

# School ROCKS



**SCOALA MEA**

LIDER în formarea de PERSONALITĂȚI  
prin EDUCAȚIE



**“SCOALA MEA” HIGH SCHOOL  
BUCHAREST, ROMANIA**

**ENGLISH MAGAZINE - No. 7  
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*The New House System implemented in Scoala Mea*

# *contents*



*news, events and trends*

*pages 3-28*

*creative writing*

*pages 29-68*

*laughter zone*

*pages 69-72*



# *Welcome!*

*School Rocks has reached its 7<sup>th</sup> edition thanks to all students and English teachers in 'Scoala Mea' High School! We dedicate this edition – as we did last year – to all students, parents and teachers who have participated to the Christmas Charity Fair organized by 'Scoala Mea' High School on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2015. Together we have helped the children from "Casa Iosif" Orphanage - Bucharest, the ones in 'Saint Joseph' Daycare Centre - Bucharest, and the ones in School number 13, sector 1 - Bucharest.*

*May all of you have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*

## **THANK YOU**

*Ciprian – Petre Bibic*

*'School Rocks' Magazine Coordinator*

# Houses Are Here!

Beginning on January 11, 2016, the very first House Points are to be awarded to students, and the race to win the coveted House Cup will have begun! Much work and energy has been put into creating the three Houses: Hoovendash, Wizenwing, and Rumblesnap. Both students and teachers worked together for several months in order to put together all the many pieces that were needed in order to have such a system. And the impact can already be felt, especially in the Primary School where excitement is sky high.

## **What is a “House”?**

The House System is a common feature of schools in the English-speaking schools in Bucharest and around the world. Students are divided into teams called 'Houses'. To start the system this year, students were allocated to Houses based on alphabetical order.

Houses compete against each other by earning House Points. Also, at the end of the year, there are the House Games. House Games involve one full day of direct competition between Houses according to three different styles of tasks: athletic, artistic, and scholastic. At the end of the year, the House with the most House Points wins the coveted House Cup.

## **Why have a House System?**

Since the founding of the House System in England when students actually ate, drank, and slept in individual houses during school terms, to the present day use in prestigious British boarding schools such as Harrow, Eton, and Winchester College, the House System has been used to “encourage and increase competition between students and to create a supportive environment.”

Our main aims for introducing Houses at Scoala Mea are to improve and encourage social, physical, emotional, and academic development in every student.

Students are not only rewarded House Points for individual effort, but also, and more importantly, for group/team effort. No one student can “win” the House Cup. It is most definitely a team effort. And like any team, it is only as strong as its weakest member. Therefore, each House has two Captains, one for Secondary and one for Primary that



motivate and lead their Houses. Also, every class has a House Representative who is responsible for encouraging their immediate House Members.

### **How do Houses earn House Points?**

Houses Points are points given in order to encourage, challenge, and support each student both individually and in groups. The number of points given depends mostly on the accomplishment and the teacher's decision as to the value of that accomplishment. For example, House Points might be 'offered' to a student who has been continuously late with homework. When the student is on time with his/her homework than the teacher will 'award' the points. Probably 1 or 2 points would be awarded. However, for another student, whose homework is always on time, this is not a very challenging accomplishment. In this case, the teacher might encourage the student to help others with their homework, or even help 'teach' a class by demonstrating how the homework should be done. Here, the teacher would probably award 4 or 5 House Points depending on the amount of work and difficulty.

On the other hand, more House Points are given to group activities: Drama Week performances, Charity Work, Romanian and English Cross-curricular Week activities, sport events, etc. In these cases, each student could earn 9 to 10, or even more, House Points.

And finally, the House Games. Soon to be one of the most exciting ways to earn points. At the end of Semester 2 this year, sometime in June, Scoala Mea will hold its first ever House Games Competition. Like in the Harry Potter movies, students from the three different Houses compete against each other in different types of competitions: academic, physical, and creative. At the end of the day, House Points are counted and the House Cup is awarded. The House Cup is awarded to the House with the most House Points earned throughout the entire year. And to make this first year even more special, the House Cup will be named after the student with the Most House Points regardless if they are in the winning House or not. Their name shall live on as an inspiration to future generations!

### **What are the three Houses?**

Students have been involved with the creation of the Houses from the very start. They voted on the names, animals, colors, and characteristics of their own Houses. They submitted their own House Crest designs, based on the voting results, and the teachers voted on the most outstanding creations. The winning students will have their art and

signature forever present with the House Crests. A wonderful thing to revisit in the future! Students then voted for their own House Representatives from each class. These Representatives meet with the House Captains each month at a special meeting to plan strategies and motivate each other to earn more Points in order to win the House Cup.

### ***Meet the three Houses***

#### **The House of Hoovendash**



The Hoovendash House has silver and black as its colors; the wolf as its animal; and its characteristics are strength and loyalty.

The Hoovendash House Crest was created by Hannah Adlah in Class 9.

The House Captains are Sebastian Florea from Class 10, and Luca Alexandru from Class 4B.

#### **The House of Wizenwing**



The Wizenwing House has white and blue as its colors; the owl as its animal; and its characteristics are intelligence and cleverness.

The Wizenwing House Crest was created by Denise Tanase from Class 9.

The House Captains are Holly Dolinski from Class 11, and Toma Sisak from Class 4B.

#### **The House of Rumblesnap**



The Rumblesnap House has red and gold as its colors; the phoenix as its animal; and its characteristics are being extraordinary and creative.

The House Crest was designed by Andrei Marcu from Class 11.

The Rumblesnap House Captains are Andrei Marcu from Class 11, and Alexia Dragan from Class 4B.



# The Houses of Scoala Mea



2015-2016



## House Points Scale 2015-2016



## The House Captains and Representatives

### Hoovendash

#### Representatives

Maria Tigirlia (11)  
Theodor Baraban (10)  
Hannah Kishali (9)  
Ana Dangubici-Bogdan (8A)  
Marian Gligore (8B)  
Clara Florea (7A)  
Cristian Saito (7B)  
Alessia Greco (6A)  
Andrei Bobac (6B)  
Alexandru Portnol (5A)  
Daniel Alaw (5B)  
Maria Rodea (4A)  
Maria Dusa (4B)  
Armin Tonolles (4C)  
Mia Georgescu (3A)  
Vlad Mercutianu (3B)  
Alessio Pellegrini (2A)  
Petr Alexandru (2B)  
Ana Maria Stanculescu (1A)  
Iulia Ghiorghita (1B)

#### House Captains

Sebastian Florea (11)  
Luca Alexandru (4B)

### Wizenwring

#### Representatives

Dominic Belved (10)  
Babica Ana Bara (9)  
Mircea Flores (8A)  
Alexandru Dalia (8B)  
Christian Ghiorghita-Milovan (7A)  
Tudor Andreonic (7B)  
Anastasia Poonalati (6A)  
Mina Patraules (6B)  
Alexa Vallamancu (5A)  
Theodora Andreonic (5B)  
Carla Isachre-Falub (4A)  
Vlad Costache (4B)  
Mia Cocasiano (4C)  
Tamara Bousa (3A)  
Sofia Enache (3B)  
Sofia Alexandrescu (2A)  
Maria Predica (2B)  
Patrick Budia (1A)  
Carla Sandu (1B)

#### House Captains

Holly Dolinski (11)  
Toma Sisak (4B)

### Rumblesnap

#### Representatives

Razvan Prodan (10)  
Daria Huru-Jonescu (9)  
Alexa Iordachescu (8A)  
Maria Tanase (8B)  
Ioana Saitic (7A)  
Catalina Torner (7B)  
Ana Ghiorghita (6A)  
Sofiana Enache (6B)  
Alexa Mocanu (5A)  
Maze Baciu (5B)  
Dara Georgescu (4A)  
Catalina Lazar (4B)  
Teodora Vlad (4C)  
Alexandru Filip (3A)  
Malina Niculescu (3B)  
Irina Porcu (2A)  
Vlad Cornea (2B)  
Marek Constantin (1A)  
Maya Noelle Presinger (1B)

#### House Captains

Andrei Marcu (11)  
Alexia Dragan (4B)

# The Rumbletrap House



2015-2016

## Captain, Representatives, & Members Secondary School



## Primary School





# The Hoovendash House



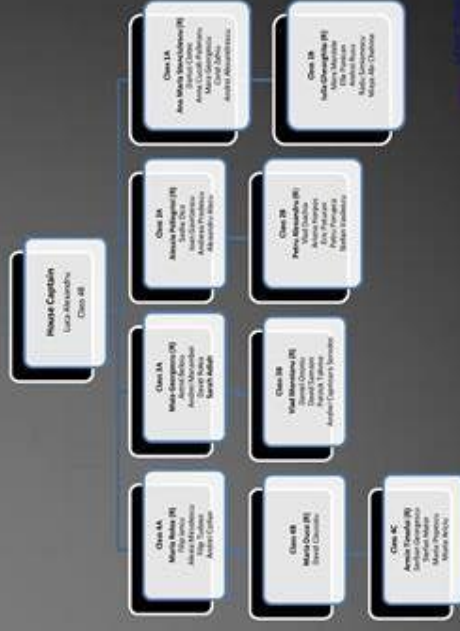
2015-2016

## Captain, Representatives, & Members

### Secondary School



### Primary School



# The Wizenmwing House



2015-2016

## Captain, Representatives, & Members

### Secondary School



### Primary School





# House Points Scale 2015-2016



## Everyday Tasks

- Cleaning desk
- Opening the door for someone
- Wiping the board
- Being punctual
- Helping teachers



