

The wisdom of seventh graders: What to do with a time machine (part 2)

 devblogs.microsoft.com/oldnewthing/20061205-01

December 5, 2006



Raymond Chen

(Make sure you've read [Part 1](#) for background information.) On the subject of where they would go in a time machine, many students wrote well-thought-out essays, beautifully composed. These sentences below did not come from those essays. I've categorized the snippets roughly by theme, though I had to guess at some of them since the sentences are taken out of context. (In a futile attempt to assist non-native speakers, I have glossed some of the trickier parts. I've also added editorial comments in italics.) **Introductions**

- I would be honored to trie the time machine
- I am highly regarded to be selected to engorge this experimental journey.
- At the crack of noon, we will begin our mission.

Personal History: These are essays from students who would travel to their own past.

- In 5th grade you are at the top of the school, and you feel the power over come you.
- Now, if we fall asleep in class we get in trouble. But in kindergarten if we didn't fall asleep we would get in trouble.
- She would work in little orchids picking fruit for her family.
- I have 4 things in my life. Soccer, family, God, and school. In that order.
- If I could find a way to impel paranormal powers to ignite in ones body enableing them to do incredible feats, I would be ecstatic to the point of bliss. (*This same student wanted Jesus to teach him how to walk on water. This student also wanted control over magnetism. I think he needs to lay off the X-Men comics for a while.*)

The Middle Ages: The students recently studied the Middle Ages, which helps to explain why so many of them chose to go there.

- And at that time in history, everything was changing either for the good or the bad. (*Whoa there, let's not say anything too controversial now.*)
- In Europe during the 1700's there were 5 sections in the social class: 1=Monarchs, 2=Lords & Nobles, 3=knight, 4=peasants. (*What happened to number five?*)
- I find Middle Aged Europe very stimulating.

- France is near water so I will feel more at home.
- We have recently disgust the Middle Ages.
- King Arthur may have won some battles without the use of fiction.
- In 1550 I would choose to go to Spain because nobody really lived in N. American then.
- I would learn a lot gong to the Midieval times. I would even come back and write and essay about it!
- I'd have benefit in watching a mock battle between two knights on horseback with lances. (*I may be wrong, but I think the battles in the Middle Ages were for real.*)
- It was sick and grusm but really a thing to remember.
- And I would go to Britan because Britan was populare back in 1616.

United States(?) History

- Also, to investigate how the family worked [in Pilgrim times], to see if they fought less because they had no appliances to fight over.
- If I could go anywhere I would choose Boston, England.
- I want to see what happened when Ben Franklin flew his kite in the rain. For this reason I would go to England.
- Though War is Hell, I still would be anxious to see a real one. (*Try watching the evening news.*)
- I wish the great depression, but it did. (*Even after you fill in the missing words, it's still funny.*)
- Because California is a very interesting and mindblowing city.
- In 1961 everything including life was simple.
- Hopefully the president at their time isn't an idiot and stops the first power plant ever built.
- I want to se the Great Babino Babe Bruth.
- Besides the Stealer fans nobody like the Stealers.
- It was like a family runnun at disneyland.

I'll stop here before I runnun too much. We'll learn more about seventh graders and time machines in the next installment.

Raymond Chen

Follow

