



When Winter Comes, Can Spring Be Far Behind?

Students who are new to Colorado are faced with adapting to the changes in seasons. Some have fun in the mountain snow on school ski trips, like Nan, Dakai, and Alejandra in the photo. Others put on extra sweaters and dream of Spring in their own countries. Our beginning writers share their thoughts about this change of seasons.

Mofida Rgibi: Spring in **Libya** is beautiful and fun. First, it is warm, so you can see the sun more and more. The plants begin to grow, and the trees are green. It has an effect on mood and feeling, so you feel happy. You can see red, yellow and purple flowers and smell all the flowers. Second, we go out in the garden in spring for a walk, and we sit there. In short, Spring is my best season because it is interesting, and I miss it!

Sofia Alvarado: Spring in **Guatemala** is a beautiful time of year. First, it is sometimes hot, and there are a lot of new flowers, like roses and sunflowers in different colors. You can see red, yellow and pink flowers, too. It is my favorite because it is very beautiful and nice for me. Also the trees grow and they give many fruits, for example, apples, pears and oranges. It's very nice to take walks this time during the year and play in the parks. In short, Guatemala has a lovely spring, and I miss it!

Joseph Essandjo: Spring (winter) in the **Democratic Republic of Congo** is a nice season of the year. First, we call it the rainy season because it is windy, so every tree becomes green and new. There is green grass on the streets and the fields. This makes hope for the women to go build the new plate belt. Spring in Congo makes hope for people when they

see everywhere the colors green, yellow, and red. The flowers are shining and the bushes too. In short, Spring in Congo is beautiful, nice, and wonderful, and I miss it!

Maria Hernandez: Spring in **Mexico** is a beautiful time of year. First, it is very rainy, so it becomes very green. There is bright green grass and trees with pink, purple, red, yellow, blue and white. You can see yellow, red, purple, white and red bushes and flowers, too. Second, clouds are nice; you can go to camp, walk, run, jump, and play in the parks, the rivers, and the mountains. Also, I like spring because we have vacations. The families meet and everything is cheerful and walks are organized in the afternoon. You can eat mole, tacos, enchiladas, red and green chilaquiles, and pozole. You can visit beautiful zoos, museums, colonial areas, and farms. In conclusion, Mexico has a lovely Spring, and I really miss it!

Abdullah AlShamrani: Spring in **Saudi Arabia** is our winter. First, it is a little cold and rainy, so it becomes green. There are green trees, and you can hear the sound of the birds. You can find places for hiking, and you can see plants in beautiful, full shapes. I feel comfortable and happy in this season. In short, I love winter in Saudi Arabia.

Fouz AlAzaz: Spring in **Saudi Arabia** is a beautiful time of year. First, it is warm and sunny and sometimes rainy. After it rains, I go with my family to picnic next to the lake. There is bright, green grass everywhere. You can see small trees and yellow flowers, and you can see the clear blue sky full of clouds. Also, you can hear the birds and water sound. In addition, in Spring swimming becomes fun. In short, I love Spring in Saudi Arabia because it is lovely, and I miss it!

Spring Is Also a School Signifying New Beginnings, Growth, Life Changes

Rehab AlQahtani, Saudi Arabia: Spring School is a wonderful school. First, it is small, but it is beautiful. I'm happy because I'm studying here. My teachers are friendly. There is a place to take a break. In each class, there is a long whiteboard and projector. You can learn a lot. In short, I love my school!



Level Two Writes

Families and Their Importance in Our Lives

An important person in my life is my father. His name is Mohammed. He is 55 years old. He is tall, and he has black hair, and brown skin. He worked in the Ministry of Finance for 28 years. He has a bachelor of accounting. When he has free time, he likes to watch TV.

My father is very kind to all my sisters and my brother, mother, and me. He wants to teach me and my brothers and sisters to be like him. He's also kind to other people. If you need anything he always wants to help you, and he wants the best for us. My father is the smartest person I have seen in business. He started from nothing, and now he has everything he wants. He always reminds us how to be someone successful. I'm proud of my father, and I want to be like him. **Abdulmalik AlHussain**

I have a wonderful father. His name is Hussain. He is eighty years old. He is tall, and he has black eyes. He has a white beard. He is retired from his work. He worked in a hospital. When he has free time, he likes to go to the gym and watch the news on TV.

