

I, the Eco-Hero.

By Christy Wei

Thirty days -not so short, not so long

It can fly by like the blink of an eye

Or hit you so hard that it changes you for a lifetime

Never did I imagine the places that I would encounter

When I stepped on this train for a eco-friendly journey

Now that the wheels are slowing to prepare for its final stop,

The past twenty days roll by -just as if they're mountains and  
fields rolling out the train car window.

So I stare at them, and recount all my memories

I look back into my heart, to find all my intentions

I remember the first stop that was called "why",

When I hoped that one day, because of me, Beijing no longer  
sleeps under its smog.

I go through all my days on this PGC train,

From learning for the first time what GMO is,

To biking adventures that I'll never forget.

Movie nights, snack parties, educating friends multiplies the  
power of that of one.

However, I ask myself:

What's something that you loved the most?

So I went through my list of Climate change, fair trade, organic  
farming, water footprint, fast fashion...

And I thought that the one intention that ties me to all this,  
Was the people.

I met Gerardo Camacho on the night of fairtrade,  
I learned of his story, how his fate, his choices, his family  
depended on the price of coffee.

Growing up in China, starving farmers is no longer news,  
But now I know that I vote with my dollar,  
A single choice of product on my part, may change many others  
a life time.

I realized that though all born on the same earth,  
Many aren't so lucky.

With the movie "The true Cost", millions of factory workers in  
India roll across the screen.

They toil for a lifetime to make clothes that last for a few  
months,

When many of them can barely even afford clothes.

And I thought to myself -this isn't news?

Aren't billions of Chinese factory workers the same victims of  
this unfair system of globalization and fast-paced consumption?

While I showcased "Time to Choose", the death of a SiChuan  
coal miner brought me to tears –

Seconds before the man was speaking in the tongue I grew up  
hearing, so familiar that he could have just been an uncle

And seconds later -he was gone. Forever buried under the  
collapsing mine.

This time, though, I got back up on my feet.

I'm no longer an acceptor, I'm now a changer.

From teaching my friends the benefits of hemp at lunch,  
To a heated debate around climate change with mom and dad  
at dinner,

Then a foamFree campaign at my school, an interviewer, a  
reporter, a host of a movie showcase speaking to more than  
two hundred people...



I got back up on my feet, and spoke to my audience from the stage.

I took what we just saw, my experience, my passion, and my urgency

And conveyed to them the need to change.

“Our little actions add up”-I told them what PGC taught me,  
“Your small choices add up to big, big changes.”

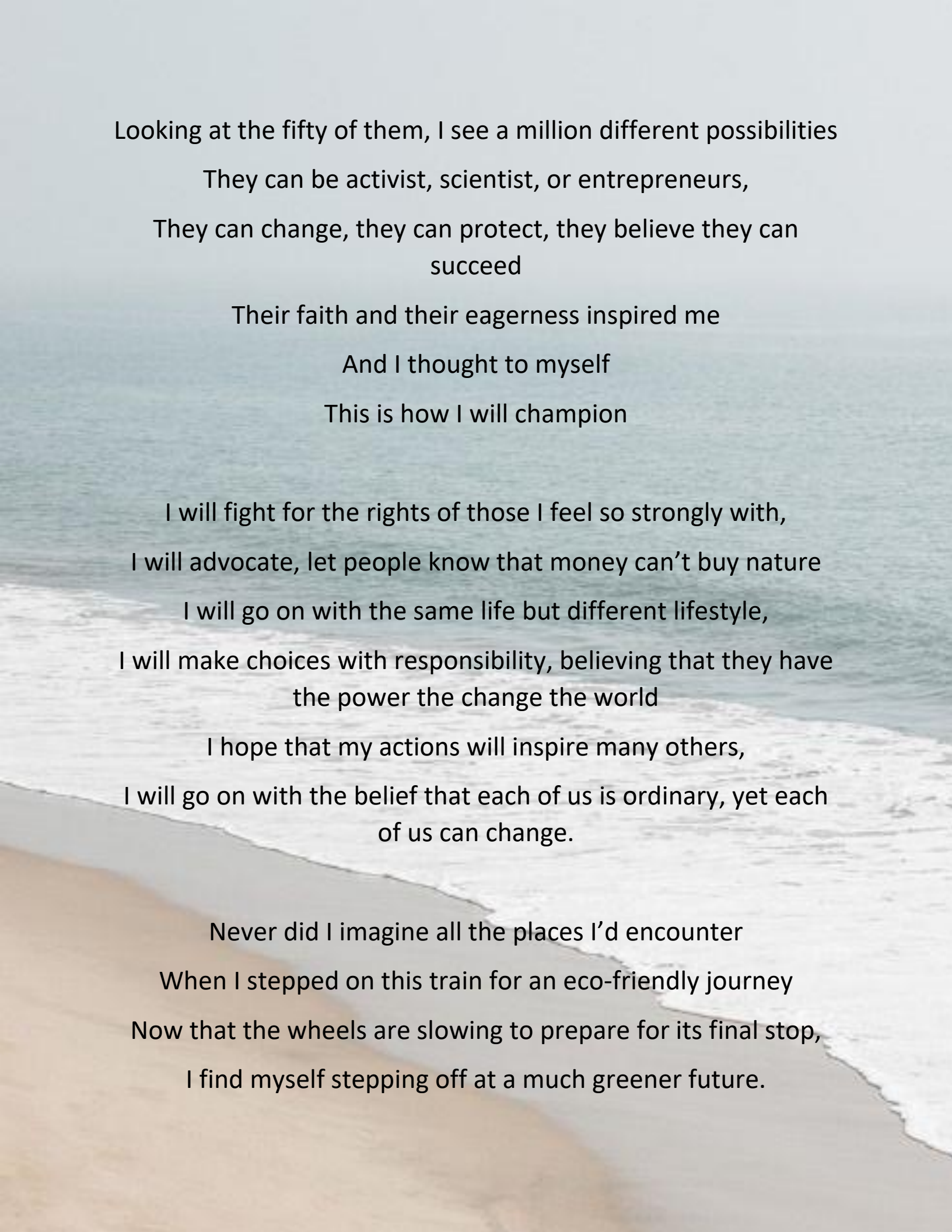
Stepping down the stage as applause followed me,  
I scanned the audience, and eager, passionate eyes met mine –  
There was fifty or so kids compelled by the screen  
My heart sang as I thought: What better ways to be a role  
model than to teach the next generation?

All throughout the showcase these little dumplings followed me,

“The big companies in Africa shouldn’t have burned all the oil!”

One commented.

“GMO is bad because they use lots of pesticides!”  
as the other recounted her learnings.



Looking at the fifty of them, I see a million different possibilities

They can be activist, scientist, or entrepreneurs,

They can change, they can protect, they believe they can  
succeed

Their faith and their eagerness inspired me

And I thought to myself

This is how I will champion

I will fight for the rights of those I feel so strongly with,

I will advocate, let people know that money can't buy nature

I will go on with the same life but different lifestyle,

I will make choices with responsibility, believing that they have  
the power the change the world

I hope that my actions will inspire many others,

I will go on with the belief that each of us is ordinary, yet each  
of us can change.

Never did I imagine all the places I'd encounter

When I stepped on this train for an eco-friendly journey

Now that the wheels are slowing to prepare for its final stop,

I find myself stepping off at a much greener future.



chriscat\_gogreen



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Each of us is ordinary, but each of us can inspire many many others.

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Thank you😊

Youxuan Wei

@ChrisCat

Jericho High School

Youxuan.wei@jerichoapps.org