



School Rocks 14th Edition, May 2020

*Issued by the English Department of Liceul
Teoretic Scoala Mea*

represented by the following teachers:

Cameron Brunke, Ciprian – Petre Bibic,
Ana-Maria Nache, Iuliana Neagu
Mark Eady, Charlie Craven,
Elena Bran, Malina Mihaita

Magazine Art Designer & Production:

Steliana Stefanescu

Magazine Coordinator:

Ciprian – Petre Bibic

SCHOOL ROCKS

**NEWS EVENTS
& TRENDS**

**CREATIVE
WRITING**

LAUGHTER ZONE



SCHOOL ROCKERS

No.14



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School Rocks. Bucharest

ISSN 2601-3401 ISSN-L 2601-3398

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Laughter zone

Dear readers,

I am glad that I have the chance to express my feelings and to share with you some fantastic snapshots of this school year.

It was an incredible journey with ups and downs that have challenged us to prove everyone that we are Leadvers, we are a Team, we are Strong, and we are Motivated.

Looking back, at the end of this school year, I do believe that we did a great job as we have managed to surpass any obstacle that appeared in our way, and that process was possible only because we have great students and passionate teachers.

First, there were a few intense months of face-to-face learning with a lot of inquiries, hard work and valuable human interactions that later on this year we have learned to appreciate much more. Throughout the year, we have embraced every action with an open mind, we have supported each other, and we have enjoyed any successful event by celebrating it together.

Then, around the 10th of March, the entire world seemed to be frozen by an invisible, unknown virus that paralysed most of the human activities, and we all faced the adaptability challenges. Thus, we pushed ourselves towards a higher level of evolution. And I firmly believe that the last three months represented a period of research, deep understanding, and self-discovery for all of us as. It was a time when we have tried hard to recreate a safe environment for experiencing new exciting teaching methods to extend students' knowledge and bring them joy, both through live and own-time remote learning.

From this perspective, we are the first school that started remote learning immediately after the 10th of March. For making this new approach possible, we gathered all our staff, and we initiated professional development meetings where teachers taught each other how to use online platforms, and these sessions were great team-work moments. As a result, we began to explore Zoom Meetings,

Google Classroom collaboration, we used more Kahoot games, Quizlet tests, Quizzes or Google forms to rise students' engagement and provide them with positive energy.

Throughout the whole year, all LTSM teachers continually tried to inspire their students to do their best; they helped students to strive for goals; they offered guidance, friendship, discipline, and love.

