



**A Special Place by Beau. Age 12
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Can you take the time to really stop and think about a special place where everyone is 'really' equal. Not where some people are more equal than others but a place where you are not judged by the colour of your skin, your culture, your status, the music you listen to, your hair style, your accent, your religion, where you were born, your profession or how much you earn. Now that would be a really special place.

That would be my special place, a place where people aren't surprised when I tell them I play violin, where I don't have to constantly think about being judged differently because of the colour of my skin and my mum doesn't have to work harder than everyone else and people look at me and my Dad and can see the similarities and not the differences.

A special place would be anywhere that I wasn't judged or treated differently, it could be a shop where I'm not followed around the aisles or being able to go into an expensive jeweller without being asked lots of questions or not being stared at in a posh fancy restaurant or as I queue in first class to board a plane.

This special place would make me feel valued and loved by everyone and I wouldn't have to worry about the things I worry about every day.

This special place would look like the most amazing sunset or sunrise, the most beautiful turquoise sea, the lushest green forest, it would smell like the freshest baked bread, the most fragrant red rose, it would feel like bouncing between clouds, the softest rug beneath my feet, the cosiest blanket to snuggle in and it would taste like the most decadent chocolate cake (dairy free of course).

My special place can really exist, we just all have to be understanding and accepting of everyone we meet, and everyone needs to stop judging each other and we need to challenge stereotypes. We all need to be able to embrace difference and treat each other with dignity and respect. We need to want to learn about each other's differences and accept that everyone should be able to have this special place.

My special place lives in my heart and in my head, it lives in my actions and in my thoughts. It drives me every day in everything I do and everything I say. I want to make my special place part of the real world, where every day we can all feel safe and secure wherever we are and with anyone. I would like everyone to want to have a special place like mine and be committed to making a real difference to the world we live in.

When I close my eyes at night and my head rests on my pillow, I go to my special place where all my dreams become reality and the whole world is equal and I'm sitting with my friends who are all very different and we are laughing and having fun together with no worries and no concerns and we really are the same, we are one race, the human race.

Now that really is a special place.
