

# School Rocks

13th Edition, May 2019

Issued By The English Department Of

**Liceul Teoretic "Școala Mea"**

represented by the following teachers:

Cameron Brunke, Ciprian – Petre Bibic,  
Alexandra Sabău, Ana-Maria Nache,

Mădălina Grigore, Andreea Alexandrescu,  
Sam Stevenson, Valeria Toma, Iuliana Neagu,  
Mark Eady; Magazine Coordinator:

**Ciprian – Petre Bibic**

**NEWS, EVENTS  
AND TRENDS**

**no: 13**

**CREATIVE  
WRITING**

**LAUGHTER  
ZONE**

# SCHOOL ROCKS



School Rocks (Bucharest) = **ISSN 2601-3401 / ISSN-L 2601-3398**





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no. 13



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## ***Dear readers,***

I feel very honored to be able to write a few lines in the beginning of our magazine about the **LTSM** activity and about what this educational institution means.

„**Scoala Mea**” is a name with a special meaning for me. Scoala Mea is the place I entered full of curiosity fifteen years ago, and I was fascinated by the novelty of the activities and the constant challenge. This place helped me grow together with the children here. Since then I have been spending most of my time among happy, enthusiastic and dynamic children, and among competitive, high achieving teachers. We are all doing our best to contribute as much as we can in the forming and the growth of our preschoolers and students that we have under our care.

It is not an easy task, but the beauty and the variety of this second family make the challenges less harsh and help us all evolve and become better in what we are doing.

From this point of view, the **LTSM** team is constantly trying to enrich and diverse the educational programme, creating new opportunities for the students to develop and helping them discover and enhance their talents and their strengths.

Here are the most important news for the 2018-2019 school year: **LTSM** has beco-

me Cambridge Assessment International Education examination center and has started some optional high school preparation programmes for IGCSE Cambridge Exams, AS, A Level, it has developed international partnerships by taking part in the eTwinning programme called `Teen & News`, it has initiated the eTwinning programme Moonlight Avenue, and the students have been encouraged and coordinated to participate in international world famous competitions: the NASA contest – Scientist for a Day!, Astronomers without Borders. Furthermore, through teachers’ and students’ collective effort, our school has successfully participated in school olympiads and has won important prizes in the municipal and national rounds. Also, we have started Talent Show, a new charity event with great impact amongst students, we took part in numerous sport competitions and we enjoyed moving a lot.

**LTSM** is a captivating story, being continuously written with everybody’s passion and involvement and none of this would have been possible without the parents’ support and whom we thank for the trust they grant us with.

In conclusion, if I were to say one single word to describe **LTSM**, I would without hesitation choose the word EVOLUTION, as all who have entered this family, no matter their quality or their position, no

matter the experiences they live here, they all undoubtedly grow and develop academically, emotionally, spiritually and socially.

### **Our vision**

A unique educational experience for future change makers.

### **Our mission**

We are Leaders, We are a Team,  
We are Strong, We are Motivated!



**Carmen - Jacqueline Dan**  
*Director of Liceul Teoretic  
„Școala Mea”*





*News,  
Events  
and  
Trends*



# 2nd Annual WordFest

*Matilda Rosca, class 3B*

What a year it was for Wordfest! Not only was it the 2nd year of the competition, but it was also my 2nd year competing. And man, it took a lot of preparation. Impromptu speaking was my category. In the end, all the hard work paid off: I got first prize this year!

So that everyone knows, WordFest is a new, performance-based, English speaking festival in Bucharest. English focused schools choose their finest students to compete in six different categories: Group Acting, Individual Acting, Impromptu Speaking, Poetry, Storytelling, and Persuasive Speaking. The event is held every year at the end of November at the Romanian-American University. This year was also the first year that we had two age groups: 8-11 and 12-15.

I would definitely recommend WordFest to any student who loves English, performing in public, and hard work. The only sort of downside was having to wait for the results. It seemed to take forever. Luckily, there were some cafes open for snacks and coffee for my mom and dad.

I can't wait to participate in next year's competition! Hopefully I'll get 1st prize again!



# A NEW STUDENT IN SCHOOL

*Teodora Pravalici*



Hi!

My name is Teodora and in this article I am going to talk about my nine years in the public school system.

Although, the Romanian public-school system is recognized as a serious system, which has, over time, produced famous intellectuals in various fields, it hasn't developed in recent years for various reasons (political, economic, etc).

First of all, the high number of children in a class makes it almost impossible to learn, to pay attention and to maintain an appropriate environment for learning.

Secondly, teachers do not have the time to focus on each student; they do not consider the importance of practicing and extracurricular activities. Children cannot discover their abilities and develop beautifully with this kind of mindset. There are big differences between how the subject is taught and the demands of teachers.

Also, there is a disadvantage to finishing school at 7 or 8 o'clock p.m. every day: there isn't any time left for homework or focusing on myself.

The entire atmosphere and the experiences that I went through made me make an important and hard decision: to move to this high school, where I can develop and evolve, preparing for college. Here, we have classes in the morning, up to 2 p.m., and the class size is small, which makes it much easier to focus and to get individual help when needed. Furthermore, the kids are sociable, friendly and they have helped me to adapt. The teachers are calm, can focus on us more, explain better and give attention more to everyone.

Personally, I believe that in the future the students here will be well prepared for college and will participate in a lot of activities, volunteering and the technology in school will be more advanced.

In conclusion, even if it is at first difficult to go to another school where you don't know anybody, here the teachers, the kids and everybody is kind, understands you and helps you to adapt, learn new things and discover your talents and abilities. I know that I will improve my knowledge, my self-confidence and I am convinced that I made the right choice.



# The Show Must Go On!

George and Sonia, class 10

This year is the 7th annual "Drama week" contest. And man, there sure was a lot of excitement!

As you may already know, Drama week is a competition in which each class - from class 5 to 12- has to prepare and perform a movie scene. Three students are nominated in each Oscar category and in the end one student wins the dedicated prize. There are 12 Oscars in total. Along this journey students discover their artistic skills and evolve together as a team. They can work as technical crew, poster makers, actors, directors or even at the make-up and hair department.

This was my 4th year in Drama Week and I was personally very excited about this year's theme: Classic Movies. In the past years, we had different types of movies, from animations like "Frozen" to dramas

like "Joy". Even though I've done this before, I was still as excited as the first time. Every year I find myself in the position of a different character. Despite the types of characters I might play, just being part of this contest is an unforgettable experience.

As I wrote, this was the first year in Drama week in which we have a theme. This year's theme was Classic Movies, and everybody seemed to be very excited by it. Andrie from Class 10 said, "Finally, a mafia movie!" He was referring to Class 10 having The Godfather as their class movie.

Even though I didn't win an Oscar for Best Actor, I was nominated. Luca, who won the Oscar, was an outstanding actor and defiantly deserved it.

I am looking forward to next year's contest, and I hope the show will be just as fabulous as it was in the previous years and our audience will have a wonderful time.



# My experience at The National Olympics of English

Sara Maria Amza, class 7C

I have recently participated to the National Olympics of English at Ploiesti (22nd – 26th April 2019). I was extremely nervous because I had very little time to prepare! I obtained a score of 98 out of 100 at the city level, and since someone had succeeded in getting a perfect score, I didn't even bother to think about the national level. About two weeks after the city level, I was announced that I had qualified to the national olympics. I was completely ecstatic, although I think I would've been over the moon if I had been announced earlier. However, I was determined to make the best out of this experience, so I worked very hard.

The Olympics took place at Ploiesti, Prahova. I arrived there on Monday noon. Thinking that my emotions would get the best of me, I didn't expect to make so many friends and have so much fun! I spent most of my time with a bunch of great people that I have kept in touch with since. The atmosphere was relaxed, everyone was very kind and for a few moments I forgot I was in a competition.

As for the exams, they weren't as hard as I had expected. I was a tad nervous when taking the speaking exam and that was a bit of an obstacle. The topic I had to talk about wasn't interesting at all and I didn't really have the possibility to enhance the value of my speaking skills. Even so, I received a score of 96 at the speaking exam, and a 96 at the writing exam, my final score being 96 points out of 100. It was the 6th score in the country, for which I received an honorable mention.

All in all, I am pleased with my result, and I am happy to have met such amazing people and to have lived an experience as wonderful as the National Olympics of English.





# English Week Article

Catinca Lazăr Ioana, class 7B

My English Week Experience

There's absolutely no doubt - English Week this year was, yet again, a blast! Ask anyone and get the same response: 'It was great! We all had so much fun!'. Our school once again manages to come up with all sorts of communication themed activities to keep us all entertained, and right now I'm here to talk about all of them. We hope to have a similar experience soon enough!

Obviously, I feel the need to start with the infamous Passport Hunt, that has caught the attention of so many students. When we think of English Week, we undoubtedly think of Passport Hunt, an activity that surely represents the highlight of this week. How does it work? Each class is given a passport - a piece of paper with a couple of blank spaces reserved for a representative image and name together with the spaces left for the stickers marking a correct answer. Sounds easy, but the riddles say the exact contrary! One thing is certain though, everyone loves participating!

Onto the second activity - The Radio Contest! Upon hearing about this event, to say students from the Radio Club were thrilled is an understatement. Every Friday I watched as they were writing away their scripts and practicing it out loud - everyone was full of excitement. I'm confident that we all did the greatest job, no matter the final results! Finally, on an ordinary Friday Assembly, the crowd was overflowing with curiosity as to who the winners were. After an unbearable amount of time, I unexpectedly found out that I had won none other than first place - a huge achievement for me! I must say, I was nervous especially after having given the chance of speaking to the specialists there and even hearing myself on Radio România. And as if that wasn't enough, they decided to interview the winners too! I was already feeling much like a celebrity by the time that was all done. We all were!

We can't forget about the class activities so kindly put together by our teachers, who outstandingly managed to create a connection between their subject and communication and based all sorts of games on it. I don't even have time to list all the things we did, but I can promise: we had a great time during them! I sure wish to do something similar soon.

You can already tell how good this year's English Week was. Școala MEA has, once again, come up with events as such to make this school a better place for all of us. We hope for more activities like this. Three cheers for English Week!

# Class X BNC

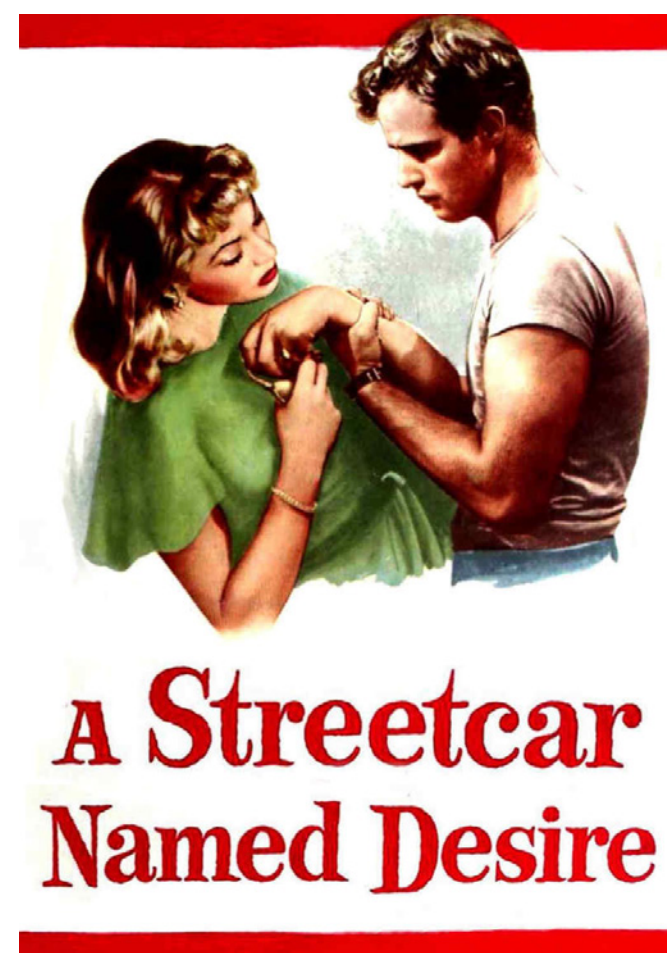
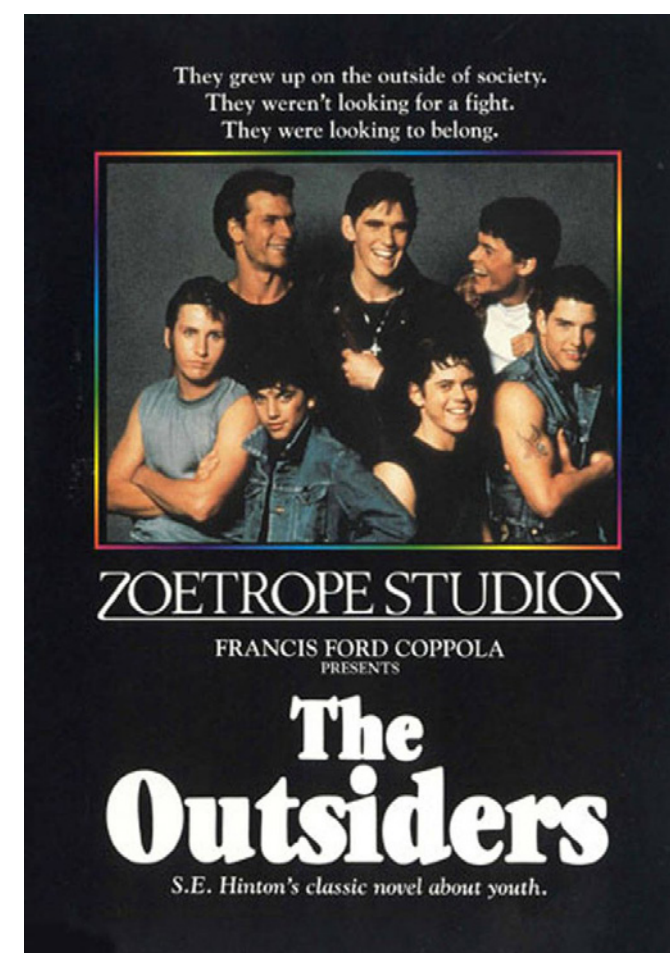
Georges Tohme, class 10

For years students have been studying BNC books in their English classes. This year we had "The Outsiders" by S.E. Hinton and a "Street car named Desire" by Tennessee Williams. In this article I'm going to go over the books and the benefits of BNC.