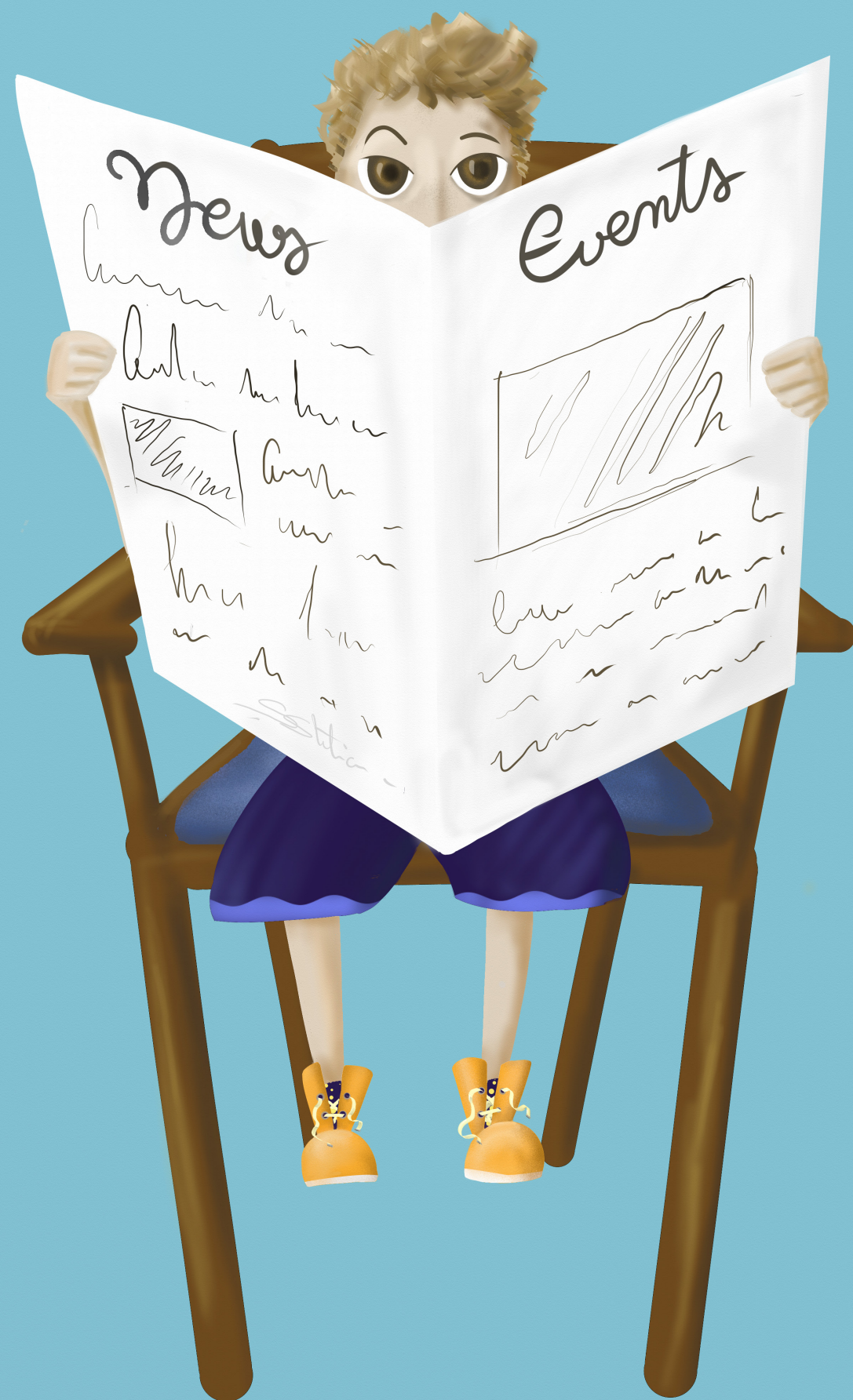
Thank you for all your hard work throughout the school year! I am so honoured to be your principal; you make me proud to be a member of this robust community. You keep me laughing and young at heart. I am grateful for your joy, astute insights, and amazing talents.

Best wishes to our graduates, whom I will miss greatly!

In the end, I wish you all to have a safe and happy summer break, and I can't wait to see each other again in September for new academic adventures!

Carmen - Jacqueline Dan
Director of Liceul Teoretic
"Scoala Mea"

