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Defining Imagination

The imagination is a powerful tool. Although everyone possesses the ability to harness their imagination, only some people choose to utilize it. The imagination is a tool that people practice to escape from reality. With our imaginations we can create, change, and be anything we want to. When life gets too difficult or overwhelming, people run to their imaginations for comfort and stability. Often times the imagination is a place full of wild dreams, hopes, and sometimes even thwarting fears. The imagination is commonly known for two main purposes, creative ideas, and for explanation of what we cannot or choose not to understand.

One of the greatest creators of all time, Walt Disney, used his imagination to design an alternate reality for the American public. Walt Disney was tired of taking his children to theme parks where only children could have fun. He used his imagination to create a world where entire families could escape from their busy lives and enjoy themselves. The creation of Disney Land and all of its wonderful characters such as Mickey Mouse, Goofy, and Donald Duck all spawned from Walt Disney's imagination. His keen ability to create characters and environments in his mind is what makes him unique. He was able to harness the power of his imagination and then take his ideas and turn them into realities for everyone to enjoy. Some people classify the imagination as an entirely alternate world within one's head, but in Walt Disney's case, his imagination created a new world that could be formed with real life.

The power of the imagination is greatly illustrated by fiction novelists. Their ability to take the ideas and stories within their minds, and scrawl them down on paper to be read by the public is a matchless skill. Countless people wish they could use their minds to escape from the harsh realities of life. People often question where writers get their ideas for fiction novels. Some people assume that the writer has been involved in some situation or story similar to that they have created. Others, perhaps those more insightful know that writers are conceivably the greatest masters of utilizing their imaginations. A story created about a princess who runs away to a forest to be captured by a dragon isn't something that can be created through logic or reasoning. Classic bedtime stories are results of writers capturing the fleeting ideas of their imaginations and turning them into graspable realities.

Although the more recognized purpose of the Imagination is for creative substance, it is also used as a coping method for things we do not understand. Often times when people are presented with a situation or experience that they cannot fully explain, they create explanation and reason through their imagination. A mother who is worried about her son coming home late from a friend's house will use her imagination to invent the worst scenarios possible. Most of the time the imagination is a positive tool, but other times it can be a tool of destruction. When people cannot cope or find the will to carry on when confronted with hardship, they harness their imagination to provide comfort. Through the powers of Imagination people can spawn creativity but they can also use it as a method of self-preservation.

The imagination is a difficult phenomenon to describe. There is no scientific explanation for its purpose, or its formation within the human psyche. What people do know about the imagination is that it is arguably the most important weapon a person can have in their arsenal.

Without imagination life would be boring, people could not express themselves as individuals for there would be no unique creation. There would be no books to enjoy, and entertainment as a whole would become non-existent. Without imagination there is no creativity and no self-expression. The sole function of the imagination is to provide escape from a world that is not desirable to the user. Within the imagination, anything is possible.