## Thoughtful Tasks

- Great behavior all class
- Great class group work
- Picking up someone else's jacket off floor
- Great homework
- Organized notebook/notes
- Assisting another student



## Difficult Tasks

- Excellent homework
- Excellent test/exam result
- Excellent group work
- Progress of the Week
- Corner of Fame
- Class project



## Extra Work

- Class display
- School Newspaper Article
- Hall display
- Facebook video



## Group

## Accomplishments

- Christmas Bake Sale
- Community work
- Drama Week
- Student Assembly performance
- Documentary Video

1

3

5

8

10



# CHRISTMAS CHARITY FAIR

*By Teodora Stancu, class 9*

*Every year, before the Christmas holiday, our school organises a fair to help the less fortunate children in orphanages and some kids with poor possibilities. Each student from classes 5-11 prepared a variety of types of food and decorations for our Christmas Charity Fair which took place on 11<sup>th</sup> December this year. When the fair started, we were extremely enthusiastic and interested as we wanted sell all of our products. After two hours of hard work, we ended up earning much more money than we had expected for the poor orphan children in 'Casa Iosif' Orphanage - Bucharest, Saint Joseph Daycare Centre- Bucharest, School number 13 - Bucharest, and for the 'Colectiv' victims. We also bought some Christmas presents for them to enjoy. The fair was a real success as we gathered 18773 ron for Casa Iosif, Saint Joseph Daycare Centre and School 13, and 3653 ron for 'Colectiv' victims.*

*On 12<sup>th</sup> December, on a beautiful Saturday morning, we went by bus with some of the teachers in our school to the children in 'Casa Iosif' Orphanage to offer them their presents. They had a surprise for us and other people invited there as they impressed all of us by singing wonderful carols and reciting Christmas poems. When we gave them the presents, we could see their large smile on their faces which made us feel extraordinary for making such charitable act. We all learned some important lessons from the 21 children in 'Casa Iosif' ... Each of us has to appreciate what he/she has and think more often about all the people who aren't as fortunate as we are. Here is a gallery of pictures with the Christmas Charity Fair and the children we visited.*



# 'SCOALA MEA' CHRISTMAS CHARITY FAIR – 11 DECEMBER 2015





## Class 5 B and how they prepared for The Christmas Fair



**Anastasia Gorea:** "I was very excited about it and I tried to bring what I thought people would buy to raise a lot of money. To me, this experience meant team work too."

**Daniel Alexe:** "I was so enthusiastic about the Christmas Fair because I knew all the money would go to the children in need. I liked it when we visited them because I saw joy on their faces when we gave them the presents."

**Matei Baci:** "It was a new experience for me and I was happy about it. It felt like I was doing something important."

**Daria Vicol:** "I liked the visit that we payed to the children. We played and they gave us a lesson about happiness."





**'CASA IOSIF' ORPHANAGE - BUCHAREST**





**'ST. JOSEPH' DAYCARE CENTRE - BUCHAREST**





**SCHOOL No.13 - BUCHAREST**







# *My Trinity Experience*



The Trinity exam is very popular among the students from 'Scoala Mea' High School because it provides a great opportunity to test oneself not only from the linguistic point of view, but it also checks the ability to develop a consistent dialogue with a native speaker of English. Set in a familiar context (at school), the exam enables both the student and the examiner to share cultural and academic information, in a dialogue that can vary from 8 to 10 minutes. Enough time to share experiences, express opinions and most of all, enjoy the genuine British moment! When asked how they felt before/during/after the exam, the students recalled the following:

*'For me, Trinity has always been a funny experience. Most exams make you feel nervous, but Trinity relaxes you. It develops the sociability and the humor to children. It's an awesome exam.'* - **Luca Alexandru, 4 B**





*'Excitement, that's what I felt before I entered the exam room. Happiness followed during the exam. Satisfaction is what I felt when I left the exam room. Briefly, that's what Trinity means to me. Beyond all these feelings, this exam helps me speak good English and have a proper conversation with a native. For all these reasons, I became more confident and Trinity makes it possible.'* - **Lazar Catinca, 4 B**

*'For me, Trinity means a special opportunity to express myself. My experience at Trinity was magnific! I loved every single moment of it. It has become more than an exam because it is a great experience which makes you want to get to know how to have a meaningful conversation with a native.'* - **Duca Maria, 4 B**

*"Before the exam I felt very nervous, but when I stepped into the room I relaxed and started speaking with the examiner."* - **Ariana Horpos, 2B**

*"After the exam I was very happy because I knew I did a good job. My result was **Pass with Distinction** and I'm very happy about it. "* - **Anisia Paun-Vrapciu, 2B**

*"The examiner was a nice tall man. He made me relax and understand that I didn't have to be afraid. The Trinity Exam was a great experience. I am excited when I think about that day."* - **Maria Predica, 2B**

*"I'll do it again next year!"* - **Stefan Vasilescu-Trasca, 2B**



# **INTERVIEW WITH A 'SCOALA MEA' STAR - VLAD CEANGA, 2B**



*By Vlad Costache, 4B*

## *On the Edge of Professionalism*

*Vlad Ceanga, only 8 years old, has turned his hobby, carting, into a well-organized activity after school. He has already made a name in the field and promises he will do his best to train and win BIG. Let's hear him speak about his first tournaments and competitions, in an interview held by Vlad Costache.*

V.Co (excited): Hello, I've heard that you won a carting tournament! How does that feel?

V.C (a bit nervous): It feels great! I am always very happy when I win.







V.Co: Ok, let's talk a bit about school, shall we? (winking at Vlad) How is school? Do you like learning here, in Liceul Teoretic Scoala M.E.A.?

V C: I like it a lot, I enjoy the classes we have and spending time with my colleagues.

V Co: What made you start carting? What was your first idea?

V C (feeling more confident) : I went to Spain and watched a few carting races there. Because I liked it a lot I came back to Romania and started racing.

V Co (amazed): OK, how much do you like competing?

V C (smiling) A looot... It's the best thing about my hobby.

V Co: Ok...do you have a carting trainer?

V C: Yes, I do! His name is Constantin and he's a professional racer.

V Co: How do you feel when you win a difficult race?

V C: That makes me very, very happy.

V Co: Do you own a cart?

V C: Yes, I do, and I like it a lot!

V Co: What colour is it?

V C: It's brown.

V Co: Thank you for your time, good luck and keep winning!



Welcome to

# Cambridge ESOL



## MY CAMBRIDGE EXAMS

### My FCE Experience, by ANA DANGUBIC, 8A

I've been studying English for a little over ten years and might I say it helped me a lot. One of my latest encounters with the English language was the The Cambridge FCE (First Certificate in English) exam, which I wouldn't have passed without the help and support of my school and my English teachers.

I've been preparing for this exam ever since the school year started. I was very nervous when the actual examination kicked off, because I was scared I might fail taking into consideration the fact that I scored an A in one single mock exam. I overcame my fear and started writing. My hands were a little shaky but I was confident that I would make it. And I did! When I got my diploma I couldn't believe what I was seeing before my very eyes. Not only did I pass but I even took an A.

For me the speaking part was the most nerve wracking and the anticipation before going in was killing me. In the end it all turned out to be great. Speaking turned out to be my favourite part and I scored maximum points on it. For someone who is going to take the exam,





I'd say that hard work is the key to success and calm down and have fun.

In case you are curious about the future exams in 'Scoala Mea' High School, The English Department have already announced the schedule of this year's Cambridge exams: YLE will be on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2016, and KET, PET, FCE (for schools) will take place on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2016. So, good luck to all next year's candidates! You can do it!

## ***My FCE Experience, by MIHNEA MANEA - 8A***

When I started seventh grade, I never imagined how hard it could be to work for an exam that mattered so much for my future. Well, I can say that FCE really made me give everything I had to win this "battle" .

I can't say that things went wrong, but I can't say that I ever felt fully prepared for this exam either. Simulations went pretty well, but still, there was something that made me feel unprepared. At the penultimate simulation, I didn't do well at all for the speaking part and my teacher talked to me and I was almost sure that I was going to give up on this exam and just.....move on. But my teacher, Miss Ana, never left me behind. She supported me as much as she possibly could and I want to thank her with this occasion for being there for me.

Finally, the big day came and I recall that I was pretty relaxed in that morning, although I also remember my hands shaking so hard in the speaking exam that the table was also moving a little bit :). And now...well...I am here, staring at my diploma which says "185 of 190 points ; Pass with Grade A" and thinking : "Was it really me who sat this exam?" but anyways, I didn't do it on my own. As I said, the support from Miss Ana was huge and everyone who was involved in all the simulations did a very good job with all the kids.

In conclusion, I believe that I worried a little bit too much, but I had people near me who woke me up from time to time and I will always be thankful.



## My FCE Experience, by GEORGIA CANURA, 8A



To start off, I would like to thank our school's amazing English department. Their dedication towards teaching us, the students, the right skills in order to achieve such goals. Receiving an A in my FCE Exam has been one of my goals since being in fourth grade. It all began when we started 7th grade. We worked a lot each day whole year, aiming high. Pressure was on when me and my classmates were getting our mock exam results. I still remember

how hopeless I felt when seeing that my first mock exam was B. I really wanted to get that A. For all the other mocks I got only A which I can say, lifted up my self-confidence. The last month of preparation before the exam took place was INTENSE. Because of some personal issues, I could not attend the same exam as my class mates, so I had to take it separately.

The exam itself has 4 parts: Reading And Use of English, Writing, Listening and Speaking (which in my case was scheduled on a different location and date than the rest of my exam). Taking my exam went by very fast. It was such a relief to finally finish it, but still, I was anxious about my results.

