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Young Artists and Authors Showcase

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“Peace is the Most Powerful Weapon of Mankind”

For hundreds of years, Britain had cruelly coerced capital from India. People were starved so that food could be liquidated. Children sold themselves to make sure their parents had enough to eat. Humanitarian rights were denied. People were beaten for peacefully protesting. Despite this, Mahatma Gandhi treated the British as his friends and refused to violently retaliate. He collaborated with the British, understood what they were going through during times of strife, and maintained tranquility. This extreme exemplar friendship eliciting serenity renders modern strife petty. Comradeship allows us to collaborate with efficacy by understanding different facets of each other.

Nelson Mandela described cooperation creatively when he stated that “if you want to make peace with your enemy, you have to work with your enemy. Then he becomes your partner”. When countries have partial perspectives due to pondering problems with only their people, they advocate for their necessities without contemplating the problems affecting other nations. Meaningful, long-lasting relationships, however, causes us to frequently think of our friends and consider the impact invoked by our actions. Through amiable actions of amity, leaders can pursue the same relation to create diplomacy between countries. As a result, they would be more sensitive to the issues and atmosphere that the other country is subjected to, successfully bridging any cultural barriers. In conclusion, collaboration invokes a deeper insight into other customs and decreases the likelihood of strife.

During World War I, soldiers were weary of drenched trenches and perpetual discord. Defying the direct orders of their commanders, they would secretly exchange provisions with their enemy. This fraternity aroused the Christmas Truce. On December 25, 1914, soldiers dropped their armaments, defied directives, and enjoyed an enthusiastic Christmas with their new friends. The exchange of food and water elicited the understanding that the enemy soldiers, despite cultural differences, were similar to them. Since the generals did not have this knowledge, they advocated merciless strife. To end, companionship allows us to unite against conflict by understanding the intricacies of the opponent's predicaments.

All in all, affinity opens a portal into the universe of others. Each universe has its own unique plights, and taking an excursion into it allows us to nonviolently design a solution that is beneficial to all participants. Rather than hinder harmony, cultural divides encourage us to unite using our differences. In a world where mandates in war are fueled by revenge and an individual nation's best interests, military leaders do not take the time to contemplate the causes of conflict. Everyday, tensions between countries cause casualties. However, it is not too late, and we all can unite against discordance using friendship. After all, like the Dalai Lama XIV said, "there are only two days in the year that nothing can be done. One is called Yesterday[,] and the other is called Tomorrow. Today is the right day to Love, Believe, Do, and mostly Live".