

The Power of Youth
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For too long, society has attempted to define youth by marking it by age and labeling it by appearance. Youth has been confined to wearing a creaseless mask adorned with rosy cheeks and widened eyes—creating the illusion of it being a fading gift measured solely by time. Yet youth, like any great force, knows no limits. It cannot be contained by numbers or suppressed by a single, universal form. And youth, above all, is not a motionless noun but a vibrant verb—an action that each individual chooses to take.

It is, after all, youth and its actions that have altered the course of our history. Youth, with its flexibility and open-mindedness, is what kept its arms outstretched and welcomed the major changes in every generation. Yet, youth also proved to be just as firm as it is pliable, enduring the unknown consequences of rebellion that paved the way for change. The fiery personalities behind every uprising are the flames that molded the future ahead; a perfect combination of force and malleability.

Although each revolution felt unique and alone in its passion, each event connected with the open arms of the one preceding it, linking to form an ever-expanding chain. The youth of one generation fought to end racial inequality while the youth of another generation sought to end gender bias and, within under a century, the members of two formerly discriminated groups competed for the highest position in the U.S. Office—resulting in the election of the first African-American president, a special feat of this generation while remaining an achievement credited to the changes of the past.

It is in these instances that youth breaks away from its stereotype of immaturity, as being young is not about basking in primitivism but, rather, about the constant need to grow and evolve into something greater. It especially resonates in children since they represent the purest forms of youth—throwing fits of rage upon being lied to or treated

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unfairly and continually discovering and dreaming of newfound beauty in the world.

However, the vitality of the young is a power that is not as rare as it may seem. Youth is like a wisp of air that can enter the lungs of anyone willing to open themselves to it. It is all but vain; youth can be laced within any person that remains forever changing. The secret allure of youth lies not in an hourglass but in the very soul of an individual; it shines through those who shun rigidity and choose to spend their lives constantly morphing, constantly shifting towards immortality.

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