




their talent or the situation that made them do something special. The idea that there are different types of people (good, bad, honorable, dishonorable) is false.

While the free will debate continues to charge forward it is important to keep these things in mind. The complete loss of control can be an unpleasant thought, but in reality we would have little control even with free will. Our beliefs do not change the way the world works, but they change how we act. They can help us understand, and therefore begin to accept, the laws of the universe. In the end after discrediting the concept of free will, we will find ourselves accepting a lot anyways.

Kids Philosophy Slam

 We are pleased once again to print the winning entries for the Kids Philosophy Slam. The topic for 2007 was "Compassion or Violence: Which has a greater impact on society?" All of the participants deserve congratulations and recognition, including the winning students and Capitol Hill Magnet School in St. Paul, Minnesota, which was named the Most Philosophical School in America, for the efforts of its student body. **Congratulations and keep your thinking caps on!**

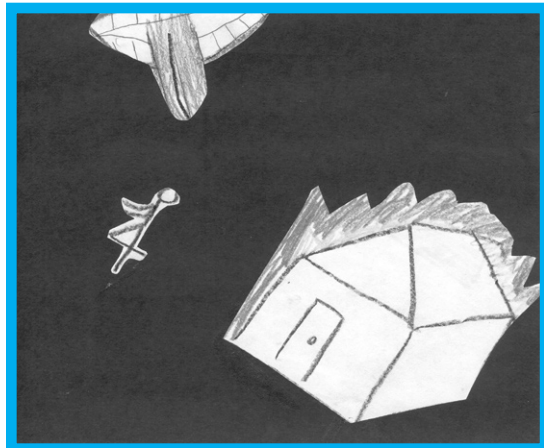
2007–Most Philosophical Kindergartner in America:

Ani Carignan, Illinois.



Even if you do not like somebody you help them.

2007–Most Philosophical 3rd Grader in America:



Violence is war,
Shooting an innocent man,
Killing.
Emotions . . . horrible emotions . . . terrifying emotions.
Like a bad memory or thought.
Also, words, the tongue, saying mean things.
Like something as unimportant as saying a favorite movie is stupid,
Or lying or something as small as lying, can turn into something as big as war.
Violence is mostly thought of as war and killing,
That is violence.
Everybody should think about the possibilities. Violence makes a gigantic impact on society.

Wesley Wells, Oregon

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Kids Philosophy Slam is a competition designed to make philosophy accessible and fun for kids of all ages and abilities, to encourage philosophical dialogue between kids and adults, and to promote a greater awareness of philosophy and education in everyday life. Each year the Kids Philosophy Slam poses a philosophical question to students nationwide such as "What is the meaning of life?" Students can respond to the question with artwork, poetry, or essays. Winners are selected in each grade level from kindergarten through high school. Over \$5,000 in prizes are available to students and schools. The topic for the 2008 Philosophy Slam will be announced in October, online at www.philosophyslamslam.org.

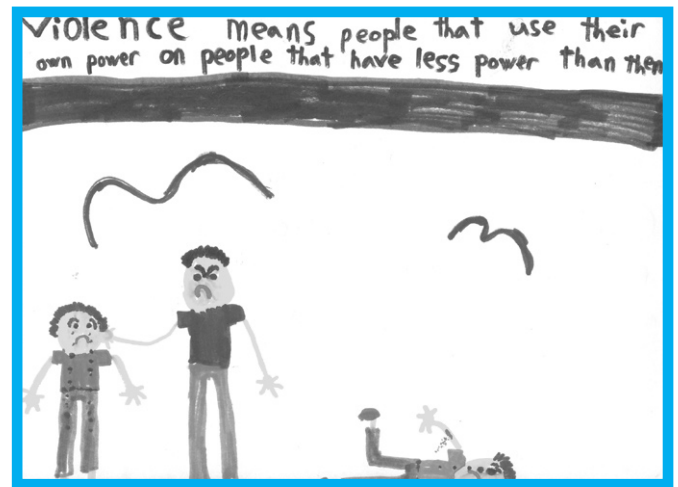
2007–Most Philosophical 1st Grader in America:

Claire Thatch, Maine

I think compassion. Because if people see it they might do it too! Compassion shows love. It soothes people. But violence is bad. It can hurt. People love it when you soothe them. They do not like violence..

2007–Most Philosophical 2nd Grader in America:

Posy Stoller, Illinois



Violence means people that use their own power on people that have less power than them.