I reckon the period of time waiting for them was like one month. My English teacher texted me and told me the results had been published while me and my mom were in the car. I got an A! I remember perfectly how happy I was. My diploma was given to me on the opening festivity this school year. Me and the other students who got an A on the exam got a reward for our grades. If you're taking this exam I wish you good luck. If I were you I would start studying for it already!







# The Public Speaking Competition

## *My Public Speaking Experience, by DANI PAISE -7A*

I was a shy child.

I look at my little sister today, who is almost three years old, and find it amazing how fearless she is of strangers. She will play with any other child like he is her instant best friend. She has very little fear of adults as well, having no issues talking to any random person, and involving them in games and activities.

When I was my sister's age I stood behind my mum's leg whenever I met anyone new and it took me a long time to warm to people. Even as I grew up I found it takes a while for me to reach a comfort zone with new people; however, I have learned how to be much more socially "fearless".

As all people discover as they grow up, the more socially comfortable you are, the more opportunities you enjoy. Life tends to challenge you with many situations where being a more social person has advantages, which used to **really annoy me**. I felt, as an introverted person who didn't want to talk much, that I should not be forced to be outgoing if I didn't want to be.

I knew that if I was relaxed and comfortable, I was capable of enjoying a conversation and could possibly be a good speaker with valuable things to say. Because of my shyness I preferred to be in my **own head**. I didn't like to be ignored, but I would choose to be ignored rather than face the fear of talking in front of other people.

I was afraid of letting people know what I believe.

Until one day, when I went to the Public Speaking Competition. I was afraid, I was afraid I would fail, really bad. Fortunately, I was the last one, which gave me time to look at others.



I heard great speeches and, when it was my time, I was still afraid to talk. I needed to say something so I started speaking. The moment I started speaking, all the fear I had in me disappeared. It was like I was telling my father the speech. When I finished, I got asked questions, and I forgot about that part. I felt scared, but I managed to answer all the questions with confidence.

Then came the part when awards were given. I was sure I wouldn't get an award. The first award was the Honorable Mention, and I got it, I couldn't believe it. I won that

### ***My Public Speaking Experience, by NORA STANCU -6A***

At first, I was so afraid to enter the room and walk in there. But then, with all my school teachers' work, I managed to be better than two years ago, when I took an Honorable Mention. After that, I became more courageous and I improved my techniques a lot. So, step by step, I participated in the competition and proudly represented the school by being on the first place.

Public Speaking is not a contest, it is a place and a moment when and where you express your feelings in front of some people. You don't have to stress yourself out, just do your best and enjoy the moment!





## My Public Speaking Experiences – I Love Public Speaking!

When you're a kid like me, like you, dreams and thoughts are much different from those of an adult. Today I have come to share a secret: children holding a compass that allows them to travel without having to wander.

Since I was a little girl at 9 years old, I remember doing my first public speaking at my elementary school. Since then, I have begun to love public speaking. It feels amazing.

### Children have a compass

My speech was inspired from a real story. I can remember the first time I realised that every emotion is a journey in itself: fear, courage, daring, being proud, happiness and love. I am here to tell you about my emotional journey and about life beyond fear.

I was 7 I was at the sea side when a huge wave knocked me under the water. I could neither breathe nor get up. Everything was confusing. I was afraid! Luckily my father was there to save me. At the moment I said: that's it! I have to learn to swim! So I did, the journey of overcoming my fear of waves.

One year later, while I was playing in the water, I saw a little child who looked like she's in trouble. I rushed to pull her out of the waves. I took her to shore and you can't imagine her mother's reaction. She was very happy and I realised how proud I was of my action.

My emotional journey continued from fear, to pride, to



Alexia Dragan – Grade 4

### Here are some tips I've learned:

Speak from your heart: If you believe in what you're saying, the words will flow naturally.

Focus on the message, not the words: This will enable you to react to the audience and will make your communication more natural.

Tell stories: Stories tend to be engaging, personal, and interesting.

Be confident and be yourself: Relax, no one in the audience wants you to fail.

Uniqueness: We are unique beings, with different backgrounds and ways of thinking.

confidence , then love , as that little child and I are still friends to this day. I think this experience thought me that everything is possible and that people can be travel companions.



We, children, are truly free. In every journey we take with us (in our luggage) our imagination, our curiosity, the wish to discover. I just love who I am! Emotions are funny things but courage is my favorite !

I'm here today , I'm talking to you and see a thousand possibilities. So, I'm starting to think I know what I might want to do when I grow up. But if you ask me what do I want to be when I grow up, I'll always know that I want to be happy.

***"The best way to make children good is to make them happy."***

— Oscar Wilde, author and poet

**Make sure that you learn  
how to speak well!**







# CREATIVE WRITING

STUDENTS' PROJECTS - BNC and OPTIONAL COURSES

# THE BOY IN THE STRIPED PYJAMAS – by JOHN BOYNE-

## Book Review by Anna Licsandru, 7A

This well-written book by the author John Boyne tells a story of an unhappy boy named Bruno . This book is based on factual events that happened in 1943. But this bestseller book came out in year 2006.

Firstly, Bruno had a beautiful and gorgeous life in Berlin where he had his friends , his school and his future. But something changed. His family had to move to another house. That house was called Out-With and Bruno started to hate it. Everything was terrible for Bruno. His life was completely changed. However, will Bruno find his happiness again ?

Furthermore what surprised me the most was the plot that was dramatic but amazing at the same time. Every detail was also explained in the book very well. I liked how the author description in the book, especially when he presents the poor condition of the jews. On the other hand what disappointed me was the fact that there were difficult-to-read words and I hardly understood them.

The main characters that have been taking part in the actions were Bruno , his father , his mum and his friend, the boy in stripped pyjamas, Schmueel. Other characters that took part at the actions were the soldiers that were always around the house, Gretel, Bruno's sister and servants.

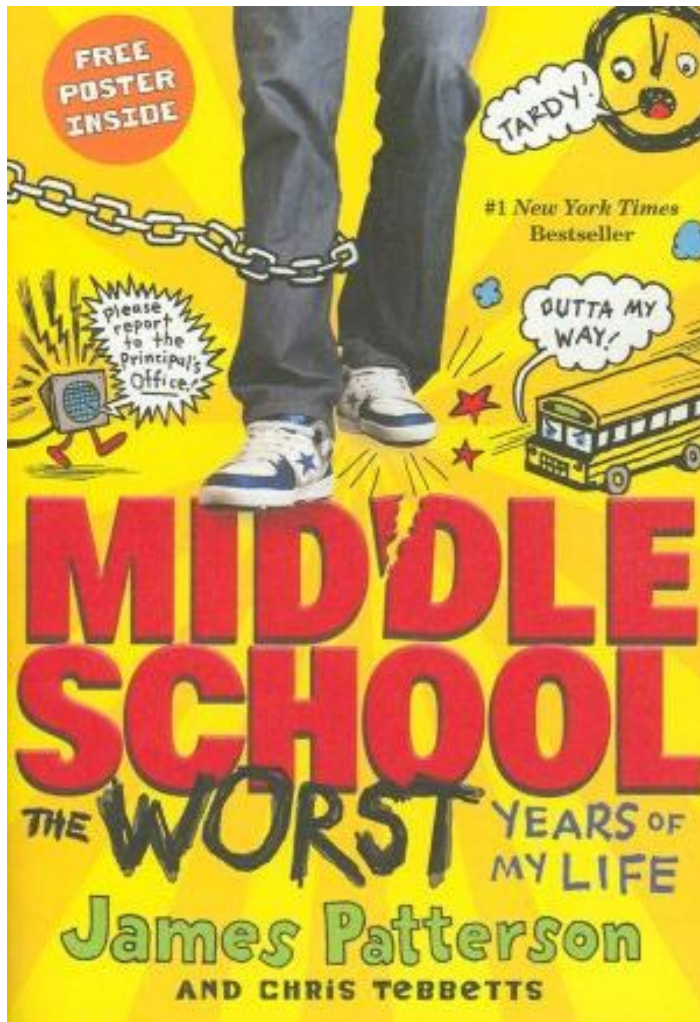
To sum up, I sincerely recommend this book to all the ages because it shows a part of the history that happened during World War II, a part that we need to know. You should definitely read this book.





## MIDDLE SCHOOL – by James Patterson-

### Book Review by Vlad Boghiu, 6B



Middle School is a book series written by James Patterson published on 27th June of 2011 by Little in the U.S.A

Rafe is a boy who never liked school and rules and he, with his friend Leo The Silent created a “game” named R.A.F.E Operation which meant RULES AREN’T FOR EVERYONE. In this operation he would break every rule to have fun and to impress his crush Jeanne Galleta. Even though he had so much courage, he had FAMILY PROBLEMS with his stepfather whose name is Carl but people usually call him Bear, because he only sits on the couch every day, eating or sleeping and his mom works double shifts at dinner.

This book is very, very good because it manages to combine three elements in one book: Action, Comedy and Drama. Even though the book is very satisfying,

it has some bad parts. Of course everybody likes new things like new plot twists, new characters and new situations but at the middle of the book it gets repetitive because starting from a point of the book, Rafe does almost the same thing. For example, he mostly argues with Bear, Stays at detention and drawing, getting in trouble and having problems with Miller the KILLER.

My recommendation is mostly for children because it’s funny and it is full of adventure, plot twists and action so this book is definitely worth it if you enjoy these kind of books which involve a specific task that the main character follows without giving up.

