2017 International Essay Contest for Young People (Children's Category – 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize)

## **Purpose**

(Original)

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In the enormous world we live in today, it's easy to forget that we matter. That, in amongst the crowd, we too have a voice. Sometimes, we feel like we're just another face, blending seamlessly into the world, our existence unnecessary. Sometimes we feel like we aren't needed at all. But that's not how it has to be.

Think about it; If just one chemical in your body was non-existent, you would be completely different. They form and fight for who you are and who you are to become. If just one lion in the pride didn't hunt, they'd let the whole pack down. Just one. Everything in nature has a purpose, every animal, plant, cell and atom. They all have a reason to be there, something to accomplish, something to contribute too. No matter how small, it would still change everything if it wasn't there. As human beings, we do too. We're part of nature and we're responsible for this world and what we've made of it. We all have a purpose, a story and we can *all* make an impact. Everything counts.

Have you ever heard the expression: just a drop in the ocean? As in: it won't change anything, it's just another drop in ocean? In 2016 alone, 663 million people didn't have access to clean water, something we take for granted. That's 1 in 10 people walking this earth. What is as easy as a turn of a tap for us could be an hour's walk for others. But what could we do to help, I mean, we're just one person, it would be no more than another drop in the ocean, wouldn't it? Well maybe that's just from our perspective. Because if you gave that drop to a person deprived of water, it would make all the difference.

Too many people aren't standing up for things they believe in because of fear that it won't make any difference. But, if one act of kindness represents one drop of water, then imagine how far that drop travels around the world. It might be the water that someone swims through on vacation, the water that saves the life of a dehydrated child and the water that rains on a country after a year-long drought. And suddenly, that one act of kindness grows and spreads all over the globe, even if that wasn't what it was intended to do.

We're all connected, a bit like the hive of a honeybee. Each bee has a job that must be done.

They work together as a team and as a result their pollen keeps plants alive all over the world. Like honey bees our path in life doesn't have to be lead individually, in fact it can be improved by the people around us. It's the same in many elements of the natural world. As each animal does it's own job, everything works in harmony. Unlike many humans, they simply focus on the work they must complete. I believe we should be inspired by this to lead our own lives and write our own stories rather than envying other people's advantages. We should focus on our own purpose.

So, if we're here for a reason, what is it? We can guess and predict, but truth is, no one really knows. And maybe we'll never find out. But that shouldn't stop us from searching for a goal to accomplish or a deed to complete. Our world is filled with problems created by us and those who came before us. If one thing's obvious, it's that our purpose is not to be part of the problem, neither is it to blend in. So we need to live our lives to the fullest, embrace our talents, help one another and find our reason to be alive!

Everything in nature has a purpose, from the plants that we eat to the birds that soar above us. As humans, we too have a purpose. But we won't find it if we never look or try new things. So what are we waiting for? Work together, make an impact, you do matter, you are part of this world for a reason, you have a purpose.