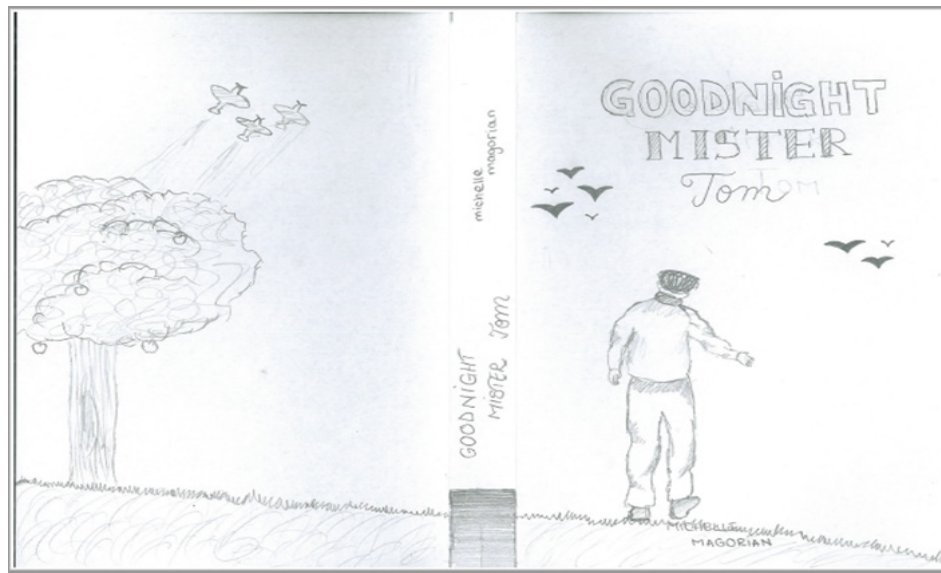




News
and
Events

English Week

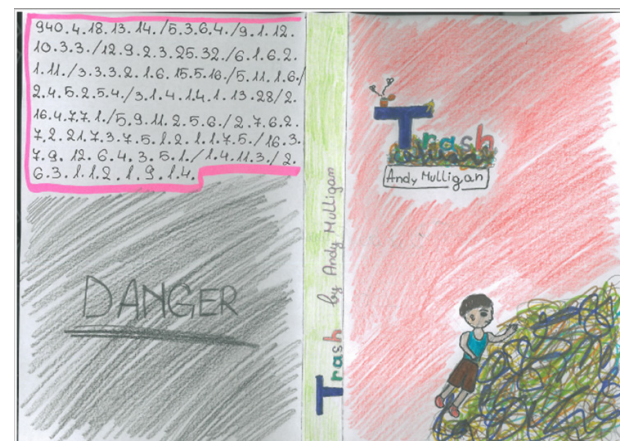
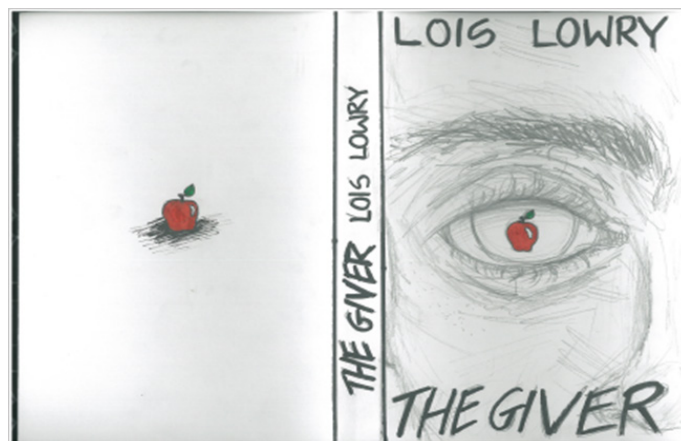
The seventh year of our cross-curricular English Week has again come and gone. This year's theme was Reading. Teachers based special classroom activities on this theme all through the week of Nov 4th – 8th. This year's special competition project was for students to create their own book covers for their BNC books. There were some great entries, too!



Over the past years, English Week, as well as the other cross-curricular weeks, has really become a staple event of semester one. Students enjoy the opportunity to participate in the riddle filled Passport Hunt, shop at the different book

stalls, participate in specially planned classroom events, and, of course, compete in the project competitions. Although there are normal lessons during this time, English Week has created a rather uniquely relaxed environment for students and teachers alike.

This year's event had many fantastic moments. A few of the great Reading based classroom activities that were run during English Week include Comic Creations,



Palm Reading, and The Solar System Board Game. Excellent stuff! Outside of the classroom, every morning at 9:35, students participated in the much anticipated Passport Hunt game. Students worked together with their classmates to answer riddles shown on the TV. The first class to guess the correct answer got the most points.

The winners of the BNC Book Cover Design competition were Sofia Enache, Alexandra Balaban, and Maria Duca.

Well done to all the students and teachers involved!



Word Fest

What a year it was for Wordfest! Not only was it the 3rd year of the competition, but it was also my 3rd year competing. And man, it took a lot of preparation. Group Acting and Individual Acting were my categories. In the end, all the hard work paid off: I got third place in both categories!

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 second 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 another prize again!



Special Days

When we think about "Special Days" we think about something like Christmas or Easter. Nevertheless, in my school, Special Days are NOTHING like that.

Every year, once or twice, we have a special day where we celebrate SOMEONE or SOMETHING. It is a day to be HAPPY, GENEROUS and PATIENT. Patient to learn more things than we usually do.

