



BETWEEN THE LINES

THE ENVIRONMENT
-BEING A GREEN LION-

JANUARY 2020



Between The Lines

The Regular Literary Magazine of the Human Rights Club



Lincoln
Community School
Learn, Lead, Connect

Editors in Chief

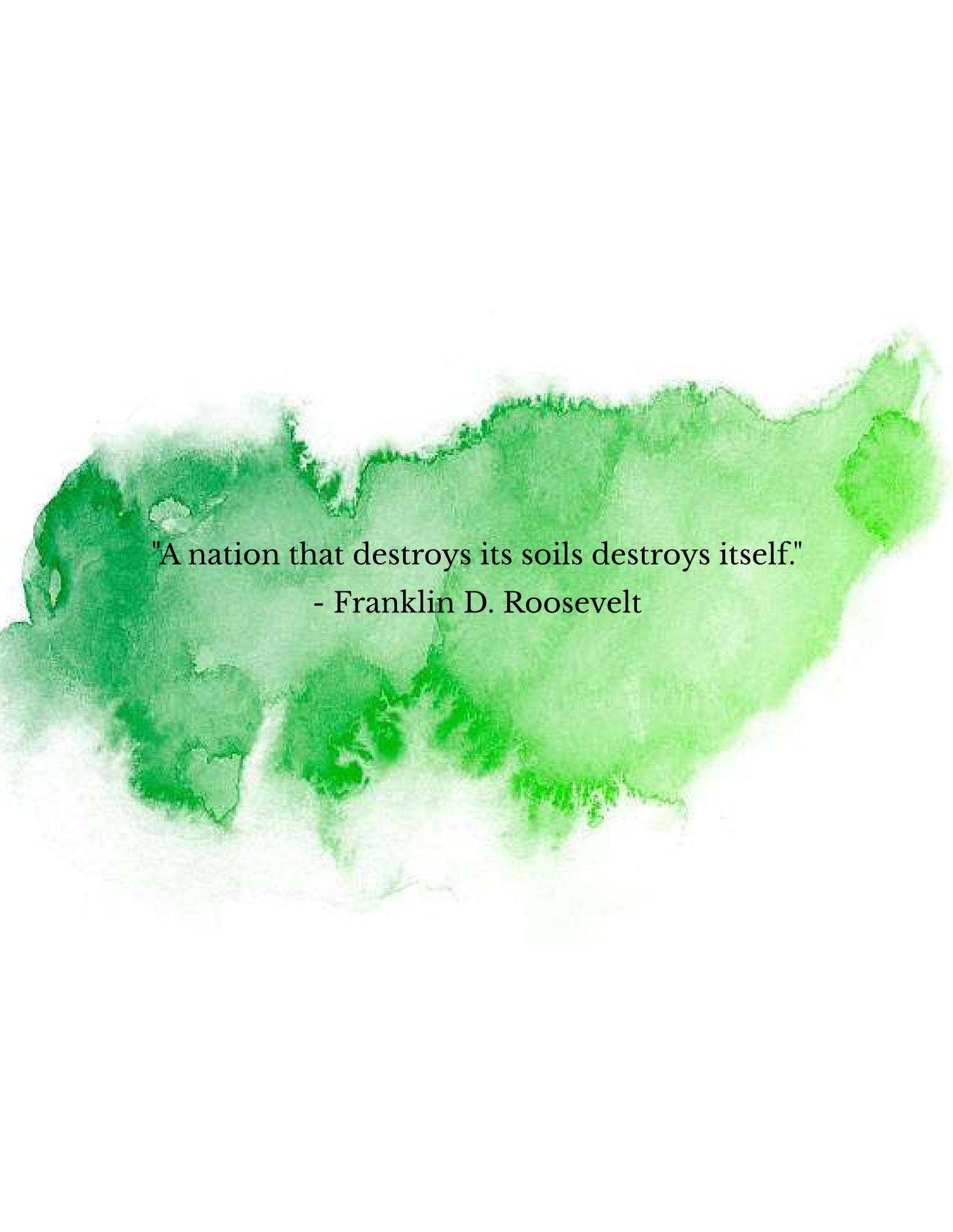
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"A nation that destroys its soils destroys itself."