## THE BOOK THIEF – by Markus Zusak

### Book Review by Anahita Poorsafar, 6A

The novel *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak presents the story of Liesel, a girl who steals books from the mayor during The Second World War to keep alive a Jew who turns up at her foster family's house.

Liesel is living with her parents on Himmel Street. She steals books. This is her story and of her inhabitants when the bombs begin to fall. This is a story of a girl, an accordionist, some fanatical Germans, a Jewish fist fighter and quite a lot of thievery. While the air-raids were attacking the city the only one who was tempering the people's fright was Hans, Liesel's father who plays the accordion but when he is taken to war, Liesel alleviates people by storytelling the books that she has stolen to read to Max, a Jew that stood at their house. Max had a book about Hitler when he turned up at Liesel's house but finally he painted its pages white and wrote "WRITE" in Jewish on the front page for Liesel to write her one story.

It is a thrilling story with a sentimental touch and a bit of drama. You can't really leave it out of your hand once you start reading it because you'll be captured by the interesting adventure of Liesel narrated by Death.

I strongly recommend this novel, being well-written, to any lover of drama, sentimental stories and anyone who loves books made during the Second World War. I can say that the novel is not for everyone being a bit of a psychological read with a touch of sad events.





## TRASH– by Andy Mulligan

### Book Review by Dani Alexe, 5B



My name is Danny and I read an extraordinary book named TRASH by Andy Mulligan. It is very good for children because it's an adventure book and it's very interesting too.

I like this book because it motivates me to read more and more books by Andy Mulligan. This book is talking about three boys named: Raphael, Gardo and Rat. Actually Rat's name is Jun-Jun, but friends call him Rat because he lives in a drain with lot of rats. First time I didn't know this book it was so interesting and I thought it was boring, but it wasn't.

The book was named TRASH because Raphael and Gardo are dumpsite boys from Behala that are collecting rubbish, and if they found plastic for them that's jackpot. In this book there are more characters, for example: Gabriel Olondriz and Jose Angelico. Firstly, Gabriel Olondriz was a prisoner that was in jail for nothing, but unfortunately he died soon. Secondly, Jose Angelico sent a lot of letter to his friend Gabriel and the last one was given to the boys to be sent to Gabriel, but after he gave the letter to the boys, he died soon too.

In the end, the three boys live much better and go with their new boats to the beach, in a paradise.

# CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY – by Roald Dahl

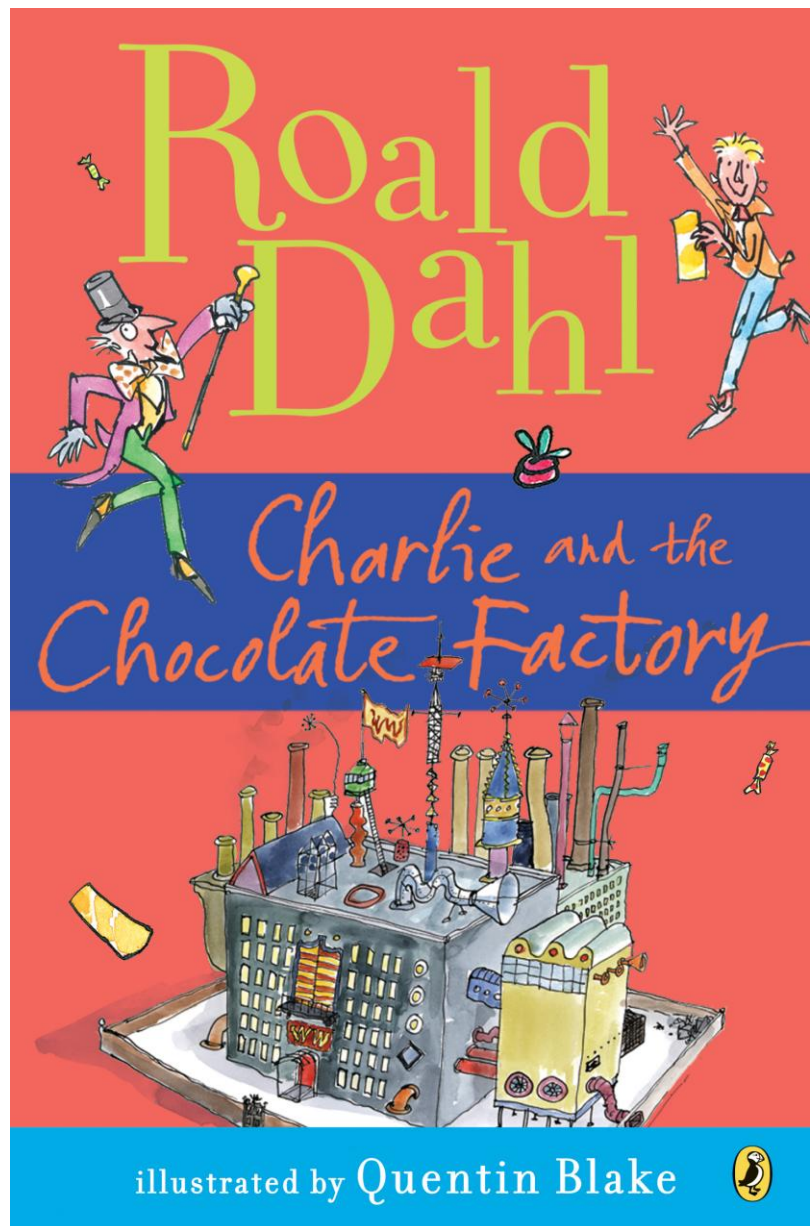
## Book Review by Nora Stancu, 6A

Charlie and the chocolate factory is an entertaining book written by Roald Dahl and illustrated by Quentin Blake. The story takes place in England and it is about a young boy named Charlie Bucket who has the great chance to discover a famous chocolate factory.

It all started when the main character, Charlie, who was very poor has the luck to find one of the 5 tickets to Willy Wonka's factory in a chocolate bar. Right there, he meets strange people who won the tickets just because they were very rich: Violet, Augustus, Mike and Veruca. The plot is hilarious because they discover all the machines in the factory and try to get in them, making Wonka lose his temper. Charlie is the only one educated which made Wonka feel better.

The story is beautifully-written because of the fantastic personalities of the characters and the unexpected actions that keep the reader in constant suspense. Moreover, the funny songs create the perfect atmosphere for this kind of world. Although it has good parts, the downside is illustrated by the fact that some of the actions are not well specified.

I highly recommend this book because it is not only an ordinary children book, but a fascinating one which you cannot stop reading. It is well worth reading it. Don't miss it!





## TO ALL THE BOYS I'VE LOVED – by Jenny Han

### Book Review by Raluca Tancu, 9



This well-written book is *To All the Boys I've Loved Before* by Jenny Han, an American writer of children and teen novels. The book tells the story of a young girl named Lara Jean, who keeps her love letters in an old hatbox, trying to keep them secret.

First of all, the plot focuses on the consequences that are brought after the hatbox is found by her sister, a moment that will change her life forever. It is a fascinating and suspense-filled plot, brilliantly written, developing the idea that love must be present everywhere.

The novel is focused on the war that is inside her soul, trying to deal with the situation that every love that she had, now is known by everybody. She fights for it and tries to think that nothing has happened. Maybe it will have a positive effect in the foreseeable future. She

changes into a more courageous person. Due to an event, her image changes a lot, here love being a negative part. She is cajoled by a friend in doing mean things.

Peter is one of Lara's lovers, the one that is the perfect match for her that is decided after long discussion and much time. A really interesting couple which you will discover in the book, a part that you won't let down.

In my opinion, it is a great book, perfect for teenagers, a really warm story that will delight you. I will personally give a general score of -10, due to its descriptions. The only thing that I could not understand was the rudeness of some teens. I would strongly recommend it to the ones that are in love, the ones that like this genre,

waiting to see the fight between teens but also generations. It is a calm and friendly book, with an incredible plot.

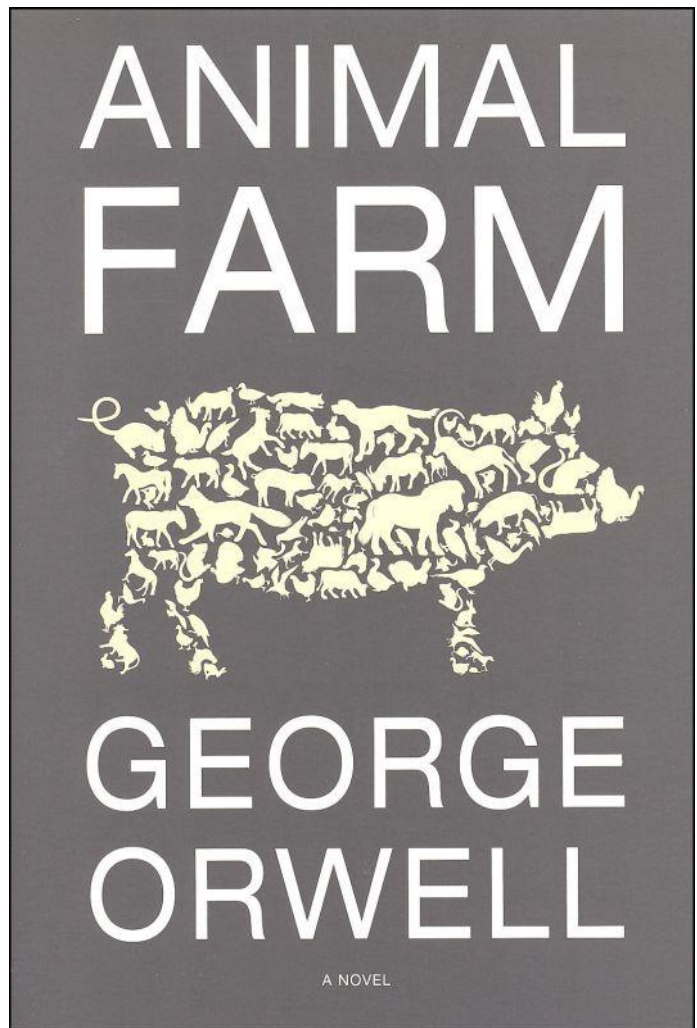
On the whole, love is a fantastic feeling, that you need to discover and feel if not once, but everytime. An incredible book, a well-worth reading it, which you will like reading more than once in your life time.

