

Imagine A Day Without Water Essay Winners

The City of Grants Pass Public Works Department has announced the winners of the city's Imagine A Day Without Water essay contest.

The contest asked local students in middle school and high school divisions to write an essay of 500-650 words discussing the importance of water by imagining a day without the precious resource.

Students were instructed to cite supporting sources for their positions and follow MLA format for the structure of their essay.

A panel of judges conducted a blind assessment of the essays based on multiple criteria, including position statement (clarity relative to theme), supporting information (supports the position), organization (structure), tone (level of persuasiveness), writing with an authentic voice and unique point of view and style, grammar (sentence structure and use of words) and punctuation (correct punctuation and spelling).

Winners in the middle school division included Kiera Nelson (first place), Peter Moline (second place), and Lydia Nelson (third place).

Winners in the high school division included Lillie Olson (first place), Abe Selvas (second place), and Ginger Bliss (third place).

First place winners received a \$100 prize. Second place winners received \$50, and third place winners received \$25.

The first-place essays from each division appear here, in the November issue of GP Now. All participants received a certificate acknowledging their entry.

Imagine a Day Without Water is a national education campaign that brings together di-

verse stakeholders to highlight how water is essential, invaluable, and in need of investment.

This year, the day of action took place Oct. 21, and included events, proclamations, student contests, social media engagement, and more, all across the country.

The city's essay contest rules and criteria were in correlation with Common Core Standards for literacy, grades 6-12.

Additional educational resources for teachers and students in grades K-12 are available at the city's website: <https://www.grantspassoregon.gov/1361/Educational-Resources>.

Imagine a Day Without Water

October 21, 2020

#Value Water



High School Essay Winner, Lillie Olson

(This winning essay is reprinted here as submitted in its original form without edits or revisions.)

Imagine a Day Without Water

By Lillie Olson, Grade 9

Imagining a day without water can be almost impossible for those of us who have a constant source of it in our daily lives. For around 2 billion people around the world though, this isn't an imaginary scenario. Water is humanity's most vital resource, but many take it for granted. A lot would change if the world had no water for 24 hours.

Some of the many changes would happen within our bodies. Our bodies are made up of 70% water and need to be replenished in order to function properly. Without our water levels being refilled, we would become dehydrated. Our mouths would get dry, lips would crack, we could get headaches, and even have a decline in mood as

our bodies become more dehydrated. According to "7 Things That Happen To Your Body When You Stop Drinking Water" posted by Gulf News, when the body is dehydrated our brains have to work a lot harder to accomplish simple tasks. It was also stated that our brains could actually shrink slightly due to our bodies taking liquid from our brain cells for essential functions elsewhere.

As well as dehydration, our household routines would be shattered. Without water to use, you would be unable to take your morning shower, brush your teeth, or wash your face. We'd be unable to wash away the germs that would inevitably build up on our hands. The CDC put out a piece called "Show Me The Science-Why Wash Your Hands" stating that washing your hands prevents illness from spreading. Without the ability to wash our hands or stay clean, the chances of the town's residents falling ill

with the Coronavirus would be higher. Appliances such as dishwashers, faucets, washing machines, toilets, and refrigerators/freezers also wouldn't have water to supply their uses. Chores wouldn't be accomplished as easily without the use of our appliances.

Gardens or yards wouldn't be watered by the sprinklers or hoses leaving them more liable to wither up in the heat. Even our cooking would be affected due to the lack of ability to wash produce or boil water.

Furthermore, based on the "Water Treatment Plant History" article published by grantspassoregon.gov, the Grants Pass Powerhouse has been using water from the Rogue River to supply the town with drinking water, gas, and electricity since 1893. So without the river, this entire town would lose a part of its electricity. Even worse, people would be left defenseless against wildfires. If a new fire sprouted up close by when we

didn't have water, it could easily have devastated our town. We would have no way to water our local farms leading to the less successful production of products for the town as well.

We use water for numerous tasks in our day to day lives. Many don't even realize how much water they use in a day or how much it benefits their lives. If Grants Pass were to wake up tomorrow with zero water, a lot would change in our lives.

References:

[https://gulfnews.com/lifestyle/health-fitness/7-things-that-happen-to-your-body-when-you-stop-d](https://gulfnews.com/lifestyle/health-fitness/7-things-that-happen-to-your-body-when-you-stop-drinking-water-1.1998249)

[rinking-water-1.1998249](https://www.grantspassoregon.gov/444/Water-Treatment-Plant-History)

<https://www.grantspassoregon.gov/444/Water-Treatment-Plant-History>

<https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/why-handwashing>.

Congratulations, on First Place, Lillie!

Middle School Essay Winner, Kiera Nelson

The Blessing of Clean Water

(This winning essay is re-printed here as submitted in its original form without edits or revisions.)

Imagine a Day Without Water

By Kiera Nelson, Grade 8

Imagine a day without water. Let's say you just got back from basketball practice and you need to take a shower and you turn the shower handle but no water comes out. You try the sink but no water comes out. Then, you realize that your house doesn't have any water. You can't wash your dirty jersey. You realize that in order to get water, you will have to go to the store and buy a whole lot of bottled water. If there is no bottled water at the grocery store you would have to walk to the closest river or stream. You will have to filter and sanitize it. This thought is overwhelming. Having clean drinking water and other accessible water is essential for growing food, staying healthy, and making life easier.

