

ФГБОУ ВО «Курганский государственный университет»

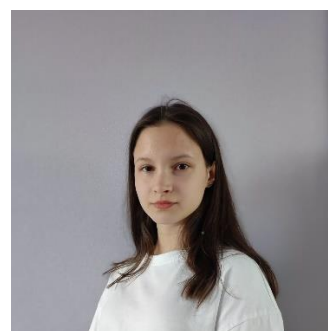
Индивидуальный конкурс эссе

**“Unity in Diversity: Russia and the English-Speaking
World.
Time for Equal Opportunities”**

Исследовательская работа (эссе)

**«Путешествия – не только способ изучения мира, но и, в
первую очередь, познание себя. Деятельность Федора
Конюхова и Ранульфа Файнса»**

«Traveling allows you not only a way to explore the world, but also to
get to know yourself. Fyodor Konyukhov’s and Ranulf Fiennes’
adventures»



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Theses

People travel to learn more about the world around them, to understand other peoples' cultures and to have a rest.

It is not uncommon for people to come from long tours around the world and change beyond recognition.

When discussing this topic, it is impossible not to mention the great traveller Fyodor Konyukhov.

In the ocean Fyodor Konyukhov discovers new truths that ordinary people may never get in a boring, uninteresting life.

This topic brings to mind another famous traveller Ranulph Fiennes.

Thanks to travelling Ranulph was able to learn about himself and find his purpose in life.

Progress has advanced and the conditions for travellers have changed.

Travelling makes people communicate, overcome problems and learn to take decisions not only personally but for companions as well.

Travelling can give a person education, discoveries, family, strength, faith, religion, support, job.

It is necessary to travel. It is not necessary to live.

William Burroughs

Why do you think people travel? Of course, the first thing that comes to mind for most people is relaxation or getting new emotions. It goes without saying, it is undoubtedly true. People travel to learn more about the world around them, to understand other peoples' cultures and to have a rest. It is impossible to avoid new acquaintances, discoveries and even difficulties in adventures. But are these things really the best you can get from travelling? Of course not! It is not uncommon for people to come from long tours around the world and change beyond recognition. During these adventures people reassess their perceptions of the world, their goals in life, and even themselves. For example, some of them begin to ask serious questions about everyday being after seeing how nations live in different parts of the world. They learn about other people's happiness, or conversely, misfortunes, and understand that everyone has their own values and outlook on life. Recognizing and accepting all these points a person can finally answer the questions that bother him. For example: "Am I doing the right things in life?", "What am I living for?"

When discussing this topic, it is impossible not to mention the great traveller Fyodor Konyukhov. He made his first trip at the age of 15. As a



1 Fyodor Konyukhov on the summit of Everest with his team. (Photo: skr2.ru)

teenager he crossed the Azov Sea on a rowboat. He is now 70 and has hundreds of thousands of miles under his belt. The adventures Konyukhov has been on are incredible for a man. Not everyone is able to travel around the world 5 times or cross the Antarctic 17 times. Generally, Fyodor Filippovich has a huge number of great

achievements. For example, he was the first man in the world to reach five poles

of our planet: the North Geographical Pole, the South Geographical Pole, the Pole of Relative Inaccessibility in the Arctic Ocean, Everest (the pole of altitude), Cape Horn (the pole of yachtsmen). Moreover, he is also the first man in the world to complete the Adventurers Grand Slam. He has visited the North Pole, the South Pole, and seven peaks in the world including Everest. It is worth mentioning that some of his adventures have been officially entered in the Guinness Book of World Records. Thanks to his wealth of experience Fyodor Konyukhov has written 26 books. From them we can learn his personal opinion about his experiences, his inner feelings and emotions. What does travelling mean for Konyukhov? I believe that his quote can answer this question: "Travelling was, is and will be. And in a hundred years, and in two hundred years, and in a thousand years. They will change, they will become different, only the word will remain the same. You can no longer be like Miklukho-Maklai or Sedov. You do not discover continents or islands now. You discover your spirituality." For Fyodor Philippovich travel is a way of developing his personality. Obviously, there is some truth in his words. In today's world it is almost impossible to become a discoverer, everything has long been explored. But one does have a tremendous opportunity to explore oneself, or as Konyukhov sees it, one's spirituality. By confronting personal fears, by overcoming difficulties, a person discovers his or her "I" from a completely different side. For example, the book "My path to the truth" Fyodor tells the reader about the "overcoming contradictions" during the journey. In the ocean he discovers new truths that ordinary people may never get in a boring, uninteresting life. Conquering new parts of the world helps him find his own truth. Konyukhov has a truth that will be with him throughout his life. Moreover, Fyodor Filippovich reveals himself as a personality endowed with an unusual perception of all that surrounds us. It is possible for everyone to ask a question: "What is the usefulness of these endless travels for society?" Fyodor Konyukhov is always ready to twist everybody's arm. Adventures who traced