In my English classes, we once celebrated David Beckham (45 year-old retired footballer) and even the famous actress Meryl Streep (70 years old). Maybe we knew those people. However, did we know WHAT WE LEARNED at school? I think not. Because all of these things were done while playing games and doing fun activities, not standing there in a corner and READING a book.

That is why SPECIAL DAYS event is a great day. Because we learn new stuff and we do it in SPECIAL ways, while having fun.

Oancea Maria 6A



Very special Special Days

This year we had very special, Special Days. Annual short events that educate us in a fun way about celebrities and their inspiring stories! Filled with fun challenges that involved teamwork and creativity, they were a breath of fresh air from all the hard work we put in our education.

The first one was about the famous football player David Beckham. We had to answer questions about him and his incredible sports career after watching a PowerPoint about him.

The second one was about famous actress Meryl Streep. We had to recreate a scene from one of her most notable movies: "The Devil Wears Prada", "Mama Mia!" or "Julie and Julia". My friends and I sang along "Mama Mia!" and it was a great experience.

We had to create a dance and sing! At first it was a bit embarrassing to do it in front of the whole class, but quickly the stress went away! I'll never forget that moment!

Sophia Alexandrescu 6A



Special Days – David Beckham

During English Week, we learned about the career and family of David Beckham. We learned that David Beckham was a brilliant football player and that he played for many teams, but he is best known for his time at Manchester United. We learned about his wife, Victoria and his children, Brooklyn, Harper Seven, Romeo and Cruz



At the end of the week we had a quiz about David Beckham, which made me very excited! Carmen, my teacher, asked me "When was David Beckham born?"

I answered "David Beckham was born on 2nd May, 1974." We just got 10 points for my answer. The winning team will get a bag of biscuits.

I am having so much fun! Now Carmen asked "How many children does David Beckham have?"

I answered "David Beckham had 2 children."

Carmen said "Wrong! And the winner is.....

Hoovendash!"

Even so, I still had a brilliant time!

Eric Niculescu, 4A

Story Writing Competition

- Students' statements -

Being imaginative and managing to write down your ideas in a catchy way is not an easy thing to do, especially when the reader has become more informed, independent or fastidious, but our students have succeeded in creating new worlds, characters and scenarios which have drawn not only attention but recognition also.

Here are some statements from some of them:

At first, when I heard about the competition, I wasn't that keen on doing it, but then I thought: "What can go wrong?" When I heard I was the winner, I couldn't believe it was me! I was extremely thrilled and I felt like I had passed the greatest exam ever.

Eric Pătură, 6B

When I found out that I won, I was excited and I don't know why, relieved. While I was writing the story, I was always asking myself: „Will they like my story, will they be satisfied with my content?”

Well, after spending some time writing it, I realised that in order to win a place in this competition, I had to trust myself and my ideas. So I started writing and I didn't think of what the teachers would say, but what I would say.

Dermengiu Sofia, 6B

For me, writing stories is like stepping out of this world and creating a universe in which I feel like everything is possible. For example, historical fiction is one of my favourite subjects, as it provides so much room for developing ideas of character journeys and an infinite variety of different scenarios. Well, of course I was excited when I won!

Alexia Harpa, year 10

“When my teacher suggested that I should join the story writing competition, I immediately agreed with no doubts. The topic was an interesting one, which helped me come up with loads of ideas. Even though I did not win, it was a great experience.”

Georgescu Maia, 7 A

Storytelling has always been an important part of my existence, allowing me to escape in a reality of my own, in which I could roam aimlessly around every time the real world seemed too bleak. It will forever be the best way in which to spread the wings of my imagination and fly away into the depths of my subconscious, so when that merges with school work, it makes me the most fulfilled. I was glad to be able to combine those two and be appreciated for it.

Ștefan Jasmine, Year 10



Student Assemblies



The purpose of assemblies is to spend time as a school community while learning in a fun, engaging student-focused setting.

For the 6th year in a row Scoala Mea has had monthly student assemblies. In the past, assemblies have been focused

on international holidays and celebrations; however, this year, things have changed. Assemblies are now designed around inspirational figures. So far, our Assemblies have included Maya Angelou, The Beatles, and Nala from the Lion King.

