

A Bright Future

by Alina Luk

I had a vision. It's weird. I can't really explain it. It just happened. Last night, I closed my eyes, and I was suddenly 2000 years into the future! It was the year 4026, and the city of Cerritos had drastically changed. I stood in front of my house—or at least what I assume to be what used to be my house. Walking around, the houses that lined the streets were only three shades of gray, all looking the same. The trees that used to have leaves and danced in the wind were now bare, and the grass in the park, once perfect for picnics, was now brown and crunched under my feet. I looked up at the sky and saw it covered with dark gray clouds from heavy pollution. Black crows flew across, making loud cawing noises as small finches hid in the corners of a broken roof. I tried to stop a person walking and ask them what happened to the city, but I was ignored. In fact, although people were walking around, no one talked to each other. No one greeted each other, just mindlessly walked, and went about their day.

I woke up the next morning, determined to fix this issue, I made it my mission to change the dreadful future of Cerritos. Small actions can change our future. Plant more trees for fresher air and help keep Cerritos a Tree City. Water your plants and let the flowers bloom to color the streets. Instead of driving a gasoline-fueled car, go on a nice stroll, and say hi to your neighbor as you walk past each other to keep the community in this city thriving.

And surely enough, it worked, I closed my eyes again one night, and I was back where I was in 4026. But this time, it was different. Flowers blossomed on the multiple trees and bushes, gatherings were held at the park for fun barbecues and picnics among families and friends as people waved and conversed with each other, and the sun shone brightly in the clear blue sky, allowing animals like cats to sunbathe in front of their owner's house and squirrels to relax in their spot in the trees. I couldn't believe my eyes. It was beautiful.

Cerritos definitely has a bright future.