

2021 International Essay Contest for Young People

[Children's Category – Honorable Mention]

LIFELONG STRUGGLE

(Original)

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Round one!

Fight!

The gong sounds. You are in the boxing ring, sizing up your opponent. Furrowed brows... Confident boxing stance. He is incredibly strong and furious, perfectly prepared for the battle. Just like a fierce, powerful bull in a corrida.

He is coming to you... The audience froze in anticipation. You are throwing a left uppercut that finds nothing but air. Oh, no! Vicious hook flies at you from your adversary! Right in your jawbone! Your face has contorted with pain and you fell down...

You remember the first time life knocked you down...

You were just fourteen. Up to this point, you firmly believed that everything in this world is sincere and conscientious, that everything is judged on merit. But you just haven't come face to face with this world...

This day you participated in the speaker contest. The rules were easy and pretty clear: you needed to read out an excerpt from your favourite work of literature. Whose speech will be more expressive and eloquent, he will win. The main prize was prepared for the winner: a cruise on the ship and the title of the best speaker of the year. Actually, it was your lifelong dream! All your life you have watched at sailors and dreamed of sailing away with them, listening to the cries of gulls and watching at the fins of dolphins. Winning the contest is a way to make your dream come true! You must take fate into our own hands!

You have perfectly learned the necessary passage. Eloquent words are heard clearly and loudly, the intonation is so expressive that everyone might think that you're a real actor in the theatre! Audience is thrilled. The loudest applause was just for you, not a single participant repeated your success! After the performance spectators said that you have no equal! Is victory really that close?

The judge announces the winner... Everyone froze... What? The judge's child won! The audience disagrees, but the winner is not judged... You're incredibly disappointed, but there's nothing you can do about it.

So, this is the first time in your life when you've faced an injustice. This is the first time life knocked you down.

Round two!

You're back in the ring!

After a crushing blow, you're discouraged, and surprised at how strong and agile your opponent is!

You're throwing a side hit. But the cunning opponent managed to dodge! Cross from your enemy! Again! You're back on the floor...

It was your first truly important exams in your life... You have prepared for them during all your school years, diligently and studiously... You stayed up all night studying for them, hoping to write the exam perfectly to get into the university of your dreams...

Now the crucial moment has come... You start completing and suddenly you realize that the topics and rules have just slipped your mind because of the excitement... Exams are failed... Life is such a strange thing!

"TEN! NINE! EIGHT!..."- the referee shouts.

Incredible pain of the strike pierced your entire body... Your heart is pounding just like a

clock that counts the last minutes of your life... Your enemy rejoices nearby...

"Do I need to stand up? After all, life is so complicated... You will have to fall again, taking it on yourself..."

"Come on! Stand up! You're going to make it!"

You turn your head to the side of the screams and see... Your family and friends that always support you...The coach who trained you every day... You can't let them down...

You stood up and looked straight into your opponent's eyes and suddenly you saw yourself in them. Right! Life is a daily struggle of a person with himself, his laziness, fears and prejudices. If you want to withstand in this battle, then after each hit, get up from your knees and continue to fight until you reach the goal!

Every hit, no matter how painful it is, is an invaluable experience you need to go through! Never let pain and blows to take your winner's cup away!

Strike a crushing blow - and you will win: you'll achieve everything in this life!

Never stop struggling!