These books both present complicated family dramas. Also, both focus on the experiences of one sibling going through the ups and downs that he or she is facing, and concluding with "relatively" happy endings

99% of students find BNC to be a proper way to make English more interesting. Students say the books and exciting activities create a very strong connection between the teacher and the class.

The BNC books turned out to be a great success amongst students from Year 10. They are looking forward to reading more books in the future. Most of them expect the next books to be science fiction.







*Creative  
Writing*

Hi Raphael,

Sorry for the delay, but I was very busy with school. I am glad to text you back.

In my opinion you are a brave, powerful boy. I think you were nervous when the police came to your house (Behala Dumpsite). When you went into prison it was very sad. In that part of the book I was crying. It was very emotional. In my view, the police were really angry with you 😞, but you survived them. You were still alive! Your friends are adventurous like you! You can do this! I know it!

In the end, I want you to tell you that I am very glad that you survived. Firstly, you're the best. Secondly, I know that you will keep the money safe.

How are you? Do you need help? Are you scared? Hope to text me quick. Please! I need more information!

Lots of hugs,  
Anisia

*Păun-Vrapciu Anisia, class 5B*

Hi Raphael,

Sorry for the delay to get back to you, but I have been really busy lately. I am jammed up with homework. Now, because I'm in the 5th grade, I have even more homework.

I think that the cops were really unfair with you. You are just a small kid! They mustn't have beat you like that! When I read that part from the email I was shocked!

First, I thought that you did the wrong thing about not giving the police that bag with the wallet in it, but then, when I read the email again, I understood why you didn't give them the wallet.

So, in the end, I think you did the right thing! Hope to see you soon!

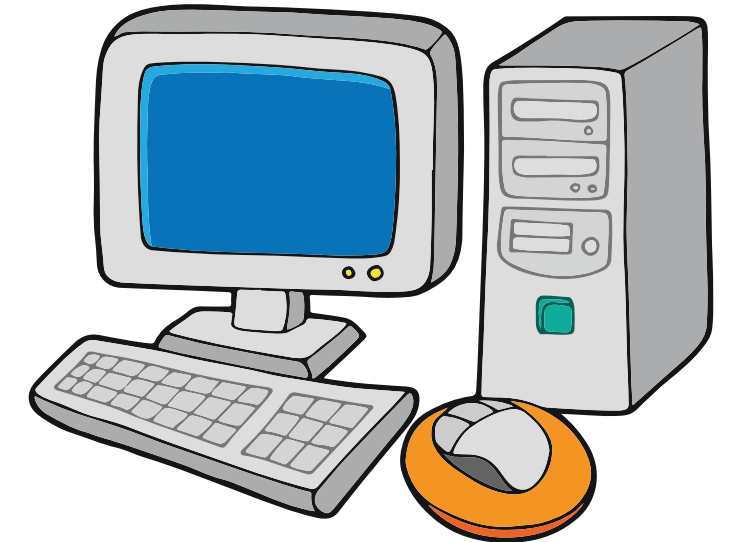
Hugs,  
Ary

*Horpos Ariana, class 5B*



# WE RELY TOO MUCH ON COMPUTERS THESE DAYS

*Iva Kokonozi, class 7B*



Nowadays, computers became a part of people's everyday lives. They are used for meeting friends, working from home, gathering information and even as a way of releasing stress. As more and more people rely on computers to succeed each day, it begs the question: are people becoming too dependent on computers?

In the first place, computers can lead to an educational environment, as the internet gives people free access to information. For example, being able to this can help students carry out a school project or conduct a research. Moreover, people need basic information for making better decisions. Whether it is general decisions as needing to know what to buy at a grocery store or if your company has enough supplies, knowledge is essential.

Furthermore, people communicate a lot through video conferencing or social media. For example, many use computers to meet up with friends or relatives. Nowadays devices are capable to stay connected long periods of time. Due to the great connection and quality of face timing or online chatting, most people started using computers as a means of communication on a daily basis.

On the other hand, some people do become obsessed with computers. Many of them, especially teenagers, spend too much time playing video games or watching movies. This type of activities is time consuming and they do not provide educational value. As proof, according to Common Sense Media, teens spend an average of nine hours a day online.

All things considered, it seems to me that people benefit a lot from computers. Perhaps the world would be a much more uncertain and mysterious place without technology. Hence, I do not think people rely too much on computers.



Hi Raphael,

Sorry for the delay to get back to you, but I've been really busy. I'm jammed up with school. I wanted to say that I'm impressed how you survived and got through everything! You're so brave!

Firstly, I wanted to ask you how are you, how's your aunt? How's Gardo? Rat? Are you all ok? I believe that the police didn't kill you just because they will come and try to get more answers. Personally, I think that Jose Angelico got the money out of Zapanta's house with a bag, not a broken fridge.

Anyways, about what we were talking earlier, in my opinion it was a miracle that you found the wallet and it was so suprising that you didn't tell the police about it. In the end, I wish you all the health!



Write soon,

Maria

*Maria Predica, class 5B*

Hi James,

I can't wait for you to come and stay with me. It will be great fun!

I will wait for you outside my house, so that when you arrive. you will see the right house. Afterwords we're going to make some PANCAKES!!!  and then we are going to go outside for some fresh air. You could bring an UMBRELLA because it might rain. Also, be sure you bring some money because maybe we will want a snack (DORITOS)  while we are in the park.

Your friend,

Peter



*Porupca Petru, class 5*



# DO WE RELY TOO MUCH ON COMPUTERS?

*Ema Stanciu, class 7A*



Computers are the well-known devices that people all around the world use every day. From communicating and finding out information to playing online quizzes, they are used daily. But do we rely on these devices too much these days?

Firstly, the most well-known search engine, Google, has about 3.5 billion searches per day, according to the statistics released in 2015. Hence, without computers, most students would not be able to make their projects or understand that exercise in their math homework. This problem can be easily solved by using more encyclopedias, though.

Secondly, computers are the most used device for communicating, according to recent studies. Every second, ten emails are being sent all around the world. Therefore, elucidating the point I made before, without computers many people could lose contact with each other, or even make their job harder.

Thirdly, laptops and computers are helpful in various ways, like online shopping, the use of the calculator, the unit converters and many more! Without them, our lives would be way more difficult since having everything in one device is cheaper, faster and less time consuming.

Finally, the need for information, communication and the practicality of computers make me believe that we do rely too much on them. However, without them, the population's life would be more stressful than it is now.



Hi Alex,

Thank you for your email. We're going to have a great time in Romania. The weather isn't really good for the moment.



I'll come and meet you at the train station. Then we will play some video games.



On Saturday we are going to watch a great movie at the cinema. I think is a good idea to bring with you some 3D glasses. And why don't you bring some games, because every Sunday we have a Game Night.

On Sunday morning we will visit a new museum because I know you like them very much. And on Sunday afternoon we will chill. We will probably be tired after all these activities.



Bye for now,  
Vlad

*Ceanga Vlad, class 5B*

## The Will to Survive

- article -



*Cristina Veliciu, class 7B*

Have you ever had training sessions before? Did you enjoy them? If you ask me, they were the most amazing ones! I once was training in order to be able to survive! Personally, I don't find all training sessions very interesting, but if you are determined, you might find out very important things. As you may or may not know, there is an

enormous forest growing near the village, so I was trained to explore it. When I found out, I was puzzled. I bet even you would have reacted like that! Anyway, I learnt useful things such as creating a fire with rocks or how to find my way back home, but the most useful thing I learnt is how to survive.

Of course, I couldn't learn that on my own, so I had an instructor: his name was Joe.

He had a worryingly big scar on his arm from a huge bear! Call that adventurous! Joe was a nice and brave guy who made all the experience seem less stressful.

Why are all these things so important? I learnt that on my own skin. I once was trapped in a part of the forest. I was terrified! I managed to make a shelter, cook food and make weapons in order to protect myself. After a while, I found my way back!

So, I believe that training sessions could be very important, and if you pay great attention to them, they might just save your life. Good luck with your training session!



## Receiving and Giving

*Iancu Filip, class 7A*

What's the craziest thing that changed your life? Well, I have been chosen to be a Receiver of Memory.

At first, I thought it was a dream, but it was not. What is this receiver job, you may ask! I am given memories by my coach, and I'll do the same in a couple of decades. I am taught by a man named "The Giver".

Now, is it useful? Of course it is. The most useful thing I have is, definitely, the memories.





It's very peaceful when getting a new memory and seeing what life was like many years ago. I can understand different ideas better now and, most importantly, I have the capacity to see beyond and, basically, gain wisdom. I was told that some memories will be painful, I mean, very painful. But it wasn't actually so bad! However, the awful part

was that I couldn't take any painkillers. An advantage is being able to ask any citizen any question and getting an answer obligatory. But a sad part is that I can't talk about my training in my dwelling. All in all, getting to live such experiences is very useful – nobody would argue with that. If you're undergoing any training session, you really have to write about them!

# Treasure Hunt

*Daria Craciun, class 3A*

In that suitcase I found a map and a lot of money. The map was dirty but I could see the "x" that meant the treasure. I wanted to find the treasure!! But that map was really hard to unlock. When I got home, my father told me that it was a pirate map, How exciting! I said. On the map, it looked like three meters away. I packed two T-shirts and a pair of trousers, I closed the door. Nothing could stop me now. I also took the money with me. Who know? Maybe I will meet some pirates. After one hour, I wasn't there yet, after another still not there! Then, I heard a sound. It seemed to be from the ocean. From a boat. Suddenly, I looked back and I saw some pirates. They didn't look friendly at all. They told me that they wouldn't let me



steal their treasure. But I didn't even plan this. I asked them if they let me stay on their ship for the rest of my adventure and they accepted. So, we sailed together for one hour. It was dark outside, so they booked me a room in the big hotel for pirates. It was

awesome! When I opened my eyes in the morning I found myself on an island. Where was the treasure? I took the map out of my bag and looked where I was. It looked like the treasure was on this island and in the north, exactly where I was. Next to me was a rock like on the map. Then, I saw something shiny under the rock. I opened it and inside was everything you wished for! Now, with the treasure, how could I come back home? I was really lucky because I saw the same boat with the pirates. They recognized me and helped me to go back home. Finally I was home. My parents hugged me. I showed them the treasure and they were really surprised.



## Dear Mrs Linda Walker,

I am writing this letter, from CIA, for you because you are under arrest. Some secret agents are investigating the case of the secret treasure from the desert. My name is Johnson and I have been investigating this case for 2 years because it is a very important thing for the country. The treasure which you have found has objects that cost more than 7 million dollars and it is illegal to keep a treasure like this. The objects from the chest need a place at the „New Yorker International Museum“. I would like you to send us a letter with information about the treasure because we need to enter these objects in the database from the museum. If you refuse these steps we will come immediately with the public police. If you send us this information we will help you to find a good lawyer or reduce the prison sentence. In the coming days a group of agents will come to get the treasure and the police will come to get you to the jail.

Yours sincerely,  
Mr Johnson



MARIA  
PINTILIE  
2A

# Lock and Key





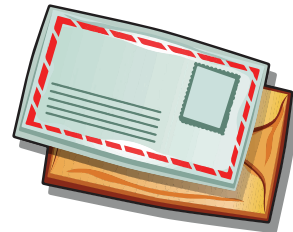
## Dear Ms Linda Walker,

First of all I am writing this letter to you because Stanley's mother has informed that you are not acting correctly with Stanley Yelnats and the rest of the kids. I strongly recommend you to change this unfortunate situation in Camp Green Lake. I am hoping that the breaks between digging sessions will take longer. Moreover, it is a must that you talk with the Child Protection and see how you can improve the camp for the kids. At the end of the month I will come to your camp

and see if the kids are treated fairly. I let this matter at the last in order to attract your attention. I am sorry to announce you that if you do not change something the judge will close the camp. I look forward to hearing for you.

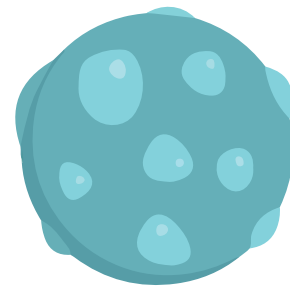
Yours sincerely,  
Jack Scott, CIA lawyer

*Calin Dinu, class 6B*  
*Based on the book "Holes", by Loius Sachar*



## Enceladus

*Vlad Moroianu, class 6B*



I chose Enceladus because I think it would be amazing to study its water geysers and especially the circulation of heat inside the rocky center. I like to believe that this moon also known as the ICY MOON is heating in the same way as Jupiter's moon IO, the most volcanically active world in the solar system. On February 17 2005 the space aircraft known as Cassini passed by Enceladus. Scientist saw on the magnetometer that at the south something opposing to the magnetic field of Saturn something like a small atmosphere forming. On March 07 2005 Cassini aircraft passes the second time

close to Saturn's moon. Images show that there was a strange force coming from the south pole, and finally July 14 2005 the aircraft that already helped us get some astonishing information get closer to this unknown world, and what do we see. Geysers. Geyser that spit water vapor and particles of water and ice out in the space with over 400 meters per second. On the surface of this moon images showed cracks and scratches that also emitted heat signals. So that brings us to the question, where does all that heat and come from? Knowing that it can't be heated by Earth because it gets only

1% sunlight in comparison with Earth. That means it could be tidal heating with Saturn. Beyond the icy crust the salty water ocean and rocky core what could it be? What is there that is helped by tidal heating to create hydrothermal friction. At this moment on Earth the most important question would be could this little world support human life. Technically YES practically NO. There three things that are needed to support life: liquid water, energy and a high potential of salt. That means this planet can support life, but not human life, because temperatures reach -239 and that is impossible for any human to suffer these temperatures. 500 km in diameter are not enough to fit 7 billion people knowing that approximately each one of us needs the minimum 70 square meters or less we couldn't even fit the population of Bucharest in there, but 7 billion people. I think this bring us to another question: Why does NASA need another mission on Saturn's Icy Moon. Just think about it. How big of

a discovery achievement would it be if we would send a robot or examination center on Enceladus's surface. We could take samples from the icy crust or examine the hydrothermal flow of heat and water inside the rocky core. We could verify that organisms live there if organic life is possible. The mission would go like this: NASA engineers would project a spacecraft that will end up orbiting around Enceladus. A section of the spacecraft will be ejected into Enceladus's atmosphere. The friction with the air\gasses will be too big so this section will split into more little robots that will land and transmit information from where they landed. There are going to be two of this sections. One of them will drop at the South Pole and one of them will drop at the North Pole. They will stay there until they run out of fuel\energy. The batteries need to be very powerful because at -239 degrees an Iphone battery would die in 5 seconds. Each one of the capsules will transmit formation from where they are located. Hope one of them will not land inside a geyser.

