

Dear Judges,

My name is Kara Chatham, and I am a senior at Sequoyah High School. I know the place I am writing about very well because I visit it quite often. Because the place I am writing about is my own imagination, I can safely say that I know the majority of the location. There are still parts that I have yet to discover. By living my life through the lens of my imagination, each day is new and exciting and worth living for because it is an endless adventure that can craft such an amazing story for others to read. I would say that my imagination started forming the moment my brain started forming, but I do not have an actual remembrance of my imagination until I was about five years old. My mother always encouraged the development of my imagination. She would rather that I spend more time outside than in front of the television or computer. By having the outside time my scope for the imagination grew fast, and I was soon able to imagine whatever I would like and being sent to my room for "time out" was never much of a punishment because I always had my imagination even if I did not have my toys. As long as I have my imagination strong and ready for action, paper, and a writing utensil, I will be able to make the best of any situation. Thank you for your time and considering my entry.

Sincerely,

Kara Chatham

The Wonders of the Imagination

A place of great significance to me is my imagination. My imagination is a world of its own within my own little world of reality. If I ever need to get away from anything, I always have it there to escape to. I can imagine whatever I like. I can imagine whoever I want to be my friends, boyfriend, et cetera. My imagination is what defines my childhood. With its own personality and special way, it helped mold who I am today.

My imagination is what gets me through each day. It's like breathing for me. I believe that if I was forced to stop using my imagination, a part of me would die. Sometimes growing up feels like it is forcing me to forget how to use my imagination. Through the use of books like *The Chronicles of Narnia*, *Anne of Green Gables*, and any book by Jane Austen, I can recharge my imagination and it becomes alive with ideas. The world seems like a play ground after my imagination is recharged. I agree with Anne Shirley, that there would "be no scope for the imagination" if the world was not the way it is each day.

Sometimes it is like my imagination is its own person. It has a personality and emotions. The emotions come out when I am writing a piece of fiction or a creative assignment. However my imagination feels is what appears on the paper. It paints pictures with extravagant words that can sway people's emotions. How I am feeling does impact how my imagination paints its pictures. If it is a blue day then it paints a sorrowful picture. If it is a happy day then it paints an exciting picture. The words my imagination chooses to use is closely connect with the inner most parts of my heart. I pour myself out in writing and my imagination helps aid that process. Because my imagination has its own personality, it is a motivational speaker to me. I can imagine what I need to be pumped up or calmed down or whatever I need to get myself going on the task at hand or even to get my mind off of something. The personality of my imagination swings with what is needed to keep me going on a day to day basis, which is why it is like breathing for me.

The imagination is not usually considered a real place, but to me it is what defines my childhood. The wonder of the imagination is what makes each day in life seem that much better. Everyone says that you should live like there is no tomorrow. You can live every second of every minute to the absolute fullest in your own mind. There are times, however, that my imagination can scare the living daylights out of me. When that happens I find other things to focus on. Another fantastic aspect of the imagination is that it can help make the best of any situation. It can also make the worst of any situation, but for me it helps to make it the best. As a child, you would be sent into "time out" and that was considered a punishment because you were put into a mini-isolation for a time span of about ten minutes. When you have a well developed - or developing - imagination, "time out" is not really considered "time out", it is more time to spend strengthening your imagination. The imagination can go through so many extremes and it helps mold you into the person you were meant to become. Even though the imagination is a part of the mind, it can be an exciting and a frightening place to be, but it is a world of its own nonetheless. This place is significant to me because it makes even the worst of times the best of times. In the words of Anne Shirley, "...it's such an interesting world. It wouldn't be half so interesting if we know all about everything, would it? There'd be no scope for imagination then, would there?" The world of reality helps keep my little world of imagination alive.