



KAYSON WARNER

Grade 7

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Heart Over Tech

“It is, by common consent, a good thing for people to get back to nature.” I can relate to this quote from Aldo Leopold. Before I moved back to New Mexico, my family was stationed at Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana. While I was there, I enjoyed playing outside with my friends. We played basketball, football, and tag. I loved being in the “yard” behind my house. In front of the house, my family would take a hike down a tree shrouded path that looked like the roots were trying to pull the pavement apart. Once, we found tadpoles in small, temporary puddles that were carved out by large, muddy tires and torrential rain that would have rivaled Niagara Falls. To rescue the tadpoles from their shrinking habitat, we brought out little buckets to carry them to a bigger lake to grow into log-leaping frogs. Tools in the shape of buckets, footballs, and basketballs helped me to grow closer to people and to the world around me.

That was 2019. Now just five years later, I have new tools with the power to allow me to travel the universe or conquer the earth in a few minutes. Before school I can fight the greatest villains and at night let humans know my wrath. I can go fishing from my couch and see all the colorful frogs of the rainforest before going to bed. This powerful tool is called the internet and I access it through other tools called computers, TV, and gaming consoles.

Years ago, we worked side by side with our tools. Humans still had to do most of the hard work themselves like plowing fields or mowing the lawn. Now, we can tell our tools what to do and they will do it. Farming and yard equipment can be programmed at the flick of a finger. Our tools even “memorize” what we like to eat and drink, and store music we like to hear so they know what we want before we even do. Soon our tools will not need to take orders from us, they will just do what they have learned. At this point, we as humans know that technology is better than us.

But can these new tools save those tadpoles if there is not a human that cares for them to do so? Can this “superior” life have the heart to save the environment if the humans that made it do not even care enough to step outside themselves? Humans are starting to realize our tools no longer need us to guide them. However, what we don’t know is that the world still needs us because we have hearts unlike those machines that we have given control to. Our tools are better than us in the greatest ways known to man, but we are superior because we still have the guts to save nature, not destroy it.