

# 2018 YOUNG PEOPLE'S Creative Writing Contest

FOR AGES 10-18

“A Special Story” by Tanvi Kiran  
1<sup>st</sup> Place, Informal Essay 10-12

Poems ● Essays ● Comix  
Short Plays ● Short Stories

CASH PRIZES!

Entries Accepted Feb. 1-March 3

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1st

## A Special Story

I believe in stories. Not just any old fairy tales, but true life stories of real people. This is one of mine, a small story that happened on a warm day not long ago, but one that I will never forget. The Arizona sun burned over us as our Lyft driver, Ron, was watching the road ahead. He seemed like a regular person, with a fairly regular face, and he drove quite regularly. My mom and I were on our way to the airport. My mom was politely talking to him while I listened. I always listen.

Suddenly, out of nowhere, the driver started telling a story. I didn't think it would be amazing, since he was just a random Lyft driver who we happened to meet. He said that he was from Alaska. Of all places, Alaska. Instantly, my mom and I whispered a synchronized "Wow!" and I realized that I was wrong. Ron was just a Lyft driver, but maybe he had a story worth hearing. I leaned closer, my eyes burning with pure interest. We started asking him question after question about the cold land from which he hailed.

"I came here a couple of weeks ago and got this job. It's nice, I like it," he said. "But, I mean, yeah, we had to wear heavy coats. It was freezing."

"And now you are here in this heat. It must have been so hard to adjust!" my mom pointed out with a sort of laugh of pure amazement.

"Yeah," he said again, as if going from Alaska to Arizona was a completely normal thing.

And I thought that was it. Now our driver wasn't just a driver. He was a driver from Alaska. Done. Completed. Finished. But I was wrong again.

"I've actually been to all the states," Ron said casually. "I loaded up my truck..."

Once again, I paid attention to his surprisingly amazing story. Our driver, who I thought was just a driver, a chaperone, a motorist, turned out to be a fascinating traveler with lots of in-depth experiences exploring all over the country.

“Just load up the truck, and head out. Get to the next place,” he continued. “I’ve driven for two days straight, and by the time I got to a hotel I just collapsed on the bed. Yeah, it’s tiring, but it’s really fun- it’s definitely worth it. I’ve seen the most amazing things.”

“I can only imagine,” my mom said.

The driver chuckled, and said, “I’m planning to go back up to Alaska to see my girlfriend. Then I’ll come back and just roam around, maybe see some family. I’m always on the move.”

We rode forward in silence for a while. My mom and I were probably thinking the same thing: that guy has been everywhere!

“We’re here. Let me pull up to the curb and I’ll help you with your luggage,” Ron offered.

“Thank you,” my mom and I said. Then we gathered our luggage together, said goodbye to the driver, and hurried away.

This may not sound like a life-changing event, but it definitely changed how I see everyone. As soon as we entered the airport, I didn’t just see people. I saw stories, backgrounds, all the different lives those people could have had. And I realized that there is more to a person than just their looks, their jobs, and even their personalities. Which is why I believe in stories. The stories of where people came from, and what made them the people they are. Everyone has a story to tell.

Stories are important because, if you care to listen closely, you can form a strong bond with someone. You can get to know someone really fast but really well, if you just try to understand them. And who knows, maybe you have something in common.

Another reason stories are really important is that stories build empathy. Not just any empathy, but a deeper feeling, because you know not only what the other person is going through, but how they got there. You can really connect with a person, and they would like it when you listen to them. I believe in stories. Do you?

2018 YOUNG PEOPLE'S  
**Creative Writing Contest**  
FOR AGES 10-18

**"I Believe in Human Rights"**  
by Harley Smith  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Informal Essay 10-12

Poems ● Essays ● Comix  
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2<sup>nd</sup>

I believe in Human Rights

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# I Believe in Human Rights

Sexuality, your Race, your religion and your gender shouldn't define you. Humans should be defined by their personality and how they view themselves. People are different from each other, every has their own minority. Some have crossed eyes, some would rather be stuck in a book, some would rather not choose the reality we live in, some have dyslexia. we all our different . Why do we hurt people who do different things as us? I believe in Human Rights.

In every school and workplace we are told to be themselves but some people will be judged by doing so. As a kid I never really realized the differences in our world today. Some would say I was sheltered and I agree. It wasn't until 5 or 6th grade I started realizing people are judged by things that they cannot control. Before that in my youthful eyes I saw a world where everyone was equal. That anyone could walk down the street with any person of any race, gender, religion and no one would think twice about it.

