

2007 GANDHI AWARD ESSAY ENTRIES

Middle School

Third Prize

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Grade - 7

IIIrd Prize for
Middle School

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Mrs. Lee

Mahatma Gandhi Essay

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Why is it that people everywhere, even in the most nonbelligerent places are still biased, antagonistic, and even violent? Why can't there be peace and harmony, compassion and tolerance throughout the entire world? These questions are not easily answered, but that does not mean that we cannot try to solve the problems which they address.

Everywhere I go I see violence, whether it is in the halls of our school or the streets of our community. People today resort to violent behavior to solve their problems, rather than conversing with each other to settle their differences. Mahatma Gandhi's quote, "Peace will not come out of a clash of arms but out of justice lived and done by unarmed nations in the face of odds" insinuates that we will never gain peace from violence, but only from justice and righteousness. The quote does not only apply to entire nations, but to everything and everyone. In a nutshell, Gandhi's true message is not to use violence and war, but to be tolerant and to justly resolve our conflicts; ergo, gaining peace.

Mahatma Gandhi was a pacifist, simple and peaceful, yet knowledgeable and exceptionally wise. His mission in life was to bring peace to the world, something that we should all consider inputting into our daily lives. We must help spread the melodious voice of tolerance to all humanity in every way we possibly can.

We as children must learn ways in which to gain tolerance within our world, for we are the future. When I look around at the world today, I see more violence than not. Bigotry, prejudice, inequality, and injustice are being practiced in all corners of the earth. Perhaps one of the most effective ways to teach children about the importance of peacefulness is to require a class in all schools around the world about how to resolve conflicts without resorting to violence. Furthermore, we must show our children to never judge another based on ethnicity or looks and to always be open-minded. Surely we have all heard about the walks and runs for breast cancer and other worthy charitable events. Without a doubt, they are for a great cause. Why don't we have a walk for tolerance? Raising awareness to teach tolerance and peace among nations is definitely a worthwhile cause.

In conclusion, there are many things we can do to teach our present and future generations about tolerance. Peace, harmony, and justice are very important to have in our world. As the future leaders of the world, we have the power to make change. We must change the mindset of those who oppress us, change the entire world from one which uses violence to solve its conflicts to one which chooses peace. We can either remain within the wrath of hate or be enveloped in the caress of compassion and tolerance. The choice is ours, so now, more than ever, the whole world is truly in our hands!