

2018 International Essay Contest for Young People

[Children's Category – Honorable Mention]

The change I want to make

(Original)

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(Age 11, Seychelles)

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My name is Elle Wirtz. I am 11 years old and I am in grade 6. I go the Independent School Seychelles, a private school. Just to let you know that I am not rich but because my mum is a teacher-librarian at that school therefore my sister and I can benefit with such opportunity.

Like every year, the ECA (Extra Curricular Activities) moderator put up a list of clubs on the board that students can join.

This year I would like to make a valuable contribution; I would like to become a student librarian (a club for children who wish to help out in the library). The jobs include, shelving the books, assisting other student to locate books, help prepare awareness events like 'World book Day', ect. But this is not all. I imagine how to make my school library become a better place for all the children at the school.

I have decided to join this club because I have realized that some kids that attend my school come from different countries and are of different nationalities such as British, Indian, Chinese, Nigerians, Italian, etc. So my school has diverse cultures. Some of these kids often come to the library, I am sure you are wondering why? However, the Indian students are the ones who use the library more often. I have observed and seen the following.

Most of the Indian children at our school wear a bindi in the middle of their foreheads as a symbol of their religion and are sometimes bullied because of that by a few kids.

Some of them are sometimes laughed at because of the way they talk. Coming to a new country, a new school, it can be tricky to get used to the language.

Some of them are sometimes teased about the kind of food they eat and the way the eat it. Different cultures eat different foods in different ways. Some Indian kids prefer to eat with their hands, and some of them will sometimes eat only a bowl of rice for lunch.

Bullying is not a major issue at my school. But I would like my school to be 100% bully

free.

Ruhi Sree is one of my Indian friends. We are in the same class. Ruhi is in the student librarians club with me. She is clever. I would like to help make the library a better place for all the students of my school including her. She will be very happy.

When the students come to the library, I always greet them and make them feel welcome. I help prepare posters to show positive attitudes towards others. I lend a helping hand them when they are in need. I would also encourage other students to use the kindness bucket. This means that if you have done something great for someone in the room, the child can put your name in the bucket. At the end of the term, the librarian will count and see whose names appear the most and the student can be rewarded.

I believe this is what I want to do to make my school library a wonderful place for every user regardless where they come from.