15th November 2018

Dear Ms Walker,

I am writing on behalf of Texas Child Protection to announce that Camp Green Lake will be inspected by us.

We were informed by Stanley Yelnats' mother that your camp does not offer proper conditions for living. To begin with, the food is under the nutritious value and it is not healthy. Secondly, the four-minute cold shower is a danger for the children's health. Moreover, you are abusing children's rights by forcing them to dig holes in the desert. In order to solve all these problems you should buy healthier food, make the shower time longer and provide the children with warm water. It is not acceptable to physically exhaust the children, so you are not allowed anymore to force them to dig in the heat! The deadline for your preparation is two weeks from now.

Finally, I strongly recommend you to take immediate action and solve all the problems mentioned above. If not, I am obliged to inform you that Camp Green Lake will be closed and you will be send to jail.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,  
Mr Andrei Lebit  
Texas Child Protection



*Andrei Lebit, class 6B*

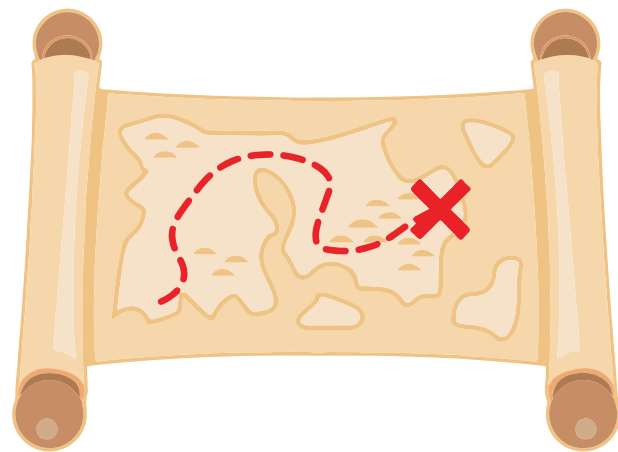
*Based on the book "Holes", by Loius Sachar*

## My lucky find

*Eric Scumpu, class 6B*

Not too long ago, I found a letter, which was addressed to "Mr. J. Patterson". The person who wrote it said there was a map hidden somewhere in an abandoned building downtown. Naturally, I went in the building and started searching for it.

I found the map in a locker that I think was used in a school before it got in that shady place. The map had an "X" marked on it. Surprisingly, the "x" was marked in my neighbor's backyard!



I ran home as fast as I could and started digging in his yard without him knowing it. After approximately one and a half hours of digging I found a box. It was made of wood and had its edges painted in gold and it had some other thin gold touches. It had some old fashion locks as well. Inside it there was some jewel, which according

to a friend of mine, who is an expert, are worth more than a million dollars!

After I sold the Jewells I continued my life as usual. I put the money in a bank account I can access when I will be 18 years old. Even today, after almost three years, I wonder who "Mr. J. Patterson" is and why the Jewells I found where hidden for him.

## The Secret Treasure

*Serbanut Andrei – Virgil, class 6B*



One day a boy called Tudor decided to go to the library to learn about The Caribbean Islands for a History test. The librarian recommended him a book written by a pirate. Tudor didn't believe in pirates but he decided to take it. At home, when he opened the book, he discovered a treasure map!

His first opinion was this map is only a prank made by a child but when he checked closer he realized it was a real map. The route on the map was going to a shipwrecked. Tudor decided to find the treasure but he realized he wasn't ready for this adventure and he decided to go to some shops to buy things to help him in this adventure. He got a bow and some arrows, food and a knife. The boy putted all these things into a backpack and he started to follow the route from the map. Tudor arrived on the place where the

shipwrecked was. Because it was dark he couldn't see very well the shadows that were on the ship. He got scared and ran away but his curiosity made him to go back. When Tudor got closer he saw only a skeleton, which was hanging by the mast. He went into the ship and on a table it was the treasure. It was a big chest with some old gold coins and some precious stones. But when he came outside the shipwrecked it was night. He had to overnight on the ship because it was too dark.

Next day Tudor took the treasure and he went home. When he arrived his parents asked him where he was all night and Tudor start told them the whole story. His parents decide to give the treasure to the National Museum but Tudor didn't want to do that. On the way to the museum he managed to steal some coins and kept them for himself.



# A Little Rain Never Hurt



Anna Licsandru, class 10

That day...it rained a lot.

*I knew you, I never wanted to know anyone else, she said...I don't want to live this life if it is not with you in it...*

He slammed the wooden door as he left, letting only her heart be the echo in that house. She ran and ran after him, trying to make the fool look behind to see what she now sees, however falling out of love means no broken marriage, no kids and no hurt heart. She tried to forgive him, putting herself after...He chose to run away, to flee from a long fight. He chose to look the other way.

*After you broke us, you dare slam the door in my face? Look at me! Don't you see? I don't care that you slept with her, I care about what you are going to do about it. MARK...*

He got in the car...

*Scarlett, he shouted, you are not the woman for me anymore. We were not meant to be and you know this very well.*

She looked at the car as it disappeared into the woods. Her lovely face now was full of tears that fell on the hard, wooden floor. Her gold hair, wet from the dark rain, was hanging next to her pain that was all over her figure.

Scarlett watched the rain vanishing into the forest from her hollow house. The colours of the surroundings were so alive. The forest had a shade of green so beautiful that no one could not admire, and the rain softened the outlines of the enormous trees. The view became gently blurred. Scarlett watched the drops of water fall as her own left her face.

The girl with the broken heart went inside the house trying to find a place where she could rest her soul, leaving the door open for her to hear the rain's tremendous song. It wasn't the first time Mark left for someone else; however, she felt that he would never come back. It was so infuriating the fact that she was still in love with him.

These kinds of moments made her think of her mum because of how amazing she was when dealing with her so-called life. She was always the one that was there for her even when she could not be there physically and her ideals about love made her laugh every single time.

She picked up the phone...

*Mum... are you there? I miss you! she said with an easing voice. I had another fight with Mark, and I don't think he will come back.*

*Honey... I miss you, too...*

*Mum... Do you believe in love? She started laughing...*

*Huh... love is the most elaborate ways of self-harm.*

*It is funny that this recording of you gets me every time, she said. If you had gotten the chance to live more...GOD! Isn't it funny? How you play with the weak?*

She was staring deeply at her phone, listening to the last words that her mom had spoken before she passed away.

*I still cannot believe that our last conversation was about love. I want you to be here, mum...*

She ran out of the house... through the dark rainy night.

*God! I am not going to bore you with my wishes; however, I just want to know if you want me to live my life. I for sure do not want to anymore.*

The rain started to intensify, leaving cold, damp marks on her soft skin. What next?

The girl sat on damp grass in front of her empty house for some time. She looked at the view that was in front of her: a conspicuous rain that was vanishing in the nearby forest but not in front of her. It was a rain that could not wash all the pain away.

*What happens next?*

She laid her body on the wet earth that seemed to deprive her of strength little by little. She remained there, listening to the rain's melody while trying to fall into a deep sleep. It was a cold night. The wind was blowing through her hair leaving her face empty where her beautiful features could show.

When she closed her eyes she had the perfect picture of him. Mark. She remembered him as he was pulling her into his arms holding her tight as their fates seemed to be back then. She was kissing the man she thought she couldn't breathe without, and now she knew that every breath was of little consequence.

*It is a shame that life goes quick as this autumn rain, the girl with a broken soul whispered... What happens next?*

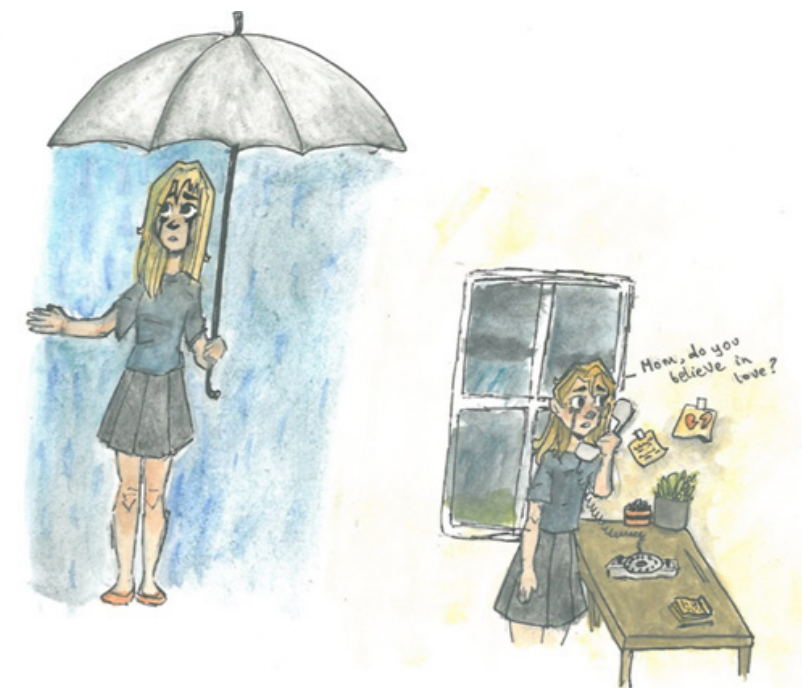


Photo credit: Sofia Enache, class 6B

# No Regrets in the Ether

*Stefania Enache, class 9*

Cleo pushed aside the curtain and peered at the small crowd gathered in front of the stage. The audience seemed a bit jittery; they were fidgeting and impatient. Although, that was nothing compared to the anxiousness in the girl's belly, which did three or four somersaults before settling down in her throat. She gulped and let go of the curtain.

"Are you ready?", sounded a shrill voice behind her.

Cleo sighed and, without turning, muttered an unconvincing consent. She heard the person behind her scribble something on the paper on their clipboard, then walk away. The girl breathed deeply and kicked down her anxiety. She plastered on a smile and, at the director's signal, stepped on stage. Cleo felt her throat close up at the sight of the audience, but she nudged downwards her fear and crept towards the edge of the stage. Just as she opened her mouth to say her line, a scream sounded from the back of the room and Cleo saw the people close to the source back away, and the people far from it move closer, curious. In the middle of the chaos created, she glimpsed a flash of light. She could've sworn that, for a second, she saw a boy appear then, quickly after, disappear.

Cleo sighed and rubbed her eyes, deciding that she was just tired. She craned her neck, looking towards the chaos and wondering what its cause was. Fortunately (or unfortunately) for her, she found out shortly after as the boy she'd seen earlier crashed into her and they both dissolved into mist.

She opened her eyes a few moments after and found herself in a meadow, a fortress towering in the distance. A few feet away from her stood the boy, who was shifting his weight from one foot on the other, glancing restlessly around him. He saw that Cleo was awake and he came next to her. Sure that he was about to ask if she was OK, Cleo declared that she was fine. The boy stared at her with an incredulous look on his face, then brusquely jerked his body



*Photo credit: Sofia Enache, class 6B*

away from her.

"It's your fault we're here! I don't care if you're OK or not, just get me back on Earth!", he shouted, looking almost sick with disgust.

Tears welled up in Cleo's tears and she angrily wiped them away. She stood up and, staggering, waved an accusing finger in the boy's direction.

"Who do you think you are, talking to me as if I'm not in the same situation-", she started shouting, but her throat closed up and she ended up whining.

She huffed and turned her face away from her companion, hiding her tears. Cleo pressed her palms against her cheeks, then slapped them repeatedly until her focus was on the pain, not on the increasing discomfort in her belly. She huffed again and turned to face the boy. She started speaking, but choked on her tears and started sobbing. Cleo sat down on the stump behind her and covered her face with her palms. She sighed.

"I'm sorry...", she heard the boy mutter.

Cleo wiped away her remaining tears and breathed deeply. She stood up.

"Don't worry about it," she said, her voice hoarse. She looked around her again. "Do you have any idea how we got here?"

The boy looked away.

"Well-"

Cleo searched his face for an answer and she found one; and she wasn't happy with it.

"You did this, didn't you?", she accused him.

The boy looked away and that itself answered her question. Cleo put her hand on his shoulder and felt him slightly flinch. He looked at her.

"It's OK. We'll fix this," she assured him, squeezing his shoulder.

He showed her a small smile, then went back to his brooding.

"I'm Tom," he said in a small voice.

"Cleo," she replied.

He took a step away from her and looked around them.

"This seems to be my hometown," he announced, then he climbed on a rock and looked around the meadow. "Yeah, this is it," he gestured towards the fortress in the distance.

"That's my home."

Cleo's eyes widened.

"You were a prince?"

Tom snorted. He turned to look at her, smiling.

"No. I was just a stable-boy," he turned to face again the fortress, his mind elsewhere.

"Until the castle's warlock experimented on me." He shuddered and sat down on the rock. "After that, I was sent to Earth to get some information on the moon eclipse. But I messed up, and now I'm back before finishing my mission."

"He's going to kill me," he whispered, his eyes blank and body trembling.

Cleo hugged him, ignoring the goosebumps that the gesture gave her.

"I'll help you, don't worry," she said. "We'll get back to Earth."



Tom put his hands on her shoulders and stepped back.

"Thanks, Cleo."

"No problem," she replied, smiling and trying to hide her blush.

She sat down and thought about the events.

"We got transported here when you crashed into me in your sparkly form," she concluded after a few moments of hesitation, the butterflies in her stomach finally stopping their flutter.

"That's right," he agreed. "I just need to get in my ethereal form and run into you."

"Is it easy?", she asked, trying not to dwell on the run into you part; for the poor dizzy butterflies' sake.

Tom shrugged and rubbed his palms.

"I have practice," he declared, not without a hint of arrogance.

He continued rubbing his hands together faster and faster, until he reached an impossible speed and his body started vibrating, his form turning translucent and bright. Then he started running and Cleo felt her body turn into fine mist.

She woke up on stage and she could hear the voices of her colleagues around her and their panic. She sat up groaning; her ribs and backbone seemed to creak at her every movement. She looked in front of her, beyond her concerned friends and into the still chaotic crowd.

There she saw Tom grin at her as he pushed the button of a bomb, threw it at the ground and vanished; the fiery explosion erupted and Cleo closed her eyes and smiled. She regretted nothing.

