

A Letter to My Future Self

Student ID: 110654006

Name: Mia

If you ask me what my world looks like right now. I would say it's a dark maze with crossroads everywhere. My life is a maze. The thing I do every day is make choices. Being a nineteen-year-old student, I think I'm lost in the moment.

What is the meaning of life?

Where are you right now?

Who are the people beside you right now?

What is your achievement?

What kind of person are you?

What kind of life do you want?

I often thought of these questions and I am sure that after all these years, these questions are still the questions you ask yourself. Or maybe you've already found the answers? I know the answers lie in time but I cannot see them right now.

As a nineteen-year-old student, I see the world suffer because of virus, climate change, and wealth inequality. War, especially war raging in Ukraine. In fact, a lot of war is raging. War of politics everywhere, war of trade everywhere. It scares me, the fact that all these things happened in such a progressive world. I see the poor starving and not being able to receive education, and they stayed in that vicious cycle where the poor stay poor and the rich become wealthier. I feel lost because I want to help but I can't. My biggest duty is to study something I am not sure will be useful in the future. I keep asking myself will calculus or coding relieve the poor from the pain of starving? Or is it just for feeding myself and the company owner whoever is to hire me in the future? It sometimes enrages me that the wealthiest do not reach out to the poor. What I want to do is find a job that makes money, after working hard for a few years, I can start donating the money to help those in need. This is what kept me going and soothed my anger.

I am curious that have you started helping the poor? And how has the world changed? Is it still how it is right now or worse? With more war of all kinds? I hope you are strong enough to bear it all. And don't let the world take away your strong desire to devote. You may only be able to do little but little is enough as long as you are devoting.

I want to ask a question that might sting. Do you regret not pursuing literature as a career? Is choosing chemistry and CS, which seemed to have a brighter future worth it? I always believe that destiny paved the way for me. I work as hard as possible and I always go to a place that exceeds my ability. And I know I need to work even harder. I think I have become a workaholic. I feel comfortable seeing a tight schedule and I feel weird if there is a moment I am vacant. Do you still work this

hard and take whatever destiny delivers? I am now trying to learn how to relax and give myself a break. I hope you can strike a perfect balance between life and work by the time you are reading this.

Don't forget to live at the same time. Go and try things that you never had the chance to do as a child or a teenager. I guess it's healthy to live like a child sometimes. Self-fulfillment is also very important. Have you published any books? Or are you starting to write a book? At the age of nineteen that aren't really that many touching or inspiring stories to tell. But being thirty or forty, there should be something to tell. Perhaps you can write a story of contributing to the world?

Lastly, I hope that one day, I will be able to complete my ideal and walk out of the maze. To finally enjoy the sunshine, the laughter, and everything in life.

Reading this letter from a nineteen-year-old teenager, you may laugh about how naive and childish I am. But I still hope reading this can remind you of the mundane past and I hope you stay human. Perhaps you will want to write a letter to your future self?

Creative Writing session 2

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PART 1

step 3: other person's relationship with my pencil box

dirt of tiredness and dust
clung to the red
but they gave in
to a pair of soft hands
hands that did the dish
combed the hair
fold the clothes
by touch of tenderness
wound was healed
hope was lit
and red shone brightly
as ever

the skin became crumpled
but its strength remains
the legacy it bears
stores in the red
lights the darkness

explanation:

The person I wrote about in the paragraph is my mother. She's the only person who has interacted with the pencil box besides me. I tried to write about the love and caring she has for me. I start with how she clean my pencil box for me when I was little. Then I used hands as the representation of my mother. Because humans use hands to do work and the change of appearance of hands means aging. I use these meanings to write about my mother's contribution to my family and her never-changing love. Her love is what comfort me when I was down. She is the person who is always there for me and she will always support me.

Part 2

chosen landscape: Maze with crossroads everywhere

List of objects or sensations:	How I feel about these objects
1. wind	threatened
2. thorns	scared
3. vine/grass/forest	mysterious
4. witch light	hope
5. sword	power
6. desire for a sense of belonging	
7. feel of lost	

writing piece :

life

a maze

days

crossroads to be chosen

forlon monster running wild inside me

as I slash the vines

stagger in the wind

thorns on the way

life

a journey

searching

searching

searching

for the witch light

for the Eutopia

explanation:

How I would change the landscape:

walking the last mile

coming into my eyes

oasis

quenching my thirst

sunlight

nourishing my skin

laughter

soothing the monster

embracing everything

enjoying everything

until

I

become

everything everywhere all at once

explanation:

I want to make a stark contrast of between two paragraphs. Now, I feel my life is like a maze and I am trapped inside, but I dream of a beautiful life that I want to lead in the future. The witch light is the dream and hope I have in my heart. I believe if I work hard enough, I can live a better life. Most importantly, I hope that I can shake off the lost feeling I often feel and become more alive. Oasis, sunshine, and laughter are all signs of life and joy compared to the thorns and wind in the maze, which represent the difficulties in life. "Embracing everything" means that I want to be more mature and love myself, embracing my strengths and weaknesses. "Become everything everywhere all at once" actually came from the movie "everything everywhere all at once", which I watched recently and was inspired by it. The antagonist feels life is meaningless because she is very knowledgeable and she tries to destroy herself to relieve the pain. Her feeling strikes a chord with me. I often wonder about the meaning of life and the meaning of studying. What do I study for? I often ask myself. Yet, I do not have an answer so far. Nevertheless, the meaning the movie delivers is "Pure optimism is naive while the optimism in the pessimistic is the motive to keep going." As a pessimistic person, I always think of the worst. But this movie got me to believe that the optimism in the pessimistic may be the cure in my life. So that is the mindset I want to pursue in my life.