2023 International Essay Contest for Young People (Children's Category – 3rd Prize)

I'm only seven

(Original)

Sydor Yaroslav (Age 7, Ukraine)

I'm only seven. I'm just a kid. I go to school, I have friends, favorite toys, loving parents, I love music, especially rock music, and I dream of creating my own rock band, similar to the famous "Queen", and also I learn to play the guitar. I dream that my mother and father will be with me at all my performances. It seems that what can be difficult in life when you are seven? However, war came to my country.

One morning I woke up to the sound of sirens. It was very scary. There was a huge traffic jam on the road. There were empty shelves at many stores. And then the long, cold nights in the shelter began. It seems that what can be difficult in life when you are seven? But in my seven years, I saw rockets fly and they hit buildings and explodes. In my seven years, I know what war is. And that's why I know how important peace is. The wish for peace has now become the main thing at all events. Blowing out the candles on the cake - everyone wants only one thing - peace. Because it doesn't matter how many toys they give you, if a rocket can fly into your house and destroy everything. Destroying your children's room, scattering toys in different directions…

Peace is a happy future. We are just kids but we really want peace. A peaceful future. A future in which you can travel to any country as a whole family, a future where there is no fear, a future where people are friends with nature, a future where people help each other.

I am only a little child. I'm only seven. I cannot write laws, make important decisions that will help build peace around. But as a kid I take part to build peace on Earth. I protect nature. I care for peace between human and living beings. I protect insects. And I invite you to join this initiative. Do you see the ladybug crawling along the road? Pick it up and place it on the grass. Do you see that the garden chafer has turned onto his back and helplessly moving his paws? Turn it over. Small steps make the world a better place. I do

not pollute the environment. Because the Earth is our shared home. I care about peace between human and the planet.

I'm just a kid. But I want to surround myself with peace, I am friendly to my classmates - and I believe that peace in the classroom will lead to peace in the school, and peace in the school will lead to peace in our neighborhood, which in turn will lead to peace in the city and the whole country. I believe that love is the basis of peace. After all, only a lack of love gives rise to envy, selfishness, anger, and hatred. I encourage the world to love their lives. Unique life. One life. To protect the lives of those who cannot protect themselves. I protect the life of insects, my mother and father protect my life, my parents' life is protected by my grandparents. God protects our lives. And I believe that with God's help, peace, like a beautiful butterfly, will fly to my Ukraine.

We are children and we believe that soon peace will come not only in our country, but also on all continents. Because although I am only seven, I know how many continents and oceans there are, I know on which continent people lack water and medicine. So I dream that peace will come for all people in the world. Because every person deserves peace. Peace as the absence of war. Peace, as the absence of quarrels. Peace, like the absence of lack of food and water. Peace, like clean seas and rivers. Peace, like the absence of circuses with animals and cages in zoos.

Everyone needs peace...