## Sign of the Ocean



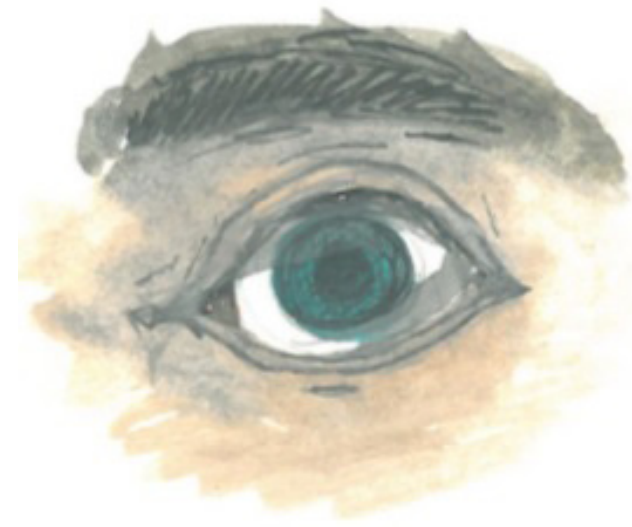
*Iohanna Cristea, class 12*

Her eyes shook with fear and resignation as tears streaked down her dirty face. Dry blood was caked on one side of her face where he hit her, apparently not hard enough.

Her voice cracked as she was pleading him to let her go. She promised to tell no one what happened. In a perfect world, he would let her go.

Her body started shaking as soon as she

saw him take out a blade which made him mischievously grin down at her. Perhaps he felt powerful knowing her life was so completely in his hands. Her heart was pounding so loud she could hear it. He got down on his knees so their eyes were on the same level. The cruelty in his eyes glittered like crystal, and at that moment she realized there was no hope.



*Photo credit: Sofia Enache, class 6B*

She knew this was the end. That there was no way she could escape.

*Just do it...* she muttered before taking one last deep breath. Her acceptance must have made him doubt his next move. He put the blade away and slowly let go of her. She staggered to her feet and stumbled across the freezing cell from the cold-hearted killer. She slumped against the wall and slid down to the floor, no strength in her legs.

She tried to look at her killer's face, but all she could see were his penetrating blue eyes that reminded her of the cold ocean. His gaze burned into her soul as if he could read her thoughts. A sudden thud was heard somewhere in the building. He ran out and slammed the door and she was left alone. Why didn't he kill me...? Will he come back to finish what he started? The thoughts swirled in her head. She tried to get up from the filthy floor, but she was so weak her legs betrayed her, and she fell back, knocking her head on the concrete.

Beep...beep...beep...

Her heavy eyelids did not allow her to

open her eyes properly, but she could hear someone sobbing next to her. Fighting with the pain, everywhere in her body, she focused on moving just one finger to signal that she was alive. Exhausted, she slid back into a deep sleep.

Beep...beep...

The pain wasn't as severe or as bad this time. Opening her eyes, she was blinded by the light. Adjusting to the brightness, she looked at her surroundings. It looked like a hospital room, but full of flowers, balloons and cards. Under her finger, there was a red button; as soon as she pressed it, three nurses entered and started examining her.

One of the nurses started to question her.

*Do you remember what happened?*

She shook her head.

The nurse sighed. *What's your name dear?*

She panicked when she couldn't remember.

*"It's fine; you had a bad concussion. Dr. Warner will be here any minute."*

The nurse smiled kindly at the girl and left the room.

Two minutes later, the doctor came in with an assistant. He cleared his throat to bring her to reality.

*"Hi, my name is Dr. Warner, and this is my assistant Alexis. What's your name",* he asked the girl.

*"I...I don't remember,"* she answered. Her voice was raspy. She looked up at him, but he had turned away to talk quietly to his assistant.

Sighing, she closed her eyes and tried to relax her tensed muscles.

*"Open your eyes please."* The doctor's voice was firm and she obeyed. She gasped when she looked up at him.

Those eyes...those ocean blue eyes...

She started screaming and thrashing around, terrified by the memories of pain. The girl jolted out of bed and ran for her life. She

fled down the hospital corridors like a rat in a maze, screaming and begging people to help her.

She could hear Warner's voice behind her and turned to point at him.

"He tried to kill me!", she shrieked, but made no sound. All she saw was wide-mouthed people staring at her, shocked. She started running again, but it felt as if she was in slow motion and three security guards grabbed her. She was shrieking, slapping, punching, kicking as they carried her back to the hospital room where the nurses were waiting. She felt a needle stab, and within seconds she felt doopey, powerless. Before she lost consciousness, she heard a sweet voice singing.

Lavender's blue,

Dilly dilly,

Lavender's green.

When I am King,

Dilly dilly,

You shall be Queen.

Beep...beep...beep

The place was foggy and cold, and everything around her was white. She wandered around, trying to find a way out.

"There's no way of escaping, so stop trying."

Turning abruptly, she saw his piercing blue eyes. He was all in white, too. His pale face and those Arctic eyes stood out in the sea of fog.

She almost collapsed in terror.

"What do you want from me?", she screamed.

He smiled at her, that same evil grin, and shook his head. Out of nowhere, a boy came from the fog.

"Hello, Evelyn", he said to her. He was about twelve, with blonde hair and those same cold eyes. The same evil grin.

"Who is Evelyn?", she whispered.

"You are", a woman replied. Evelyn turned and stared at the woman, middle-aged and beautiful. With the same blue eyes. Her face had no expression. She might have been a china doll.

"Who are you all?", she pleaded, the tears scorching her face as they fell.

"You don't remember us?", the boy asked.

Now he looked sad and his eyes had turned lavender. He took a step towards her, but the woman barred his way.

She turned to the man that was haunting her.

"Who are you?", she mumbled.

"I'm Dante", he answered slowly.

She shut her eyes tight, horrified. When she opened them, she was trapped in a transparent box. She beat her fists on the invisible wall but there was no sound.

"Why are you doing this?", she yelled at him.

Dante's grin stretched wider and he held her gaze as he glided towards the boy. Evelyn started shrieking like a monkey and smashed her fists against the transparent wall. She had to save the boy. He knew who she was.

The woman was singing in a high, quavery voice.

Lavender's green,

Dilly dilly.

Lavender's blue.

I'll be the Queen,

Dilly dilly,

When I'll kill you.

She sat bolt upright, panting in panic, sweating, blinded by the light...the full moon blazing through the open window. The screams echoed. A vixen, calling for her mate in the cool spring night.



# How to Get Kidnapped 101

*Bruno Mella, class 9*

It was a regular day, I was browsing the internet, when I decided to enter the "Deep Web". After a few hours of seeing only people that were selling guns, drugs and other illegal stuff, I realized that I was starting to run late for class. I turned off my computer and headed to school, but on my way there I got the feeling that someone had been following me for some time, but since my arrival seemed belated, I ignored the sentiment. After school, when returning home, I noticed a man trailing me, and, deafened by the sound of my heart hammering, I stumbled towards my home and threw open the door, slamming it behind me. I sprinted up the stairs to my panic, I brusquely pulled aside the curtains and looked outside. I could see him standing in the middle of the road. Staring at me.

The phone started ringing and I answered it: Hello?

Nobody answered.

My heart was pounding, I looked back towards the street and noticed that the man was gone. I tried to calm down, but I couldn't, knowing that my address and my phone number had been discovered. I told my parents, but they just told me to stay off the internet.

The next day I pretended that the recent events had never happened, going through my daily ritual with no unwanted interference.

*Maybe that was it... Maybe I worried for nothing! But no, it can't be that simple; surely they are waiting for me somewhere.*

And clearly enough, I was right, for when I turned around the corner on my street, there they were, twelve people in front of my house. One of them saw me and shouted:

*There he is!*

I started running, but it was a futile resistance, since they quickly caught up to me. They seized me, blindfolded me and shoved me into their van. They drove for two hours straight and then suddenly they stopped, and opened the rear doors of the van and took me out.

They situated me in something that, by feeling, seemed more and more like a warehouse, the kidnappers tied me up on a chair and took off my blindfold. In front of me was a camera, I knew it was about me entering the "Deep Web" and I knew they wanted a pay-off by filming and broadcasting me on every television program. I decided to play along because I had a plan to escape.

My plan was to act on the camera and without them knowing, I was going to untie the string that held me on the chair. The only problem was that they had guns. They started broadcasting and I started to "cry" and "beg" for mercy:

*Please help me!*

One of the kidnappers came and placed a pistol to my head and said:

*If you want to see him alive, transfer to our account 700.000 dollars, you got 24 hours.*

When they ended the broadcasting, I ended up untying the string, I grabbed the pistol from the guy next to me and shot him, then after I hid in some boxes that were there. I took a moment to listen and there was no sound so I just bolted out of there, they suddenly started shooting, unfortunately one bullet found its way into my leg. I closed the door of the warehouse and continued to run, soon I realized that I was in a forest, I had no phone and I was probably very far away from any town or city.



After some time, I heard voices. I wanted to find a place to rest because I couldn't run anymore. I hid under the roots of an old tree. They just walked past me. I felt a sense of relief. Again I hardly started to walk, after a couple hours I got thirsty, the good thing was that I was hearing a river in proximity. I reached the river and washed my wound and managed to pull out the bullet. I continued, barely walking through the large and beautiful hills, and then I saw a little village. I reached the hamlet and one of the villagers came to me. A man that looked like a piece of a branch, he was short and skinny, he came to me and started speaking a language almost Latin-like. I couldn't understand a thing, the man realized that I couldn't comprehend what he said so he made a sign to follow him. I followed him until we were in front of a big wooden house, he opened the door and again, he made a sign to enter the house.

He took me to a woman that seemed to be their chief, she started talking to the man and then suddenly he punched me in the face causing me to faint.

When I woke up I was tied up. Another villager came to me that looked like some kind of healer, this one was speaking English, so he said to me: *This place shall be your grave, you are going to be sacrificed to our god, but first I have to purify your heart.*

*Oh! You were wounded, what a pity!*

I was terrified, these people were some kind of a cult, again I had to make a plan to escape, but right now I had to stay put to see what will happen next. The next day came and the quack brought another man and a woman, he saw me awake and he started laughing in a menacing way. While he was leaving I saw that his knife fell from his belt, this was the perfect opportunity to untie myself and the other two. I took the knife and then I started to cut the ropes. I almost

finished, but the quack came back, he made a weird substance from some kind of herbs and then he made me drink it. The taste was incredibly awful. After a while I felt a great pain in the chest and then I blacked out.

When I woke up, I was in the middle of a field along with the other two, they started the ritual and after one hour a storm started and the ground began to shake, from the ground a demon-like creature arose itself, it was really tall and large, the face of this monster couldn't be seen, but his yellow glowing eyes. The monster started screaming and went mad, he destroyed half of the village, the villagers had no chance against this thing, so they decided to run away. I stood there, just watching how that creature burnt all the village.

In all that chaos, one villager came and liberated us. I ran as soon as I hit the ground, the demon-like creature chased me and the other two guys, it managed to catch the man and the woman who were slower than me.

That thing chased me through the entire forest and when I got out of it on a plain, it just stopped at the last trees. The monster roared with anger, then it turned around and disappeared.

After a while of walking through that plain, I finally found my little town, I was back home.



Photo credit: Sofia Enache, class 6B

# ANDREI SERBANUT RAFE VI-A B

**1. Who and why**

I chose Rafe because (in my opinion) he is a very good, cool boy and he impresses me with the pranks he do in his horrible school or how Rafe said "person", to break the rules. Another thing that impressed me were his drawings from his book. And probably the thing that make me to chose Rafe was his big creation or his friend also "Bear" who Rafe said about him "he speaks to me sometimes". Probably Rafe is the best character of the whole book.

**3. Journey through the book**

Rafe was a kid that was expelled from many schools and the only school who accept him is the "Hills Village Middle School" and the problem for Rafe was the rules from the school. He didn't enjoyed this school but he had some plan about the rules to break them. Rafe start to break the rules and without to be catch it.

**2. Physical + Moral Portrait**

Rafe is a boy with a normal stature and is not fat and with other physical things for his age but Rafe is a very special boy. He have things in his mind that no one has it like his visions of looking at the world. One example can be his stepfather with Rafe said about him "His name is Carl, but they call him 'Bear'". Another thing about Rafe is about his excellent imagination and his ingenious ideas. Rafe had lots many ideas and I'm not saying this, the plans he made to break the rules from the school.

# Bear

- Character Profile -  
by Eric Scumpu 6B

**1**

I chose the character "Bear" because I think he is a really unique one. He is Rafe's stepfather. He is hated by the kids (Rafe and Georgia) throughout the whole book. He lives in "Hills Village" with Mom, Georgia and Rafe.

**2**

Carl had a Bear-shaped place on the couch, according to Rafe. He wasn't a good listener. He gets angry extremely fast. Bear was an unemployed grown man. He was really lazy. He was a big fat guy who with a bear which made him look like a bear.

**3**

At the beginning, he did nothing except sitting on the couch and arguing with Rafe. At the end of the book, he pushed Rafe down the stairs and Rafe called the police. Bear was arrested.

**4**

Bear was a couch potato. He was unemployed and paid with his wife's card. He never had piece with Rafe and Georgia. He said the only good thing about Rafe is that he was good at football. When Rafe said he won't sign up, of course, Bear started yelling.



# SMALL FOOTSTEPS

*Daria Pasca, class 10*

Small footsteps, one, two, three, four, countless footsteps in the sea of white. He looked at the white sky splattered with grey clouds that covered the sparkling stars.

A sigh escaped his soft lips, how he wished to be there, in the clouds where he knew he truly belonged, not amongst greedy and egoistic humans, up in the stars where he will finally feel at peace.

He got up from the white grass; he dragged his body to the small, battered white house. Inside, he gazed at the white walls, white couch, white cupboard, white TV, everything white, dull white.

He sat on his white bed and laid back, his black hair falling softly on the old white, mattress. It hadn't been changed in ages, but he didn't really care...

He never cared...

Nobody cares either way...

Care. What a simple word that holds so many feelings, so many meanings, so many unspoken words...

He could never understand this idea, for him everything was plain white, no colour, no feeling, no anything. But he didn't mind it, he craved the dullness. It made him feel complete, made him feel better, but it never lasted so long.

And happiness?

He couldn't fathom it. For him the idea of happiness was unreal, in a world where everything is white. No, it was impossible, unacceptable ... he didn't want to think about it.

