

2020 International Essay Contest for Young People

[Children's Category – Honorable Mention]

## **Be Strong and Follow Your Dreams**

(Original)

*Eneha Marinova*

*(Age 11, Bulgaria)*

Dear Ennie,

As incredible as it may seem to you, the letter you hold in your hands comes from the future – there I live as your grown-up self, as the person you have imperceptibly become, following your dreams and principles. Do you remember how, when you were little, you dreamed of diving into the depths of the sea and discovering hidden treasures there? How you grieved that people no longer observed their ancient customs and cared about their old music and dances? How you used to say that more ingenious than discovering a new technology was finding a treasure hidden by our ancestors or solving a mystery from the past?

Well, guess what! The year is 2030 and I am already an archaeologist! I explore the bottom of the Black Sea, looking for artifacts hundreds and thousands of years old. I also organize campaigns to encourage pupils to learn more about the history of their countries, or sometimes I run contests with cool prizes! The project I am currently working on is recruiting students who would volunteer for our underwater expeditions. The purpose is to stimulate young people to discover new things and to inspire in them love for history and archeology, since these are very important sciences for a country and its reputation. We must not forget how many great kings and scholars have lived in the past, because their example can give us wisdom on how to overcome the difficulties of the present.

Of course, new technologies also play an important role in our modern world. It is through them that we have found a way to send information into the past and the future, like this letter you are reading at the moment. The world in 2030 is very different from the one you know: there are plenty of new technologies that make human life much easier, and much more modern and large buildings are being built, even in poor countries. I am extremely glad that nowadays there is a new fashion among young people from rich countries: instead of buying unnecessary expensive things, while suffering from depression,

low self-esteem and mental problems, they have found a way to feel joyous and meaningful by giving and taking care of the needs of others. Today, instead of carelessly spending money on exotic trips, excessive belongings and alcohol, young people travel to poor countries in Africa, Asia and other continents to help children in distress: they bring to those kids food they have never tasted before, build modern homes and create amusement parks to make them happy. So people have realized that by doing good to others, their own lives become brighter and happier.

But all these changes began in 2020, when the coronavirus pandemic broke out. It made people become aware of the fact that we are parts of one living organism, and we can only survive and develop if we help each other. This was a turning point for humanity, for it helped us rediscover the true qualities that build a person's character, such as love, patience, obedience, compassion, hard work and justice. We finally gave up the vicious habit of systematically destroying the most valuable resource on our planet – nature, which like a loving mother provided for all our needs. We no longer “thanked” her by building more and more polluting factories, by chasing animals away from their homes or by killing them illegally just for profit, pleasure, or sometimes – a photo. We have learned that if we do not curb our greed, it will destroy the nature around us and will turn Earth into a world of plastic waste, harmful gases, poisoned water and unhealthy foods.

So, dear “I” from 2020, remember that the greatest fortune in this world is to have a life, a loving family and a home, and to be grateful for every day in which you can grow and do good. Do not follow people who wander in their path, do not succumb to your fears, because they will not take you to where you belong. Never lose hope and faith, Ennie, be strong and follow your dreams, because you will succeed in making them reality!

See you soon!

Love: Ennie