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## **In-depth project: The Nature of Now and the Future**

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Madison Mederos

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## *The Nature of **Now** and the **Future***

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### **Brushfire**

Land that once flourished

Endless Emerald hills

Now Lifeless and Parched

Tawny grass covered ground

Summer is dreaded these days  
The sun and her heat unstoppable

Rain refuses to bless the land  
As it becomes more vulnerable

The sun can be vindictive  
Turning her heat into an inferno

The flames expand and conquer  
Nothing daring to battle her destruction

Dry land forced to welcome the flames  
Acres of land become ash

Animals unable to escape  
Cremated against their will

Families lose everything

Houses are forsaken

One can hope

Their house eludes the fire

But they prepare

For the damage, for the worst

When the fire's reign comes to an end

We rebuild what's destroyed and wait

It will happen again it's inevitable

Our land can't protect itself

A spark from a lighter

A forgotten cigarette

Fireworks on the 4th of July

A forgotten bonfire

It takes just one incident

Just one spark

And the land will light up again

We can only prepare ourselves

-Madison Mederos

## A Future Without People

The weeds are overgrown, vines consuming every abandoned shelter. Fields of crops have died without the artificial nutrients they were used to. Where things died, they were replaced by an abundance of life. Trees grew where they had never grown before, now bigger and taller than they had when humans walked the earth. Some species grew to the borderline of overpopulation. Other species were eliminated as the predators were overpowering the prey. Where animals were lacking with the loss of humans, they evolved to compensate.

Zoos were abandoned and the exotic animals were left to fend for themselves. The animals evolved to conform to the new environment they were in. This created a variation in the original species. The omnivores and herbivores were prospering as was the greenery flourishing. The carnivores were prospering as well with an influx of prey to fulfill their appetite. The air is cleaner than ever before. Pollution isn't a problem without the humans, and neither is animal abuse. No animals are suffering at the hands of humans any longer, they are succeeding more than ever. The animals are overpopulating the earth, but they live by the food chain. They enforce their own population control. Animals continue to get smarter and make major developments. Animals never needed humans, they are smart enough to take care of themselves. They will continue to evolve until humans are completely a forgotten species and new ones have replaced them entirely .