



# Третий международный конкурс детского творчества «Сказки Красивого Сердца»

## Should Heritage Be Preserved?

*“But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.”*

*(1 Timothy 5:8)*

Nowadays there are huge arguments between city development and the heritage conservation: some say old buildings should be replaced with modern buildings and shopping malls, because more money can be made from these developments. Others argue that these valuable heritage sites should be preserved. Many people claim that there are economic benefits if we knock down old buildings for modern ones, but I think the economics will be more enhanced if we choose to preserve heritage buildings. The pollution level will be lowered as old buildings are kept and reused for a different purpose. Furthermore, cultural factors are also improved through keeping historical sites, because these buildings can reflect our past and let us remember our identity and belonging. Isn't it a miracle to know your heritage?

Our heritage is a legacy from our past. It is something we live with today and, hopefully, something that we can pass on to future generations. In every country, cultural heritage is both a record of life and history and also an irreplaceable source of creativity and inspiration. For example, our cultural heritage, like our DNA, determines who we are, giving us both identity and the values that will guide our lives in a changing world.

Yet despite its importance, there is never any guarantee that heritage will survive and be passed on to the next generation. This has been true throughout history, and it is even truer today. For instance, the wars that have occurred in past years and are still happening today are creating death, industrial displacement, and ruin. For this reason, in recent years, an increasing number of countries have launched initiatives designed to protect and preserve their own cultural heritage. These initiatives are designed not only to protect famous monuments, buildings, and the natural landscape, but also the fine arts and crafts, and the more ordinary buildings and objects that reflect the history and ways of life in each country.

Have you ever looked at your family's heritage? Is there a box full of photographs and letters in your garage or at your grandparents' house? I have a teddy bear that belonged to one of my parents when they were children. Memories, old photographs, letters, jewels, anything from the past that you treasure, are part of your heritage. They are important because they can tell you something about where you came from.



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All those amazing memories and treasures need to be protected. They need to be preserved, to be kept safe so that future generations can also see those treasures and know where they came from. One day your child could be playing with a toy from your childhood.

People like hearing stories and being reminded of the past and it is good to pass on our memories to the next generation. When I was younger, my grandparents always used to sit outside around the fire at night. So, my cousins and I would follow and gather around the fire with them waiting for a funny story about their childhood in one of the traditional languages of Mozambique. I have learnt a lot of things from those stories of which I did not know before and would like to pass onto the future generation.

Does your family have a written family tree? That is a part of your heritage. One day you can add your children onto that family tree and they can see their heritage, just like you were added.

Heritage is made up of many things large and small. We can see it in the buildings, townscapes, and even in archaeological remains. Heritage can be recognized through natural sources as well as the agriculture and landscapes associated with it. It is preserved through books, artifacts, objects, pictures, photographs, art, and oral tradition. Heritage is in the food we eat, the clothes we wear, the religions we follow, and the skills we learn. Sometimes we can touch and see what makes up a heritage; other times it is intangible.

The importance that we attach to our 'heritage' is growing each year, and that is why events such as Heritage Open Days are so important in enabling people to access their local, regional, and national heritage.

The past is all around us. We live our lives against a rich backdrop formed by historic buildings, landscapes, and other physical remnants of our past. But the historic environment is more than just a matter of material remains. It is central to how we see ourselves and to our identity as individuals, communities and as a nation. It is a physical record of what our country is and how it came to be. Building materials and styles can define regions, localities and communities. Historic landscapes or iconic buildings can become a focus of community identity and pride. The greatest miracle of life is life itself.

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