

2019 International Essay Contest for Young People

[Children's Category – Honorable Mention]

Igniting a Kinder Society

(Original)

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Imagine you are in a dark room full of people that have candles but you're the only one with a lit candle. You could either be selfish by keeping the light to yourself, but your candle will soon burn out. Alternatively, you could be kind and share your light by lighting other candles. This way sooner or later the room will be brightly lit.

Being kind is doing the smallest thing to help someone without expecting anything back. From my experiences, some people think that being kind is doing something to get something in return. People of our society should learn to give willingly expecting nothing at all, as for the rest, nature will take its course and will reward you for the good deed. I remember when I was on my way to a gymnastic competition and there was an old lady carrying a laundry basket. She seemed to really struggle carrying the basket, so I offered to help her, and she said thank you and be blessed. Later at my gymnastic competition I was anxious and tense. Suddenly, I recalled the words of the old lady I helped earlier when she said be blessed. Those words made me relaxed, hence I performed well and won a gold medal. My small act of kindness made me win a gymnastic competition and this is how I know that one small act of kindness can go a long way.

Kindness going a long way reminds me of a Life Science lesson when the teacher told us about certain trees that survive by helping one another. It was fascinating to learn how these trees always survive the harshest winds by bending but never breaking. They survive these winds by extending their roots to form a network with the roots of adjacent trees. If these trees can help one another to survive, why can't we? We too can learn from these trees by forming caring networks and extending our hands to help other people who are in need or less fortunate than us. How can we do that? We can do that in many ways such as extending our talent by teaching it to someone. For example, I am good at mathematics, hence I take my time to teach my fellow brother the things he doesn't understand. Another way that you could help someone is by giving them things that you have more access to. I

have some clothes that don't fit me anymore. Instead of leaving them to pile up I give them to my younger cousin. You can also be kind by doing small things like helping your mother carry the grocery. It is those little acts of kindness that make the world a better place.

Kindness is one thing and people being kind is another. There are still people in our society who are not kind to one another. The question is, how can we get them aboard the bus of kindness because it would be unkind to let the bus of kindness leave without them. The answer is simple, we just need to continue to be kind to them and one day they will respond and be kind to us because kindness breeds kindness. In addition, to help those people aboard the bus of kindness is to continue spreading the gospel of kindness and in that way, more people will start to be kind. The good news is, the bus of kindness is big enough to accommodate everyone and it does not discriminate.

Before this bus of kindness takes off, pay attention to the safety procedures. Firstly, to our parents, remember that children learn by observing. So, be kind in front of your little ones so that they too can learn to be kind. Secondly, to fellow children, behavior is formed by repeatedly doing something. So, let us do acts of kindness towards others. Lastly, to the leaders of the world, you are the light of the nations and by you lighting other candles you give permission to all of us to do the same. By following these safety procedures, we will be a step closer to igniting a kinder society!