

2019 International Essay Contest for Young People

[Children's Category – Honorable Mention]

Daily Kindness in Our Society

(Original)

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"Kindness in our society" is the topic of our essay our English teacher gave us as our homework one afternoon. I started to think what I should write about and what to focus onto. As our school day ended, I could not still think what to write when going out our classroom. My thoughts stopped when my classmate took my attention as he ran toward me with my folder that I left in our room. I said my thanks and walked towards the school gate. Our guard smiling bid goodbye and told us to be careful going home. I answered him back with the same words with the respectful "po" in the end. While waiting for the jeepney to arrive, the "barker" repeatedly asked us to take a step back so that we might not be hit by the passing vehicles. As our ride arrived, the "barker" politely stopped me from going inside the jeepney as he let an old lady get inside first. While on our way home, I still kept on thinking about the essay, 'How do we create a society full of kindness?'

Arriving at our destination, a man went down immediately to assist the old lady from going down the jeep. Still deep in my thoughts about the essay I started walking towards our home. Suddenly I heard a loud sound ahead of me. A little boy learning to ride a bicycle just fell down on the pavement. A lady rushed and helped the boy to get up while the mother came running from a distance. The boy started to cry but eventually stopped when his mother hug her. Arriving home, my little brother greeted me at the door and he happily reported that he has already done some of my chores at home. I happily thanked him and gave him the high five. Finishing my assignments, I noticed that my brother was struggling in building his toy robot. I offered my help and with all smile he gladly gave me the toy to finish it. Sleeping time came, my brother fall asleep on the chair and my father picked him up and lay him down comfortably on the bed. Before going to sleep, I prayed to GOD, "Lord, please help me on my essay that I can find the kindness in our society."

Waking up in the morning, my mother told me that my uniform was already pressed and breakfast was already served on the table. She also told me that all the items that I will be

bringing to our school project were already prepared and placed in a bag. That's my mom. After thanking her, I started to travel for school. Arriving at a pedestrian, the traffic enforcer asked us to wait till there are no more cars passing. He walked in the middle of the street and stopped the arriving cars and then we started crossing the street. An old man having difficulty on carrying a heavy bag tried to cross the street but stopped because the bag is just heavy for him. Two young men of my age approached the old man and started to carry the heavy bag while assisting him in crossing the street. Our ride going to school was moving so slow because of an early traffic. A badjao, a member of Philippine indigenous people, a young woman with a child went up our ride and started giving some envelopes. She politely asked us for some alms. I reached inside my bag and the only thing that I have is a pack of biscuit. I reached out and gave the biscuit. The young child reached for it with delightful eyes and a wide smile. The young woman said her gratefulness and got off the jeep.

I asked again, 'Where is kindness?' And all the memories from the moment I first asked the question cascaded on my thoughts. Our society is already filled with kindness. It prospers regardless how big or small. We just have to open our eyes and see them. Recognize them, imitate them, spread them, pass them forward until they become a normal routine – a habit.