He looked at the colourless ceiling, his white eyelids slowly closing, tiredness taking over his body. He felt he was drifting in a white ocean of stars.

He looked aimlessly around the sparkling place. He had never been here before it and he almost felt excited to discover this strange, familiar place.

He started walking down an elongated, narrow hallway, the walls covered in stars of every size, glittering so bright.

His eyes were sparkling as they reflected the starlight: he couldn't look away, enchanted by the vision of beauty. This was the first time in his life that he'd felt so bewitched by pleasure.

But as he moved down the hall, the stars started to fade, lose their beauty and brilliance, their life slowly vanishing beyond his reach. He touched his finger softly to the dying stars but was startled by a deep velvety voice behind him.

"I wouldn't do that if I were you," the voice said.

He turned and saw a small boy, a pair of dark blue eyes and a little smile on his cherry lips. This little boy had that deep voice?

"What's your name?", the deep voice asked.

"I don't have a name, I was never given one!", the white boy told the newcomer.

"My name is J. It's nice to meet you, no name," scoffed the blue-eyed boy, glaring at the white-clad stranger.

"Don't call me that," he said pouting.

J looked up at him with a soft smile on his pretty face.

"Then I shall call you...Kon," he said, eyes sparkling with mischief at the new name.

"Kon," the white boy mumbled.

"I like it," Kon exclaimed, a big smile plastering his features.

J smiled at the happy boy in front of him, glad that he found suitable name for the fragile looking boy in front of him. Gazing at the fading stars, admiring the last glow before it faded into darkness.

"Do you know why stars die, Kon?" J asked and turned his head to look at his friend.

Kon shrugged. "I don't know. I wish you'd tell me."

The child's red lips parted in a smile. "Stars die, because people start to lose faith, they don't care about the sky anymore, and they don't care about the source of light that makes the darkness more bearable. The stars make them wish for something better, so when a star dies, it means that someone lost all hope and drowned in his own misery and regrets."

J finished his story looking at Kon seeing something changed into him. He smiled at the boy, he knew he will finally realise the importance of life and the beauty of it.

"I have to go now," J said with a sad smile. "I wish we had more time, Kon," a tear slipped from his eye.

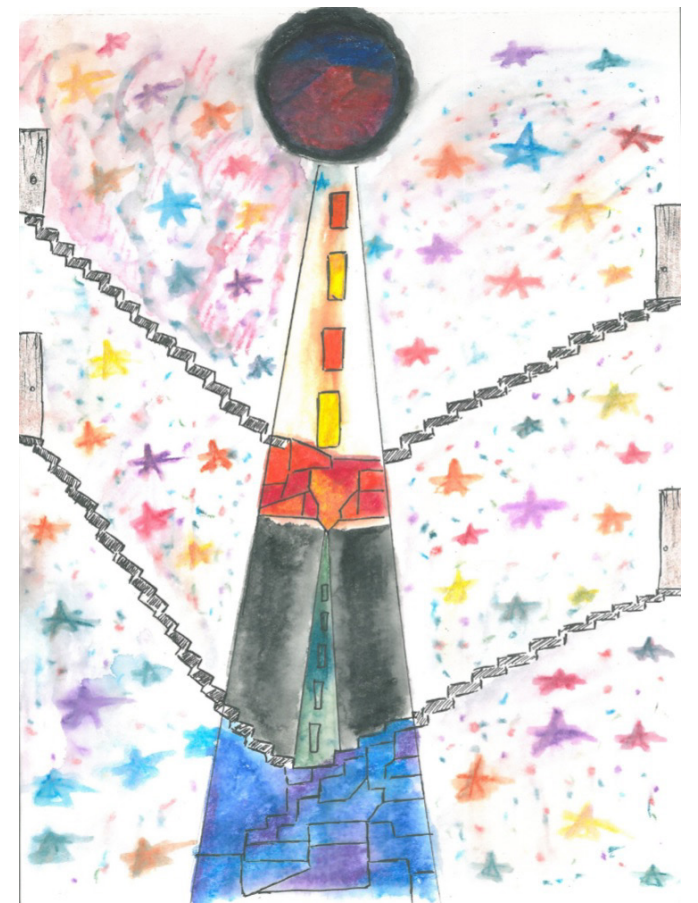
"Wait no...you can't leave, why are you leaving me?", Kon asked, desperation evident in his voice.

He grabbed J's wrist, preventing him from leaving, tears flowing down his snowy face.

"Please don't leave," begged Kon.

"I am sorry," was all J said, before vanishing in thin air becoming one with his kind.

A star.



*Photo credit: Daria Pasca, class 10*



Kon fell onto his knees, tears never stopping. He didn't understand why he had to leave. He cried and cried till darkness enveloped him. He woke up. He was back home, but everything was different, there was no white air surrounding him. No, it was full of colour, of life. He was amazed, he couldn't understand how this happened. He looked at the large window covering his wall. He saw a star, brighter than any star and he knew that star was J, his star...

# THE LETTER

*Ioana Saidac, class 10*

Cold rain drops fell on my face. I slowly opened the cold metal mailbox. In the gigantic interior of the colored box there was a tiny white envelope.

I was fear-stricken when I saw what was written on it: "IF I DISAPPEAR". Were my eyes playing tricks on me or was this a letter from her? But how could it be? No one had seen her for a month...

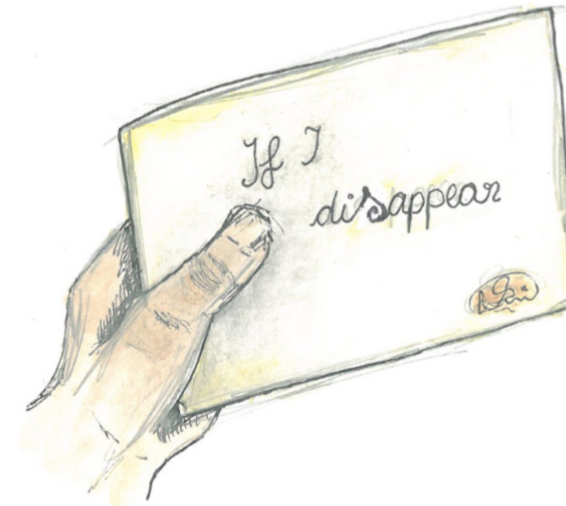
I rushed into the house not knowing what to expect from the tiny letters that were scribbled on the paper:

*Dear David,  
if you are reading This it means that i am noWhere to be found it means i failed that's why you have to pay attention to **every detail** remember everything i told you about project x... Every single thing will help you understand what happened behind the letter you will find one train ticket you need to use it as soon as you can! go to the place we first met and ask for lidia don't waste any time!! The world depends on you and you are the only one able to save it!  
with love,  
your wife  
LAUREN*

Cold sweat ran down my forehead. My hands started trembling chaotically. Blood was pumping through my veins. The letter said I needed to leave as soon as possible.

I had to leave. Now.

Hearing the small taps of rain on the train window I repeated the letter over and over in my head. What was going to happen? Was the world in danger? Curiosity, sadness



*Photo credit: Sofia Enache, class 6B*

and fear were eating me alive. I kept staring at the black and white image that was frozen in time. The picture was carefully placed in one of the compartments of the black, leather wallet that was beaten up by the passing of time. A wave of memories flooded my brain. She was so beautiful in that snowy white dress, slowly walking towards the altar. Her radiant smile filled the entire room with happiness. Even her eyes were smiling... God, I miss her so much!

Before I knew it... I had arrived at the destination.

I went to the place where Lauren and I had first met: Wonder Coffee Shop. The coffee shop was nearly empty but full of a strong coffee smell. A few people were

chatting at a small table, but their voices were covered by 80's music. I slowly walked to the counter and asked for Lydia. A thin, blonde woman approached me.

"Are you Mr. Smith?" she asked.

"Yes."

"I was expecting you."

Then without saying a word she took me by the hand and led me cautiously out of the coffee shop. We crossed the street towards the old, empty, musty library. After we entered, she pushed on a wall and a secret door opened. There was an enormous bank vault. "Lauren said that you would know the combination," smirked Lydia.

Before I could muster up words, she had already left.

What combination? What was she talking about?

Lauren trusted me and I had failed her. Angry tears started running down my cheeks. Between the tears something caught my attention. Some letters from her writing were larger than the others. I put them together quickly in my mind. The letters spelled: T-W-E-N-T-Y. The vault opened. Inside there was only an dusty old book. I immediately recognized it. It was Lauren's favorite, "The Great Gatsby", written by F. Scott Fitzgerald. When I picked it up, a small post-it note fell out:

*underlined letters.*

*specific order.*

*remember the evening...*

*when I was reading the book.*

I started writing every underlined word from the book on a clean piece of paper: "Jay Gatsby is going to spread a deadly disease through X cure. Instead of a cure for cancer it is a



deadly virus that will kill half of the population in 24 hours. He is helped by Nick Carraway. The virus will be released on May 7th. The only one that you can trust is Daisy Buchanan. You need to go to the local bank and ask for Daisy Buchanan's deposit box."

I couldn't wrap my head around it. It sounded like a sci-fi movie that we would usually watch on Sundays. My brain was nearly exploding. But there was no time to be scared or confused because she wrote that the disease would be spread on May 7th. And that was today?! But who are all these people? Jay Gatsby? Nick Carraway? How can I trust Daisy Buchanan if I don't know who she is? And what evening was the note referring to? Pieces of conversation were flashing in my head like tiny pieces of a puzzle. I remembered! Jay Gatsby was Samuel, the president of the research department in which Lauren worked. Nick Carraway was John, the leader of the whole Institute of Health. Moreover, Daisy Buchanan was Sara, the guard of the building, and she had every password from every room of the institute...

Leaving the library, I hurried around the block to the First National Bank. I got the deposit box and immediately opened it. Inside I found lots and lots and lots of documents that proved their diabolical plan. This was enough proof for the authorities.

I rushed to the police department and told them what was happening and I also showed them the documents. I immediately jumped in a car with a police officer and started driving to the institute. We were accompanied by a dozen other official cars. With the powerful noises made by the sirens in my ears, the only thing I could think about was that we may be too late.

My heart was pumping so hard that I thought it would jump from my chest. When Sara saw us enter, she started shouting. "Floor 2. Room 213. Password 4793. Hurry! They are going to release the virus!"

With the armed police officers guarding my back I rushed into the experiment room. Samuel and John were just opening the fridge that contained the "cure". After a few screams, a loud sharp noise was heard. Within seconds the evil men's body fell on the ground making a blood stain that spread like red ink on a white sheet of paper, covering the pure white floor of the lab. My body was flooded with a weird mix of happiness and sadness.


The deadly virus was then secured by the police officers in a matte black suitcase and sent to a lab so it could be destroyed.

My heart skipped a beat when Lauren appeared next to me. I couldn't believe it. My wife! She was unharmed! A wave of heat spread through my entire body. I thought I was dreaming. Lauren told me that she had been kidnapped by the two villains. She was kept for a month in the cold, dark, moldy cellar of the building because she discovered their diabolic plan.

The only thing I could think about while I was holding her tight to my chest was that she was there with me, alive...

Mălina Necula 6B

# Leo



I choose Leo because I think he's the most mysterious character through the book. While reading, you'll find out that he's Rafe's Katchadourian's brother that passed away years ago, and not just a friend of his. Leo, doesn't talk like normal people, probably because he is imaginary, but draws.

Leo, is the perfect imaginary best friend everyone could have, he's loyal, caring and funny.

Through the book, Leo is giving advice to Rafe and also is helping him to plan the strategy of breaking the Rules.

Rafe says that Leo is the most talkative person he's ever met, because his drawings make a lot of words, you just have to know how to listen.

When Rafe doesn't listen to Leo and he's wrong, Leo always says: "I told you". Leo always kept track of the points he scored by breaking The rules. What a good friend!

Andrei Gelut 6B


## CHARACTER PROFILE

### RAFE

1 I chose Rafe, the main character of the book, because I think he is very brave when he breaks the school rules and not too many people would want to break them.

2 He is sometimes very mean because when a bully at school bullies him, he is afraid and doesn't tell anyone what happened. But he loves his mother very much because when he breaks a rule and his mom finds out, she gets sad and Rafe feels bad about it.

3 At the beginning of the book Rafe goes to a new school and tries to break every rule and at the end of the book he is expelled because he breaks so many rules.





# The Red Bicycle

Raluca Bara, class 12

July 1997. I remember every single detail of it.

I found my cup of mint tea in the middle of our shabby living room, next to my mum's carrot cake. Breakfast. I was happy with the leftovers, since I'd woken up late, as usual, in the summer.

The pale sunlight enhanced the beauty of our wild backyard in which my older sister used to read her fashion magazines. I was never allowed to touch the wretched things, but I didn't care about them - until she left for good.

After the last sip of my cold tea, I grabbed my older brother's new red bike (even though I knew he'd give me hell for it) to go and see what my friends were up to. I didn't know then that the bicycle would be the least of my worries by the end of the day. I got back in time for lunch. But before I could even close the door, my father was yelling at me.

"Where were you" He sounded really upset.

"Just out enjoying the few sunny days we've..."

"We've been trying to ring you all morning. Why didn't you answer?" he shouted.

"I forgot to charge my mobile last night and it died soon after I left home..."

The awkward silence made me realize something was very wrong. The tension in the air was not normal for my big cheerful family.

Michael said nothing about me pinching his bike, but was obsessively counting the few books we had in our study room. Isabelle, my oldest sister, was distracting my baby brother with his colourful puppets. She had a silly smile on her face as she told him stories in a high-pitched voice, but I saw her red eyes and tear-stained face.

My mother looked blankly through the kitchen window.

"What is going on?" I finally dared to ask.

"It's Louise. my twin sister."

"What about Louise?". I felt suddenly



Photo credit: Sofia Enache, class 6B

shaky, not wanting to hear the answer.

"There was a car accident. Two hours ago." my mum said in a flat voice.

"Is she hurt?"

Dad pulled me into a tight hug. "She died."

They were lightning, those words, ripping me in two.

My identical twin sister, twenty minutes older, half of my smile, my reflection and part of everything I ever witnessed.

"Grandma and grandpa escaped with a few injuries," said Dad. "They're waiting for us at the hospital."

My 10-year old sister had been killed.

I could barely speak for the tears clogging my throat.

I wanted to ask how it happened.

Truth is, it didn't really matter.

What I really wanted to know was why it happened to her.

I was only 10, but I was entirely aware that nobody could offer me answers.