- Franklin D. Roosevelt



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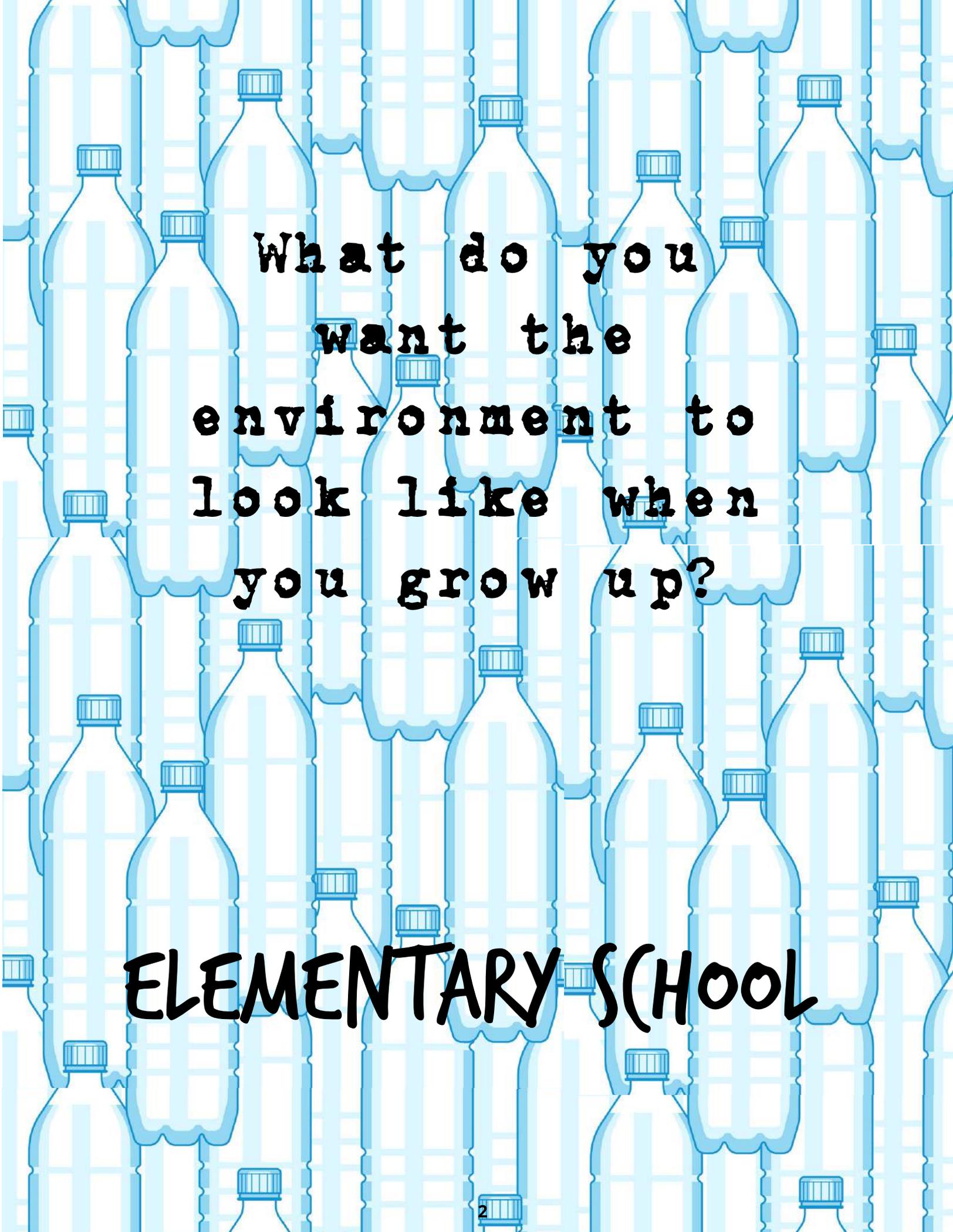
EDITOR'S NOTE

From stone age to modern times, the environment has challenged humans; encouraging them to develop and adapt to it. In the contemporary mindset, it is believed that activities that harm the environment have entered as part of a daily routine. Humans are no more surviving in the environment, but rather living in it; consuming it more than it may perhaps bare.

This magazine seeks to question how Lincoln's individuals of growing generations act within the environment. They are taught about the environment's perils, but not how to soothe them. Can it be foolish to believe that a small gesture is meaningful? The environment has unleashed its superiority upon humans, showing that as they stab it, they are solely destroying themselves. Ought they to be held guilty for the atrocities done to the environment? Can they truly be accountable to look after something more powerful than them?

The Human Rights' Club offers the community a fervent edition with diverging opinions on a coping method for the environment's crisis. Here are our Lincoln voices,

Enjoy...

The background of the entire page is a repeating pattern of light blue water bottles. Each bottle is outlined in a slightly darker blue and has a small blue cap. The bottles are arranged in a grid-like fashion, overlapping slightly.

What do you
want the
environment to
look like when
you grow up?

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Paula, 5B

When I grow up I want to see a lot of trees and green hills, I want to see no plastic in the ocean and everywhere in general. I really want to swim in the ocean and not have plastic wrapping in my legs. I want to see a lot of animals in the beautiful forests. I want to know that animals are not endangered. I DO NOT want to see climate change and pollution, I want to see all green and blue!

When I grow up I don't want to see people hunting animals and cutting the trees . I sincerely want a better future for the next generations .

When I grow up I want to see human beings working against climate change,

I want everything to be **GREEN IN THE WORLD!**

Ivy, 5B

Our earth is falling apart more people are getting sick more animals are becoming extinct we can't let this happen to our earth.

Yes some things are helpful for our daily life like:

- Straw
- Cars
- Factories
- Electricity
- Plastic (bottles, bags..)
- Consumerism (things we just randomly buy)



Kids aren't getting the right things they need not good education, no food, no shelter, no freedom, so we need to do something before it's too late.

There are 7.3 billion people on earth. I mean it's not exactly bad but it's pulling our food chain and affecting our world. What I mean is that when more people come along more bad things happen probably 2021 there will be 10 billion people. When there's more people more people get sick so we need medicine and where do we get that medicine? animals or plants and we kind of need these things. Plants are okay to make medicine out of but if we kill pandas, elephants..... Then the food chain will not go well because other animals need other animals to live.

Endangered animals:

- Lions
- Cheetahs
- Gorillas
- Crocodiles
- Butterfly
- Frogs

So I want to make a difference and we need to make it fast and I want to work on plastic poverty. I want to see green and blue, I want to see a blue sky. I don't want to see smoke, and I want to see electric cars everywhere I don't want to see plastic in the sea, i don't want to see plastic in general. I don't want to see the homeless on the street I don't want to see hungry children.

I love our earth I don't want to ruin it. Please make a difference and share the word.

You can do little things to help:

- Pick up any trash you see and put in the garbage.
- When you go to the beach bring a big plastic bag and collect the garbage in the water
- Reuse, reduce and recycle bags and anything that's plastic.....

Katherina, 5A



Silvia, 5B

If only there would be 25 years until the world falls apart because of human behavior. I would like the world to be full of green and full of nature when I grow up, and a world in which everyone has equal rights.

The earth is the only planet that can hold life, it has water, air, nature, and all the resources that give us shelter. But we as humans don't know how much we are lucky, we cut down trees, pollute the air and water, we kill animals, and we have wars. If we keep on going like this, the earth will be horrible for us to live in. We would need special masks to breathe and all the animals would be extinct! I remember one time when we were in a country where people burned a lot of trash so my mom bought me and my brother special masks to not breathe the polluted air or if there was a sand storm. Imagine having to live all your life with pollution masks.

Pollution is a really bad thing, if it wasn't for us pollution wouldn't be a problem for nature.

- **Water Pollution:** Water pollution is caused by oils that have been thrown in the ocean or in lakes, it is also caused by trash that we left in the ocean.
- **Air Pollution:** Air Pollution is caused by different types of gasses like- Sulfur Dioxide, Carbon Monoxide, and Nitrogen Oxides.

