

The World Needs Everyone

No matter who you are.

Genre: Geography, History, Nature

Do you ever feel different from everyone else?

The world is made up of all different kinds of people. Individuals who have different interests, talents, personalities, and beliefs – not to mention looks and abilities - and these are what makes each of us so interesting! If we were all the same, our families, communities, and the world around us would be a very boring place, not to mention not even worth writing about.



A world where we look the same would not be an interesting place to be.



Why?

Because each and every one of us plays an important role, much like all the plants and animals in our natural world play a distinct and valuable role. We too, no matter who we are, are valuable for who we are. We are unique, meaning there is no one with the exact same interests, personality, beliefs, appearance, and ability.

In fact, you dear reader are truly one of a kind.



**Each and every one
of us is unique and
valuable, no matter
who we are.**



Think about your role in your family.

You, like every member of your family, play a unique role. You may be a sister or brother, or you may be an only child. You may love playing sports or drawing, or you may hate sports but love drawing. Or you may hate or love both. Your interests are unique to you. You may like things that are very rare or unique to anyone else you know. It doesn't matter what it is you like, what you like makes you **you**.

As you grow, your interests and beliefs change (or are modified) but this is a good thing. The more you interact with people who are different from you, the more you learn about who you are, what you believe, and how you want to live your life. Your life becomes far more interesting.

A World Where Everyone Is The Same

There are times in our lives when we think we should be the same as everyone else or that other people around us should be the same as us, but when we really think about it, we wouldn't want others to be the same as ourselves, even if we could make that happen.

If a genie in a bottle gave you one wish, for everyone you know to have the same interests, abilities, beliefs, and attitudes, would you really want that? A world where everyone looks and thinks the same. A world where everyone liked the same television channel or the same movie. What would that world look like? Would you like to live in it?*



A world where everyone looked and thought the same would be a very boring (and even frightening) place.



Probably not.

If everyone around you thought the same, behaved the same, and looked the same, you probably would not like it. You would not only be bored but you would never grow as a person. You would not have anything to compare yourself against. You would always be the same (other than getting older) because you would never have anything to strive for, to be better than, or to think differently. You would essentially think, behave and look like everyone else.

Yep, not that interesting.

A world where everyone was the same would also be a deeply unsatisfying world. You would not think different thoughts, have different feelings, or do things in a way that no one has ever done before. You may have food and drink, as well as shelter, but you wouldn't experience the joy of doing something that is a unique expression of who you are. Doing something that brings you (and the others around you) joy.



**Each of us enjoys
doing different things.
These differences is
what makes us unique
and valuable.**

As human beings, we are naturally creative and it is our creativity that makes us unique and makes us see the world in different ways. Sure, some of us think in ways that are really different from the people around us but it is through talking, playing, and working with others that we learn more about how we think but also how others think and it is that interacting with others, as well as expressing ourselves with others, that enriches our life.

Become Who You Are and Share That With The World

Your task in life is to figure out who you are, what you believe, and what you like doing. When you figure these things out, you will live a life that you really love. You won't be concentrating on what others think or believe, or on what they are doing or not doing. You will be so busy living your life that you don't even have time to think about what the people around you are doing or not doing, saying or not saying. In effect, when you focus on developing your unique abilities, you will appreciate what makes everyone around you unique.



You will know what you like doing by the joy you experience when engaged in an activity, whatever the activity is.



A world where each and every one of us can express who we are, and what we think and believe is a world that not only makes our lives more interesting but also more meaningful and ultimately more memorable for everyone.

*Read "Harrison Bergeron", a short story by Kurt Vonnegut about a world where everyone is finally equal (meaning they are forced to look and think the same).

 **Good to Think About**



1. What role do you play within your family? (Think of what makes you unique.)


2. Why is everyone important and valuable, no matter who they are?

3. What makes each member of your family important to you?

4. Why do we need different personalities and perspectives in our families, communities, and societies?

Key Vocabulary

- interest
- talent
- personality
- belief
- valuable
- unique
- attitude
- strive
- expression
- creativity



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