


Imagining Tomorrow: Alternate Energy Futures™

A Short Story Contest for Massachusetts High-school Students

Presented by NESEA  Northeast Sustainable Energy Association

About the Author — Kimberly Pham, “Driven to Near Extinction”



Kim says: “I am a Vietnamese-American (born here). I have lived in Quincy, MA all my life (so far). I'm a 15 year old junior at Quincy High School

I play on the JV basketball team and V tennis team for Quincy High. I am in a lot of clubs at school, some of which are: Women in Technology, Operation Day's Work, National Honors Society, Museum of Fine Arts Docent Program, and the Interact Club. I have received Science Recognition awards for both Earth Science and Biology

I enjoy creative writing and being with younger children. I enjoy playing tennis and volunteer for a tennis camp for younger children in the summer. I like to watch t.v. and play video games.

My mom's name is Nho Chu. My dad's name is Paul Pham. I have 3 younger siblings: Vivian, Samantha, and Ethan Pham.

In her Afterward Kimberly writes:

“The story is told from Iniko, meaning *born during troubled times*. She starts out by being chase by Wasakis and from there she tells us of her life struggling to stay alive. Tigers are one of the many endangered species that live in our world today. We have done many actions that have resulted to the extinction and near extinction of many creatures and it is our obligation to help them.

. . . They suffer through habitat loss for agricultural purposes, logging, and population fragmentation which cause tigers to breed within the family, weakening their gene pool. The weakening of the gene pool causes tigers to have birth defects: immune deficiency, scoliosis of the spine (distorted spine), mental impairments, blindness, and grotesquely crossed eyes that bulge from their skull.

The fictional story of Iniko portrays some of the problems that affect the survival of tigers. Iniko's father is killed through the vengeance of killed livestock, her brother Pavel dies of starvation because most of the jungle creatures have fled. Iniko is forced to mate with her brother because she is unable to find other tigers in her habitat and is unable to return to the other side of the jungle when a village cuts the jungle in half (population fragmentation) and is forced to mate with Tarak, her bother. Iniko gives birth to Apu who is blind. She faces habitat lost, when her “banyan land” was cut down.