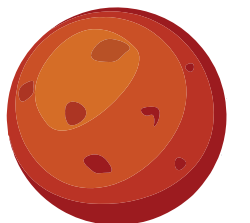
Time's supposed to heal a wound, no matter how deep. Still, thirty years later, I ask myself why I couldn't have been in her place.

I still live in our same old house, but alone. The family split up. No more carrot cake.

Just me and the birds, with the sun, the rain and the moon.

## Titan: Saturn's most special moon

Georgescu Dara



Saturn's moons, Enceladus and Titan have similarities with Earth. Moreover, there is a chance that there could be habitable conditions. So which of these three moons has a great potential and could be an inspiration for scientists and astronomers to discover life and possibly other creatures?

On one hand, I would prefer to return to Titan mainly because of its potential for habitation and its interesting atmosphere. Furthermore, it is similar to Earth's conditions. Titan has liquids in forms of lakes and seas mainly made up of methane and ethane. Besides that, Titan also has a very similar water cycle compared to Earth's, and its surface lakes and seas of liquid hydrocarbons could harbor life, which uses different chemistry. Another important fact is that although on Earth, creatures and humans have water as a solvent, there is a possibility that Titan uses hydrocarbon as a solvent even though

water is a stronger solvent. In contrast, water is more chemically reactive, so a life form whose solvent has hydrocarbon would not face the risk of its biomolecules being destroyed. Because of the lakes and seas made up of methane and ethane, Titan could potentially support non-water-based life.

On the other hand, Titan may show signs that it may not be suitable for human living conditions. First, the temperature is roughly -179 degrees Celsius and because of the methane and ethane found in the lakes and seas, can cause frostbite if not wearing protective gear. Apart from that, this incredible moon has an atmosphere so dense that it has roughly the same pressure as a human swimming 15 meters deep in the ocean on Earth and because of its atmosphere if humans attached wings to their arm they could take flight. Titan is a very special moon, which I would love to return to in order to find more discoveries. Secondly, there is a great chance that future discoveries could be made. Moreover, I

consider that once astronauts reach the possibility to step foot on this planet, they could actually find similar sources to the ones on Earth. Not to mention the fact that in February 2015 a hypothetical cell membrane capable of functioning in Titans lakes and seas was modelled. The proposed chemical based for these cell membranes is acrylonitrile, which has been previously detected on Titan. Although it does not contain phosphorus and oxygen found in phospholipids, it contains nitrogen. Its properties are quite similar, including flexibility, stability, self-formation of the sheets and others despite the different chemical structure and external environment.

In conclusion, Titan, out of all three moons inspires me the most due to its mysteries, human habitation potential, its similarities and differences compared to Earth. Titan is truly unique because of the similar substances such as hydrocarbon and nitrogen that could sustain non-water-based life and cell membranes.

## A TRIP TO NOWHERE

*Flavia Tufan, class 7C*



Nick had been out in the sailing boat before, but this was his first trip on his own. The weather was delightful and the sun was shining. Nick was enjoying the view, but then he must have fallen asleep because when he woke up he was in the middle of nowhere. He thought he was dreaming because he had seen this happen in movies, but he never

thought it could actually happen. He started shouting, thinking he couldn't have gotten that far, but the only thing he heard were the seagulls flying over him. Although he was scared he was gonna starve to death, he knew there must be other boats passing by. That night while he was sleeping he heard a cruise ship approaching. The wind was strong and the waves were huge. Suddenly his boat was tipped over. The water was freezing, and his body was getting colder by the minute, the enormous waves made it hard to breath for him. Not being able to resist anymore, he let go.

All of a sudden he could hear the deafening sound of sirens, next thing he knew he was on a hospital bed surrounded by his friends and family who had been tormented at the thought of losing him.

It all ended well for Nick, although he is not going to go sailing anytime soon.

## Noughts and Crosses

by Malorie Blackman

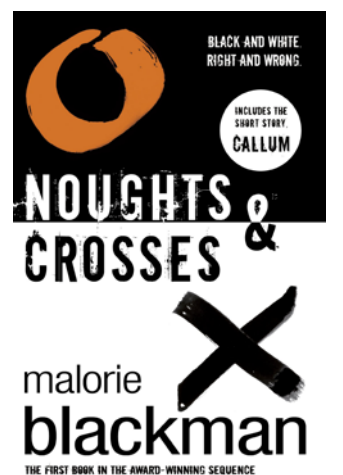
*Milicín-Gheorghiu Cristian, class 10*

The book "Noughts & Crosses" by Malorie Blackman has a storyline of a dark-skinned girl named Sephy who is a Cross and a white boy called Callum who is a Nought these being different "classes" where the dark-skinned people were the rulers. I believe it has a very interesting storyline revolving around racism which can be overruled of course by the most powerful factor in today's world, love.

In this novel the two teenagers are developing their relationship of friendship into one where they have feelings for each other and manage to fight through this hate going on between their two clans. Can they possibly find a way to be together?

I really enjoyed this book as it shows that love can conquer anything in its way and that even though the two "classes" were totally against each other, the two lovers tried their best to somehow end up together, no matter what.

I totally recommend this book to people who enjoy books about racism and love, but even if you don't and you want to find out what happened I strongly encourage you to read the book as you will appreciate their courage and involvement.





# Democracy vs Totalitarian System

Teodora Vlad, class 7C

Back in 1947 our country called Romania was a member of the Warsaw Communist Pact. Our first president, Gheorghe Gheorghiu Dej initiated the Socialist Republic of Romania that refers to Romania under the Marxist-Leninist one-party communist rule and then into Totalitarian dictatorship. Before the communist invasion, the Kingdom of Romania was ruled Michael the 1st of Romania that turned our country into a paradise, from architecture to the way that people were thinking. When King Michael abdicated, the parliament proclaimed Romania a Republic. So back to communism, after Gheorghe Gheorghiu-Dej's death, Nicolae Ceausescu became the General Secretary of the Romanian Communist Party also known as the president of the republic. I guess then it all started to deteriorate until one day when people realized they were doing a mistake not protesting (22nd of December 1989)- then Romania was ready to start



a new chapter, Democracy. So as to introduce the communism, I want to mark out the changes that Romania suffered throughout years.



The Socialist Republic of Romania (Republica Socialista Romania) went through a lot of changes. For example, the national anthem was originally called „Zdrobite Catusi” (1947-1953), after 6 years it changed to „Te slavim, Romanie” (1953-1977), and when Nicolae Ceausescu became the president: „Trei Culori” (1977-1989). Now we are honored that our national anthem is „Desteapta-te Romane” (1989-present). Isn't this weird that we couldn't decide for one anthem? Another change that Romania suffered of is the government; 1947- Unitary Marxist Leninist one-party socialist republic, 1971- Stalinist one-party Totalitarian Dictatorship, now Romania is part of a unitary semi-presidential republic and multiple parties. But this is not just about political change, it is also about people's lifestyle. In the past people spent nearly 12 hours at an endless Q's just for

them to buy ½ of bread per person. Back in 1970's you were extremely lucky if you had more than 2 or 3 kids because that meant you could buy more food from the store, unlike now when having more than 2 kids is hard, but fortunately stores are everywhere, we have enough food for everybody, no Q's, and people are still bragging about the fact that we don't have enough food in the stores (especially on Christmas time)! Don't you remember those days when you did not have food to serve and you were starving to death, dear adults? Communism was a bad experience for everyone. In communism, people were sent to jail because they protest in the public and had a lack of respect for communism, which topic I am going to discuss later, well now hundreds of people attend protests and no one is sending them to jail, which is the right thing to do.

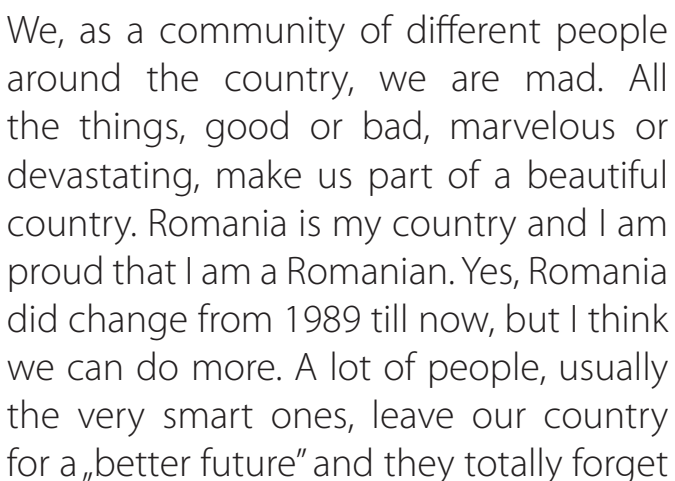
I was born 17 years after 1989. Because the internet could not answer all my questions and curiosities I asked 3 very important persons for me: my grandmother, my mother, and my grandfather to tell me more about the era. All of these persons were born in different periods of time from late 1941 to 1975. I first interviewed my grandmother. „I was born in the communism, lived in it the most of my life in it, but I am against it till this day.” Ecaterina Ghiteanu (1952), my grandmother, had a poor childhood



in the Marxist Leninist one-party communist rule. „People were so poor that the only thing they could do to heat your house was to cut trees or to

steal the ones that other people collected, unlike now when we have electric heating. Anyway, the bad things started to happen when Ceausescu became our president. People were so happy that Romania would potentially become a better country, but they never really thought about being such hard times. When he had his first speech, I saw a big fat middle aged guy, with a mustache that reminded me of Hitler and he said: <I am going to take care of you, dear people> I sat down and waited for a good things to happen.” As my grandmother told me, communism in the Totalitarian Dictatorship times had good and bad parts. The good ones were that kids were forced to go to school, or if you were walking in the middle of the night on the street nothing bad could happen to you because it was extremely safe. But the awful parts were countless. People that owned houses in the center of the city needed to leave their own estate because the government wanted to take down the houses and build flats. Other bad aspects were the food and the Q's you were supposed to stay at for buying food. „I remember one day I saw a lady at the store and she said they will bring meat in the morning, so what I did was I went home, told my family the great news, and planned to sleep in a shopping trolley for me to be able to be the first one at the Q.” The sad part was that if you were a kid and your parents were working day and night, you needed to stay at the Q. My mom Adina Vlad (1975) was one of the unlucky ones. She was one of the top students in her school but also she is the most honest women I know. „I grew up with the words WE DON'T HAVE, even basic things like food or toys.” she said.

the communists came in 1947 his dad was fired because he made part of the Royal Army and communists hated the royal family. Then the Vlad family moved to Bucharest. My grandfather says „ I, as all of my teachers told me, was a very bright student. When I was in the high school, Matei Basarab, me and my classmates created a secret organization against the communism. We basically wrote letters and essays about how awful communism is. One day, when I was about 19 years old, the government found out what we were doing and they send us to jail. This was the most challenging part of my life. I felt so bad for what I did but in the bottom of my heart, I didn't regret anything I said or wrote” Unfortunately my grandfather finished school and college and now is one of the wisest men I have ever met. He is truly happy that people are now free to say what they want and that political jail is not a valid thing anymore. Even if he hated communism because people weren't allowed to express themselves, he thinks that, it' made him the person that he is now. Now, January 2019, 29 years after the year of liberty things are quite controversial.



where they came from, who taught them all the things they know and the most important thing they forget, their true nationality. Instead of saying „I am proud that I am a Romanian! I love my country!“ people are constantly denying who their roots are. So the last thing I want to say is that: I love my country, and I love it just the way she is! Thank you for being the most valuable thing that I own!

connections with humans. Plus, there is the stranger danger which plays a huge part in mass media problems, manipulating users in sometimes cruel ways.

Thirdly, mass media can be quite expensive. Consequently, even though these days the majority of the population has access to devices, there is still quite an alarming number of people that cannot afford devices which provide useful information. Not only are devices getting more and more expensive as technology evolves, but also people's rights to receive information about what is going on in this world are being taken away slowly.

In conclusion, I consider that mass media has both advantages and disadvantages, providing access to information and helping people from all around the world connect with each other, but mass media can be expensive and it can easily distract humans from the beauties of the real world.



# HOLES

*Alexandru Iancu, class 6B*

If you are looking for a book that keeps you in suspense about a boy who is trying to get away from a juvenile detention centre called Camp Green Lake, you should definitely read "HOLES", by Louis Sachar.

Firstly, Stanley Yelnats, the book's main character, was walking down the road when some famous football player's shoes fell over his head. Was this good luck? No, it was bad luck! The police, who were searching for the shoes, and send Stanley to Camp Green Lake, a juvenile detention centre (a huge place where the lake disappeared and now it was only sand and rocks in the burning sun) where he needs to dig holes. But for what are they really digging for?

Secondly, the book is very nicely written, with lots of well-developed characters, suspense moments which will make you take a deep breath, and very vivid dialogue, through which one can see the characters' emotions. However, in different situations you can't really understand them.

Finally, this book has a super awesome plot as the writer makes the reader keep reading from beginning to the end. Don't miss your chance to see Stanley in action! Once you read his story, you are never going to forget it!

