

Endangered Species

Write an endangered species paper

That's it.

Seems easy enough, right?

Not even close

There are over 1,300 endangered species in this country alone.¹

Too many to choose from.

Talking about endangered species as a whole?

What would I say?? That they exist? That they are recovering?

Nothing I could say would do them justice,

Improve their conditions,

Or change someone's opinion on the issue.

Whatever I do seems like it would be worthless.

I can't defend some faraway creature I have never seen before or ever will see.

I cannot express a passion for them that I do not feel.

All I can say is what I know

I know the birds, the squirrels, the insects that live near my house

I know the fish in our nearby creek and the ducks that splash there

¹<https://www.epa.gov/endangered-species/learn-more-about-threatened-and-endangered-species#:~:text=There%20are%20over%201%2C300%20endangered,in%20danger%20of%20becoming%20extinct.>

I know the warm feeling when you hear two robins singing in the spring

The sound of geese honking in the fall

I know the peace and tranquility I feel in the sunshine, just me

Alone, but surrounded by life

The buzzing of bees,

The chirping of birds,

The occasional light footstep of a deer

Or the not-so-light footsteps of a raccoon

And I know that a life without any of them

Is a life not without joy, but certainly lacking.

Though I wish my shallow human mind could fully comprehend

The sobering reality that is extinction,

I cannot fully understand what it would mean.

All I can do is remember the creatures I know

The creatures I love.

And imagine a life without them

It isn't fully enough as analogies go

But it is enough

Enough to make me willing to defend the habitats being threatened

To care about the animals on this earth

Because if one dies

Even if it is some obscure kind of parrot on the other side of the globe

The world would be one species poorer

And everything, from the species that hunted them,

To the stressed city worker,

Would be affected for the worst, no matter how little

I know the feeling of home

The joy, the comfort the safety

And to know that even the right to shelter,

To life is being denied any creature,

Should be enough to motivate us to action.

The work has begun

it is our job as stewards of this earth

to do everything in our power to continue it

To make this world a haven for all creatures

To realize that this is not just the world of humans

But a world for all