## **ANIMAL FARM – by George Orwell**

### **Book Review by Teodora Stancu, 9**

This thought-provoking book “Animal Farm” written by George Orwell is a short novel based on the comparison between The Russian Revolution and The Animal Farm. It is a story set in England in which the characters are animals, each one representing the leaders and participants of the Bolshevik Revolution.

The story begins with the meeting of all animals in the barn when Old Major, the pig, which was the leader of the entire farm, describes his dream about the farm when Mr. Jones who represents Tsar Nicolas II, listens to him. After Old Major's death, the animals try to keep control of the farm, excluding the existence of humans, especially Mr. Jones's. The farm is named Animal Farm and the 7 commandments are written on the barn which illustrates animalism and the equality between all animals. The plot revolves around the Animal Revolution and the major changes it brought to the farm by means of speeches, propaganda and animalism. This fascinating story illustrates the harsh period and the effects which influence the life of some of the animals and the absolute power.





The plot is suspense-filled making the reader want to know who will control the whole farm or if animalism will remain constant during the Animal Revolution. These moving and captivating actions make reader's hope raise throughout the novel. The most attractive character is Boxer, the loyal and determined horse, who toils for the entire farm which impresses the reader by his evolution through the story. However, one of the downsides of this book is represented by its historical background in which some readers may not be interested.

All in all, it is well worth reading this book since it is suitable for all ages as the characters are animals making it understandable for kids, helping them learn about the Russian Revolution in an interesting way, and the complexity of this novel can be truly understood by teenagers and adults. The powerful meanings of the themes in this book make the story a fascinating and gripping one.

## **TRASH – by Andy Mulligan**

### **Book Review by Karina Matei, 5A**

"Trash" is a book full of mysteries. The action happens in Brazil, split in the dumpsite, the jail and the cemetery. The main characters are Raphael Fernandez and Gardo, who are two fourteen year old friends, and Jun-Jun, called Rat too, who is a ten year old boy with a lot of life experience. Rat helps Gardo and Raphael solve the puzzle of a case which the police have tried to solve since many years.

This well-written story begins when Raph and Gardo find one day a plastic bag. There is a wallet full of pesos, eleven hundred, actually, a map and Jose Angelico's ID card in it. The police find out that the bag is at two children, so they are searching for them. The boys decide to ask for Rat's help. This is how the police arrive to try to kill three kids for

obtaining the bag not only for the money, but also because the map leads to Jose Angelico's six million pesos.

The plot reaches a dramatic climax when the boys find a letter from Jose to Gabriel Olondriz, his



grandpa. In the same envelope there is a code. They get to Mr. Olondriz, who is imprisoned, and find that the code is about the Bible. The police tries to steal the book from the kids, but they run so fast, that the police can't reach them. The kids break the code with the Bible, after a lot of time. It leads to the cemetery, their next step of finding the money. That's where they find Pia Dante, Jose Angelico's daughter. She helps them with finding her dead father's money. Can they find the six million pesos, or the police will find them, kill them and keep the money for themselves?

On the whole, I would recommend this great novel because I really enjoyed reading it. "You never know what you'll find" is the quote that perfectly describes the suspense and mystery of this book. It has become a best-seller translated into twenty-five languages.

## BUCHAREST – by Maria Popescu, 4C





## Orwell's attitude towards Animal Revolution

### ESSAY on George Orwell's 'Animal Farm', by Teodora Stancu, class 9



This essay will support Orwell's opinion about the Animal Revolution which reflects his strong attitude towards the effects it brought to the farm and the power of the truth in destroying the others animal's understandings by means of speeches, propaganda and animalism.

Orwell gives a major importance to the speeches of the animals. Actually, they convince the others and manipulate them by means of language. For example, Squealer gains the support of the animals in his speech by denouncing Snowball's part in the Rebellion. Another use is represented by Boxer, who agrees with

Napoleon's form of controlling others, adopting his strong mottos "I will work harder" and "Napoleon is always right", the author reflecting the power of language.

Propaganda is an important theme in the book as the changes the Revolution brought are based on it. For instance, Squealer convinces the other animals that Napoleon's strict regime is essential in order to be strong and safe, which perfectly reflects Orwell's quote: "The most effective way to destroy people is to deny and obliterate their own understanding of history." In the first part of the book, Old Major uses techniques of propaganda in his speech and he identifies humans as enemies, the same thing that Napoleon does when he becomes the leader of the farm.

Animalism is also an important theme in the book, as it is broken during the revolution. This is clearly illustrated by the fact that the commandment, "All animals are equal", changes into "Some animals are more equal than others". However, animalism is reflected only in the first 7 commandments and it excludes human beings in favour of animals, which are equal for a short period of time before Napoleon takes control of the entire farm.

In conclusion, Orwell has a strong attitude towards the Revolution which is reflected by some of the themes in the book such as the importance of speeches, propaganda and animalism, which reveal the strength of some animals in destroying others' understanding.



## WINTER, BY RALUCA TANCU, 9

The wind is blowing,  
While the trees are swinging,  
Winter came in force like the metro,  
Beginning to talk with the nature allegro.

Branches are glazed,  
Being totally by winter amazed,  
The snowflakes start to fall,  
Giving children all.

Santa Claus with presents will come,  
Children will be having fun,  
I can feel the snow,  
Being kind to us all.



## Winter and its beauty by Raluca Bara, 9



Winter is the nature's judge,  
That one willing for perfection.  
No one's enough in her eyes...  
Every wrinkled flower deserves detention.  
This queen kills with no mercy, no control,  
All the fragile brownish leaves,  
And freezes without looking back,  
All the young innocent little bees.  
Any regrets?- Yes, indeed.



## My Christmas day, by Tudor Popovici, 4 A

In Christmas evening we are funny

And we don't need money.

In Christmas evening

The bells are ringing

And we are singing.

Each child plays with snow

And then the joy and gladness grow.

Rodolph has the red nose,

You can say it glows.

He helps Santa Claus

Give us presents like a boss.

Christmas is a day

When everybody says hooray!



## Song, by Allen Ginsberg – analysed by Raluca Bara, class 9

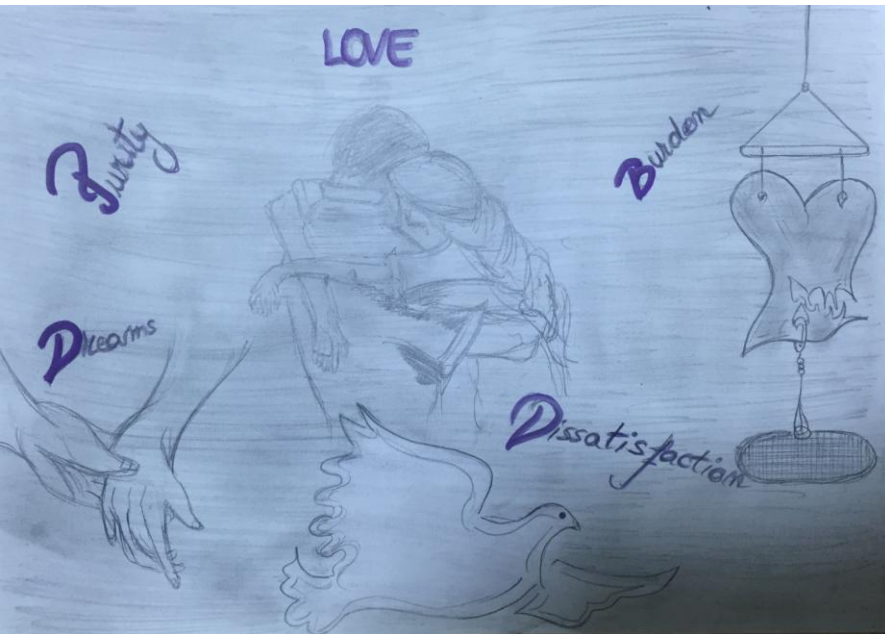
For me, dissatisfaction looks like a road placed between a bright meadow and a dark windy one because our expectations aren't always objective or realistic. Because solitude can be a good thing, I see it as Heaven. Sometimes, lonely people are special and somehow different and that's why they usually lose contact with the world, with the rest of us. In my opinion, purity is represented by art. In all of its forms, art helps us express our feelings in a unique and extremely beautiful way. Moreover, art is personal because we interpret songs, poems and pictures in our own words.

When I say "miracle", I imagine an abstract painting full of fireworks, diamonds, stars, waves and rainbows. Miracles are rare and only the chosen ones experience them. Out of all, love is the strongest as everything we do is for and because of it. I'm not mature and wise enough to describe it properly, but one thing that's clear is that love is everywhere. In every single detail...





