

Editorials

You will find in these archives all of the editorials that have been published in The Small Slice and that were written by young people like yourselves.

All editorials are published in the maternal language of the writer and are then translated.

Are you are interested in writing an editorial in order to give an opinion on a subject related to illiteracy, poverty or exclusion? Or equally you could tell us about your school and your own experiences or of those close to you in connection with these problems.

All you need to do is to send us an email by typing

children@gingerbreadguild.org

The editorial team will read your opinion with a great deal of attention and will publish it in a future number of The Small Slice.

Who knows, perhaps you will discover a passion for journalism or reporting.

Gingerbread invites you to share his tribune at The Small Slice

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(see: <http://www.paindepice.org/eng/education/peace.html>)

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Communication

Communication is a huge matter in the world. Sometimes people don't get the opportunity to be heard. If no one's listening, then that might lead to a nervous breakdown. That's why people go to therapy to have someone to tell what they have going on in their heads. Some people talk about private things to their family that they don't want anyone to know.



Adam Caplan, 11 years old, Solomon
Schechter Academy, Grade 6

That's why I think when people are with their friends; they have to be careful about what they say. Once one person knows, it could start a rumor about you and you'll feel embarrassed.

I think that the government should listen more often to the people of the country on how to improve things or to get their opinion on what the government is doing. If they were to listen, more money would be spent on hospitals and schools.

Helping my community



*Maria Del Carmen Monteroso, 11 years old
Colegio Creceré, Guatemala*

In our school, there is a rule: we have to choose a project of social involvement in our community. We decided to go to a public school for girls in Ciudad Vieja, a village not far from our school (5 km). A year ago, we started a reading project with the pupils of that school. They don't have as many books or as much money or equipment as we do. Teaching and learning are often very limited. To learn reading and writing, the pupils copy letters in workbooks with transparencies or fill out dotted sheets paper to form letters, syllables and words.

When we arrive, once a week, the girls are so happy they clap their hands, scream and even call us teacher.

How Good It Is To Be Literate, Adam Browman, 12 years old
Solomon Schechter, Academy, montreal, 2002



I think that it is very important to be literate because without reading you would not know to buy the right item or look after your headline.

If you were allergic to something would not know what the ingredients are so you could get sick or even die.

If I weren't literate it would be so hard for favourite word games or even go exploring on the Internet.

I think everyone should be literate and the people who are not should learn. We should get a lot of people to help them.

Imagination, curiosity and company M.-È. Guillemette, 17 yrs old

Since his first appearance on Earth, man has sought, by all possible means, to evolve and, above all, to express himself. To do this, he invented a written language, which enabled him to blossom and evolve further, intellectually as well as emotionally and spiritually.

Over the years this form of communication has evolved, improving all the time. Pain, joy, adventure, fear, love: these are some of the many feelings reading and writing can convey. Is it not important to be able to experience new feelings, new surprises and new challenges?

Our existence needs imagination, spice and fantasy. In my opinion, these three elements are found more precisely in the written word because they are the basis of our evolution. Of course, we can easily make up stories without writing them down (which is also very interesting) but once we put them on paper, it's as if we are sort of confirming our ideas and our feelings. This means we can be more sure of ourselves and can better convey our messages to others.

I will now conclude with a quote from Albert Einstein, who says that sometimes "imagination is more important than knowledge."

I suggest you don't forget that imagination is something that is cultivated, especially by discovering new authors, new texts... Never stop dreaming and developing your curiosity, that is what allows us never to stop evolving...

Literacy Stephanie Brownstein 12 years old



I have been reading books for as long as I can remember and have enjoyed them ever since.

It has become one of my favourite hobbies.

I have always preferred fantasy novels because most of the time there are magical characters that have special power to fight evil. I have recently finished a book called "The Hobbit" by J.R. Tolkein and it was a real masterpiece. I am now extremely excited to read "The Lord of the Rings" by the same author.

Reading helps me a lot with my writing because, whenever I read, I can notice new words that I might have never come across. For example, if I was now 40 years old and could not read or write, I would not be able to drive properly because I would not be able to read the signs on the roads.

Another example could be that I would like to go buy food at the grocery store; the problem would be that I would not be able to read the labels on the products, and would not know what they would be.

I have come to the conclusion that the people in the world that have the ability to read and write, including myself, have taken these abilities for granted.

Today, I have realized that I am so very lucky just to have books and papers, unlike many other children in the world.

Living Food, by Rebecca Green, 8 years old
Heathfield School, Pinner, England.



Living food is very healthy for you. Recently I have been eating this. I visited a place called Hippocrates, in Florida, to help me keep well (I have Crohn's Disease). They had this food there. Living food gives you energy to be well. There have been a lot of people who have helped themselves by eating this way. Living food is raw food and sprouted food too.

