

WHEN YOU GROW UP...



... what will the world be like? Scientists and thinkers have puzzled over that question. Hundreds of years ago, writers imagined a future where people lived easy lives, doing what they wanted to, buying what they wanted without money.

Before you were born, scientists predicted that the earth would soon be covered in ice. Others predicted that the ice would all melt.

Those predictions did not come to pass. The truth is that the future is a mystery. And here's the exciting part: You will live there one day!

When you are a grown-up, what will life be like? No one can be sure, but many very smart people have some interesting ideas.

3D PRINTED FOOD

Feel like a pizza? Print one! Yes, in the future, when you need to feed your kids, you might cook up a pizza on a 3D printer. NASA is currently experimenting with 3D food printers to use in space.

Here on earth, 3D printers are already being used, but they are very expensive and don't prepare a lot of different foods. By the time you are a grown-up, 3D food printers will be as common as microwave ovens. And you'll be able to add extra cheese.

YOUR HOME WILL BE YOUR DOCTOR

Paying for health care is expensive. When you grow up, you will pay taxes to pay for that care. To help keep costs low, your home will be filled with tools that keep an eye on your health. Your toothbrush will test your saliva. Your toilet will test your, ahem, deposits.

Of course, your watch will also tell you how your heart is doing. All of this testing will help find health problems before they become too serious. They will tell you when you need to see a human doctor and when you just need to take a breath and relax.

WHEN YOU DO NEED A DOCTOR

In the future, you might get treated by tiny robots or a robot suit.

Nanotechnology is, simply put, using very tiny particles to do a job. For example, some sunscreens use nanoparticles to protect your skin. In the future, doctors will be

able to use these wee little particles to make machines that treat disease or fix wounds. Other types of treatment are big.

Right now, doctors are creating mechanical suits that can act like legs or arms. People who have spine injuries will be able to move the suit just by thinking. Soldiers injured in war or kids damaged in accidents will finally be able to stand, walk or even play soccer.

HEADING TO THE FARM—IN AN ELEVATOR

As an adult, you might decide to be a farmer. You don't go to the field in a truck—you take an elevator. That's because farms are being created in high-rise buildings. Some crops are grown on the side of the building. This is called "vertical farming" and people are doing it now. From vegetables to meat, almost any food can be grown inside these buildings.

If you want to be a farmer, you better get used to heights.

THE HARDEST PART OF THE FUTURE?

Being Human.

Technology is great. Everyone has a phone that connects them to friends and facts and fun games. All that technology is causing problems. Kids and adults alike find it hard to visit face-to-face.

People who get along using text messages can feel awkward when they try to meet in person. In the "old days," men and women fell in love by meeting and getting to know one another. Now, adults go through lists of information to learn about a person they like.

Also, too much technology can make thinking harder. In the future, you could find life a struggle when technology breaks down. You could feel anxious without a phone in your hand.

The best way to make sure that you enter the future strong, smart and able to enjoy the world is to live in reality. Exercise, visit people, get your parents to show you how to do things rather than look it up on your computer. When the future arrives, you'll be ready to make it whatever you want it to be.

700 words

» Passage Statistics

Number of Sentences: 93

Words Per Sentence: 7.57

Characters Per Word: 4.21

Percentage of Difficult Words (Estimated): 6.68%
For more detailed analysis try the [Difficult and Extraneous Word Finder](#).

» Readability Scores

Flesch Reading Ease[?]: 84.75

Gunning Fog Scale Level[?]: 5.7

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level[?]: 3.32

SMOG Grade[?]: 7.19
SMOG score requires passage to be at least 30 sentences long.

Dale-Chall Score[?]: 6.05

Fry Readability Grade Level[?]: 3
Fry Grade Level requires passage to be at least 100 words long.

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