## **Song, by Allen Ginsberg – analysed by Hannah Adlah, class 9**



Our teacher asked us if we could draw a poem. The poem's name is "SONG" by Allen Ginsberg. My drawing is all about what LOVE means, so in the middle I drew two people hugging who love each other but also who had to face all kind of love problems. After that there is a broken heart that is being ripped; however, the heart remains strong and tries to face the problems that tear her apart. In the left side of the drawing there are two hands holding on tightly, which represents that they have dreams together and they

will never let go despite any difficulties. In the end, the white pigeon that conquers all represents purity.

## **CHRISTMAS MAGIC** by Teodora Stancu, class 9

The white snowflakes are dancing,  
With the bouncing wind around,  
In the smell of pine needle,  
Feeling the smell of Christmas spice.

The fresh shining snow,  
Which makes the nature seem,  
Like a sugary world of powder,  
Feeling the warm of Christmas atmosphere.

Everything is a wintry fairytale,  
Besides the warming fireside,  
Looking for cozy socks and blankets,  
Feeling the spirit of Christmas magic.



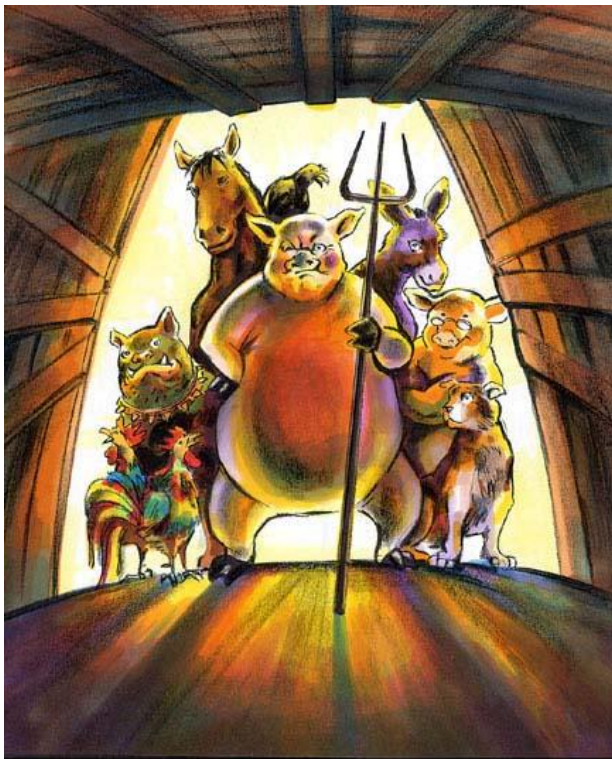
## Orwell's attitude towards the changes brought to the farm due to the revolution

### ESSAY on George Orwell's 'Animal Farm', by Denisa Tanase, class 9

This essay will discuss Orwell's attitude towards the serious changes brought to the lives of the animals due to the propaganda manipulation and acceptance of questionable acts, that are meant to destroy people's understanding in order to succeed.

First of all, Orwell states that "The most effective way to destroy people is to deny their own understanding of their history". This can be seen in the propagandas used by the pigs in order to tell lies to the animals on the farm. Needless to say, this helped them to succeed in gaining power and gaining the trust of the animals. Squealer used propaganda more than any other animals and prospered from it as he became Napoleon's right hand. Moreover, he achieves to get all the animals to believe that Boxer was taken away in a vet's truck not in a knacker's truck.

Second of all, through "Animal Farm" Orwell expresses the insecurity of an uneducated population. In other words, this leads to a lot of changes that are brought to the farm and to the animals. By the way illustration, Napoleon becomes the supreme leader and



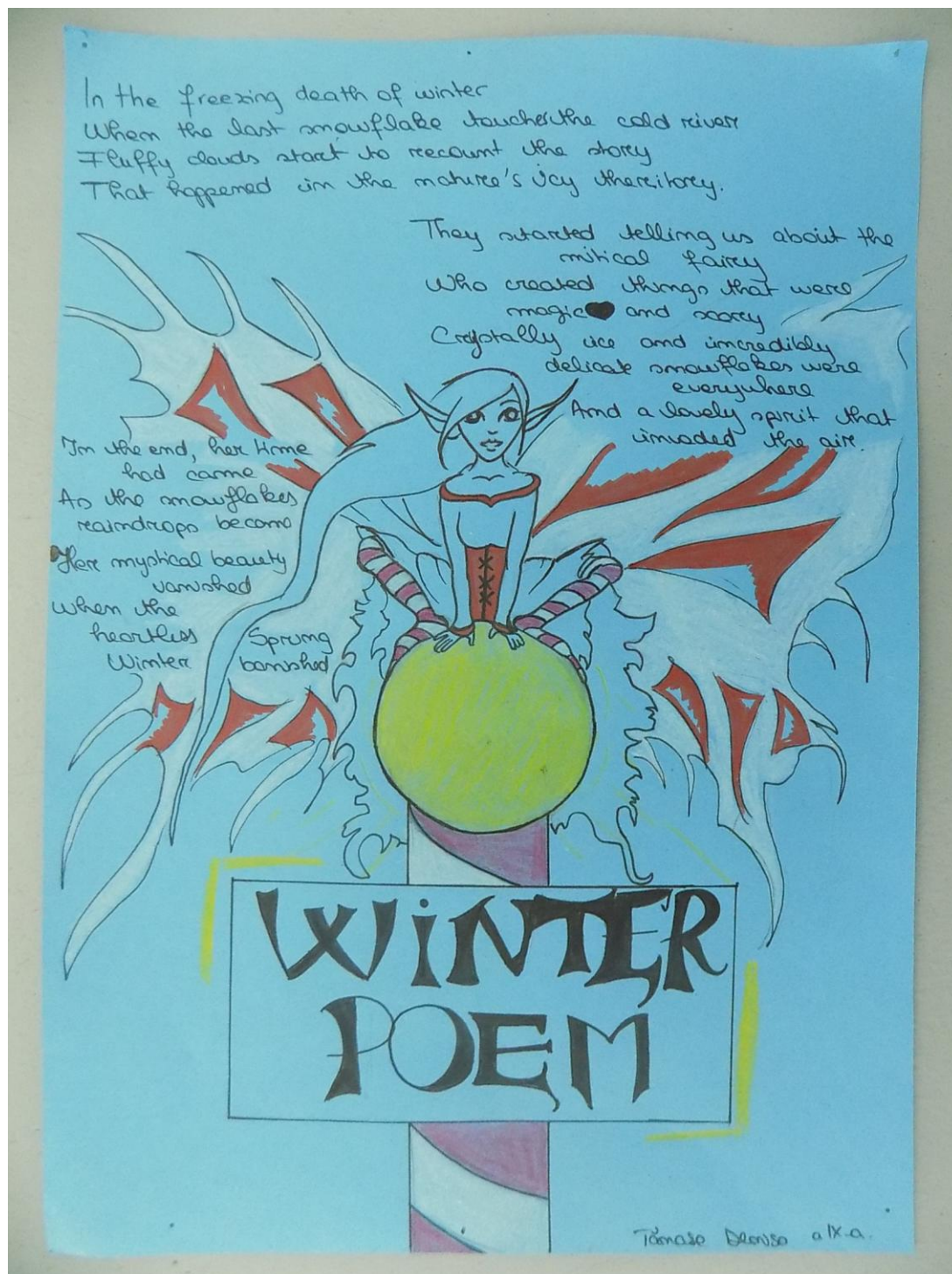
succeeds to manipulate the other animals. He and the other pigs make a lot of changes that confuse the animals. For instance, they change the seven commandments to suit their selfish needs, they became friends with the enemy and they start wearing clothes.

Third of all, Orwell tries to inform the reader about the risk of accepting questionable acts and ideas. It is generally believed that, in the book, the author illustrates naive animals, that are fooled by the pigs. This happened because, when the idea of a better way of living was brought to them, they were trustful and believed in it, in the end realizing that they were tricked. Furthermore, the final scene is a powerful one, while the other



animals, "look from pig to man and from man to pig, and from pig to man again: but already it was impossible to say which was which"; they realized that they were enslaved again by one of their own kind.

In conclusion, is it clear from the above arguments that Orwell tries to warn the reader about the dangerous changes that can be brought because of propaganda manipulation and questionable acts, by using the novel "Animal Farm".



# CHRISTMAS PROJECTS



Christmas



Alessio II-a Christmas is coming



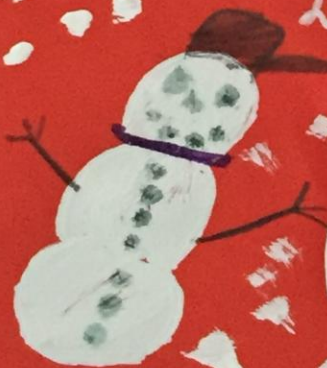
Tomorrow is Christmas!

Santa is coming with presents  
And all the kids are happy

We are waiting for him.

We are waiting for presents with our  
parents.

Santa is to you with joy and to  
Mama is preparing food  
the kids are singing  
Let's





Angelina  
2.1.1

Winter is coming

Winter is coming

We can make snowmen

and the children are very good

We'll get presents from Santa

I've got a Christmas Tree

and it is very big but

so nice and beautiful



Anisia

II B

# Merry Christmas

I can see the reindeer on the roof.

A spider sees Santa Clause.

I'm NOT sleeping I want to see

Santa. The reindeer are hungry.



A reindeer's name is Rudolph.

Santa Claus goes in the chimney.

He laugh in the house.

An elf sees a boy.

He comes out and sees a girl.