This year assemblies had live music and award ceremonies for different activities and competitions. Quite the variety!

The upcoming for assemblies for the rest of the year include inspirational figures from theatre, sports and science.





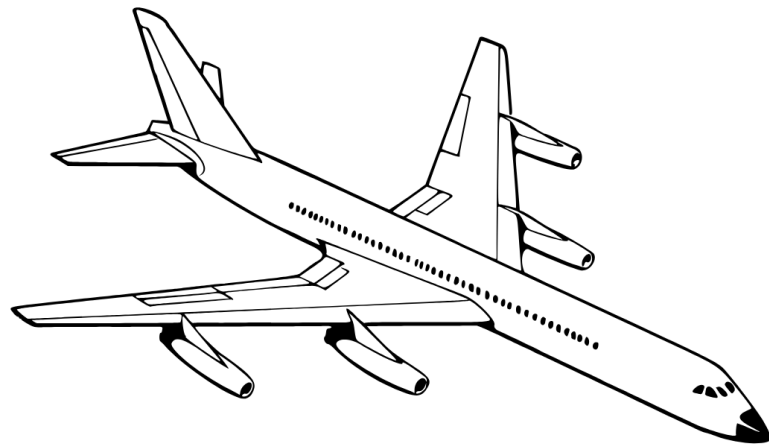
Creative
Writing

A dangerous flight

By Radu Vlad, 5A

It was a sunny morning. I was going to travel by plane because I was going to see my uncle. The plane was going to leave at 1'o clock so there was plenty of time to prepare for the flight. Everything seemed normal, but it wasn't going to last long.

I was at the check in gate in the airport, then I boarded the plane and left. All of a sudden, a passenger started screaming and all I could hear was a window cracking. As soon as that happened, all the passengers started screaming. Then the oxygen masks started falling from the ceiling so I put it on the mask and started relaxing. It wasn't an easy thing to do, as I had never experienced this before. So, the pilot decided to land because it was too dangerous for everyone. Unfortunately, they didn't have a place to land but they couldn't do anything else. We landed in the crops which was the safest place then the tower of control announced the cops to come for help.



When they finally came all the people were sent to a safe shelter and then sent to their destinations. I talked to my uncle and he was amazed with what happened and how didn't I pass away. Since then I am afraid of boarding and traveling by plane.

An unlucky lucky day

By Sandu Carla Maria, 5B



It was a wonderful spring morning, in which Martha was preparing to go to work. Her dog was barking loudly and birds were singing in harmony. Nothing seemed to ruin her good mood.

She arrived late at the tall building in which she worked. The atmosphere was very tensed there. So, everyone was hurrying for different reason, but Martha wasn't worrying about that. But, while she was working in her office, she started to smell smoke.

In less than a minute, everyone evacuated the building quickly, but a little boy was left there by mistake. She could hear him shouting. So, Martha ran into her building to save that poor child. Her skin was burning, and she felt like she was going to faint, but she didn't give up.

In the end, Martha saved the boy, and everyone was safe. Martha felt proud of herself. "I have just changed someone's life" she thought while walking happily through the empty park.

An unusual flight

By Darius Ciotec, 5A



It was Saturday morning, the rain was pouring heavily and the wind was blowing hard. I was on my way to the airport. I thought that nothing bad could happen as I had travelled many times before.

When I got on the plane I noticed that the windows were frozen. Didn't they need to spray them with a solution? I didn't think that could change my flight.

We were at a very high altitude when we heard a loud boom, a window shattered and the air without oxygen started entering the plane seconds later. The oxygen masks fell and we all put them on. The plane rapidly started diving for an emergency landing.

After we landed, I immediately called my family to tell them what had happened. It was a really life changing experience because I learned to be aware that anything could happen.