around the world many years ago used equipment made of glass and plastic. The trips of one of the most outstanding travellers all over the world allowed to create the advanced textile and even to invent the new one. His every travelling has its scientific programme which gives a possibility to develop new technologies and to implement them in life.

My teacher of English had a chance to meet Fyodor Konyukhov when she was a camp counselor in her early 20s. It was in the Far East near Vladivostok. The great traveller stayed for a night at the camp. There were no children at that time there, it was a shift change. But there were many adults who were impressed by the appearance of Fyodor Konyukhov. He was very serious, may be closed but ready to speak and communicate. My teacher said he had had an unusual shining in his eyes. He is always in search of new routes and new spots on our planet. Fyodor Konyukhov broadens the horizons not only in minds but in different fields of science.

This topic brings to mind another famous traveller Ranulph Fiennes. He started travelling, you might say, out of necessity. Ranulph was in the army and



2 *Ranulph Fiennes conquers new peaks. (photo: climbingpro.ru)*

thought that expeditions might be a good way to make a living. Of course, that is not the only reason why he has decided to become a traveller. In the Guardian newspaper, when he was asked by an interviewer "What else got you into this business?", Ranulph answered as follows: "I do not really like introspection or philosophy or psychology. They lead to hypotheses which are bad. And dangerous. I can give some concrete causes and effects. For example, I can say that as a result of bullying at school I took up boxing which was a positive step calculated to counter the pressures I was under at the time. Boxing led me to like competitive sport. Also a deep admiration for my father whom I

had never met but about whom my mother talked a great deal, channelled me into the army, and a realisation that I would never follow in his footsteps led me into what I am doing now". It was a decision that radically changed his life. Eventually, he was able to mount more than thirty major expeditions around the globe. It is even hard to believe his crazy stories about his adventures. Ranulph entered the Guinness Book of World Records as the greatest explorer as well as the toughest man. It is also worth noting his enormous contribution to science. His greatest achievement was the Transglobal Expedition. It took 3 years in total and cost 17.5 million dollars. During the expedition Ranulph Fiennes covered about 52 thousand miles and showed everyone what a man is really capable of. Would have all these deeds been happened if he had continued his military service? I do not think so. Travelling became his true calling. Thanks to them he was able to learn about himself and find his purpose in life. Ranulph Fiennes managed to cope with failures, to look for possible solutions and to go forward again. He is the distant relative of the British Royal family but they were always living in need. And perhaps a constant desire for being a winner helped him not be scared of a possibility of failure. Unpleasant situations never stopped him, led him astray and doubted in himself. Isn't he a real model of steadfastness, confidence and determination? I think he is.

Undoubtedly, one cannot compare modern expeditions with those of Ranulph and Fyodor's time. Progress has advanced and the conditions for travellers have changed. For example, there is now a GPS and the ability to use a compass or large paper maps is no longer so necessary. Today's travellers experience far fewer difficulties - expeditions have become safer and more comfortable. But that doesn't take away from the fact that travelling is still a great way to test yourself. It is trendy today to advise to go out from the comfort zone. Undoubtedly, travelling makes people communicate, overcome problems and learn to take decisions not only personally but for companions as well. It often happens that coming back home people began to search for other jobs or to

hit the books, to build a house or to live like a hermit. Moreover, different countries, cities, towns and villages are a real encyclopedia. Geography, history, world art culture, science, engineering – all these fields are ready and open for everybody along the roads of the planet. Buildings, paintings, sculptures, streets, cars, towers, trees will tell more than the most expensive books. Greenland glaciers, Mariana trench, Kankar-Punsum, deserts, deep caves, rainforests of Amazon are still considered to be unknown spots of the world. They are full of secrets and mysteries which are waiting to be discovered. Furthermore, travelling develops technologies and innovations. They do improve life, make it easier and more comfortable. It is possible to blow off steam and get distracted from routine while travelling. It is a chance to drop upon a loved one and to meet friends. Travelling can give a person education, discoveries, family, strength, faith, religion, support, job. Travel and become the best version of yourself!

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