


Imagining Tomorrow: Alternate Energy Futures™

A Short Story Contest for Massachusetts High-school Students

Presented by NESEA  Northeast Sustainable Energy Association

About the Author — Caitlin Reilly, “Little Green Riding Hood”



Caitlin Reilly is 17, and a senior at Chicopee Regional High School in Chicopee, MA.

Caitlin was born in Holyoke, MA, lived in Florida for a few years, moved back to Chicopee, and has lived here ever since. Her parents are James and Patricia Reilly, and she has three older siblings, Terence, Meghan, and Adam Reilly. She is a senior at Chicopee High School and plans to attend Emerson College in the fall to major in Screenwriting.

She says: “I have always loved creative writing and want to improve, so this contest was a great experience. My Ecology teacher, Mr. Bizon, is the one who sparked my interest in Environmental Science and encouraged me to enter the contest.”

In her Afterward Caitlin writes:

“This story may seem silly, but is not without purpose. I actually chose to use Grimm’s fairytale characters because their old adventures contrast and highlight the new conservation efforts that have already started taking place in our country. I wanted a comical clash to bring out the changes in how we view the world and our actions. The idea for a “Vegan World Hunger Solution” was actually rooted in health class. My teacher mentioned that many vegans wanted farmlands to be primarily used for crops instead of grazing so that the yield would be big enough to feed the whole world. I could not help but wonder if such a plan would work and how people could get used to it. Even though I am a person who enjoys animal products, I still wonder if the meat industry is really so immoral and impractical. That’s when I decided to explore the theory a bit by making it the topic of my story. Whether such a plan will solve world hunger fifty years from now is uncertain to me, but I thought it would be interesting to explore the concept anyway.

Fairytales were my tool to provide humor and also a way to show how environmental concerns and conservation can change even the oldest stereotypes.”