

# Life is sometimes hard.

Things can go wrong. In love, in health, in business, in all the other ways that life can go wrong. And when things get tough, that's when you're gonna do the best thing you can do, creating art.

You had a bad day? Try to dance for hours until it makes you happy. Got a bad grade from an exam? Listen to some music by your favorite band. Had a fight with your parents? Think of beautiful flowers to paint.

That can be the opposite, too. You can create art when things get better. Write poems about it when you see two people in love. It doesn't have to be perfect, what's important in this is that you created it.

Write, draw, sing, dance, paint. Do everything you can think of to create art. You can do things that you might call as mistakes in this path, but honestly, this is from the very bottom of my heart, I hope you make those mistakes because it means that you're out there and doing something that really matters.

Art changes people and people change the world. If you're creating something, writing song lyrics or painting flowers, no matter where you are or what language you speak, you're still a part of something very important and valuable.

Let me explain this to you with an example. Imagine you went to see an exhibition. You love paintings so you just wander around looking at them. Then you see one, a beautifully painted one. The colors on it, the way that the artist made the painting just makes you feel something beautiful. Then imagine yourself looking at the artist's name. It appeared that a German artist did the painting. Would it matter? Would it matter that a German artist did the painting instead of a Spanish artist? Or an Italian artist? Would that make you change your feelings about the painting? I don't think so. You don't have to be German to understand that painting because art speaks for itself. Whether you're German, Spanish or Italian, you just understand the language of art.

We're all different with our minds, languages, religions, but we have something in common. Art is our communication. There's gonna be people that won't understand you or your art, but for the ones who do, you'll never be forgotten. Remind yourself about Van Gogh, Shakespeare, Frida Kahlo. Their art is still alive and inspiring people. The same thing goes for you, too. Even if you die, your art will live on and you'll be immortal.

Hearing me saying that we can solve our problems by creating art could make you feel like I'm lying to you or I'm totally making it all up but here's the thing, our culture is made of art. Our values compose our culture and art is the only key to lay the foundations of it.

Yes, we are different but being different only means that there are tons of other cultures to learn out there. All we can do is to accept this difference and see it as a new way to create. That's the best way to make ourselves immortal.

Ecegöl Konca

# If you are a faithful person you should be part of the right wing.

If you are wearing hijab or going to the church regularly you should be uneducated. If you don't want to talk about politics much you are unconscious. As you can see society is never pleased. Whether you are hardworking they'll call you as a nerd. They might be put the labels on but remember that we have enough power to take them off.

Assuming that you were a girl and you are bit curvy. Summer is coming you really love summer and swimming although you are both scared and sick of people who are teasing you every chance they get. What is the best thing you can do? Go and cry all day long, hurt yourself or stay in silence? yes, you were scared but no one cared. Unfortunately, it happens every time. But summer isn't just for size zeros.

Let's think of this way, every decision you make, every step you take should mean something new. So you could put every word you can say to describe your action. But it ought to be special for you. Maybe things you've been done are really meaningful for you but for the others those don't need to be important. If we don't care at all it transforms into a labelling. And again "if" labelling is as bad as that why don't we try to stop it?

Our skin can be different, our religion can be different, our standards can be different we don't have to love it but we have to respect other ideas. Have you ever asked yourself where it comes from? Here is the answer, i'll give you some examples than i'll explain it. First of all some politics are really good at this topic. It easy to provoke people and they choose this way for treating people, mostly. Usually in those situations they aim at our weak points. When the time they shot we break in million pieces and they could use us for their own benefits. Of course words and ideas can change the world so what about starting with destroying the cliches?

We blamed society as we were society. It's like a rapist who is supporting the Women Right's only on 8th March, just for one day. It shouldn't be working as that otherwise we couldn't make any differences. Being different is beautiful. Remind this to yourself everyday we are people not objects.

Eslem Seymen

# How can we solve our problems?

How can we get through the difficulties? There are lots of teenagers out there who try to solve their problems or cope with them. Reading and learning new things make us think in a different way and understand people who think differently than us. So it helps to solve our problems and issues more easily and faster.

Actually we read books in our mother language mostly but I think books don't have any language. They have ideas, knowledge and language is just a way to understand them. The most important thing to understand books is, criticize and analyze the book in so many different ways. Also criticizing and analyzing books can improve our critical thinking abilities. We can look at something from a different aspect. It helps us to understand intercultural awareness. Cultures are different from each other and in this way we become a person who is open to different ideas. Every book includes a piece from their culture inside them.

