

# IDEAS 88

International Online Teachers Society  
Debate  
Educational Materials For  
Advance and Upper Intermediate  
Students



International Online Teachers Society  
Publishing Committee



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## LOVE MOTHER NATURE AND SHE LOVES YOU RIGHT BACK

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I am not a religious nature lover.

If you qualify being careful about the trash I throw and appreciating nature in pictures as being a nature lover, then I probably am one. However, I am not the type who'll go out on hiking and camping trips or on mountaineering club activities. I would rather look at nature's bounty courtesy of the photos that people take.

I also love piggybacking on the nature trips of other people. I watch TV documentaries and programs that have the hosts exploring nature. I know I'm being a lazy couch potato this way, but I simply do not have the physical constitution as well as the financial means to go nature trotting. I'd rather have other people do that, thank you very much.

Nature is always beautiful, no matter whether you get to appreciate it first hand or through the eyes of others. Nature was made that way and we humans are luckier because of that. We may not have had a hand in creating nature as it was made. However, we are all responsible for keeping nature as clean, lovely and untouched as it is.

Unfortunately, in keeping with how we have been created to be gods ourselves, many of us have played cruelly with nature. Illegal loggers abound. Companies forget their responsibility to keep the environment safe and pure. Children pick flowers everywhere, even when those flowers infinitely look better in their natural branches. We have allowed so many animals to become extinct by hunting them, using them for game and including them in our list of exotic foods to enjoy. We have abused nature, forgetting that it has merely been loaned to us by the generations that come after us.

The reason why nature has been given the title "mother" is simple: Mother Nature takes care of us and nurtures life on this planet as carefully as any mother would. Mother Nature gives all of herself to us so we may survive, grow strong and become all we have been meant to be. That's the ideal scenario, though. But reality has often become quite different. As said earlier, man has succeeded at virtually destroying Mother Nature so much so that the future generations have to wonder if there will ever be anything left for them. Many, many centuries ago, nature remained untouched. With progress and the passing of the ages, everything has changed. They paved paradise to put up a parking lot. Nay, dozens upon dozens of parking lots placed atop each other and even compressed to the limit.

We need to consider how much more Mother Nature will still be able to take. Fear the time when we can have our garbage and eat it, too! Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned. Mother Nature *is* female, right?

### QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Are you a nature lover? Why or why not?
2. Why do we all have to do our part in keeping nature safe and beautiful?
3. When we think of nature, we automatically connect it to the environment. Why is this so?
4. What are the untouched bounties of nature that remain so in your country?
5. How is nature a great mother but a cruel punisher?



## NURTURE NATURE

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I was watching the early evening news on a Monday. I always enjoy listening to the easy banter between the newscasters. That particular evening, they were welcoming back one of the anchors who had come back from a short vacation in his native province. The anchor looked refreshed and revitalized, much like he had gone through a detoxification process of some kind. He even looked like he had shed some weight, but he looked better and not at all gaunt. He shared to his co-anchors that he had been eating a lot of fish and seafood during his vacation time.

When morning came, I wanted to go on a seafood diet, too. Unfortunately, having 7 children does not really give me the liberty of indulging such a whimsy. For one, seafood is costly. For another, my family is the omnivore breed: we eat anything and everything including meat. Imposing a strict seafood diet just won't do.

However, there are many out there who've been brought up successfully with a no-meat diet. Some have even gone the vegan route, like Ellen DeGeneres. I do envy such people. They can live healthier existences because of their healthy choices.

Vegans partake only of plant-based food. They never use animal products in their clothing, accessories, and for other purposes. Ultimately, what vegans choose to do become beneficial for the environment, a lot kinder to Mother Nature. Unless of course, those who produce food for vegans decide to exploit nature just to come up with food. But I think vegans choose organic food, so that won't probably happen.

Mother Nature has shown us how a Great Being has designed the planet to nurture life. Earth was created to feed its inhabitants sufficiently. Unfortunately, we humans have discovered that making business out of nature's bounty allows us to rise in wealth and power. We have steadily harnessed Nature's offerings in order to enrich ourselves and enjoy everything life has to offer. Of course, this is well and good because we optimize all our potentials. However, when we optimize our potential at the expense of Nature, then that already turns to defeating the entire purpose of self-optimization. Selfishness is very different from self-optimization. With self-optimization, what we do emanates as goodness from us. With selfishness, it's the exact opposite.

Mother Nature is never greedy, nor is she ever selfish. Like a true Mother, Nature gives to the point when there's not much left to give. It is therefore our inherent duty to make sure Nature will still have something to give to the next generations after us. And let's be appreciative of what she does from time to time. Let us find joy in simply communing with nature and listening to her voice. Sometimes, that's all we need in order to make her happy.

## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. How can we show appreciation for nature?
2. How is human nature different from Mother Nature? Find points of comparison and contrast between them.
3. How can we give back to nature as much as she gives us?
4. Explain this statement: Nature is not ours; we just borrowed her from our children.
5. How important is nature preservation to you personally



## LOVERS OF NATURE

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We are all lovers of nature in one way or another. Deep down in the depths of our heart we try to relate and commune with nature. I remember the times when I used to stare at the stars and the moon from our rooftop together with my sister and our cousin. The feeling was so nice and very relaxing just by the mere sight of these blinking, bright bodies of light. You can feel the cool breeze brush your cheeks as you try to savor the fresh air outside the suburbs of the city lights.

The enchantment of nature captures every sinew of my body as I glaze and stare at all the natural resources that surround us. Lovers of nature are enthralled with how it gives us that awesome light feeling making us stress-free. Just the sight of nature eradicates all the negative vibes that you have inside of you. Yes, the nature lovers even go to the extent of talking to the flowers and even to the animals. They have that tendency to think that nature has a benign protective attitude towards humans.

Almost always, nature is being captured in poetry by the great poets and famous writers who consistently equate the exuding feeling of having a profound imagination on how to describe the amazing magic that nature can bring to a person's life. We can even have an eye and learn from the life cycles of the insects, a best example of which is the life cycle of a butterfly. It seems like it is just magic but all we have got to do is to take admonishments about having a relationship with nature seriously. Communing with nature is not just seeking romance and adventure in it. There's got to be more to it than meets the eye.

We sometimes stop and ponder if we are just duped by our imagination when we have an eye for nature. Like when we try to climb the peak of a mountain and spread our hands out while shutting off our eyes whispering to our self..."I am on top of the world." It is as if, you and nature are against the world and that nothing else matters. When you go leave the outskirts of the city and camp out in the dense forest, you start to discover the realms of nature. You will go spellbound on the awesomeness of it, not to speak of the intricacy of the state of bliss that we experience when we get smitten by nature.

Apparently, we will not only be bedazzled by the magnificence of God's creation. We also succumb to that profound relationship with the natural world. That only means it would require a deeper understanding of human nature and how it came to be. You can still associate a thousand and more of other things that relate to being a lover of nature, so why don't you taste the tang of it?

Questions for discussion:

1. Are you a lover of nature? Why or why not?
2. Does nature bring or send a spine-tingling sensation inside of you? Explain your answer.
3. Relate an experience with nature and how it captivated you.
4. What is the real meaning of a nature lover for you?
5. Given the chance to choose where you want to settle down and live, will it be in the city or in a remote area where nature is explicit? Justify your answer.



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