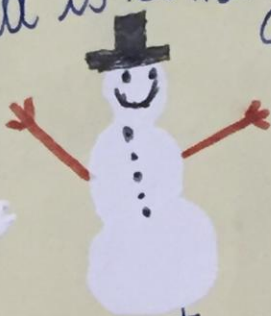
Santa likes the Christmas tree.



David

Santa is coming

II A



It's winter!

Santa is preparing the presents with the elves.  
My family has a Christmas Tree,  
Because Christmas is coming.

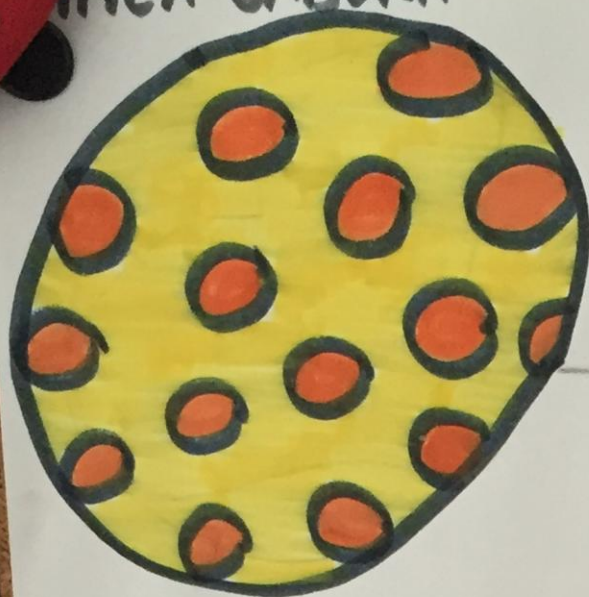
I'm playing in the snow  
But it's very cold outside  
And I go to my house.



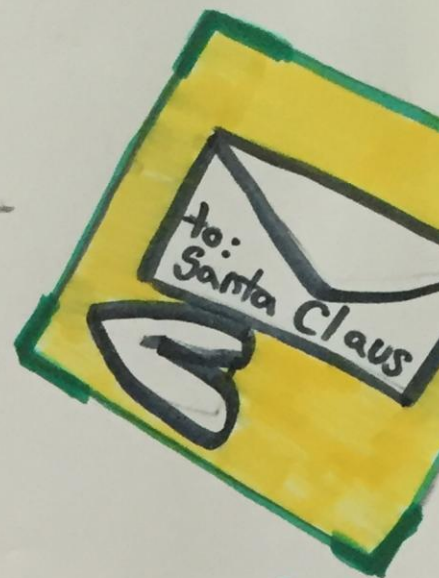
Now Santa is carrying the presents  
And I want to get one  
Because I've been good all year.







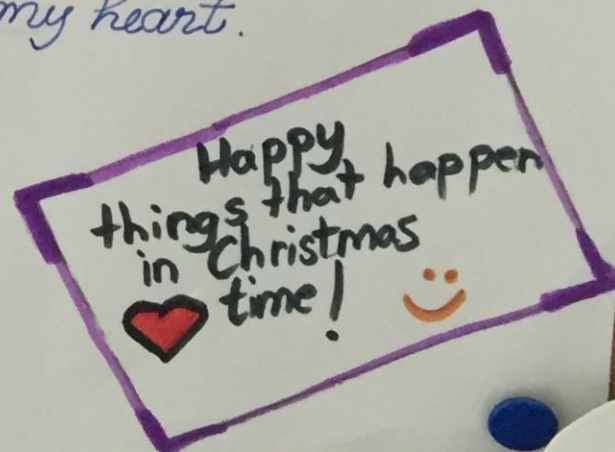
We love  
Christmas!



Christmas is white  
Christmas is love  
Christmas is bright  
Christmas is light.

Outside it's white  
Inside it's love  
My heart it's bright  
My soul it's light.

I will always  
keep Christmas in my heart.







...and I don't know who  
coming tonight

Corlan Eiler



RAISA A-D-A-A

### Christmas Poems

Christmas time is here,  
Christmas trees are there.  
Christmas gifts are there,  
It's snowing every where.

Here are the boys,  
Here are the toys.  
There's a christmas toy,  
And is very small.  
Merry Christmas to you all!

you are  
we  
out of  
get  
each  
and even  
dream you  
cause Sand  
and Mrs. P  
eed a little  
ashing the  
ight up the  
very little mind



# CHRISTMAS JOY

Make a list and check it twice

Buy everyone you know some dice

Maybe they don't like to play

But knew know you had a busy day

You've got to shop for gifts right now

You've got to hurry, somehow

You've got to get to six more stores

To clean the house and also do the chores

Because Christmas is coming soon

Remember to buy a red balloon

What? You say there's no such thing

As a balloon for Christmasing?!

That's true, you're right, but it's also true

That the spirit of Christmas is passing you

If you're shopping all day and getting worried

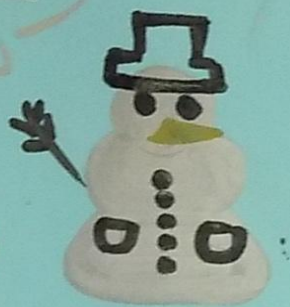
Ignoring family because you're too hurried

TRUE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT ISN'T GETTING A TOY  
IT'S ALL ABOUT FEELING LOVE AND JOY


BE HAPPY

LOVE,

HANNAH ADLAN







Christmas  
is coming  
dino IFA

WINTER  
TIME

Christmas is here with a lot  
of joy Santa Claus is coming with  
his sleigh What a beautiful day!

I love Christmas! I love  
Christmas, and the Christmas lights  
are shining bright in the sky  
I love Santa Claus with his red suit  
Everybody is smiling Christmas  
is full of joy and Santa is coming





MALINA

Rudolph with  
Santa Claus



Christmas is coming  
Joy to the world!  
All the kids are here  
Waiting for a reindeer  
Rudolph, Rudolph you are here  
We're happy to see you this year!

I am standing in front of the Christmas tree  
I am waiting and waiting  
For Santa Claus to come,  
To see him this year again.





Christmas is  
coming

Ana  
Z

II

It is Christmas and it is snowing.  
All the kids are happy.  
They like Winter  
All the kids are making snowmen.  
I love Winter because I like making snowmen.  
Each child gets a toy.  
Santa is giving all the kids presents.  
My mom is making pudding.  
We are singing carols.





# Waiting for Santa

by Sofia A.

2A



Santa's coming, Santa's coming,  
On the frosty Christmas,  
Caring and sharing.  
We're waiting for him to come,  
With pudding, cookies and milk,  
The present he give we'll give,  
The peace and joy he brings.  
And the magic sleigh he parks,  
With the reindeer waiting for him.





## Santa

I came from school,  
And looked at the Christmas Tree,  
No Santa, No presents.

I go to bed and see it next morning  
I will have them. But then,  
I hear some noises, and,

HO! HO! HO!

I go in the living room,  
And look! Santa and all the  
Presents I waited for!





## Mrs Santa Claus's Tea Party - Christmas Drama Show – 10<sup>th</sup> December 2015

### By Sofia Alexandrescu, class 2A

“Missis Santa Claus tea party” was a hard drama show. During the first rehearsals we made many mistake, we said wrong words, we didn't know when was our turn, we weren't paying attention at the drama teacher Ema Urse and we didn't know when to stop singing. We also trained with Smaranda Caciulatu, Stefania Tudor and Ciprian Bibic, our English teacher. Our costume designer was Ana Popescu and Coco gave us brilliant ideas for the drama show, she conducted us when we were singing too.

The final rehearsal was great, everyone knew when to stop singing and when the drama show really started and no one made any mistakes. The people that played in the show were my classmates: Alessio Pelegrini , Sasha Dica, Natalia Dobre, David Dragulin, Irina Ponta, Angelina Ciuciureanu, Predescu Raisa, Ana Zegheru, Alexandru Alecu, Tudor Nicoara, Tudor Gavrizescu, Maria Oancea, Ana Petrus, Dinu Stanciu and Sofia Alexandrescu (me).

But in the end our parents were very proud of us. MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!



## A WINGED HORSE, By Alexia Mirsolescu, 4 A

Once upon a time, there was a winged horse which had healing powers. But, one day, she saw a beautiful boy, Robert. She got panicked so she found a bush where she could hide. After a while, the boy came near it. The horse sneezed and, at that moment, the boy was thrown a kilometer away from that place, but it seemed that he also had some magical powers.

After he fell down, he got up in the air and started launching atomic bombs. His blue eyes like a waterfall turned red and from his eyes came out big lasers sparkling like a huge fire. The winged horse, Miranda, made an electric field around her. Thus, she stopped the fight and she asked Robert to fight together against the forces of evil.

After 2 years they became the team, "THE INCREDIBLES". They appeared in newspapers and on the TV. They were happy all their lives.

## City of lights, by Alexia Dragan, 4 B

Last year, my friend Ana and I went to a beautiful trip in France, in its capital, Paris. Paris is a really great city! One of the things that I liked was the architecture of the buildings. It's definitely a paradise. You can go up the old Eiffel Tower and you can have a wonderful dinner in the restaurant at the top on the tower.

What a view!

I prefer visiting the famous monuments such as Louvre, Notre Dame, but like all the kids I loved most Disneyland, which was amazing! The „Champs Elysees" is another huge place that I found lovely! I loved shopping on this street.

Paris is a delightful city, city of lights, art, history and romance.





## An introduction of a story based upon one of the characters of "Trash"

### The Car, by Matei Baciu, 5 B

Hello, my name is Rat and I think you want to know more about me. I am a boy with a strange story. I live with my horrible rats. Sometimes I starve but this is not a problem.

