



ProGReSS

RRI Short Story Competition for Young Students

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<http://www.progressproject.eu>

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Our permaculture school garden

For some background information on the garden, please watch the following video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P0iGT315AFQ>

This is what we have experienced and done for our lives. 'Permaculture' comes from the words 'permanent' and 'agriculture'. So it can mean agriculture that lasts, or culture that lasts. It is about how to take practical action to improve our lives and environment. It is about producing the things we need ourselves and supporting ourselves and our communities from the grassroots up.



<http://blackpermaculturenetwork.org/what-is-permaculture/>

Permaculture is a system of natural farming and gardening that cooperates with nature. It's about caring for the environment, so that the gardening environment can care for us. We look at our resources (at school, at our homes, at our churches or clinics in the surrounding community) and then work out how we can design a better environment. 'Designing' means joining the different resources and elements (water, soil, plants, animals, man-made structures and buildings) of the environment together like a puzzle so that they can work better for us and produce a food-rich environment. It means making our environment able to support us forever – this is what we call 'sustainable development'.

Permaculture looks at things in a completely new way. It turns problems into solutions that work for us. It helps us gain a better standard of living. In permaculture we look at how things work in nature so that we can copy nature to keep the land healthy. Modern farming often uses strong artificial chemicals which work against nature. In permaculture there are no 'weeds' and no 'pests'. Everything can help us, even things that we would normally throw away can be useful, if we just open our eyes to see how permaculture lets nature do a lot of the work for us. Earthworms are a good example of this – if you put down lots of leaves and kitchen scraps certain earthworms eat these and in turn feed and improve the soil without any human effort.

Permaculture can do many things to make our lives better, like improving us [so that we can] improve our communities and environment, improve water supplies and keeping soil and land healthy, helping us grow fresh, local and organic food, providing us [with] firewood, fodder, building materials, herbs and other resources. It also provides us with a way to save and earn money.

Permaculture is environmentally beneficial, eating and growing locally reduces global warming and preserves fossil fuels as we don't need so much for transport or refrigeration during long journeys.

Health benefits: the physical activity of gardening keeps people fit and healthy.

Economic benefits: organic farming leads to higher employment, and buying locally grown produce supports local economies by retaining value within the community with every transaction. Increasing farm income means more money can be spent locally by the grower to run their business and home.

Social benefits: producing and consuming locally grown food increases and enhances communication between rural and urban populations. Speaking increases both the understanding about the food you eat and enhances the overall food experience.

Permaculture is the way!

STUDENT: Cristina Alfonso Pareja

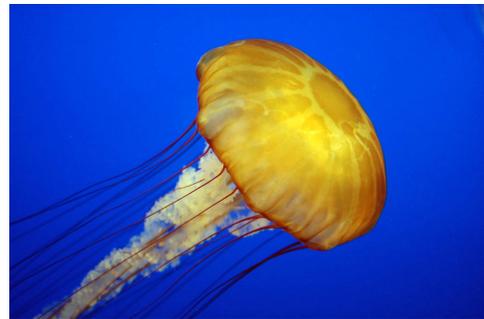
SCHOOL: Instituto de Educación Secundaria Canónigo Manchón, Alicante

Country: Spain

The adoption of the soul

The sun was neat and transcendental, as a spotlight that follows the protagonist on stage. This was the last goodbye to the backward, in the zenith of human existence.

The years of the birth of biotechnology and its progress began to witness the primary goal of the new sciences. I, young and fledgling, began to work without too much scientific rigor. My ambition was not limited to the definitive cure of cancer, or stretched to the remote as in science-fiction. It was my goal bordering the knowledge of my limitations. At the end of my degree, the Russian science was four steps away from an immortal anthropoid robot. Thus it was that, the vulnerability of the human beings had taken them to believe that only the transfer of their conscience to a cybernetic entity could assure them the biological imperturbability.



<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jellyfish>

This possibility, far from being mundane, generated much excitement and competition in the scientific community. Experts of all kinds were looking for alternatives to death, to that fading evolutionary phase. Finally, I couldn't let it go unnoticed. My goal was to maintain the intrinsic nature of man, in mind and body. As an unselfish and intrepid biotechnologist, I undertook a series of trips as a true biologist. It was clear for me that the biological immortality could not be discovered in a laboratory, where everything is subject to human short-sightedness. Just as nature entailed death, it should also contemplate the regression from it.

After some research activities, it seemed to me that I solved the question thanks to an organism known as *Turritopsis dohrnii*. A tiny and succinct jellyfish that was able to return to their polyp status after reaching the adult maturity. The matches for adaptation were exquisite, as this specimen presented a number of genes very approximate to the human genome. Even before I was born, others began its exploration, simply out of curiosity, while I embarked on the arduous task of harnessing its prospects.

My team and I came through. It completed as a complex selection of controlled stem cells. Animal tests were successful, by modifying the cell process, like a tape that rewinds its past, imitating the phases followed by the jellyfish. I myself was the first trial subject of our race. After suffering intentional light slashes and second-degree burns my tissues regenerated the next day after a conventional cure and disinfection. In addition, my state of health was enviable, and at the age of 70 years, I received typical comments praising my young appearance.

The infiniteness of the body, comparable to that of the universe itself, marked a milestone in the progress. Mankind left aside their fears, and violence was rejected owing to the disappearance of the survival instinct. We were faced by a more just society, whose objective was the joint intellectual cultivation.

Today, in this first anniversary, we honor those who actually left his body. Under the sun, the only source of life on the headstones, I hand you this letter, grandmother.

STUDENT: Zhao Dongxu

SCHOOL: Zhaozhou No.1 High School, Daqing, Heilongjiang Province

Country: China

HOUSEWORK “SAVIOR”

Nowadays, Mothers carry very heavy burdens. She goes to work all day, does cooking in the evening, and does piles of laundry at weekends.

So I came up with the idea of this room cleaner. It has a compact appearance that not only can save space but also can be used as a decoration, which is a must for households.

But do not underestimate this machine because of its size. It has great potential that can turn a disastrous messy room back into order. You may wonder why such a little thing has such great power. So let me show you where the trick is.

First, you set the area and the layouts of your room, and then choose the tidy up function. This machine has all the functions of vacuum cleaner, air filter, glass cleanser and even a sterilizer. With an intelligent chip on its center control, it can work automatically, thus saving time, trouble, and labor.

It has long been a problem for mothers to clean of glass because it is not only difficult to clean but also dangerous. But here comes the cleanser. It can turn water into a colloid substance that distributes well all over the glass. When the colloid solidifies, a light peeling off will do the work.

What’s more, this machine can detect changes going on in the external environment, and change the mode of its function. For example, when there is smog outside, the cleanser will activate an air filter and dust remove function, making your household a pleasant place.

All in all, with this highly functional housework savior, mothers will no longer be bothered by housework. I really hope that one day this machine will be put in production and benefit thousands of families that need it.



<https://robosoftnews.wordpress.com/2010/03/08/robosoft-introduces-kompai-at-iltci-new-orleans-usa/>