## MIDDLE SCHOOL - THE WORST YEARS OF MY LIFE

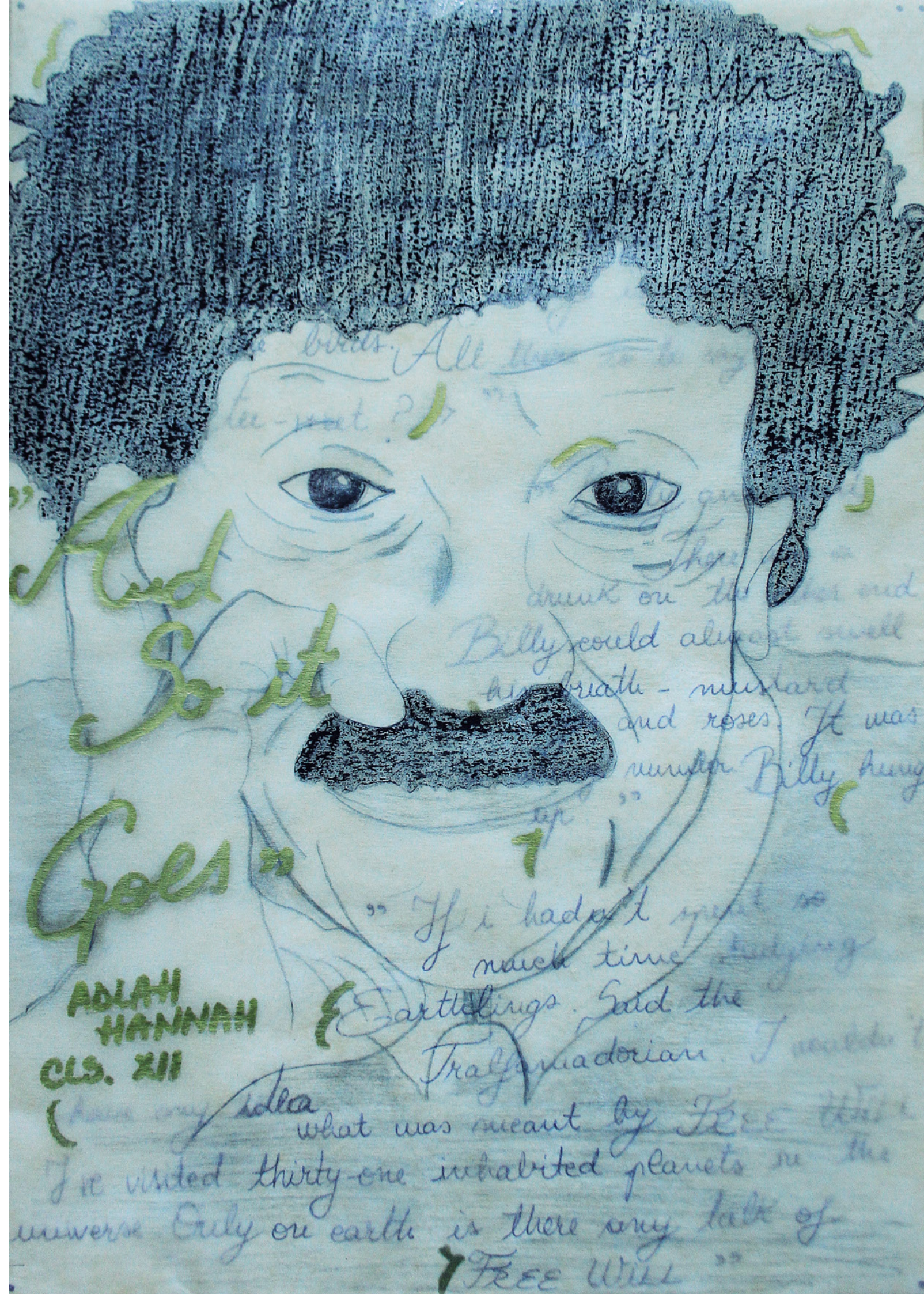
*Andrei Virgil Serbanut, class 6B*

This book written for children is an action and phantasy book about a young boy with a strange imagination. This book by James Patterson and Chris Tebbetts can also be read by adults.

The main character, Rafe Khatchadorian, is a middle school teenager who describes his life and environment through his eyes sometimes overreacts about the characters. Rafe was expelled from to many schools and his mother decided to send him to "Hills Village Middle School". Here he had problems with the teachers and with a bully called Miller. But Rafe had a plan to break the rules. Would be Rafe caught by the teachers? The only way to find out is to read the book.

The book is well-written with many dialogues and images for us to understand it better. The characters are described in detail and you can imagine them easily. But the characters are put too much in a bad light at the beginning of the book.

If you see this book in to a bookshop, I strongly recommend you to buy it and read it because it is a very captivating.





# A Wrinkle in Time

by Madeline L'engle

*Ariana Horpos, class 5B*

"A Wrinkle in Time" written by Madeline L'Engle, is an adventure story that takes places on Earth but also in the outer space. This thrilling book is about a girl called Meg murry that tries to find out about her dad's mysterious disappearance with her brother's help, Charles Wallace and a friend called Calvin .

The mystery begins when Meg's dad, Mr. Murry disappears. Meg can't control herself anymore and her little brother goes after Mrs.Which, Mrs.Who and Mrs. Whatsit so that he'll go after his father . After the three ladies accept, Meg and Calvin they'll go in the outer space to find their . When they arrive in Camazotz, the dark planet, something bad happens to Charles Wallace, but Meg and Calvin will save him and also find Mr. Murry. They will have to stay strong and united .

The book is beautifully written as the author creates tension in some moments of the book .What the books gives is the power of not letting down, of strength of unity .

I highly recommend "A Wrinkle in Time". Readers will have the action , but they will have to believe that everything will be great.



# A Wrinkle in Time

by Madeline L'engle

*Sofia Dermengiu, class 5*

"A Wrinkle in Time" written by Madeline L'engle is an amazing story. This fascinating book is about two brothers, Meg, Charles Wallace and their friend Calvin, that go through an incredible adventure to find their father.

The mistery begins when their father, Mr. Murry, suddenly disappears. One day, Mrs. Whatsit comes to the kids' house. The next day, they go to an unknown planet, named Uriel. On this planet, they can see a black spot on the sky. That black thing is also a planet, called Camazotz. When they arrive on it, Charles Wallace gets possessed by a giant brain, named IT.

The book is full of thrilling moments as the author creates tension with unexpected parts. The best thing is that you will never know what will happen next. I thoroughly recommend "A Wrinkle in Time". Readers will find this book very interesting and intriguing.

# TRASH

by Andy Mulligan

*Alessio Pellegrini, class 5*

„Trash“,by Andy Mulligan, is a very interesting book that takes place in Behala, a very dirty place. The book tells the story of three teenagers, Raphael, Rat and Gardo, that want to reveal a secret. They work together all the time and they help each other. The book changed my life because now I know how to treat other poor people that really need our help.

The story begins when Raphael, one of the three boys, finds a wallet with some important things in it. The police is red with anger when they hear that nobody has the wallet. There is one key that lets them start the real adventure. Raphael, Gardo and Rat are doing what they can to reveal the mysterious secret. When the boys find out that the owner of the wallet is dead, they go to the prison to obtain more information to reveal the secret. Gardo talks to someone that knows something about what really happened with the wallet's owner, Jose Angelico.

This book is full of thrilling moments and the author fills the readers with tension. „Trash“ is a book that is full of unexpected twists and adventure. The book gives you silent, interesting and tensioned moments

when the boys are in very big danger. I highly recommend „Trash“, by Andy Mulligan. The ones that take on this challenge will have a very great time reading this book. If you want to be part of the story when you read it, read till the end.





# A WRINKLE IN TIME

By Madeleine L'engle

*Natalia Dobre, class 5A*

„A Wrinkle in Time” by Madeleine L'engle is a very interesting adventure book that tells the story of Meg Murry, a 13 year-old girl that is not accepted by the children in her class. The adventure begins when three women named Mrs. Whatsit, Mrs Who and Mrs. Which take the children on planet Uriel so that Meg and Charles Wallace can find their lost father. Then, they go to a planet named Camazotz. There is the thing called IT. When the three women leave the children they go in a town where the children bounce the ball and skip the rope at the same time. They are amazed. They, also, see a kid that is not bouncing the ball and skipping the rope at the same times with the other kids. Then, they go to the Central Central Intelligence. IT In this building. IT is like a brain that dominates the planet of Camazotz.

The book is full of adventure because Meg, Charles and Calvin are taken to different planets and places that they didn't discover before, and full of suspense because we don't know if Meg finds her lost father. This book is also sad, because Meg is not accepted by the students in her class and because Meg's father disappeared more than two years ago.

I recommend the book „A wrinkle in time,” for sure , because if you read it, you will love it so much that you will not get it out of your hand.

## HOLES

By Louis Sachar

*Alexandru Iancu, class 6B*

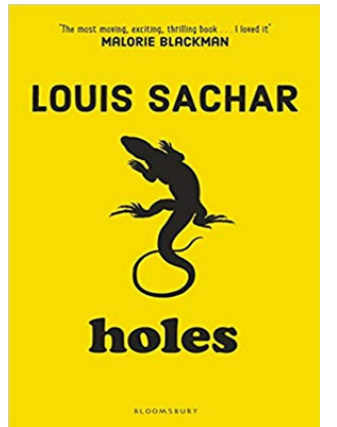
If you are looking for a book that keeps you in suspense about a boy who is trying to get away from a juvenile detention centre called Camp Green Lake, you should definitely read “HOLES”, by Louis Sachar.

Firstly, Stanley Yelnats, the book's main character, was walking down the road when some famous football player's shoes fell over his head. Was this good luck? No, it was bad luck! The police, who were searching for the shoes, and send Stanley to Camp Green Lake, a juvenile detention centre (a huge place where the lake disappeared and

now it was only sand and rocks in the burning sun) where he needs to dig holes. But for what are they really digging for?

Secondly, the book is very nicely written, with lots of well-developed characters, suspense moments which will make you take a deep breath, and very vivid dialogue, through which one can see the characters' emotions. However, in different situations you can't really understand them.

Finally, this book has a super awesome plot as the writer makes the reader keep reading from beginning to the end. Don't miss your chance to see Stanley in action! Once you read his story, you are never going to forget it!



## The Giver

by Lois Lowry

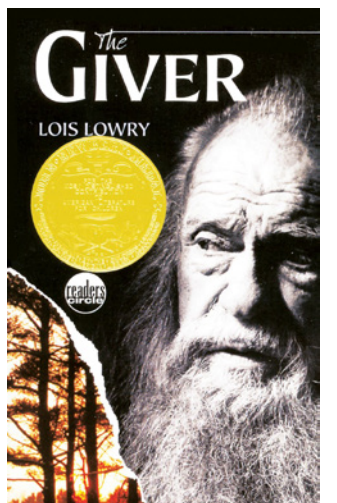
*Ema Stanciu, class 7A*

The Giver is a book that subtly mocks the problems in today's society. It's not only about friendship, love and trust, but about what an ideal world would look like. The novel, written by Lois Lowry, also author of “Gathering Blue” and “Messenger” will for sure make you look at the world from a different perspective and make you appreciate the smaller things in life, like liberty.

Everything takes a turn when Jonas, the main character of this book, is chosen to become the Receiver Of Memory of his community. A “perfect” community that has eradicated any form of aggression, hate or bad things in general. Little did he know how much pressure he'd have to withstand. Everything in his training must not be discussed with anyone besides his teacher, The Giver. What adventures will Jonas have to go through? Read the book to find out!

In my opinion, this publication is a wonderful one as it is very unique and thought-through. The characters are vague and mysterious yet still very interesting. The plot is superior, and you won't be able to get your hands off this novel - you're going to be hooked!

All in all, I definitely recommend reading this book. It's a roller coaster of emotions and if you love science fiction and mystery, you will absolutely adore it!



# The Giver

by Lois Lowry

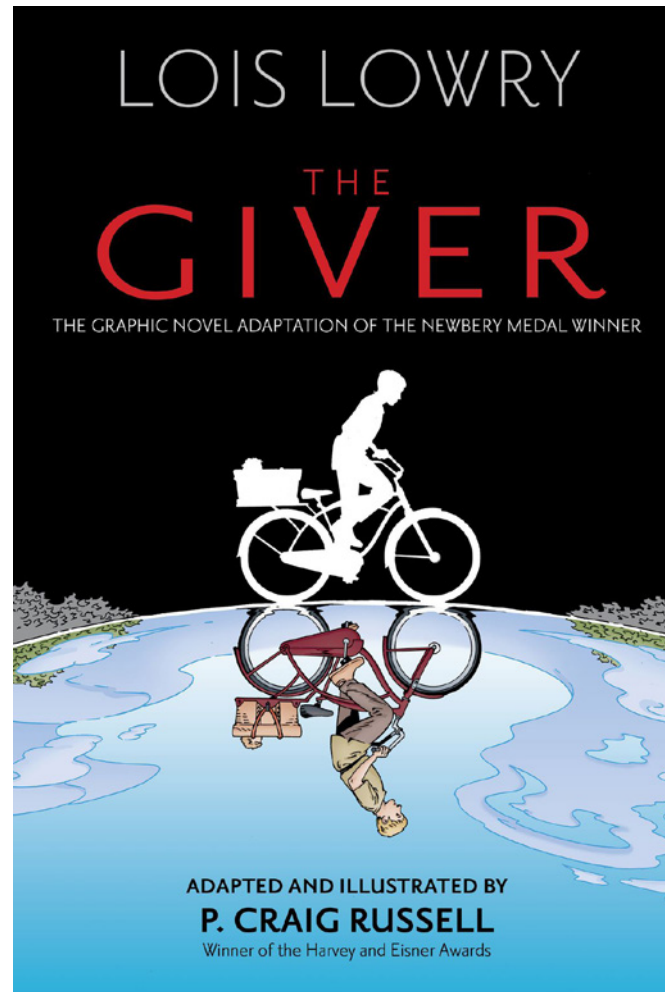
*Catinca Lazăr, class 7B*

'The Giver', beautifully written by Lois Lowry, is a fictional novel set in the author's vision of an utopian society, with Jonas as the main character. He lives with his family in a world where everything is seemingly perfect world, where everything is under control, from the food, to even the citizen's feelings.

As soon as children turn 12, they are given an Assignment, which is equivalent to a job. At the so-called "Ceremony of Twelve", Jonas faces a surprise when the Chief Elder skips his turn, only to come back to reveal the biggest change of his life. Following the relationship between young Jonas and his mentor, the Giver, this novel tells the story the boy's evolution to become a Receiver of Memory, considered the most important job in the entire community. He faces indescribable pain and extraordinary joy, together with many other feelings that he never experienced before. The story reaches a suspenseful climax when Jonas finds out a mindblowing secret that his community has been hiding for years, which he decides to take action upon in the most unexpected way.

The characters are very well-developed and believable, using adequate vocabulary for the utopian setting. Lois Lowry amazingly manages to not use terms related to color, therefore wonderfully creating the right image for this perfect community, where average things such as color or animals are non-existent. There are several moving and eye-opening scenes, such as Jonas' sudden realization of the apparently innocent children's games he used to play with such small amount of care.

'The Giver' is an extraordinarily well-written book and its gripping plot is guaranteed to keep the reader absorbed into its pages from the very first sentence to the last full-stop. I thoroughly recommend this masterpiece and it certainly deserves a place in your bookshelf. Don't miss the opportunity to read this moving novel!



