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Debate
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Students**



**International Online Teachers Society
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THE 83rd INTERNATIONAL ONLINE TEACHERS SOCIETY ESSAY CONTEST

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The two meanings of Dreams

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Dreams fuel our aspirations and our desires. It is what aids us in pursuing our passions in life and it is what helps us in our challenges. Dreams affect man's judgment and future. In reality, everyone has a dream and it is up to each person to follow his dream in life. To artists, they dream of beautiful paintings in the canvas. Writers dream of poetry and novels while architects dream of large and glorious buildings. Even teachers dream that someday, all of their students will have a brilliant future. Lovers dream of their future while the broken hearted dream of the past.

Of course, the word "dream" also implies to the words and images that we see while we are sleeping. We often see images of monsters, people that we know, people that we have not met and even the ones that we love. Most of the time, the people that we see in our dreams are also the ones who we want to be with. Perhaps, the reason why we see them in our dreams is that we also want to be with them and that wish to be with them transpires while we sleep.

Having a dream is important. People who do not have a dream already gave up on life. They have left all their hopes and their wishes in the wind. They gave up on their dreams and therefore they have given up on their life. Without dreams, hoping will no longer have an effect and people will only live life day by day, in pain and misery. Hence, it is important for man to dream. It is important for us to think not about the pains of the past but what the future holds. We need to embrace our dreams, we need to cherish every moment so that in the end we will not have any regrets. It is not important if we fail in pursuing our dreams and the desires, the only thing that is important is to not give up. Never give up before you try because you will not succeed if you never make the first step.

William Butler Yeats, a world renowned poet and storywriter, also had a concept of dreams. In his poem, He Wishes for the Cloth of Heaven, he said, "But I, being poor, have only my dreams." This means that since he is only poor, he is only his dreams and that is the only thing that he can give to his love. He wished that he can give the golden clothes of heaven to his lady love, yet because he is poor, he can only give his dreams to her.

Questions:

- 1) Have you ever read the poem by William Butler Yeats?
- 2) What are some of your dreams?
- 3) What do you do in order to achieve your dreams?
- 4) Why is dreaming important?
- 5) What are the two meanings for the word dream?



SLEEPING ON YOUR DREAMS

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I sometimes dream in Technicolor. I have proven this thru the numerous times when I wake up while in the midst of a dream. I remember brown walls and green plants and silver doorknobs. However, those are just about the colors I have detected in the dreams that I am able to recall vividly. Most times, I simply forget the colors and remember only snippety details, the kind that one easily forgets when they do something immediately after waking up. In my case, I guess whatever I remember gets scrambled along with the eggs and turned over to forgetfulness with the hotdogs. One can only retain so much with a breakfast-needy brain, I guess.

There have been times when what is retained is just the specific “emotion” evoked in the dream.

For instance, dreams of my late husband have often involved a sense of warmth and comfort that everything will be fine. Those types of dreams are what I usually have when I grapple with the worst crises or currently need some soul-searching to do. My dear spouse always figures in a dream where we do something familiar like driving to the countryside to see his parents or just going on a quiet walk. Waking up always leaves the feeling that I still have strength to go on or move on.

Then there are those dreams where I am perpetually running late or missing the bus. No matter what I do in the dream, there’s always the inability to make it to work on time. Goodness knows how this can be since I do home-based work nowadays. But <http://www.dreammoods.com/dreamdictionary/l.htm> says dreams where the dreamer is late symbolize inner apprehensions on change and opportunity. They also serve as a reminder of the frailty of one’s opinion on their ability to handle certain elements in their life.

And what about snakes in a dream? In my dreams, there are often many tiny snakes crawling quickly after me. The website mentioned above says that a snake signifies implicit fears and uncertainties again. My oh my, that must mean I do have a lot of concerns in my earthly existence!

We all look at dreams differently. I know some people who dream of numbers who immediately go to a lottery betting station and place their money on the very numbers they have seen in their dreams. And then I have heard of those who “assign” certain numbers to particular elements of their dream such as an old man that dies in the dream being given the number 38 or something just as absurd. They use the “information” to bet on small town lottery.