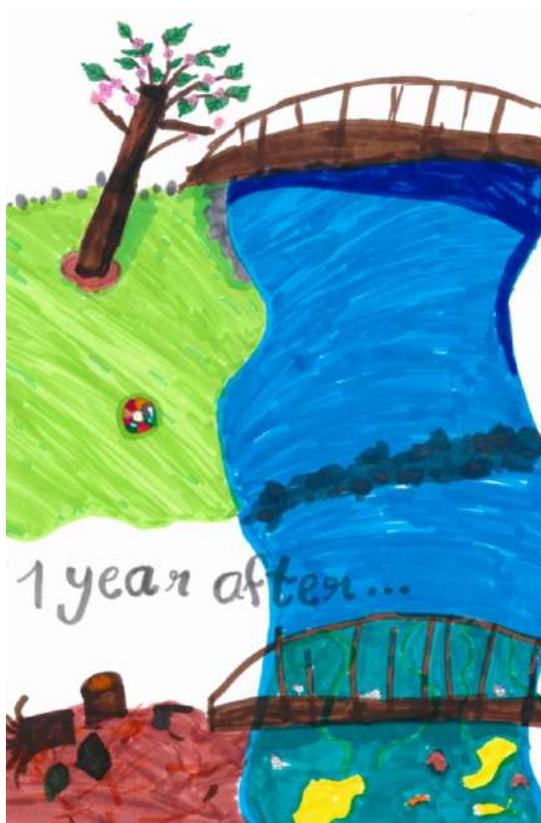
Another thing that makes this world bad is that people don't give others much rights, like to have food, shelter, and money for poor people, and in some places they don't give people with a different shade of skin colour or women the right to vote, or to have a work, some even have to be slaves! This makes me feel really sad, imagine yourself being a slave. This might get worse in the future if we don't do anything to change it.

I would like the environment to change, everyone should have the same rights, and we **need** to make a difference and stop ruining the earth! I wish the world when I grow up will be a place of peace and love to all living creatures, if we all try to change the world we **can** make a difference, step by step, the world is going to change and life will be good. If not it's all right because life is full of disappointment *but* when we fall down we stand back up, try again and never give up until we make it! When I grow up I want the world to have less trash in the water, air, and land.

I would like the world to be full of green and full of nature when I grow up, and a world in which everyone has equal rights. What can we all do to make the world a better place, here are some actions we can all take:

1. Next time you see trash on the ground, pick it up and throw it in the trash can.
2. Sort plastic, food, and paper in three different trash cans.
3. Treat others the same way you want to be treated.

Sagarika, 5A



Sian, 5A



Fiona, 5A



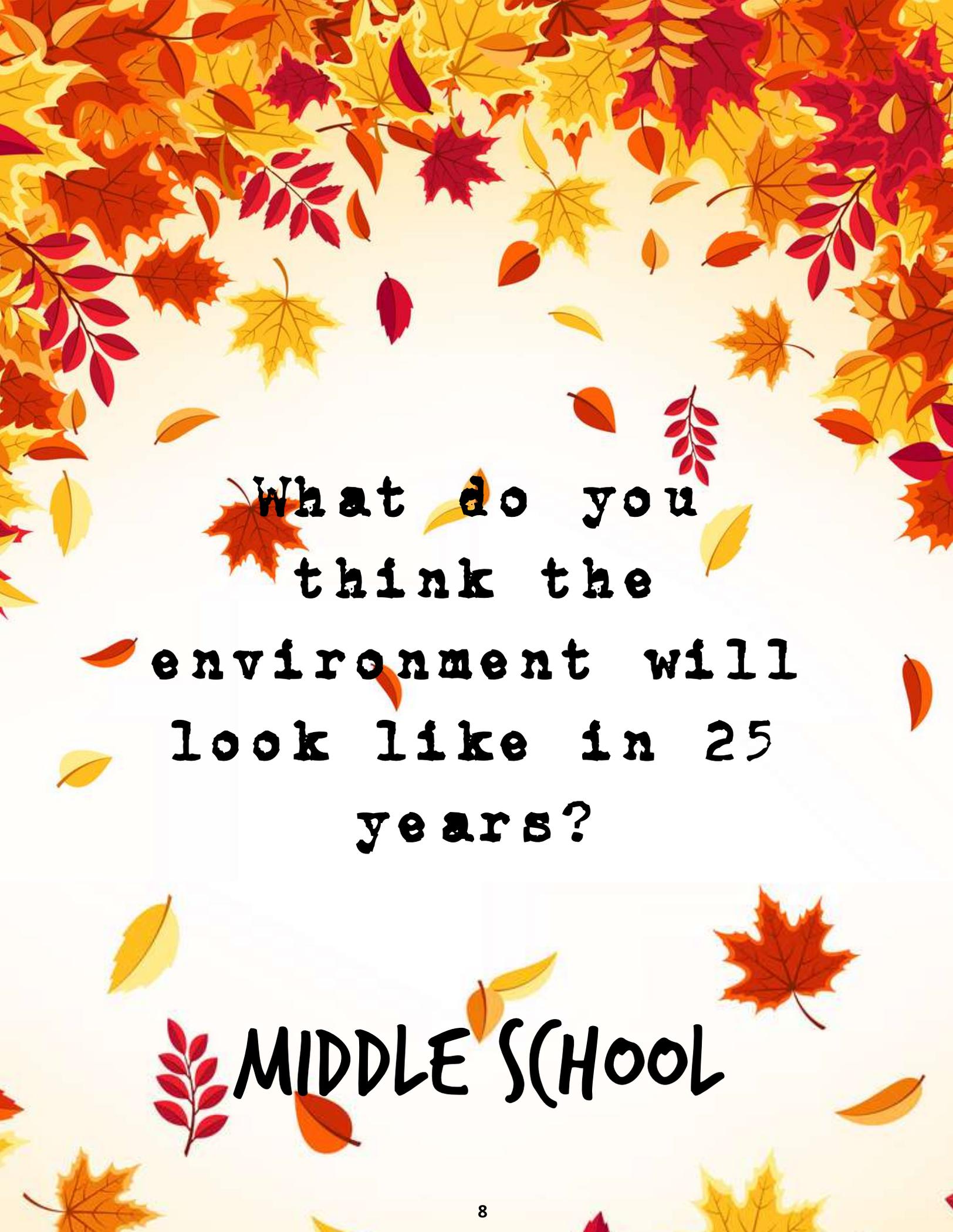
Class of 1A



This is how I want the school to look like in 25 more years. I want it to look like that because it look like the children will learn so much.