There aren't many things to do in my cave because rats eat everything up. Sometimes I play with my toys made of trash. My friends aren't actually my friends. They are not nice to me but they come to me because I save food for them that I receive from someone. I like that someone because he speaks to me, unlike others.

You might think I can't read or write, but I do because I go to the school from the neighbourhood. I started going there when I had watched them by mistake through an open window. I wanted to see what it was like so I stayed there for a whole lesson. This is a very good idea if you are a trash boy like me. And here is where the true story begins..."







## **A Christmas wish**

**by Alice Bradin, 4 B**

Ana is a little girl living in a small house in the mountains. When winter comes Ana likes to sit by the window and watch the snow falling down. On Christmas Eve she asked her parents:

“Mum, dad, have I been good this year?”

“Yes my dear, answered her mum. You have made us very proud of you, with your school grades and with behavior. You have made us very happy!”

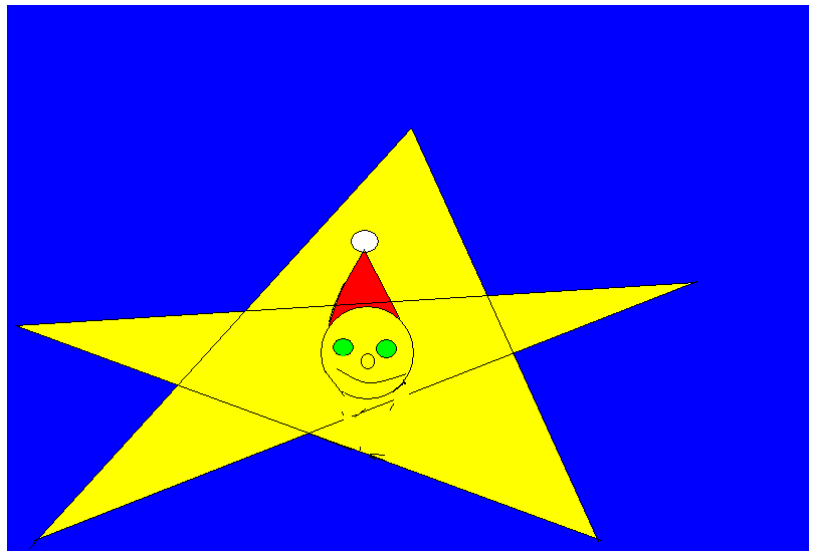
“Do you think Santa knows that? Ana asked again”

“Of course Santa knows and you must be on his list for some nice gifts.”

“Then I will stay here and wait for him!”

“But now is bedtime my dear, so you better go to bed.”

Ana went to bed, but as soon she got her good night kisses and the parents left the room, she went to the window looking for Santa. The moon was up to the sky making snowflakes shine. All of the sudden she could not believe her eyes. Santa Claus’s sleigh, pulled by its team of reindeer! Santa waved his hand and the first red nose reindeer was flying towards Ana’s house! Now she could sleep. When mom checked on her later that night the whole room was full of Ana’s smile.



## **MY FAVOURITE GADGET by Maria Duca, 4 B**

Hello! Today I'm going to tell you about my favourite gadget! This is my iPhone6 and I use it most for calling and texting. It is about 14 cm and it's rectangular. Its colour is Space Grey. You can download a lot of apps.

I really like it because its screen is big. I've had it for 3 weeks and 5 days. I also heard that if you kept it in your back pocket it would bend. But overall I think it's awesome!

## Once upon a time..., by Emilia Ariciu, 4 C

Once upon a time, there was a winged horse which had healing powers. He was called Minimus. One day, Minimus heard that there was a very spoilt princess in the kingdom, called Leila. In spite of learning new things, she just played all the time with her toys.

Since she was the only child of the king and his wife, they were very worried and they decided to ask all the people in the kingdom to help them find the solution. Minimus, the winged horse, heard the story and one morning he knocked at the princess' window and invited her to fly above the kingdom on its back. When she flew above the kingdom she saw very poor people and she was very disappointed to have all the things and them not to have anything.

When she flew back, Leila told her parents that she wanted to help all the people to have a better life and from that moment she wasn't a spoilt princess anymore. Minimus was very happy that he helped the royal family and Leila became his friend.

## The Forgetful Santa, by Ghilinta Ilinca, 4 C

On a winter night when the sky was clear and the stars were shining like diamonds, Sophie saw a sleigh on the sky like she had never seen before. It was strange because it was on the Christmas Eve.

All night she looked on the window to see Santa. She still couldn't believe.

She couldn't resist anymore; she put her jacket on, the shoes and she opened silently the door. She was outside and she looked again after that shape. Next she saw it. She tried to follow it. Then she saw that the sleigh stopped and after that, a chubby men dropped with a beard not too long. It was really Santa.

After that Sophie said to Santa:

'Are you the real Santa?'

'Yes! I'm the real Santa' he said laughing.

'But why you don't give us the Christmas presents? Sophie said worriedly.

'Because it's only the 23<sup>rd</sup> of December!

'No we aren't!!!! It's 24<sup>th</sup>!!!'



'I don't believe you!'

'You need to! Do you want me to show you in the calendar?'

Sophie always had a calendar in her pocket on the Christmas Eve because she had always wanted to meet Santa.

'Oh, God!!! I'm a scatterbrain!'

'What will you do?'

'I don't know!'

'I have an idea! You will go to Lapponia and get the presents for us.'

'It is a good idea. I will do this.'

After 1 hour Santa was again in London.

He gave every children the present they wanted, but the biggest was for Sophie!

Finally it was a beautiful Christmas!

**THE END**



## **Half human half horse, by Ilinca Gabura, 4 C**

Once upon a time, there was a winged horse which had healing powers. He lived at the farm of horses. He was the only horse that had powers. He could fly over the mountains, over the hills and he could sleep on the clouds. All the horses were mean with him. One day he flew to Romania. First, he went to a restaurant. When the people inside saw him, they started screaming: "Ooh, a horse! What we can do?"

But then the horse turned into a man. All the people said: "Magic, magic! " The 'man' ate there, and because outside it was very hot, he went to the swimming pool. At Pescariu was very nice. He changed his clothes and went in the pool to swim. Some people wanted to talk to him, but the strange man could only speak the language horses. He spent two hours at the swimming pool, but then he decided to go home. At night he was back at the farm in Italy, where he was from. He went in his stable and slept. What an interesting horse!

## **"The Monster" by Toma Sisak and Mario Melinte (4B)**

We read a story about a monster alien that visits Earth. Then, the students wrote a short story imagining what happened next:





After the monster left Earth and went to outer space, he landed on his planet, Tomario. He went to the king immediately and he said, "My Lord, I went to Earth. The human breed is more powerful than we thought!"

"What? How could you go to that planet?"

"My Lord, I am sorry..."

"No! They could find us, they could chase you and find out where we are living, and that's probably what they're doing right now..."

Do humans invade these monsters' planet? Do the monsters survive?

To be continued!

## **THE MAGIC HORSE, by Tudor Popovici, 4 A**

Once upon a time, there was a winged horse which had healing powers. But one day, the healing powers disappeared. Let me tell you what happened.

On a sunny day in the jungle, the winged horse saw a hurt deer that was attacked by a tiger. Worried, the magic horse approached to see what had happened. With his powers, he succeeded to heal her. Happily, the deer hurried to hug him and touched his wing.

No one was allowed to touch his wings, otherwise he would have lost his healing powers. The touch of the grateful just that made.

Only after a year, the horse could regain the magic powers



## **The Christmas spirit can change people, by Dragos Radulescu, 4A**

Once upon a time there was a man who was very rude and he was very old, too. He didn't like Christmas or the presents because he didn't know what Christmas meant. A friend of him invited him to a Christmas party at his home. He didn't want to go but his friends asked him to go and have some fun. But first he went to the mall and bought him a present because his friends said that it was polite to give him a present. Then he went to his friend and in the car he said „ Let's see how this ugly Christmas was ."

When he arrived at the door bell he said „Is there anyone at home ?". Then his friend went to the door and welcomed him in his house. He saw a Christmas tree, Christmas presents, very tasty Christmas food and many more. At the end of the party he gave him the present and told him that he had never celebrated Christmas until that day and he and his friends sang carols and the man that hated Christmas started to like it. And ever since he has never been rude.

## **You are a part of us, by Catrina Tiganila, 4 C**

One day a mom and a dad had to go to Italy for 2, 3 days. So they left their children at home with a babysitter. They had two children, one of them was Rachael and one was Emma.

Rachel was the older one. She was 12 years old and Emma was the young one, only 3 years old. The following day it was Emma's first day of kindergarten. Their parents had to go urgently in Italy because they had an important thing to do. They didn't want Emma to be without them on the first day of kindergarten but they needed to go. Emma was scared that morning but she remembered what her mom had said to her: 'You are part of us! You are brave like us! You can be strong every time you think you are scared!'

Ever since, whenever Emma remembers her mother's words, she gets brave and believes every single word that her mother says.

Emma didn't cry today. She was brave! Emma is a brave, good child!!





# *Laughter Zone*

SANTA GETS A FLAT DEER















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ENGLISH DEPARTMENT OF "SCOALA MEA" HIGH SCHOOL  
represented by the following teachers:

Cameron Brunke, Ciprian – Petre Bibic, Iuliana Burghiu, Ana-Maria  
Nache, Madalina Coseran, Andreea Alexandrescu, Jessica Miller,  
Anthony Tracy, Jonathan deSeno

MAGAZINE COORDINATOR: CIPRIAN – PETRE BIBIC