No matter what dreams we may have every night, let us remember that it is the dreams we nurture in our wakefulness that matter more. We need to work on those dreams that we dream of fulfilling instead of relying on those that we have while sleeping just to get by in life.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Try to recall a vivid dream you’ve had and talk about the circumstances when you had it.
2. What are the impact/s of the dreams you have in your sleep to you personally?
3. Are there any dream interpretations that you believe are accurate? Why so?
4. Are there any dream interpretations that you find absolutely ridiculous? Elaborate on your answer/s.
5. How have your dreams in life (i.e.: your ambitions) created a greater impact on you as a person? Elaborate on your answer.



THE UNIQUE ROLE OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS IN CHILDREN'S DREAMS

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We have been advised by many: LIVE YOUR DREAMS. That message has never gone out of style. No matter how many interpretations there have been on the common dreams we have in our sleep, the dreams we have within ourselves have definitely always counted more.

As parents to our children and teachers to our students, we are fortunate to be able to know firsthand what our children and students dream of in their lives. That is one of the most wonderful surprises that come with the job of being a parent or a teacher: you get a glimpse into the future somehow.

The minds we mold and the lives we are entrusted with hold limitless possibilities unto themselves. Someday, those lovely children-or even mature adults-we take care of could become leaders or pioneers in their own right. Whatever impact we create and however we affect them enable children to become who and what they are in the future. The responsibility to rear or help rear them is tremendous. It is therefore upon us to make full and optimum use of our functions as a parent or teacher to help them become all they have been meant to be.

Nobody's perfect of course. As parents and teachers, we may not be able to fully comprehend our importance in children's lives nor be able to achieve perfection in whatever we do for them. But we must always try to perform to the best of our ability so those under our care receive nothing less than the best care possible. We need to challenge ourselves consistently so the children of the world and the future can become leaders whose commitment to perfection rival only our own. The task is often difficult. Many of us will not even be able to make it to set parameters. However, in the midst of all the uncertainty and the doubtlessness of defeat at every turn, let us strive to become the guardians of children's security. Our inability to rise up to the occasion will lead to children's perdition, to their failure. Although there are always exceptions, we need to always be conscious of our roles in children's lives. We need to be aware of the enormity of our duty as parents and teachers in the making of the world's future leaders and parents and teachers. We need to figure actively in our children's dream configurations in order for them to dream big despite starting small.

As we hold the hands of the world's children firmly in our grasps, let us not forget that it is their tiny and trusting hands that will eventually be the ones we will be holding on to in the twilight of our years. Let us nurture the dreams of the world's children so they can nurture dreams of their own future with us by their side.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Why is the role of a parent or a teacher important in a child's life and his dreams?
2. How can certain parents or teachers suppress the dreams of children?
3. If your own child wanted to be somebody you would never want him to be, how would you handle the situation?
4. In your own opinion, how can parents and teachers help nurture children's dreams? Be as specific as needed.
5. When you were younger, what life's dreams did you have that you have been unable to realize to the present? Why is this so?



THE DREAMS IN OUR LIVES

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Can our dreams give us glimpses into the future?

Although we have dreams in our sleep for no apparent reason, their significance is varied while their importance can not be so easily denied. There are those among us whose dreams possess no clear meaning, whose cinematic-like quality contain no message whatsoever. Then there are those dreams we have that are directly related to some element, ongoing or future event in our life.

We are concerned about change and current challenges and we dream of snakes, being late or climbing up stairs. We want to connect with a departed loved one and we dream of them that very night. We have problems in life and then we dream of being able to jump so high over the tallest fences and trees in our dreams.