# THE GIVER

by Lois Lowry

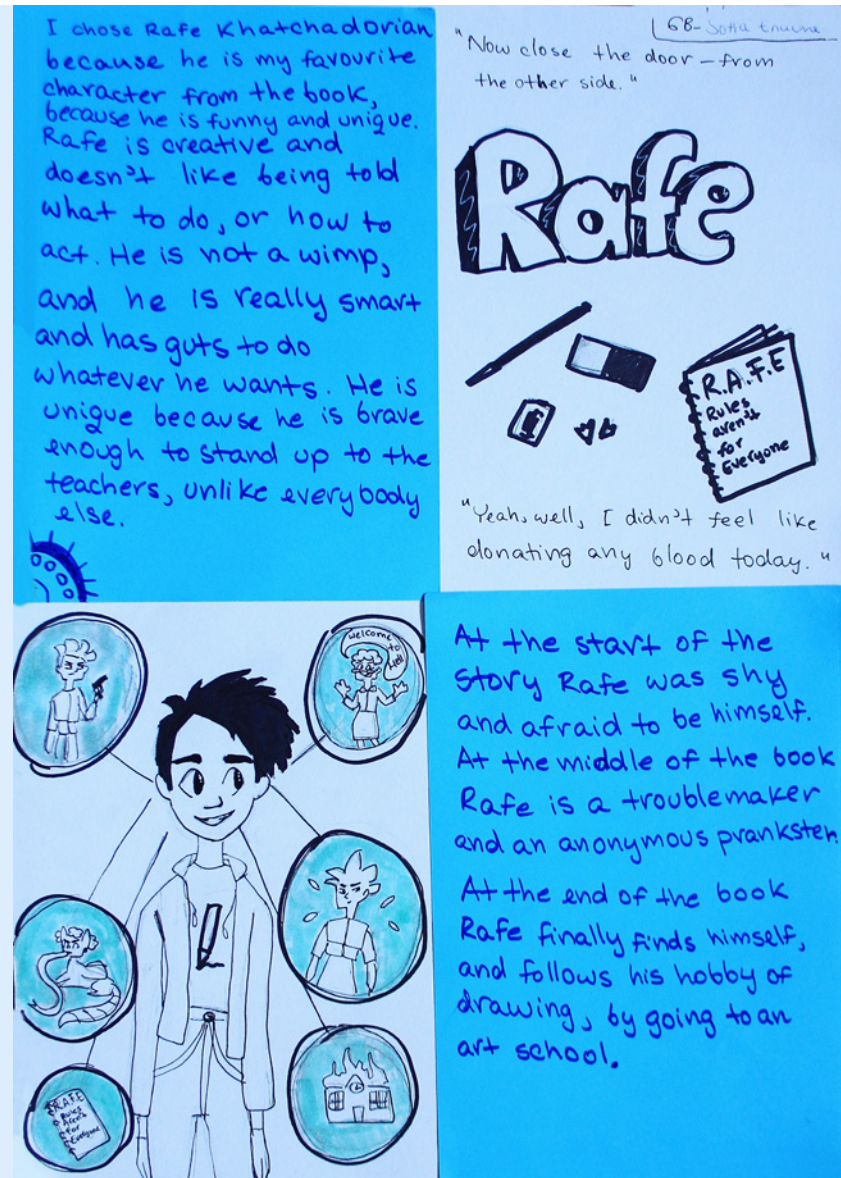
*Busuioc Ștefan, class 7B*

Lois Lowry's The Giver is a subtle invitation to join Jonas in an amazing and educating journey of self-initiation, with a focus on individual motivation that inspires a person to move forward. Jonas lives in a wild blossoming community, a paradise country. Due to his

unique profile, he is assigned the status of Receiver of Memory. Here is to be noted the Giver's part in the greatest dilemma whether Jonas would be strong enough to succeed or would fail. Will the fact of having all four qualities required for this mission, i.e. Intelligence, Integrity, Courage and Wisdom, be sufficient for Jonas to meet the Giver's expectations, or will he need one more quality for that purpose?

The book will certainly deliver a revelation to those who are genuinely interested in

finding the meaning of life. I found that the reader is rather engaged in a process of introspection versus "on-the-shelf" answers quest. This is due to the plain language used by the author, which makes the book easy-to-read and enhances the reader to catch the message. It is to be noted the book's particular novelty: the author explores the importance of the books, music and colors perception during the mission undertaken by Jonas in his intention to See Beyond.

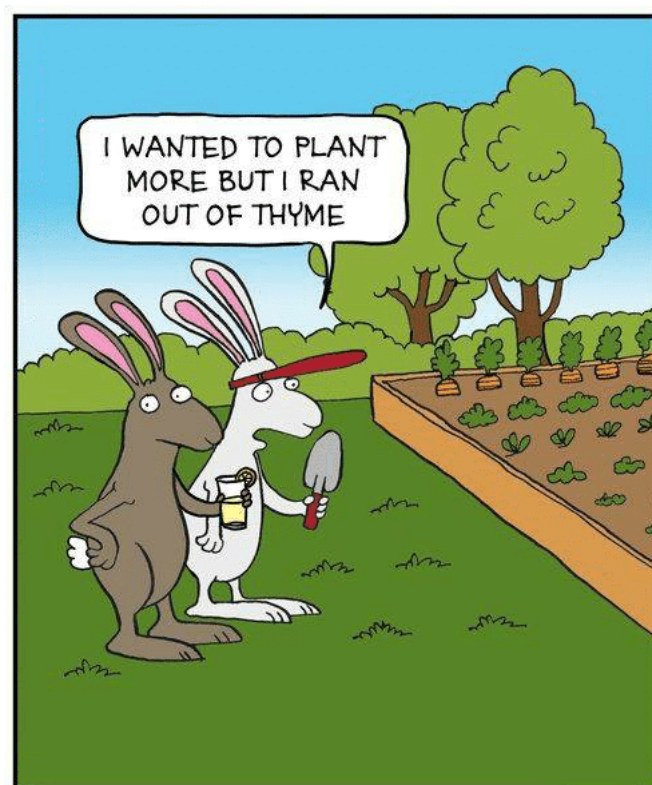
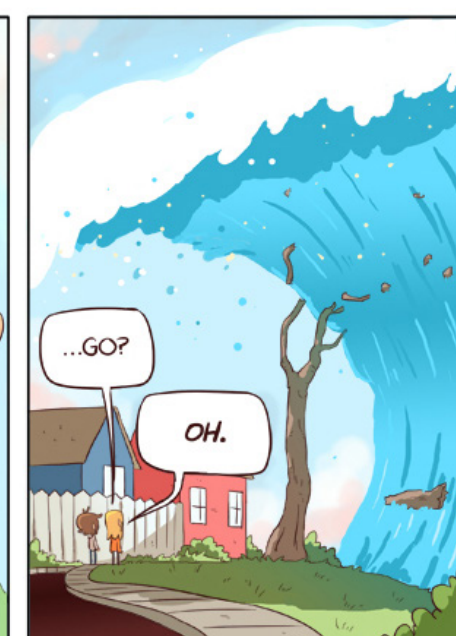
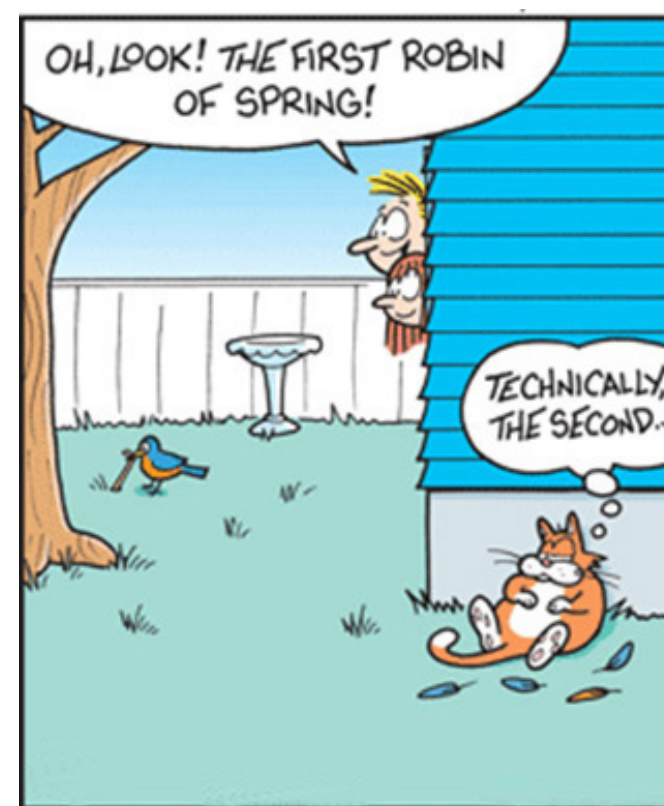
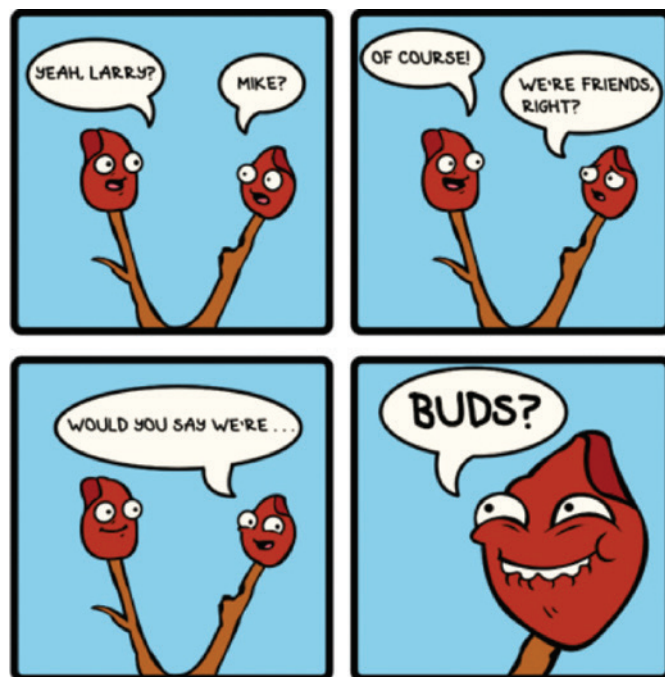




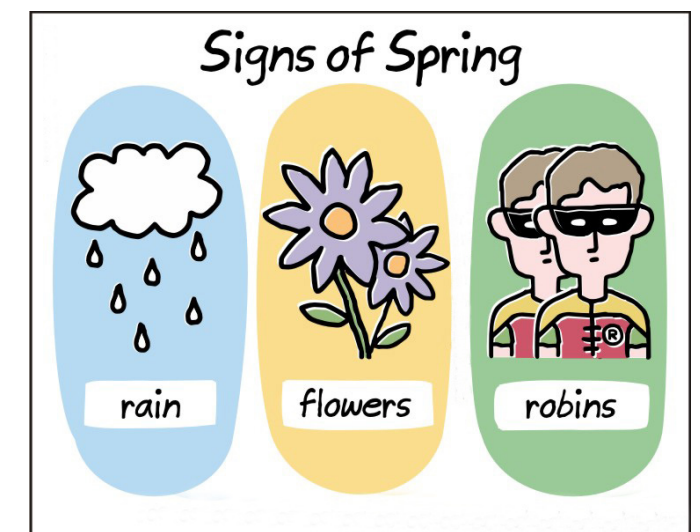
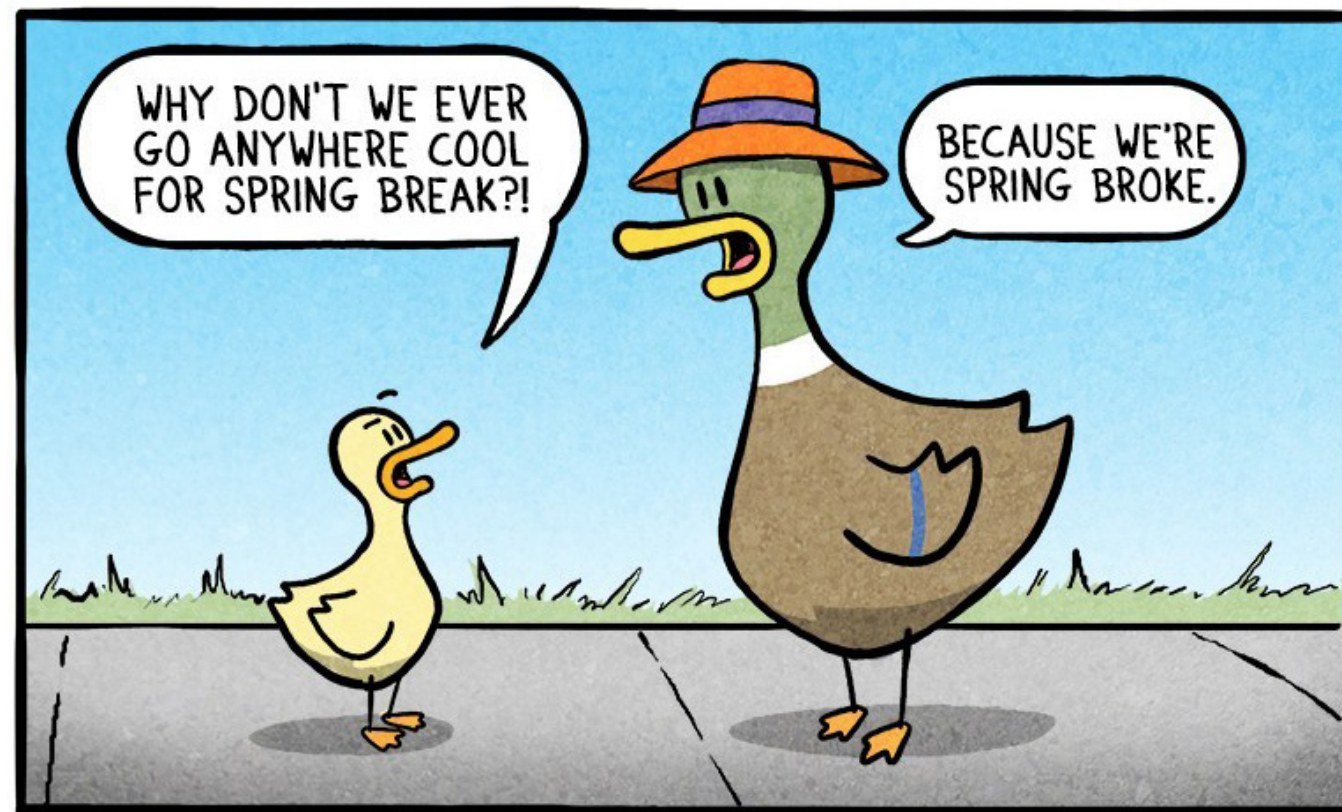


*Laughter  
Zone*











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