These are some of the things we should not eat: Coca cola, chocolate, cakes, sweets, biscuits, doughnuts, muffins, pancakes and waffles. These contain sugar which is bad for us.

These are some of the things that we should eat: sprouts, lettuce, raw carrots, nuts, raw vegetables and sea vegetables. These all contain enzymes and minerals which are bodies need to keep healthy.

If we all ate well everyone would feel much better and happier.

Aged from 7 to 16, the musicians of Lanaudière Musical Camp share their feelings “vibratissimo” !



For Étienne Sedillot
it's a unique experience

All are familiar acquaintances of “Lady Music”, but each has a different way with Her



For Hélène Chaurette
it's transportation for another world

Some of them see it as:

Practice
Relaxation
Self-expression
An effort, a reward,
A chance to acknowledge mistakes
Freedom

Pleasure
A language
A world of mine
A more serious pastime
A personal way of expression



For Laurence Blondeau
it's a world of hers

What about you? Do you have a passion? How do you live it? If you feel like it, send an e-mail to info@gingerbreadguild.org and The Guild will publish your comments.



For Léna Simard
It's inspiration

A Re-built Family
Allison Reynolds, 9 years old
Grade 4, St-Patrick's School, Trois-Rivières



For three years our family has gotten bigger and bigger. My mother's boyfriend Christian and his two children Sarah-Michèle and Anthony have moved in our house.

What I like about it is that I have a halfsister and half-brother. I share my room with Sarah and I like it. When Sarah and I go to bed we talk a little and we tell secrets to each other.

When I ride my bike, when I'm alone, I don't like it, but now I have someone to play with.

When I was a little younger, I didn't like sharing my toys . I like watching movies on a big screen with the family and playing games too. I like it when Sarah's clothes don't fit her anymore because they are nice and beautiful and I get to wear them.

I like having seven grandparents because they spoil me and they love me too. Having a big family is fun and it's fantastic.

The Right to Education Annie Reeves 15 years old

Throughout the world, in underdeveloped countries, there is a low percentage of educated people. Here in Quebec, the greatest part of the population is literate; however, in spite of this high percentage, the French language keeps deteriorating day after day.

Most of the time, we don't realize how lucky we are to go and sit at our school desks. People who are not fortunate enough to be able to read and write would give all they have (even though they often have nothing) in order to be in our situation and have the right to education.

Everybody, regardless of age, origin or social position, ought to have the right to be educated, without having a cent to pay for it. As children we all dream of a career (becoming a doctor, a chemist, a teacher, a scientist...)

How can we achieve such things without at least primary schooling? So a lot of children, as they grow up, will be confronted with the harsh reality that they will never be able to make their dreams come true.

In my opinion, we should take advantage of our luck in being educated and do all we can to fully use the knowledge we have accumulated throughout our lives, because the ability to read and write is the most beautiful gift of a lifetime.

Thinking about reading Raphaël Capon 11 years old

A long time ago, only learned people could read; later, only the very wealthy could treat themselves to the gift of reading and writing. Nowadays, most people can read, but there are still problems of illiteracy.

We are all very lucky to be able to read and write, even if we don't always realize it. We can communicate by writing our opinions and ideas or read for information and entertainment.

There are people who don't have the opportunity to become literate because of war, illness and poverty.

As for me, I live in Montreal, my name is Raphaël and I find myself very fortunate to be able to read and have access to education.

I love comics, adventure and science fiction novels. If I couldn't read, I'd never have discovered "Petit Spirou," "Léonard" and "Boule et Bill."

I also find myself privileged because we have neither war nor famine in North America.

I really would like to help the destitute, and I will do it some day.

Writing from our Heart Géraldine Zaccardelli, 17 years old

When children look at road signs or books, the words they see are just small lines, pictures and drawings. On the other hand, they are able to write as soon as they can draw. Don't two lines put together form the letter "L", for example?

Writing is quite simple and so gratifying. And yet so many children don't have the opportunity to learn and will never know the feeling of freedom writing can give.

We now live in an era of advanced technology and the Internet, this marvellous source of information and we are still not able to guarantee literacy for all! Writing is not just academic or industrial ; it is indeed something magical, visionary, sweet and expressive. When we write a poem or a song, is it not because our heart pours out what it wants to express? When we read a novel and are absolutely thrilled by certain passages, isn't what we feel something unique? Just imagine that there are young children who will never have a taste of this enchantment.

In conclusion, I'll say that the magic of words should be transmitted all over the world and that it is high time, instead of bombing countries on peace missions, to invest in the education of all children.

Just think, are there any mothers who don't like, when waking up in the morning, to find little love notes from their children?