While readers are reading the book, they unintentionally start to get into that culture more and more. Let's think about 2 different people from different countries these two people can think the same about "Refugee Problems" or they can have the same ideas about "How we can change the world into a better place?" That's why we shouldn't alienate people who think differently than us. We should try to understand them and try to find the common point. I think everyone should understand that reading is a magical thing to do.

For example while you're reading a book, you become a part of it. You're possessed by their world and see a lot of strange personalities, events, thoughts. And of course that opens up one's horizon. Because of that it's so important for young population. We are the future of the people. We can change the world. We can start with reading. We can demolish the pre-judges. I said "we can start with reading.", but not only just reading. We should be more open minded and try to change. Change is good sometimes.

Opinions, thoughts, ideas and even the goals shouldn't be the same for a long time. It depends on us. If we read, we can learn, if we learn, we can analyze and if we can analyze we can create a better world for ourselves. This is what we should do to improve ourselves, our knowledge, to figure out our problems much better, demolish the pre-judges, try to understand people who think differently than us. Reading has lots of advantages like that I told you, but there are still lots of things that I didn't tell you. We can learn them by reading. All I want to say is we are the future of the people and we should use that chance in the best way.

Sevval Senkul

# I'd like to talk about some recent problems that most countries and also ours have.

Because of some political reasons, people face with various troubles such as famine, draught or hunger, especially in Africa. In the Middle East, there are wars and a lot of people are migrating or dying. In Europe, there are migration and unemployment. In the USA, there is an increasing racist attitude due to the new president whom many American citizens aren't content with.

As Turkey, we also have numerous problems and the most significant one is a referendum. Turkish citizens will vote for the Turkish model of presidency. I have some hesitations and anxiety about the model because I strongly believe that there should be separation of powers. Any person, president or whoever shouldn't have the power of controlling every institution in a country. The leader of a country shouldn't be a member of any political party because it hinders equal treatment towards all parties and their followers.

In my opinion, democracy is not applying what the majority says. It's the equal and fair treatment to every single citizen even if she votes for the government party or opposition party. The leader of a country should share this responsibility and power with the assembly and be loyal to the constitution. Being respectful to different political ideas and parties makes management stronger as positive criticism portrays the problem accurately and gives a chance to be more productive.

All in all, as a young individual, I'd like to have a future that I'm respected no matter what my political ideas, religion or preferences are. This country is my home and I'd like to see fair trial conditions, freedom of ideas, an independent constitution and an active assembly which respects and represents all citizens. I hope the world will be a better place one day and I have enough faith and courage to work for it.

Simge Yildiz

# I want to talk about racism

... as every year more and more people die because of it but we are the ones who can stop it. Maybe it's better to start by defining it so that we can understand the problem better. Racism means hatred or intolerance towards another race or races.

Unfortunately there is a growing tendency in racist movements according to statistics. I find it weird that people have started to come closer thanks to technological improvements but they are getting far away instead of understanding each other. They humiliate humans or things that they are superior to them.

For example when I was thirteen years old I had a Syrian friend. His name was Muhammad. One day a few students at school teased him. Then, he never came back to school again. We can see many more examples around us like children refugees dying on borders or boats on news every day. But there's no reason in it.

How can a person be superior to anyone else because of a feature that you can't choose in a life? White or black, Muslim or Christian, Turkish, Danish, English... It is not important. We are all equal. We have to respect each other and be together like a family.

There may be some political reasons or some evil persons who make use of this conflict. No matter what or who the reason is, we must be a solution. We should protect each other. We are humans and humanity requires this.

Umut Serkan Sevintas

# In my opinion, visa is one of the biggest problems that young people face with.

Because many European countries want us to obtain a visa. Some people may see us as terrorists. Why? Because we live very close to middle-east where the bomb always explode.

But look at us, in a year; we have a 532 martyrs. Why? Because of terrorism. It means we are not guilty, we are victims as French, American, German. On the other-hand, we are just students. We would like to explore other countries, see different cultures, meet new people.

Just education can beat the terrorism and wicked plans. Terrorism tries the build wall of fear between the people and just empathy can demolish that wall. This values can just be learnt in life. You see different people, meet them, be friend, see their lives. This is the way to learn. It doesn't mean 'I don't care the security problem'. I just wanna say this "Find a wiser way with pre-cautions for the visa problem."

Yusuf Gencer