In 25 years I want school to be a rocket school and then they will learn about space and stars and also the moon.



**What do you
think the
environment will
look like in 25
years?**

MIDDLE SCHOOL



Ophelia McAsey

A few years ago, a global event dedicated to innovation took place in Kazakhstan, a country in Central Asia where I used to live. This global event was called the Expo, an exhibition that is held in different countries to address and solve fundamental challenges concerning a set theme, that year's theme being 'Future Energy'. The main exhibition was a circular and glass building, each floor held a display of sustainable and futuristic energies, represented by lights, colours and sounds.

Though the Expo was exciting while it lasted, the exhibition was almost abandoned after the closing day. The buildings were still open to viewing, but were rarely visited.

This experience, I find, is very similar to the current climate and environmental issues. In 2019, people around the globe have shown their determination for climate action, there have been multiple marches and a spread of awareness through the media. But how are we to know that in 25 years, world leaders will have listened, people have kept and shown their determination to help this planet, and the world leaders who are helping now have not abandoned their plans, like the Expo buildings. I think that the environment in 25 years is unpredictable, unless we keep our determination in doing all that we can to save our planet.

Lotte Von Schwerin

When I try to imagine the environment in 25 years I see tons of plastic. It will kill animals, plants, in cities, oceans and beaches. Depending on the countries, some oceans won't be accessible for people to swim in because of the huge amounts of plastic devastating the beach and ocean.

I think that in 25 years massive areas of rainforests will be dead and replaced by men-made industries, though I do think that people who will still strive for a healthy environment will, unsuccessfully, try to keep the rainforests of same size by planting more trees.

The environment's condition will not at all get better in the next 25 years if a rather big change does not occur worldwide.



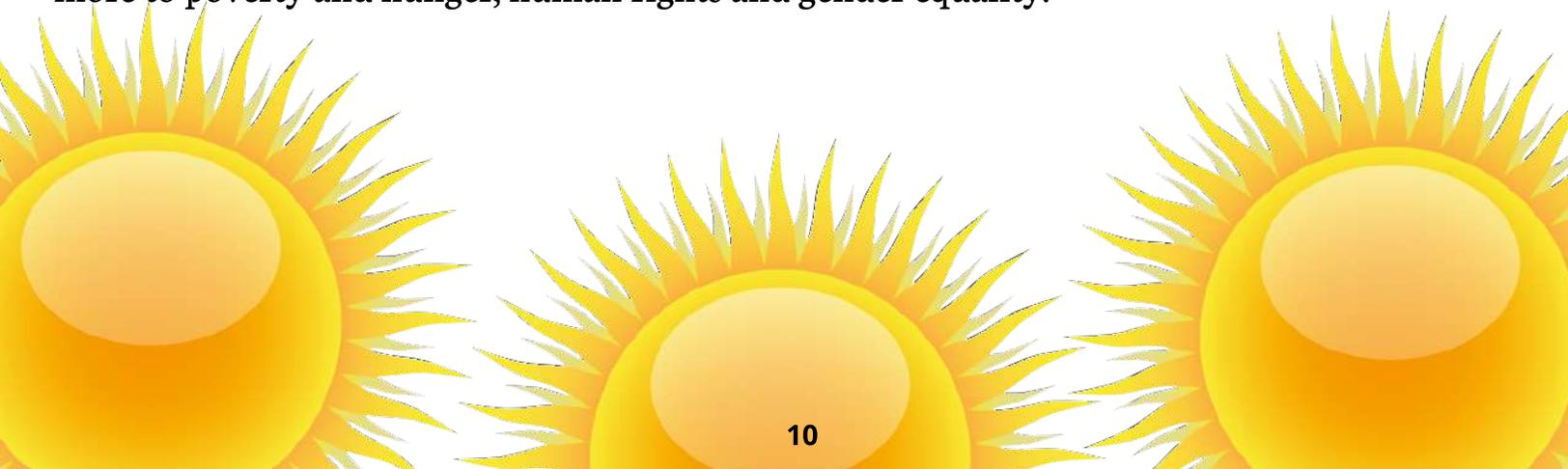


Lara Pauw



In 25 years, I hope that most if not all the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals will have been achieved by as many countries as possible. Specifically, I would like the environment related goals achieved, because I believe that poverty will not be our greatest concern if the world falls apart because of human actions. If the goals are reached, I think that the environment will be much greener. I mean this both literally and figuratively. I think there will be more trees and less construction and buildings. More energy will be put into making nature the top priority. When I say green I also mean that lifestyles will be very different. Use of transportation will be limited. People will avoid flying by plane or driving in cars. More people will be seen walking or cycling, and public transport will be more common. Transport will be made more eco-friendly. Electric cars will be the more common alternative to petrol powered vehicles. Renewable energy will power millions of households across the globe, and new wind turbines and water wheels will be installed to harness natural energy. I think that if these goals are achieved human rights will become a priority. Specifically, gender inequality and racial discrimination will decrease, if they have not already by the time the world becomes eco-friendly.

If the environmental SDG's have not yet been achieved worldwide, then we will either be working hard to achieve them as soon as possible, or focusing on other goals, possibly related more to poverty and hunger, human rights and gender equality.



Jayden Perry

25 years from now, I believe the environmental issues would have worsened by quite a lot, because of the multiple issues that the environment has to deal with, one of them including industrial pollution, this is because the owner of an industry won't close down his/her company that is polluting the environment because that will affect an owners income completely. Another reason that I believe it would have worsened is because as much as we try to solve the problem much of the damage has been done.