As I grew up I realized that wasn't the case. In one of my many favorite TV shows. Kurt who was gay, was bullied terribly. At one point he switched schools until he felt safe enough to move back. When he did, he realized it didn't matter he didn't need to have that label, he went back and stood up for himself and others. It's not just in TV shows, many people accept people that have different sexual orientation. Many people also don't. There was a couple getting married and they wanted a cake from a bakery. The bakery was Christian based, and based their beliefs they refused to give them a cake. Some say the couple knew that and some say it was for a point. For the people who don't feel comfortable in their body/gender will switch. Does it matter? They are being themselves it's something plastered across every billboard,

but after they come out people want to strip them of that. You shouldn't be bullied for that. The reason was because they wanted a cake. A plain simple cake. The reason changed their gender is because now they can be comfortable. The bakery thought they should be able to not serve this couple because of their beliefs about people who were gay. The couple believed that the bakery should have to serve everyone equally, that the bakery was violating the couples right to equal treatment under the law. They are just like you and me, so why are they being refused of a simple cake and their right to be themselves.

In 2017 and currently there was a Women's march, I never realized that we were viewed as just able to reproduce and that we were paid less than men was shocking. You need a man and a woman to have a kid so why are women viewed as the "The bearer of children". The women's march is something at first I didn't really understand but now that I have grown and learned more about and I would gladly walk alongside those powerful women. Sexual Assault has broke out in the world of Hollywood. At the 2018 golden Globes men and women stood together wearing all black. The campaign pin said "Times up" It's time to take a stand we are equals, we were made to be equal. We have put it off for far too long. Earlier in a class I heard a woman might not be likely to know how to get your tires changed, well it's not hard to get on our phones and call triple A. Women will not be silenced are value is just as much as a mans. Cover your knees or else you might not be respected. We should be respected because of how we act. Guys should not tell us we don't look good without makeup. "Young girls are taught to be delicate princesses but Hermione taught them you can be a warrior." -Emma Watson

A huge problem has grown about religion. In America we are free to believe in whatever we desire but each and every person outed for what they believe in. With ISIS people have started to think that all Muslims are terrorists. We are in a community where people get an opinion on things that are done by less than 2% of a group of people. Some Christians base large opinions about others. Religions say to

treat others how you would like to be treated, it's spread across not just religion but the world! How would you like to be shoved into lockers, called names, bullied, and outed because of your race, gender, sexuality or beliefs. You wouldn't and I know that.

We are Humans. We aren't perfect. One way to be on the road to perfection is to accept others. A gay couple is just a couple. A Black, White, Asian or any race of persons is just a person. A woman has the same capabilities as a man. We don't need to put those labels before. We are people who should stand together. The sooner we start to work together and not single a group of people out we can work together. We are all on the same team and the sooner we realize that the world will be a better place. This I believe.



2018 YOUNG PEOPLE'S  
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FOR AGES 10-18

**“My Experience at J.A. Biztown”**  
by Brynlee Smith  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place, Informal Essay 10-12

Poems ● Essays ● Comix  
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## My Experience at J.A. Biztown

This year I took one of the best classes ever, BizTown! BizTown is great for kids who dream about running a business one day and for kids who want to know roughly what their parents do all day at work.

In the beginning we learned how to fill-in checks, deposit tickets, and check registers. We also learned the difference between debit cards and credit cards, how debit cards work like checks, how to open a bank account and to spend money wisely. Additionally, we learned to avoid bouncing checks, how to run a business and how to work well alongside others. These are just a few of the many things we were taught. A lot of school subjects were used in this class like math, spelling, reading, and cursive.

For the first three months we learned all about BizTown and what we would do there. We also had BizTown workbooks. Then in February we got a list of jobs at BizTown. We had to pick three that we wanted the most and then we got interviewed. We didn't know for a whole month what job we got! After all the waiting we finally got our jobs. I got the job of the Cherokee Phoenix Newspaper CFO! Then we had to learn what we would have to do. For example, we had to know who's lunch break was whose and everything we would do there.

The next day we went to J.A. BizTown! When we went inside we all sat in front of town square and listened to our mayor's speech. Then we went into our business; got a folder that told us what to do and when to do it. After that we stood at the doorway of our business and sang the National Anthem. So that's how our day of running our business started. Then the real fun began. I got to pay bills, make deposits at the "bank", run to stores to buy supplies and

of course make and sell the newspapers! Most of the time I was at the computer which was really fun but I think the best part was all the friends I made! All in all it was a great day!

I think it's important for kids to learn the ideas BizTown teaches because if kids can learn all about this when they're young, they can learn to avoid debt which will prevent a lot of problems later on in life. Also, learning about running a business is helpful because some kids might want to run a little business of their own and make money before they're old enough to get a job. I think everyone should take BizTown because it really teaches you a lot and it's a great way to learn about business and money!