

Ode to the Ocean
By Jacqueline Blanchard

The ocean is one of Earth's oldest attributes. For centuries, the ocean has been a powerful and intense force with its crashing waves and unforgiving tides. But do not let the ocean's ruthlessness blind you to its more tranquil aspects. From the stillness of the open ocean to the sound of waves lulling you to sleep. Not to mention the beauty of what lives under the waves and tides. There is a wide range of life you can find in the ocean, from the schools of small colorful fish to the wild playful dolphins jumping in and out of the water to the gargantuan blue whales blowing water into the air with their blow holes. Unfortunately, the ethereal beauty of the sea has lessened over the last decades due to humanity's pollution with plastics, causing great harm to the ecosystem. Wake up, world!

Jacqueline Blanchard, 8th grader, St. Martin de Porres Marianist School
This essay was created in the Adelphi University STEP/LPP program.