My father is social. He always spends his free time together with his friends and family. My father is helpful, and he always helps people when someone needs anything. For example, one day my father gave someone money to get food. Finally, he always learns from mistakes, and he teaches me to not go this way. In conclusion, my father is an amazing man, and I hope to be like him in the future. **Hadi Hussain Atwah.**

One of the happiest days in my life was the one when my second daughter was born. First, I went to the surgery room and I sat on the side of my wife's bed and waited in there until my little girl was born. After that, the doctors called me and told me, "Hey, father, cut here please." I had no idea then that was my daughter's tummy. What a coincidence because, before that, when I got into the surgery room, the first thing I saw on a small table was there were scissors. I asked myself, "What are they used for?" Later the doctor answered my secret question and showed me why they have them. Next, I took that little girl in my arms and took her to a different room to take a little shower. That was my wonderful amazing, great, and very good day. **Ben Garcia, Mexico**



I had a very bad day four years ago, Oct 11th 2015. My favorite horse was pregnant with a small foal. I waited for that baby foal to be born and was excited to see him. My horse got sick before that foal was born. I tried so hard to keep that little foal alive inside his mom's belly. After she had the little foal, the foal lived for 15 days; and then he died. The horse has been living with me since she was 5 years old. Now that I am in the USA, she had a new foal. In conclusion, I miss my horse, and I hope to see her soon. **Ali AlMunyif, Saudi Arabia**

Level Three Writes

The Days of Our Lives: Sometimes They Are Not So Good

Everyone experiences bad days. Sometimes a terrible day can start with an accident. A car accident caused me and my friend to have one of the worst days of my life. This is what happened. One day my friend and I were going to a celebration. He was driving. It was snowy and the roads were slippery. My friend tried to stop, but he could not. The worst thing was my friend didn't have insurance for his car so he tried to drive away. He couldn't though because the car was attached to the other car. In the end, the police came and they gave my friend a ticket.

Because of this experience, I have some advice for everyone. Don't ever drive a car when you are dizzy. Also, do not drive fast on neighborhood streets. Don't drive your car without insurance because you never know what will happen. My last piece of advice is to drive slowly, be careful, and respect the rules of the road. **Hashem AlAhmed, Saudi Arabia**

Everyone experiences bad days. Sometimes a terrible choice can destroy your life. Maybe you see a wonderful place to go in Google, but when you arrive you realize that you are in the worst place that your eyes have ever seen. I will never forget the day when I arrived in Oregon.

Oregon is the state where I went by mistake. The first day, there was joy in my heart to see America, but after I saw Eugene, Oregon, I changed my mind. People are rude, thieving, and unfriendly there. In fact, after two months someone stole my car while I was sleeping. When I realized it, I got nervous and didn't know what to do, and I started feeling scared because I didn't know anybody there. I don't usually have problems with anyone, so I called my friend Hassan, and he told me what to do. I called the police, and I made a report about the theft. I was without a car for a whole month! The police didn't find the car, so I hate Eugene, Oregon. There was nobody to assist me, and I felt like I died. After that, I called my father and asked him to let me move from Oregon to Colorado. He accepted that. Then I came here to Colorado, and I feel amazing now!

I learned a lot from this experience. First, it is important to be comfortable where you live, so be careful when you travel from your hometown to another country or city by yourself. Second, research and read about the city and the rules of the place, so there are no surprises. Finally if you don't like the place, and you don't feel comfortable in the city, you should talk to the person who can help you move to a better place. Eugene, Oregon may be a great place for some people to live, but Denver is the place for me. **Ali Selham, Saudi Arabia**

There is a day in my life that I can't forget. The most important part of our life is spent at school. When I was child, I was interested to go to school. My mother told me about the first day in school. She gave me a lot of advice. After I arrived to school, I saw a lot of children with their mothers, ut they were crying! Before I came to school, my mother asked me "Are you sure you want to go to school alone? I said, "yes, of course."

After I arrived at school, my teacher came to me and asked me, "What is your name?" I told her my name, and then she took me to class. After that, she asked me, "Why didn't your mother come with you?" I said "I'm strong! I don't need any person with me!" She said "That's good, Arwa. You are a good student."

At lunchtime, I ate my lunch, and I stayed alone because all the students were with their mothers. When I came back home, I was sad. My mother asked me, "Why are you sad?" I said "I don't want to become strong! I am still a child!! Please come with me next time!"

In conclusion, I won't forget that day, and my mother won't either. This was an important day in my life. I always tell my children about that day, but I don't tell them the entire story! **Arwa AlAql, Saudi Arabia**

Level Three Writes

More Unforgettable Days in Our Lives

Everyone experiences bad days. Sometimes a terrible day can hurt you and your family. For me it was the day before I came to the USA. I would leave my father behind, and we would be separated in two different countries. This is what happened to my father and me on our terrible day.

