2021 International Essay Contest for Young People [Children's Category – Honorable Mention]

Test Questions

(Original)

Aubrey Joelle Jackson (Age 14, U.S.A.)

Throughout my entire life, I've found myself questioning the obvious. Although I don't think these subjects are quite as apparent as they seem when you really dig into it. Discovering new knowledge can be entertaining, informal, necessary, intriguing, and even boring at times. But Learning new things for me can have me questioning my whole life's meaning.

Something as simple as colors, otherwise known as a hue and sometimes even a shade or tint, can make me rethink my existence. How come when I glance at the sky I see what I think is blue, but what if blue looked pink to someone else? What if blue was really pink, or if red was really brown, and the color black was white, and yellow is really a neon green. What if, is the way I start a lot of the questions I ask. That is why I always hate when teachers say not to ask "what if" questions. The way I see something may be different than everybody else acknowledges, but I would never know. I can't see through someone else's eyes, I can't walk in someone else's feet, I can't live someone else's life.

When I close my eyes all I see is black. As I go into what we call sleep. A dream may be cast upon my head, or not, just depends on the day I guess. When I am sleeping, where do I go? I no longer feel the bed that I was just snuggling up into. I don't see anything just darkness unless I have some type of dream. I question what a dream is, there are good dreams and nightmares. I can never choose which I have that night. The concept of sleep baffles me. As a society, we're okay with going unconscious when the clock strikes at night, but not when we pass out in midday light. If I could only live in my dreams, I could have everything.

Sometimes my dog will wake me up from my slumber in the middle of the night. Of course, barking at something that I can't even see. That kind of stuff gets me wondering how animals think. There is a possibility animals could completely understand our voices, our communication, from language to language. We as people could be the clueless ones, as every other species can understand upon themselves and others, but humankind can only understand the words we individually know. This kind of stuff gets me thinking about how crazy the world would be if we all lived in harmony. No wars, no chaos, no Test Questions misunderstandings, and no ignorance. Life could be lived so differently if we all adapted as one.

The world makes me question every move I make. From the colors I draw on my art project, to the bed I lay down on, to my dog yapping at a bird. All concepts most people tend to act like they completely understand, and are fully aware of. As Margaret Wolfe Hungerford said, beauty is in the eyes of the beholder. So, what if we all tried to learn something new and lived outside the box. What if we questioned the obvious, and made life worth living. Our life is like a test. We could make the test multiple-choice, or we could fill in the blanks. When you ask what is already supposedly known you make your test more interesting. You only get one life, and one life is enough if you make it intriguing while you can!