Cleopatra Kimera

As an MS student point of view I think that the current environment is clean at first, but then at lunchtime people don't clean up the trash so there's food and trash everywhere which makes it look like a very messy and it destroys the nice environment. I foresee that in the future there will be more facilities that motivate maintaining a clean environmental thought the day. For example more colorful dustbins around each corner or maybe even automated dustbins (talking stroke musical, to remind you to keep the environment clean). Currently we have color dustbins but in 25 years we would have a machine that sorts out the trash by itself. In conclusion technology would be driving maintained clean and conducive environment.





**What have you
done for or
against the
environment?**

**HIGH SCHOOL
& STAFF**

Minna Loan Stalder - Student

It is of no surprise that humans harm the environment on a daily basis, personally I could fill a whole page of actions that I do that are negative towards the environment. Traveling is probably the most harmful, as I often visit my previous homes or new places by car or plane which causes an immense amount of greenhouse gases to be released into the atmosphere. Buying new clothes, buying material that is packaged in plastic, writing on paper and using electricity are only a few more factors that aren't eco friendly either. Rather than focusing on the countless actions that contribute to destroying the environment, I think of behaviours that I changed in order to have a slightly less harmful impact on the environment. Since I found out about the state that nature is in I have been trying to reduce the amount of food bought that is packaged in plastic, imported or comes from animals. I also try to participate in beach clean ups, carpool more often, go second hand shopping, use less water, paper and electricity, raise awareness and recycle material.

Victor Nwanokwu - Student

The environment is in trouble as the overgrowing population creates a vast amount of pollution leaving only a small percentage to clean up after. I generally use reusable bags, as these bags are quite beneficial for shopping and other things. This cuts down on litter and prevents animals from getting hold of them. However, I do sometimes use plastic bags but reuse them often rather than disposing of after each use. Recycling is also a simple task which has become part of my life. In my compound, we have recycling cans so I always use it to separate my recyclables from my non-recyclables. For the future, I think encouraging other people to help as much as they can.



Troy Duffield - Staff

Ae Freislighe for Gaia

Do you think this is vivid?
We know to make our home green;
but who cares I'm so livid?
Enraged against the machine...

The environment is cooked
The one percent owns the oil
We all need to be unhooked
Before this whole place starts to boil

Waters will rise to the hills
Learn to live with the typhoons
For water, we'll need some bills
The stupid rich are buffoons

Rulers should not be for sale,
but I should drive a smart car
I should not fly; I should sail
Problem: my Loves live so far.

Can we save trees with a hug?
But what can one person do?
We should lead but not be smug
Mother Gaia must renew.

Amber Rhinehart - Staff

What have I done for the environment? Not much. Positive, anyway. I have children: two. Those little mini-carbon emitters are terrible for the environment. Think disposable diapers. By the time my child was 2.5 years old, she tore through 3,800 diapers. That's 45,000 pounds of CO₂ yearly. Gilson and Butler affirm that my child produced more trash in those two years alone than an average Tanzanian will produce in their entire lifetime. So having a baby, and two at that, just plummeted our planet into further environmental ruin.

But don't you childless-teenager go patting yourself on the back quite yet. You're not so great for the environment either. You see, we're travelers, you and I.

You're worse than my poop-producing baby. Kommenda mentions that there is a disproportionate amount of carbon produced by those who travel by air and those who do not; so much so that your one flight from London to New York produces more carbon dioxide than a resident of one of the poorest 56 countries produce in an entire year. Take a train next time. Or better yet, stay in Ghana.

I may think that reducing my plastic straw usage or bringing my own to-go containers for restaurant leftovers or by taking the train instead of flying, I'm actually doing something, but I am mistaken. According to Gibbens, plastic straws are a red herring to the horrors of plastic pollution, only making up 0.025% of the 8 million tons of plastic that flows into our ocean water every year. Microplastics are permeating our oceans and sea life as about 25% of all seafood contains microplastics, as stated by Carrington. Even our table salt contains it. Some estimates, such as Richie and Roser, put 50% of the Great Garbage Patch as being comprised of plastic fishing waste - think fishing lines, ropes and gear.

But there is a solution. Climate scientists believe that the solution to our excessive carbon emissions and climate crisis lies in trees. Current research published in Science magazine this past summer has shown that by planting trees on 11% of the world's land area could reduce our carbon crisis by two-thirds. They are convinced that the simple act of planting trees isn't just a good idea, it is convincingly the best one we have.

Go out plant a tree. Or five. Let's work on the reforestation of our planet together.



Ron Stiles - Staff

EnviRONmental Poem

A Time of Birds

Our cars are rude, but we all climb in.
Uniting our engines with the ever present din.
With flagrant indignity we still flatulate along.

Blanketing all that was nature.
Muting what remains of birds' song.

Even our environmental champions,
Now fattened by fame and power,
Are spotted cruising alongside us.
Saving a second from this unholy hour.

Beyond late and into the night
The beasts come slowly to rest.
Revealing a near forgotten silence
Released as the air of a breath.





A sleep is quickly descending upon us
As was foretold in lost runes.
The still air betrays its contents
As forests compete with the fumes.

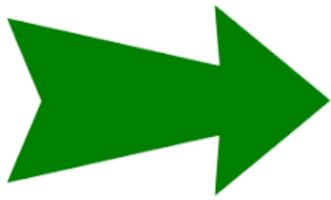
Remaining unknown to most,
In the mystique around four and six,
Endures the melodies of the birds
As they dance and play in the sticks.

We shouldn't become too alarmed
As we are far-fading away.
A jarring horn soon shall sound
And knock us back into today.

Our cars are rude, but we are all climbing in.
Uniting our engines with an ever present din.
With flagrant indignity we still flatulate along.
Blanketing all that was nature.
Muting what remains of birds' song.

Nikki Hui Hsia Yap - Student

Although I will admit, there is not much that I have done for the environment, in my efforts, I have learnt to be conscious. Being conscious of what I have and what I can do to improve my ways of living for the better of others and myself. I am often inspired by my peers to do much more. Being in Lincoln, surrounded by peers of all ages and cultures it has taught me a lot. I do, and can say I do have a metal straw, Geogie would be proud.