My father is the one who loves me the most in this world. We have lived together since my mother passed away. We were never separated until the day before I came to the USA. When that day came, my father and I both felt the time was moving so fast. We knew that we would say “good bye” soon. In fact, we did not say anything. We felt the time stop. We could not say anything about our life or our future without each other. It was too painful for us. On that day, we cooked food in the morning and then ate together. After that, we cleaned the room together. Later on, everything was finished, and eventually we sat down together. After a while, my father said: “I know you have to go live your own life, and you want to go because you want to try a new life. Even though I do not want to lose you, I will still help you to find your dream. That was a big challenge for us, but we had to do it.” Suddenly, I felt more relaxed than ever. I did not know how to show my gratitude to my father. I just smiled and said: “Dad, I love you!” That is all.

Now I have lived in the U.S. for 3 years. I talk with my father on the phone every week. We talk about food, the weather, people, and everything! Although that was a terrible day that I will never forget. it still made me the powerful and brave woman I am now, and my father is very proud of me. **Xiaonan Zhang, China**

Everyone experiences bad days. One day was especially bad for me because one of my children had an accident. I have three children. One son’s name is Abdullah. My two daughters are Seba and Heba. On this terrible day, something happened to Seba.

On August 20, 2015, at 4:00 clock, it was raining, and Seba was playing in the room. She was watching a dog out her window. Suddenly, Seba fell from the second story window! I ran out of my home, and I heard “MOM! MOM!” She was screaming. I was very scared for Seba. I went to her, but I felt so bad because her mouth and clothes were covered with blood. That was an awful situation. My neighbor called the ambulance because I did not have a phone, and my husband was at school. After that, the ambulance and police came to my house, and we went to the hospital. I went with the police, and my husband and son came too. Two weeks later, Seba came back home. She is fine now, and she is in Kindergarten

This experience changed my life. I will never forget it. I hope Seba has a good life. I love you Seba! **Aisha AlGhamodi, Libya**

Every country in the whole world has a special holiday. That is an interesting day. Do you remember what the special holiday in my country is? I have two holidays, which are *Eid Al-Fitr* and *Eid Al-Adha*. In this essay, I will talk about an experience I had around Eid Al Fitr.

One year, about two days before Eid Al-Fitr, I had to work, but I hoped to travel to my family because I wanted to share this holiday with them. Suddenly, my husband bought a ticket for me to travel to my family. I arrived the day before Eid Al-Fitr. In the morning, I woke up early, and I wore new clothes. Then I decorated the big room, and I brought out many gifts for my family. After that, I turned on the special sound of Eid Al-Fitr. While the sound was playing loudly, my family entered the room, and I gave them the gifts. Finally, we ate candy, and we had a fun time together.

In the end, that was a special day for me because I thought I couldn’t share that holiday with my family. I hope to experience that joy again next year. **Reem AlShamrani, Saudi Arabia**

Spring Time: New Starts, Renovation, Second Chances

What does it mean to be in spring time? It means you have a new start with yourself to improve it. In addition, the farmers start growing plants. The weather gets to be warmer, birds start to come back, and there is beautiful sunshine with longer days. You can work on yourself, such as going to the gym or starting a diet. It is important because you don’t want to stay at the same schedule all your life until you die, so you have to do something new and different and try new things—maybe something foolhardy. **Rashed Labban, Saudi Arabia**

During spring season, I feel renovated because during that time, you see new life blooming like flowers, the birds sing, and the sun gets warmer. The days are longer, so all of that gives me the feeling that everything is possible. During spring, we can restart our lives by giving ourselves another chance. For example, cleaning my house during spring is one of the best feelings. I feel so much lighter. Spring is a beautiful time of year. **Carmen Maria Tobon Hernandez, Mexico**



All people deserve second chances. We are humans, and all of us commit mistakes. With second chances, you can show the best of you; you can show you are a different and better person. I had a second chance when I was 15 years old. I never presented my communication homework, and one day before one month of finishing the school year, the teacher told me I was going to fail the course. I talked to him, and he gave me a second chance, but I had to work hard, present all my homework, and pay attention in classes. If you are given a second chance, you have to forgive and forget because it’s a new opportunity. **Rafaela Tejada Gonzales, Peru**

There is a lot about Spring International. They teach you English. All teachers at Spring are respectful and kind. They teach you writing, reading, grammar, listening/speaking, and IELTS lessons. Spring means a lot for me. I started in Level 2, which is from the beginning. I learned a lot in Level 2 and 3, and now I am studying in Level 4. It is important for me to learn English because my government sent me to learn English and to finish my degree in university, so I chose Spring to learn my English. I thank Spring for what I have learned.

