

The People around us.

Some mornings I wake up and I think to myself, aren't I lucky not to be one of the unfortunate people of this world or a person who is discriminated against on a regular basis. Aren't I lucky to be one of the few people who sleep in a real house at night with parents and family who love me as I am. Has it ever occurred to someone who is well and safe like me that we shouldn't be whining about small stuff that doesn't matter in the long term? I think sometimes myself and others don't realize how blessed we are.

The unlucky people in the world namely the homeless, the poor, the starving, the tired and the tragic are not bad people. Nor are those that are discriminated against. They are humans who because of circumstance find themselves in a bad situation or because of their beliefs or the way they look are not treated fairly or with respect. It is not the unlucky people's fault that they have been born into a poor society or a family who can not afford to support and care for them and it is definitely not any refugees fault that they have been born in a country which is war torn, where there is no democracy or where women and other minorities are discriminated against.

What I don't understand is why some Australians think that these people had some real type of choice about what they wanted to do with their life or into which family they were born. When we discriminate against someone who is unlike us are we really just showing our ignorance because we fear him or her, as they are different to us? Instead of trying to appreciate and encourage these differences we make these differences a reason to hurt and sometimes humiliate those that are not like us. I have seen children use words as weapons and unfortunately often as they grow the words actually become real weapons.

We are setting a bad example when we decide to pick on people who are a different skin colour or a different race to us or if they don't sleep under a roof at night or if they are disabled. Just because is different to us doesn't make them any less special or any more special than us. No one had a choice, about which type of person

they wanted to be when they were born, it just happened. If we respected people for who they are and what they have been through in their life the world would be a completely different place in some areas.

What I want to know is should people really be allowed to be racist like they are in the streets these days? I believe that refugees and other immigrants in our country have just the same right as a free Australian man or woman does. Refugees and other immigrants should not be trotted on like some old piece of rubbish. We need to understand what these people have been through; I could never imagine what some of the refugees and immigrants have done! In this case we Australians need to use some common sense. I know that we have some and if we use it everyone will benefit especially refugees and others.

In many story books and novels I have read, in some of them there is racism, greed and anger expressed through people and to people. I don't believe that this should be happening in some younger children's novels. I think it is okay in some older children's books because that could help children like myself learn more about the refugees and the unfortunate people of our world including the poor, the homeless and many others. In younger children's books I don't think this should be happening because children might get scared (as I have while reading some of these books) or if they are refugees they might start to feel racial tension while reading the book.

At school in Term 1 we listened to the fantastic speech "I have a Dream" by Martin Luther King Jr. This made me realize a lot about what had been happening in the world in the last 40-50 years and what we needed to do to change our actions. Now, I know that I'm only 10 years old and if I tried to do something to help mainly no one would listen to me, but if we all tried to do what Martin Luther King Jr did then mostly everyone would listen. Just like Martin Luther King Jr I too believe I could see justice rolling down like water and righteous like a mighty stream. I also believe that all men should be created equal, sleep in a decent house at night and be just as important as any other person.

By Eliza Dixon