

Read “The Bridge Builder” by Will Allen Dromgoole and compare it to the poem by Edgar Albert Guest. Write a well-structured essay explaining how one's actions and attitude can affect humanity. Include how your life can be affected by this, and how winning this scholarship would be beneficial for both yourself, **and** Magleby Construction. Explain your role in the construction industry and how it plays into your future. Do not merely summarize the text.

## The Bridge Builder

BY WILL ALLEN DROMGOOLE

An old man going a lone highway,  
Came, at the evening cold and gray,  
To a chasm vast and deep and wide.  
Through which was flowing a sullen tide  
The old man crossed in the twilight dim,  
The sullen stream had no fear for him;  
But he turned when safe on the other side  
And built a bridge to span the tide.

“Old man,” said a fellow pilgrim near,  
“You are wasting your strength with building  
here;  
Your journey will end with the ending day,  
You never again will pass this way;  
You’ve crossed the chasm, deep and wide,  
Why build this bridge at evening tide?”

The builder lifted his old gray head;  
“Good friend, in the path I have come,” he  
said,  
“There followed after me to-day  
A youth whose feet must pass this way.  
This chasm that has been as naught to me  
To that fair-haired youth may a pitfall be;  
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim;  
Good friend, I am building this bridge for  
him!”

Search history, my boy, and see  
What petty selfishness has done.  
Find if you can one victory  
That little minds have ever won.  
There is no record there to read  
Of men who fought for self alone,  
No instance of a single deed  
Splendor they may proudly own.

No man was ever truly great  
Who sought to serve himself alone,  
Who put himself above the state,  
Above the friends about him thrown.  
No man was ever truly glad  
Who risked his joy on hoarded pelf,  
And gave of nothing that he had  
Through fear of needing it himself.

-Edgar Albert Guest