Saeed AlMehshadi, Qatar

Our Opinions and How We Support Them

Which Is Better: “Call Me by Your Name” or “Titanic”?

Have you ever watched “Call Me by Your Name” and “Titanic”? They are famous and good movies. Also, they are both romantic, and they are both sad. Although they are similar in some ways, they are different in the people who act in them, the setting, and the style.

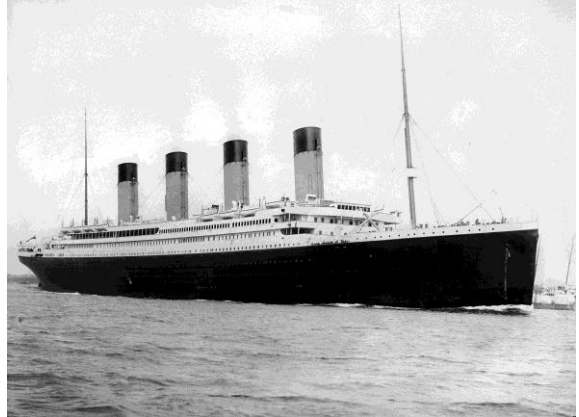
The people who act in “Call Me by Your Name” are Timothee Chalamet and Armie Hammer. They were both good and did a great job. This movie was filmed in Crema, Italy. The style was a romantic relationship between Elio and Oliver.

“Titanic” is also a really great movie, and I watched it more than once. Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet are very good actors. This movie was filmed in the North Atlantic Ocean. The style was a musical, and I enjoyed watching it very much.

In conclusion, my preference is “Call Me by Your Name” because there are a lot of things that I love about the movie. The story is very touching, the actors made it seem realistic, and the soundtrack was really good, especially “Mystery of Love” song. I fell in love with Italy even more after watching it too.

In the future, I hope to visit Italy and go to the places where this movie was filmed and experience it for myself.

Alaa Ghamdi, Saudi Arabia



Traditional Strategy Games Are Beneficial

Some experts have found that children who play traditional games are smarter than the others. Traditional games are made to sharpen people’s minds, but sometimes traditional games can be harmful. Although there are bad impacts from traditional games, the advantages outweigh the disadvantages.

The first reason is traditional games’ effect on people’s social life. For instance, when children play traditional games they will be face to face, and that will develop their social skills. In Addition, traditional games make the children extroverted and more outgoing. In fact, scientists say that strategy games can sharpen minds.

Another reason why children should play traditional games is because traditional games can impact health. Unlike video games, there are no side effects from playing strategy games. Most people who play video games develop problems with their eyes. Without a doubt, traditional games change people’s behavior and personality by increasing their feeling of challenge.

Indeed, my advice is people should play strategy games no matter how old they are because the benefits of traditional games impact young adults, old people, and children as well. **Sulaiman AIDahri, Saudi Arabia**

Learning about Other Cultures Brings Respect and Education

How many Countries have you traveled to? There are many cultures that exist, and you need to respect them. Even though I respect and understand my culture, I should learn about other cultures because of respect and education.



The first reason why you should learn about various cultures is to respect them. If you want others to be polite about your culture, you need to respect their cultures. For example, if a tourist comes to your city and he doesn't respect your place, you will feel badly.

Another reason is education. To show respect for other cultures and to be more polite, try to read and learn about the other country’s culture before you travel. That way, you are going to appreciate your time there, and your interactions with the people there will be more polite and respectful. Additionally, people who do not care about other cultures will not understand how important that is until it is too late. Then later they will realize that they offended someone.

Obviously, people should learn about other cultures. What will happen in the future if people in the world become more respectful of each other’s cultures? What will life look like? It will be a place of harmony and beauty where differences are celebrated! **Abdulla AlMuhanna, Saudi Arabia**

What’s More American than Raised Donuts?

Chinese students Julie, Feng-Hao, and Xionan munch on donuts when they come into Spring International’s central building from a cold February day.

Love your environment



...be proud of it.

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Our Earth Is Dying

At this moment, there are 7.5 billion people who are attacking our earth! Studies show that the number of people who suffer from famine every day is increasing. Too many animals are becoming extinct too, and these things are dangerous. Even though it is difficult to watch, we can see that our planet is dying.