Water is important for growing food. If there is no hose water, or irrigation you can't water your plants that give you food. You would just have to wish for rain. You would have to go to a river and fill up buckets for watering plants. That would work well for a small garden, but not a big field of plants. One community explained, "We can't grow plants, including fruits, vegetables and grains, without water. Plants provide food for both us and for the animals we eat. So, we also can't grow cows, chickens or pigs without water. Water is essential to grow corn as well as cows!" (Danos). If Grants Pass was like that, everyone would

have little food and would have to give some to the animals. If people got hungry enough, they might even kill their animals for food.

Water is essential for you to stay healthy. You need water for drinking, cleaning, cooking, bathing, and more. If you don't drink water or eat food then you could die. But let's say you have water but it is contaminated. It could have germs in it and if you drink it or put it into your food, you could get really sick with diseases. For drinking water, you can't just get any water, it has to be clean filtered water. "Clean water for drinking is essential for proper functioning of our bodies. Our bodies need to be properly hydrated so that our organs function properly so that we are in good health. Water also helps in losing weight and prevention of heart attacks. Cooking with clean water is also a necessity so that we can serve healthy meals..." (Carleton College). A YouTube documentary (Java Films) says that the #1 Global risk is having no water. Also, being clean and having clean surroundings helps you stay healthy too. You also need water for sanitation.

Having water makes life easier. If the city water was turned off, you would have to go all the way to a river or a stream to get water and then you would have to filter the water which would be time consuming. Half of your day would be wasted getting water. Every bit of water you use you would have to ration. If you use water for washing apples, you would then use that same water to take a shower with. Then, you can reuse it again and use it for flushing the

By Lisa Beutler
Special to GP Now

Home for the holidays has an entirely new meaning in 2020, but the traditions of giving thanks and yearning for peace on earth are timelines. One local businesswoman, Julie Thomas, has found plenty to be grateful for in Grants Pass. A proud alumnus of the second graduating class of North Valley High School (Go Knights!),

toilet. Having running water is very convenient and makes it so we have time for other thing.

Water is essential. We need to appreciate having clean filtered water whenever we want because all we have to do is turn a faucet. It is a lot easier than spending half of your day getting water that is mostly clean. Water is very important for growing food to eat, staying healthy, and making life a lot easier.

Works Cited

Java Films. "Living Without Water (Water Shortage Documentary)" YouTube, uploaded by Real Stories, 3 Oct 2018. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yg39zyoF26o&ab_channel=RealStories

Carleton College. "Water Is Essential for Food Production." Student Materials, 7 Feb. 2018. serc.carleton.edu/integrate/teaching_materials/food_supply/student_materials/1090. Accessed 27 Sep 2020

Danos, Pamela. "Importance Of Water To The Society." SC Homes Network, 23 Oct. 2019. www.solareclassesonline.com/importance-of-water-to-the-society/. Accessed Sep 27th 2020.

**Congratulations, on
First Place, Kiera!**

Julie is part of a growing Grants Pass demographic - people who left after high school, but made their way back to offer their own children and grandchildren a great place to live.

The people signing Julie's high school yearbook could not have imagined that Julie would eventually become a real-life knight for many people throughout the world. A former peace officer, known for her time with the Grants Pass Department of Public Safety, Julie is now co-owner of Concierge Home and Business Watch with her husband, Jeff Thomas. Providing safety and security has been her literal life's mission.

The work that Julie and Jeff do extends well beyond Oregon's borders. They also serve as consultants to law enforcement agencies in budding democracies striving to build safety and security for their own people.

After high school, Julie eventually landed in San Diego where she became a police officer. She was immediately drawn to work involving community policing. What she really loved about this work was being engaged with a community and collaborating with them to help solve problems and improve their own lives. Her skills in this area became well known, and soon she was recruited to support this same type of work throughout the U.S. and eventually the world. Her assignments have taken her to Kosovo, Northern Ireland, Macedonia, Albania, Serbia, Czech Republic, Russia, Tajikistan, Morocco, Bosnia, Saudi Arabia and most recently, Ukraine.

The focus of Julie's consulting work is to improve the methods and practices of law enforcement to enhance com-

munity relationships, reduce crime and create safety and security. Some of this work has also required a process of reconciliation.

In the countries torn by years of conflict and under the oppression of corrupt and authoritarian governments, many communities have little to no trust in policing agencies. Real injustices have been committed by some of the very same people now tasked with providing public safety. Part of building a new way of business is to acknowledge what has occurred and understand that the past cannot be changed, but the future can.

Julie creates new relationships and a vision for change in communities by helping them find common ground about the values they share. Citing Maslow's hierarchy of needs, Julie explains that since safety and security are fundamental needs that everyone agrees are necessary, it is a great starting point for a community to begin a new dialogue about what the future could look like if everyone worked together to achieve them.

Living and working in these countries has given Julie special insights into the blessings of democracy and the simple basics that are easy to take for granted. Returning to Maslow's theory, the most basic of these needs are breathing, water, and food. Getting to safety and security requires that these basic needs are also met.

Many of the countries Julie has spent time in are still utilizing centuries-old infrastructure that has been damaged by time, wars, corruption, and ongoing strife. Very basic ser-

(See "BLESSING" page 11)