



British Embassy Cup Writing Event 2020

Choose ONE of the following quotes and write a short story (narrative).
Be creative and enjoy the fantasy of writing.

1 "I was an ambitious girl child. I knew even then that I had to be, in that environment of thugs, thieves, killers, prostitutes, gamblers – you name it, you'd find it in Trench Town."

No Woman, No Cry: My Life With Bob Marley, Rita Marley

2 "In case you hadn't noticed, you have a mental dialogue going on inside your head that never stops. It just keeps going and going. Have you ever wondered why it talks in there? How does it decide what to say and when to say it?"

Michael A Singer, The Untethered Soul: The Journey Beyond Yourself

3 "In my younger and more vulnerable years my father gave me some advice that I've been turning over in my mind ever since."

F Scott Fitzgerald's The Great Gatsby

Write down the number of the statement selected in the box below.

2

At the dawn of times emerged the mysterious Thoughtflies, an intelligent colony of fireflies that would evolve with time, building the most fantastic civilization you could imagine. The Thoughtflies would gather in a circle and share their experiences, buzzing and dancing in the air to express their thoughts before scattering in a luminous rain of new ideas. Each and every single Thoughtfly was good at one particular task: some flies were good at finding food, some others were very fast and could relay messages quickly, while others were natural-born leaders and could think of new ways to organise the colony. After thousands of years, the Thoughtflies developed new skills and talents that compare to those of humans; the flies learned how to plant seeds, how to defend themselves from birds and how to build shelters using tree bark. However, the most transcendental discovery they made was writing. The swarm learned how to carve their thoughts on tree trunks, which they'd do by cooperating to scratch organised incisions into the wood. They called this the *Thoughtglyph*. However, writing an entire



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idea was extremely hard for these little bugs, which is why they would have long discussions about what idea was best to write. The bugs would not hesitate much to name different things, or to create a numerical system, but one day, the flies met a very difficult question: Is there a greater being that created the universe?

Order in the court! – cried the oldest bug of the swarm, the Elderbug.

-But sir, the other bugs are not listening to me, they insist on writing down their ideas without hearing mine! – Said a Thoughtfly.

-Go on then, let's all listen to this young fly's idea.

-Alright, wait a minute – said the fly as they flew up to the middle of the circle.

-Flydies and flytlemen, flads and flasses, I am here to announce a ground-breaking idea. Look at all the great things we've discovered in the past years. Look at all the good things nature has to offer! We still do not understand the water, the trees, nor the sky. Furthermore, we don't understand the bright flashes of light that fill the sky, nor the great circle of pale light that shines over the earth. Under that perspective, I believe there is something far greater out there, something with thoughts, just like us, but wiser than the Elderbug and more powerful than the Hawks. There has to be something out there that invented the universe as we know it.

Preposterous! -Yelled another bug.

- Us flies have existed forever, as the most intelligent beings in land, and although small, we are stronger than horses and hawks if we work together. Our community is the greatest thing out there.

- The bugs in the circle whispered between each other, unsure about what to think.

- Listen here! – said the first bug – Think about the lights in the sky. Is it not possible that those are also creatures like Thoughtflies, but much bigger and much farther away? May it not be possible that those big Thoughtflies created us?

- Are you implying – asked another bug – that there are many flies in the sky, smarter than us and bigger than horses?

- The debate between the flies grew louder, as each fly started having more ideas.



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- But why don't we have small flies to reign over? -Asked a young Thoughtfly.
- But what about our intelligence, who might've possibly taught our ancestors how to think if it wasn't a superior Thoughtfly? – asked yet another bug.
- But should we even think the superior being is a Thoughtfly like us? -Said a group of bugs.
- ORDER IN THE COURT! – Screamed the Elderbug, yet again.
- We must all decide what to write on the trees. We need to thoroughly think this thoughtful thought to write it as a *Thoughtglyph*. -Said the Elderbug with a cheeky grin on his face. -I believe that because of the nature of this question, we win nothing by debating it, therefore we should vote. Now, will all the bugs that think there is something greater out there please buzz as loud as you can?
- A loud, synchronised buzz resounded through the swarm, to almost deafening levels.
- Now, will all the bugs that think there is **not** something greater out there please buzz?
- Another loud buzz followed the first one, which irritated all the bugs that voted for the first option. The Elderbug started talking
- Okay, if we take the votes into consideration...
- LIARS! -Yelled a bug from the first group, interrupting the Elderbug. The swarm split into two different groups, that tried buzzing louder and louder, hastily flapping their wings and shining furiously to get the Elderbug's approval. The Elderbug disapproved the violent debate, so he scurried off and painstakingly wrote the *Thoughtglyph* on his own. "Is there something else out there? Truth is, we don't know yet."

On the opposite extreme of the world, a small human kid asked his grandfather.

- Yo, gramps! There's a question that's been bugging me since quite a while. I was wondering something: Is there something else out there, above the sky, that invented us humans?
 - I believe there is something out there, looking out for us; I believe in God. - Said the old man, in a thoughtful manner.
 - But that is for you to decide. -He ended, with a tired smile on his face.
- Clearly, the theist swarm in the old man's mind had won the debate.