Why We Travel: Write a Reflection

Many writers, thinkers, and philosophers have written extensively on the topic of travel. Mark Twain said, "Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness." And Saint Augustine said "The world is a book, and those who do not travel read only one page."

Your mission is to listen to and read the following paragraph of Pico Iyer's essay "Why we Travel." Then write a reflection in response to Iyer's ideas. Do you agree, or disagree with what he says? What thoughts come to mind when you read his writing? What new insights do you gain from his thinking?

Remember, the purpose of a reflection is to experiment with ideas and connect your thinking to broader issues and personal experiences. **So listen to and read the paragraph, then write a reflection in response to Iyer's ideas on travel.**

Why We Travel

By Pico Iyer

We travel, initially, to lose ourselves; and we travel, next, to find ourselves. We travel to open our hearts and eyes and learn more about the world than our newspapers will accommodate. We travel to bring what little we can, in our ignorance and knowledge, to those parts of the globe whose riches are differently dispersed. And we travel, in essence, to become young fools again— to slow time down and get taken in, and fall in love once more. The beauty of this whole process was best described, perhaps, before people even took to frequent flying, by George Santayana in his lapidary essay, "The Philosophy of Travel." We "need sometimes," the Harvard philosopher wrote, "to escape into open solitudes, into aimlessness, into the moral holiday of running some pure hazard, in order to sharpen the edge of life, to taste hardship, and to be compelled to work desperately for a moment at no matter what.

Article; https://www.salon.com/2000/03/18/why/

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What comes to mind when you read Iyer's writing on travel? Do any lines or ideas stand out to you? Write your response below.

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