mold and the holding glue to our world in 2050.

Our world in 2050 is one of two extremes, one dying, one thriving, whichever one we will live in is determined by us, by the actions we take to reduce climate change and make our world a better place for future generations to live in. It's up to us to change the current road we are heading on and to create a world where you would enjoy living in.

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