Unfortunately, we do not always remember all our dreams. Those are the times when we say we've had a dreamless sleep and where we do not feel burdened by the interpretation of whatever dream we have had. And then there are also times when we recall nothing of having a dream while we are asleep and yet we wake up tired and feeling forlorn, like we've been traveling all night instead of lying peacefully and dreamlessly in our sleep. Discounting astral projection, such states signify that we dream all the time but only fail to remember what we dream of upon regaining alertness. How else will we explain the tired feeling?

When my husband died, I felt there was so much still left unspoken between us. He died young at age 42 and when I was just 37. The first week after we had buried him, my husband never manifested himself in ghostly apparitions. He never let his presence known by scary occurrences such as his car's engine suddenly turning on by itself or his clothes suddenly appearing on the bed. He always knew I didn't like surprises (read: I was scared and so were our kids!). Thankfully, whatever communication my late husband and I have had has always been in the form of dreams.

A believable example of this was when I had this dream of my husband handing me an invitation of some sort. In the dream, he was excitedly telling me that we were being invited to his sister's daughter's debut. In the dream, it felt like we were at his parents' home but it somehow "looked" like we were someplace else.

I quickly dismissed the dream as inconsequential and went on with living. Two weeks after I had that dream, I was informed that his sister was getting married very soon. I told my sister-in-law about my dream, and she was gladdened by the fact that her brother, as I had seen him in my dream, was all happy about the event he had been telling me about.

Believe it or not!

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Why do we have dreams in our sleep?
2. What is your dreams' significance to you?
3. Have you had dreams where you felt overwhelming emotion? Be able to talk about those dreams in class.
4. In your culture, what are the common interpretations of certain dreams?
5. If you could participate in a scientific experiment where dreams were to be analyzed and interpreted, would you gladly do so? Why or why not?



DREAM BIG

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There is no person who does not really dream big, considering that life is too short. We cannot just sit back and do nothing in life. Apparently, everyone wants to accomplish something that will make their life worth living. So we all dream and try to reach our goal to be satisfied and contented. Therefore, we should not settle for mediocrity because big things can happen to our life if only we have the courage and pursue our goal.

People do not just settle for something good but would always want the best that they could have in life. And that is the reason why they go for what they believe in and press toward their goal. Believe me when I say that we should always find the courage to reach for our goal. We all take a big risk in life but it is well worth the chance to do so. Sad to say that some people have never even get started about having one.

Persistence and determination are surely one of the benchmarks of dreaming big and pursuing it. No matter what the odds are against you, but if you are so intent on achieving your goal or dream, then it will certainly happen. But not everybody follow their dreams. They easily get disappointed, whereas you shouldn't be. Subsequently, even if your dream hasn't really transpired, you should always give it another try then.

There are indeed a lot of obstacles that can come along your way when trying to dream big. But it should not actually keep you away from it. One of the biggest mistakes of people pursuing their dreams is thinking it wouldn't work. That is, they have not even tried without even getting started. As the saying goes, something like "It is better to have tried and failed, than never to have tried at all." Someday, when you try to look back over the years that have gone by, you will surely regret why you did not even tried to realize your dream.

Oh yes, I would opt to try and fail than for me to leave things wondering what it might have been. Like for instance during my younger years when I dreamt to become a lawyer and that is why I chose the field of Political Science. I started fulfilling that dream no matter how difficult it maybe. Then, I fully realized that I cannot make it. But even if it never happened, the consolation was, at least I have tried. Apparently, it gave me a lot of advantages like my skills were enhanced, my talents were honed and it also broadened my horizons.

Our life is a journey and we all have our ups and downs in life. Pursuing our dreams may give us a lot of challenge but we need to have that dedication to do so. Whatever you are trying to achieve, do not be afraid and have qualms to dream big because all you have got to do is, GO for it!

Questions for discussion:

1. How many of us have got such a big dream? Are you one of them? Why or why not?
2. What have you always dreamt to be someday? Explain your answer.
3. Have you experienced dreaming big and failed? How did it go?
4. Have you achieved your goal far enough that you would give anything to pursue your dream? Why or why not?
5. What are the benchmarks of dreaming big and pursuing it?



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