INTERVIEWS



Jawad Fakhary - Student

“In the past, I used to keep the old rappers that I used at lunch outside, but now not as much anymore. Also in the past - but still currently - I use a lot of plastic bottles that are not helpful towards the environment, so I plan on changing that for the future. Previously, I would use two plastic bottles instead of one, but now I am trying to use less and am using one.”

Kyla Serwah Danquah - Student

“There have been instances where I would litter which is not the best thing to do and I should not do it as much. Also, I tend to take a lot of showers for a reasonable amount of time and to help the environment it would be better to take fewer of them; to save water. Another thing I could start doing for the environment - to help it out - would be to compost. It sounds like a really good idea and it would help out, so I should start to compost more.”



Kim Labaw - Staff

- I do my best to not use single-use plastics (take reusable bags for shopping, bring metal straws, don't use plastic cups/plates/utensils).
- We turn the water and power off on appliances (A/Cs, water heaters, etc) when they're not being used.
- We recycle what and when we can, based on the recycling services that are available.
- We use compostable trash bags, reusable paper towels, bamboo toothbrushes, compostable dental floss
- We've stopped using plastic wrap and now use beeswax wraps to wrap our food items in
- We have an organic garden
- We shop at used clothing stores
- We used recycled materials for craft projects
- We walk or ride bikes when we can rather than drive

Serag Elsadani - Student

I have cared about the environment as long as I can remember, and have always wanted to support and preserve it. I had always advocated for others to support the environment and to never litter and to not waste electricity or water. I always spoke to others and tried to encourage them to take action, however, I myself have harmed the environment through my own actions. The most glaring example of such incidents is my use of non reusable plastic items. For many years my parents and I would use plastic water bottles and plastic shopping bags regularly, hardly ever using their sustainable counterparts. As time has gone by, however, I have changed my consumption habits as to make them more sustainable. I regularly use reusable bottles, and often use reusable shopping bags and baskets when they're available. Slowly, I have become more conscious of the products that I use, becoming a more responsible and environmentally aware consumer in the process.

Luke Labaw - Staff



What have you done for the environment?

I've volunteered my time and money to various environmental-focussed NGOs. Although it's sometimes impossible due to distances, I also try ride my bike or walk rather than driving. As a family, we do our best not to use single-use plastics (we bring own shopping bags, don't use plastic cups and plates, we use metal straws at home, as well as reusable paper towels). We also turn our water heaters and lights off when not in use. I'm not exactly sure how much this contributes to the good of our environment on a large scale, but we also grow a vertical organic vegetable and herb garden at our house. Based upon the services available to us, we also recycle whatever we can (plastics, metals, paper goods, etc.)



What lessons have you learned from the environments that I have lived in?

I've seen, firsthand, how not taking care of our environment can have a negative impact. When I lived in Colorado, I watched dramatic water contamination and depleted natural habitat from the gas and oil business. This not only impacted people and their water supply, but it also had a profound impact the animals in the surrounding mountains. When I lived in New Delhi, India, I witnessed AQI levels that were literally off the scales (900+). I've seen my oldest son struggle with respiratory issues, which is the biggest reason we left India. I've also read that polluted air is reducing life expectancy by 10 years in New Delhi! I don't want my children or my children's children to have to live through these kinds of man-made mistakes.



How am I leading my environmental crusade?

I think for me, personally, the best way that I can lead my "environmental crusade" is by participating in and serving as an example to my peers, my students, and my children. I also do my best to help educate others.

Who is responsible for the environment?



WRITERS



How pretentious to think that someone is responsible for the environment, its prosperity and its inevitable doom. Can we really be responsible for something that matches a natural phenomenon? Can humans in general even have a voice in an occurrence that we have simply accelerated and fueled further? From my perspective, we do not have a say in events that surpass us to that extent. It seems that humanity has been guilt tripping the ignorant, the careless, and those who have not chosen an ecological lifestyle. Why?

Should we even care about attributing a blame to part of the Earth's cycle? Are we really trying to blame the couple of hundred of years we have lost in our future on someone or something? Have we really started to only believe in living for the future, when right now is what we should be focusing on? Perhaps my statements may sound cynical and with little interest for sustainability, but I genuinely believe that not fully taking advantage of every life given on Earth is a mistake, a mistake that's far worse than sacrificing our progeniture to the 100th degree; that are people we don't know, that may not have the same intellect, the same needs and the same social issues. By asking who is responsible for the environment, we are pointing at some to impose a lifestyle on us. We often think of our rights, liberties and freedoms as being a treasure in today's society, but choosing to maximize our lifestyle never appears to fit into that lexicality. By pondering on these environmental issues, we are slowly being delved into a mentality of fearing the future, rather than cherishing it. The complexity of our minds, the reason nature has given us, the thoughts that stream by thousands in our brains, are just a curse to make us believe that we play the most important role in a phenomenon that occurs beyond us. To answer the initial question, perhaps having that intellectual complexity makes us responsible for issues that are not even ours.

Why is it that humans stubbornly believe in their power as rescuers, and in the most individualistic of ways, concern themselves with only their perspective on the matter? Take for example, the Apocalypse, a term with biblical meaning, that essentially designates doomsday. In our literary and cinematic canons, doomsday is the end of the Earth, the end of the World. That however, is a dogmatically flawed judgment, for our doomsday does certainly not equal itself to that of the world.

The end of our world is definitely not the end of the world.



Who is responsible for the environment? Should I be to blame for the environmental disaster the world is going through? I am only an individual. My impact on the environment has to be minimal compared to all the big companies that are contributing on a much greater scale. It probably is true. It is true. However, should I do nothing?

I am a child of the eighties. I grew up in a time when plastic was seen as a revolution. It made everything easy and effortless. Disposable goods were seen as progressive. Plastic bags, plastic pens, plastic bottles, “younameit” plastic. It was all so convenient. Nobody questioned it, until recently. Far too recently. Plastic is only the tip of the iceberg of current environmental issues. Is it too late? It may well be if we all do not change the way we live and consume.

