

“My favorite invention...” I speculated, staring at the cursor blinking expectantly on the blank Word Document. A Reese’s Peanut Butter Cup wrapper, chocolate-chip cookie crumbs, and US History notes surrounded my laptop. I closed my eyes for ideas, but sleep came instead.

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Cloud 170 was home to deceased inventors.

A dismal Sir Henry Bessemer sat alone on one of the cloud’s renowned fluffy sofas.

“Henry?” Ruth Graves Wakefield, the inventor of the chocolate-chip cookie asked worriedly.

“Ruth, he prefers Mr. Bessemer,” Harry Burnett Reese, the creator of the Reese’s Peanut Butter Cup hissed.

Mr. Bessemer shook his head dolefully and mumbled, “I have been forgotten. No one remembers the “Man of Steel.” My contribution to history has become anachronistic.”

“Now, I’m sure people remember the...wait what did he construct again?” Mr. Reese asked Ms. Wakefield under his breath.

“The Bessemer Converter” Mr. Bessemer answered wretchedly, “My baby made thirty tons of high-grade steel in half an hour!”

“Now, now calm down Henry. No one remembers me, the creator of the chocolate-chip cookie either. But you don’t hear me complaining,” Ms. Wakefield consoled.

“But people remember your invention! You know what the world used to run on before my processor? IRON. Do you know how expensive it was to produce iron? Plus, iron was so soft that trains would wear out rails in a matter of years. My converter transformed iron into steel,” Mr. Bessemer proclaimed.

“Well, I made the Reese’s Peanut Butter Cup!” Mr. Reese countered.

“I see those orange wrappers labeled “Reese’s” all over the place,” Ruth exclaimed shaking her head disapprovingly.

“See what I mean,” Mr. Bessemer bellowed, “I discovered that by forcing air through liquid iron, carbon could be reduced to make steel, when all I had to do was mix chocolate and peanut butter together. Who knew?”

“My invention tastes good!” Mr. Reese cried indignantly.

“My converter caused the price of steel to plummet from \$100 a ton in 1870 to \$12 a ton by 1900. And the creation of a cheaper, stronger, and more durable material than iron stimulated new technological changes. My invention was essential to the development of

skyscrapers, railroads, bridges... architecture people associate with the modern world. Steel was and is still used to make wires, nails, bolts, needles, and screws. These are objects people use on a regular basis- to make houses, to hang a frame, or to sew a dress," Mr. Bessemer finished with a sigh.

All three inventors sat on the fluffy cloud sofa in silence.

"I guess only history books will commemorate my invention. I just wanted my Bessemer converter to be someone's favorite invention. People adore chocolate chip cookies and Reese's Peanut Butter cups...what about my Bessemer Converter?"

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I opened my eyes, contemplated Mr. Bessemer's words, and began typing.

Steel was crucial to the development of the world I know. Modern creations, such as cars, bridges, airports, stadiums and skyscrapers, are all supported by steel skeletons. However, steel wouldn't exist without the Bessemer Converter.