The first way our earth is being destroyed is through climate change. Climate change causes problems with the crops. For example, many crops of corn have died because of big droughts which are a big loss for people. Furthermore, famine has increased because when you do not have enough crops; people do not have enough to eat. Obviously, this is a big problem that affects us.

Another way our planet is dying is the wildlife. Many animals are in extinction. For instance, in marine life, different species of fish or big corals are dying each day. Some are attacked by humans. Some of these attacks are indirect, like when an oil spill killed many animals. Equally important, many birds that depend on marine life may also die because they catch and eat the fish that are contaminated.

Based on this information, our planet is suffering! We are not doing enough to save it, so we should start today. We have many options that can help.

Maybe we can try one thing every day. For one thing, we should recycle at home. Also, when you are going to the beach, pick up the trash around you. There are many ways to help. In fact, we have to take action now because if we don't, we will suffer devastations very soon. Therefore, we should be aware and take action today! **Edith Moreno Sanchez, Mexico**

For the Sake of the Next Generation, We Must Make Changes Now!

There are many people who are committed to environmental protection. Do you know why they do it? Another question is how long do you think the Earth will last? According to the newest United Nations report, if we do not make a change, there could be a major disaster in 2030. Even though some disagree, climate change is harmful to the environment and is proven by global warming and natural disasters.

The first proof is global warming. Global warming causes sea levels to rise. For instance, can you imagine if the North and South poles have no ice? If this becomes the truth, the land will disappear. Besides, the global average temperature will rise. In fact, this is a terrible possibility.

Another proof of climate change is major disasters, such as tsunamis and hurricanes that have been occurring. Everyone knows about major disasters which produce catastrophes for human life. Can you live in this volatile environment? Obviously, it is impossible. Clearly, the environmental problem is an important subject of conduct and conversation. As a result, we should stop producing carbon emissions, like exhaust gas, and develop ways to protect the Earth. Everyone loves the Earth, so we should not cause the Earth's death. For the sake of the next generation, we must make changes now! **Feng-Hao Yang, Taiwan**

How to Focus on Expanding Vocabulary

Do you know how to study English? I think vocabulary is very important in learning English. There are many ELL students who find it very difficult to read, listen, write and speak. However, the key to learning English is vocabulary. Even though it is difficult, there are ways to focus on expanding vocabulary by reading books and using applications.

One way is by reading a large number of original English books every day. For example, Bible stories or children's books can be useful. Repeating reading of these books makes us familiar with the words. After a while, you will know the words easily. Besides, repeating reading the context aloud makes us remember the context and the words in it.

Another way to expand vocabulary is by using apps. Playing English games can make you happy and excited. Moreover, watching videos is very useful for making English progress. Repeating watching a short video can help you expand your vocabulary.

Obviously, you should repeat reading, watching and listening to English. It is something that takes a lot of time, so learning English takes patience. If you are patient and follow these strategies, you will be successful! Persevere! **"Julia" Xuelian Feng, China**

Tasting New Foods Can Make the World a Better Place

Why do people need to taste new food? If you try a new food, you can cook or you can have new ideas. Even though there are some people who don't like to try new food, should try food from different countries.

The first reason why people should try new food is that it is interesting to discover new flavors. For example, I recently tried Sushi for the first time. The flavors were very different because of the spices. If I don't try new food, I am bored.

Another reason why you should try new food is you will have new ideas for cooking in the future. In fact, when I tried pizza, I decided to learn how to cook pizza. People who try new food can make that food again at home.

Based on these reasons, you should try food from many places: Vietnam, China, the US, or Japan. I think the world will be a better place if we taste each other's food. **Duy Le, Vietnam**





What's Your Choice: Horror or Romance?

Have you watched horror movies and romance movies? I think both horror and romance movies are nice. Although there are similarities between these movies, these movies are different in who you watch them with, the genre, and how well you sleep.

Horror movies are very good movies. We usually go to these movies with family because these movies are scary and surprising. If there is a family member, maybe you won't be scared. However, I think you lose sleep when you watch horror movies before you go to bed. Actually, I like horror movies, but I don't like surprises.

Romance movies are also nice movies. We usually go to these movies with a girl or boyfriend because these movies are romantic. For a couple, there is happiness if they watch these kinds of movies. You can sleep well after watching romance movies.

In conclusion, horror and romance movies are very nice. If you like surprises or being scared, you should watch horror movies. Good luck! If you like romance, you should watch romance movies. Something good might happen! **Daiki Sakai, Japan**

These Students Are Having a Great Time. Can You Guess Where They Are?



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