Humanity has reached an era of transition. Some of us are already adjusting their lifestyles to reduce their environmental impact. It is hard at first, then it becomes a way of life, and the idea of going back becomes inconceivable. It triggers feelings of guilt, accountability, and selfishness.

I am increasingly aware of the impact every one of my actions has on the planet. So, what have I changed so far?

- I carry a water bottle wherever I go
- I try to cut my meat consumption
- I only use the AC if I need it, and I never set it below 26 in my home
- I use solid shampoo, soap, toothpaste and deodorant
- I have transitioned to reusable straws, silicone sandwich bags, bamboo toothbrushes, and beeswax food wraps
- I encourage those around me to become more aware of their environmental impact
- I have switched to a search engine that uses their profit to plant trees (Ecosia)

Who is responsible for the environment? Of course, governments and large companies need to be the main actors in this consumption shift, but we all have a role to play. No matter how small. One refused plastic bag may mean that one dolphin could be saved. One refused plastic bag by a thousand different people may encourage plastic bans. We are all responsible, and we all need to get involved. We are ants, and our combined restorative actions may save the trampled anthill.



Gaylord Nelson, founder of Earth Day, stated that “the ultimate test of man’s conscience may be his willingness to sacrifice something today for future generations whose words of thanks will not be heard.” As the world’s population, we may ask ourselves what should be sacrificed, and who should take the responsibility of sacrificing it.

Currently, the environment is facing various problems, amongst which climate change is making the news’ headlines. Temperatures have shown to have risen by 1.7 degrees Fahrenheit since the year 1880, connected with a high 13.3% decrease of Arctic ice levels per year. According to the National Geographic, rainforests are likely to disappear from our world maps in only a century’s time. Differently, in the United States, 220 million tons of waste are produced per year; global expectations are leveling to 3.40 billion tons in 2050.

As citizens, our immediate reactions is placing responsibility within the governments’ hands; blaming them for current world environmental issues. Thus, governments seek to uphold their promises to the world’s population, meeting yearly in the Conference of the Parties (COP). In 2018 was held the COP24 - in Katowice, Poland - with the aim to finalize and implement the Paris Agreement, which was agreed upon within the European Commission. Up to this day, there has not only been involvement from governments, but also from the United Nations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The NGO Greenpeace has been in action for nearly 50 years, aiding with campaigns and assisting communities in extreme environmental disasters. The first African head of Greenpeace, Kumi Naidoo stated that the environmental “struggle is fundamentally about whether humanity can fashion a way of mutually coexisting with nature and protecting our children and their children’s future.”

Organizations are taking their share of blame for environmental problems, though as an overpopulating factor of this planet, what have we individually done in support of our Mother Earth? It is essential that we also take our share to succor it, rather than placing it on others’ shoulders. Living in the 21st century, many things that pollute the environment have become a major part of our daily routine. Though we may not yet remove these polluting activities, it is always a possibility to engage for the environment in another way: whether through donations, reducing eco-unfriendly activities or rising in protest. Morally, we tend to look pessimistically at the environment and its problems, but should rather spend that time yearning for progress and learning how to treat the environment more responsibly even with small actions, preparing towards an anew day.



In a kind mindset, I would say that the entity of the human population is responsible for the environment. However, in a world governed by power, sharing equal responsibility appears to be impossible.

To enforce this idea, take me as a student. My generation (early 2000s) is now recognized by the green movement, specifically Fridays for Future where students sit out on school to protest for more efficient climate policies. To me, the sole fact that students are left with one statement- sacrificing their education for the climate- is appalling. I find it terrifying that we are incapable of initiating change, but that we will be the ones who will deal with the most devastating outcomes. As students we do not have as powerful of a political voice. Most of us can't even vote yet.

Broadly speaking, my generation has grown up with more awareness about the environment, including the devastating long term effects of climate change. Education systems have adapted to focus on the planet and teach my generation how to act in the name of the environment, including ways to spread awareness. However, I can't help but question whether it is ethical to put the burden of change on the shoulders of the youngest least capable generation in terms of our political influence? In theory, we are too young and powerless to do anything substantial. We were born into the climate crisis and have to wait out half a lifetime before our voices determine politics. Relatively, those in power are the ones who control the energy expenditures of the world- driving it through fossil fuels.

Students should not be the only advocates for the environment. It should also be on the agenda of the government to partake in policy changes in order to adapt systems to better adhere to the well being of the planet and, if need be a more persuasive argument, the future of humanity. As governments wield most of the power in our world, especially in terms of decision making, initiative within the government is necessary in order for large scale actions to be taken. Primarily, this means diminishing the hypocrisy that resides with the front runners of climate sustainability. For example, I was disappointed to find out that Denmark and Norway continue to retrieve oil from the Faroe islands, while maintaining their image of being front-running, eco-friendly states. An easy solution would be, for instance, taking advantage of natural resources such as in Kazakhstan where there is either constant wind or sun across their 2,724,900 square kilometres of land. Residing to renewable forms of energy rather seeking money from oil trade would be a more responsible approach and would provide a pathway to the future. Additionally, climate change is not something that can be tackled individually. Although one country may evolve in an eco-friendly manner, this does not necessarily cause other countries to evolve in similar ways. For this reason, international cooperation is necessary, but again, is out of the hands of the youngest, most proactive generation.

Furthermore, responsibility comes in many forms. It is not only up to the producers to limit their fossil fuel expenditure and unethical consumption of natural resources, but also to the consumers, us, who must gain consciousness of our own contributions to the environment. Responsibility is also recognizing the issue at hand, its legitimacy and understanding the science behind environmental issues. Responsibility can not be taken if there is selfish unwillingness to recognize reality and take personal initiative to act in the interest of everyone. Those who have the power to actively initiate change should exercise their responsibility in such a way, and those who lack power should continue to advocate for their rights. Although the powerless can not directly influence the political process, their voices are heard and recognized, evidence for which is the media.



From eons ago, ever since humankind set foot upon this flourishing and green land, they have razed, cut, singed and tortured mother earth for eternity. Yet who is responsible for the vast devastation that caused nature to reel off balance? That’s a topic that was discussed since I was 4 foot tall toddler.

Teachers who showed me pictures of mass destruction, like some Van-Gogh painting gone wrong, smeared with a variety of crimson and black colors, huge oak wood branches stained with ash as dark as vantablack and blazing hellfire looming across the distance. At the time, I thought it was a painting.



Turned out to be a reality.

And what’s worse, in reality, it seems that the toll is much greater than those gruesome images I’ve been exposed to. Now, let me tell you some facts that might make you frown.

1.7 billion tons, yes, tons (as in 1000 kilos) of waste has been dumped across the globe. Ninety nine percent of the things we buy today is trashed and lands in a garbage dump like the one in Lavender Hill ready to be burnt or dumped into the sea in 6 months. For you math people out there, imagine multiplying 1.7 billion with a thousand. That’s the number of kilograms of waste we are actually dumping into huge large dumpfields that we’ve never even witnessed before.

And for those of you that love seafood and sushi. Do you know how much time you have left to enjoy that savory aroma of fish? Not long. Your deadline is in 28 years. And you know what’s contributing to that? It’s because we dump 8 million tons a year into the oceans.

I just want to hold the majority of youth responsible. Don’t hold a grudge on me, I’m not judging any of you. But please forgive, just please, the older generations, what they have caused to the environment, what they have done to hurt mother nature. I do not believe “Ignorance is bliss” in this situation. Nowadays, we come up with excuses such as:

“Oh, the older generations did this, so why do I have to clean this up?”

“Oh, it’s just a little piece of trash. What can it possibly do?”

Quoting from Lao Tsu, who once said, “A journey of a thousand miles begins with one step.” If one person, just one person, or even if you were to recycle one piece of trash a day, maybe even put it in the right place, that will make it 365 pieces of trash a year. Imagine a community doing this. Then a city. Then a whole country. Let’s take China as an example. If every person were to take one piece of trash a day and put it in the right place, that will make it 365 times 1.4 billion pieces of trash a year.



So please.

I urge modern humanity to take part. We, as modern humans, trash the most and ruined the environment tens or possibly hundreds of times as worse than the last century and we have to solve the problems that we have caused.

Alison Duffield

The new generations are responsible for cleaning; for fixing what has been broken.

We should not have to fix what has been done, but we don't have a choice if we want to live life without the fear that we could be the next to fall. Our past generations did not care for the environment, and they let the small things slide. What if you take plastic and think it's only one? It's not going to hurt anything.

That is wrong! Everyone thinks that the world should be built upon more and more plastic.

The world is dying, and people don't want to come to the realization that what is happening is true.

They don't see it - so can it be *real* - even though they are the cause.

We can't fix what has been done, but we can try to save it as much as we can.

Let us hope, one day, our future generations will live in a world that is clean **and** beautiful.



Piyush Chandan

Many of you know that the inevitable climate change crisis is soon approaching, so I ask, who is responsible for the current state of the environment. There are many answers to this question, from one person to the entire world. In my eyes (which are different than yours) mostly everyone is responsible for the current situation, some more than others. There are also people such as Elon Musk, who is the founder and CEO of Tesla, and more people like him are moving towards a more environmentally sustainable future. Meanwhile there are also people that are further damaging the environment, such as owners of big industrial farms. The reason that I had said mostly when answering the question was because not everyone has access to such facilities that we do. Take the Sentinelese, who are a tribe located on an island not too far from the Indian ocean, they still use bow and arrows, and have never made contact with the outside world because of that they have not yet gotten accustomed to everyday items such as cars and planes. In some way everyone is responsible for the environment, which is why each and every one of us must start working towards a more green future.



The news outlets I subscribe to constantly have news about the environment. In the last week there have been articles on a giant iceberg breaking off of Antarctica, flight shaming in Scandinavia, scientists estimating Earth's carbon storage capacity, climate emergency declared by Belfast City Council, beetles evolving to reproduce in warmer climates, arguments made for "the right to repair" appliances and electronics, Greta Thunberg, strikes in Canada regarding climate change, and the last carbon fired power plant closed in Cottam (BBC). Those articles are all from the BBC which puts a positive, if not hopeful spin on the environment, Al Jazeera is far worse. I chose to be bombarded with messages of despair, the least I can do is take a stand.

I have adopted a reputation at LCS for being a bit of a fanatic. I think that I alone am responsible for the environment. Every action I take is intricately linked to the environment. I do not use the AC, I keep the lights off, I never get take-out, I bring my own cup, utensils, Tupperware and bag, I eat locally as much as possible, I am a vegetarian, and I rely on public transportation or ride sharing. My green mantra exudes beyond me in the sense that I shame acquaintances who enter my space without a reusable bottle, seeking to use the AC, or only writing on one side of the paper. On another level, I keep my body mass low so that I will need to consume less food which minimizes my footprint. This is the first time in ten years that I have not cycled to get to my shopping.

My quest is relentless and I find new items to add to my environmental list every month. My most recent undertaking has been trying to get blackboards in my room since using whiteboard markers produce unnecessary plastic waste. Unfortunately there are no chalkboards in LCS's inventory so my whiteboard marker wasteful ways continue. I do not like traveling because of its carbon footprint and the waste I produce getting to my destination. When I travel I am filled with carbon guilt that the destination loses its luster. I buy used items for myself and have given them as gifts.

The environment infiltrates my decision making process in ways that are borderline crazy.

All of these actions and thoughts are in vain because the private business sector is the main contributor to greenhouse gasses and material waste. Charts, tables, and models show the impact we are having on the planet and we continue to carry on as if nothing is wrong. I fear that the younger generation will not only inherit the problems we created but live in a world that is so radically different than the world we live in because we will pass (or past) the point of no return. 1.4 degrees Celsius is a number that consumes me and there is nothing I can realistically do to change the course humanity has set. I do speak a bit of math and I understand the nuances of mathematical modeling to extrapolate and every chart, table, and graph I see brings me to the same conclusion: doom.

Referencing the question that this article has been tasked with answering: I responsible for the environment. Everything I do matters, every purchase, every want, every thought is influenced by climate change. I want to leave the world a better place than I was given: I am failing miserably.





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