My unexpected great experience

By Briana Neagoe, 6B

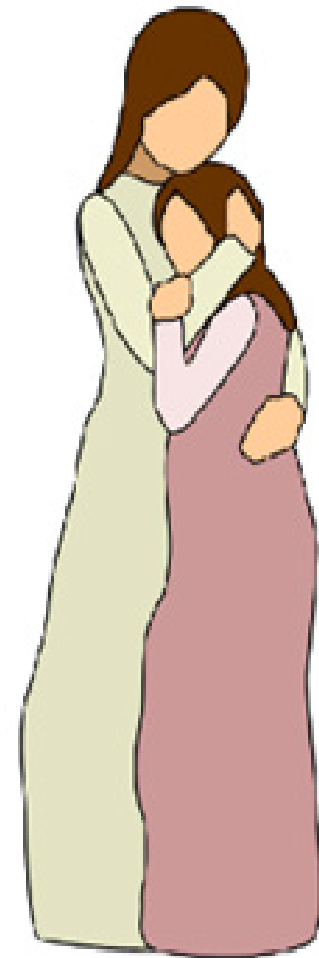
I took a deep breath and knocked on the door. A blonde-haired woman opened it widely. She recognized me from the moment she saw me. Her guilty tears were falling down her cheeks.

Amy invited me in. When I entered, she immediately asked if I would like a cup of tea. She really wanted to explain why she had to leave me. Amy told me that she wanted me to have a better life and better parents and she also told me that she thinks about me every day. After I listened to her emotional speech, I decided to forgive her. Both of us started crying and we ended up hugging each other.

Overall, I really wanted to keep in touch with her.

She gave me her phone number so I could give her a phone call whenever I felt alone.

I appreciated how honest she was and I'm glad that I finally met my mother.

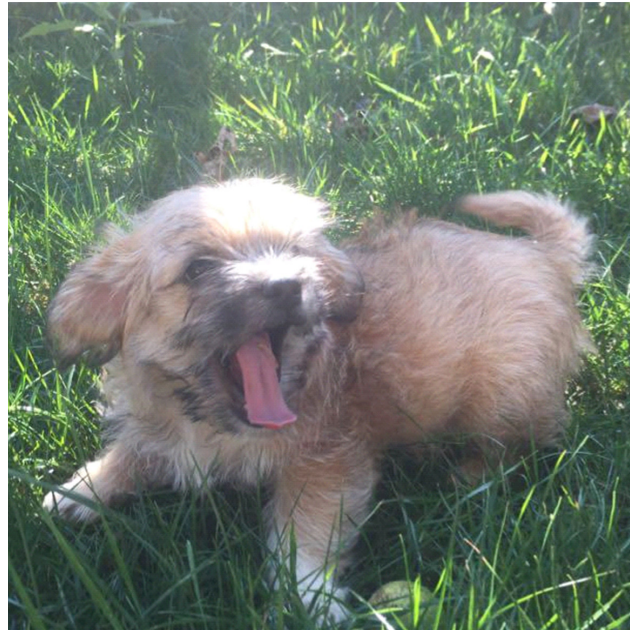


Talking Max

By Carla Alexandru, 5A

One warm summer morning, me and my sister were nagging our parents. We wanted a talking dog.

They kept on telling us to settle for a normal dog. We agreed for them to buy us a half breed bichon. We have received a small and fluffy puppy with a beige fur. We named him Max. The puppy was growing really fast.



One day we took him to school for the “Pets day”. Next to each desk there was a transparent cage with small holes. My colleagues had already placed their pets in the cages which were shaping as the pet’s habitat. Eva, my best friend, had already placed her dog, Lara, in her cage which was now a mini house with a bed, bathroom and even a kitchen. When I placed Max in the cage, it transformed in a house exactly like Lara’s house, except that his was blue.

First class was we had Sport. Our pets were doing great because they were very obedient. Next class was Math’s. When our teacher asked us a question, to which only I knew the answer, Max raised his paw. Our teacher asked him, as a joke, to answer, and for everyone’s surprised Max answered (yes, he answered with words) correctly. Our teacher, which was totally shocked, took him in her arms and whispered something to his ears. The dog nodded.

Suddenly, all the animals started to take out their paws from the cages. The paws were colored in pink. Our teacher explained us that a wise wish is always fulfilled. I confessed that I wished for Max to have super-powers. When I took him in my arms, the dog told me that he gave me his super-powers. I touched Eva who transformed in super hero herself. Lara started also talking after Max licked her and out the window, we saw a flying cat and horse. We all made a huge headquarter in the middle of the town.

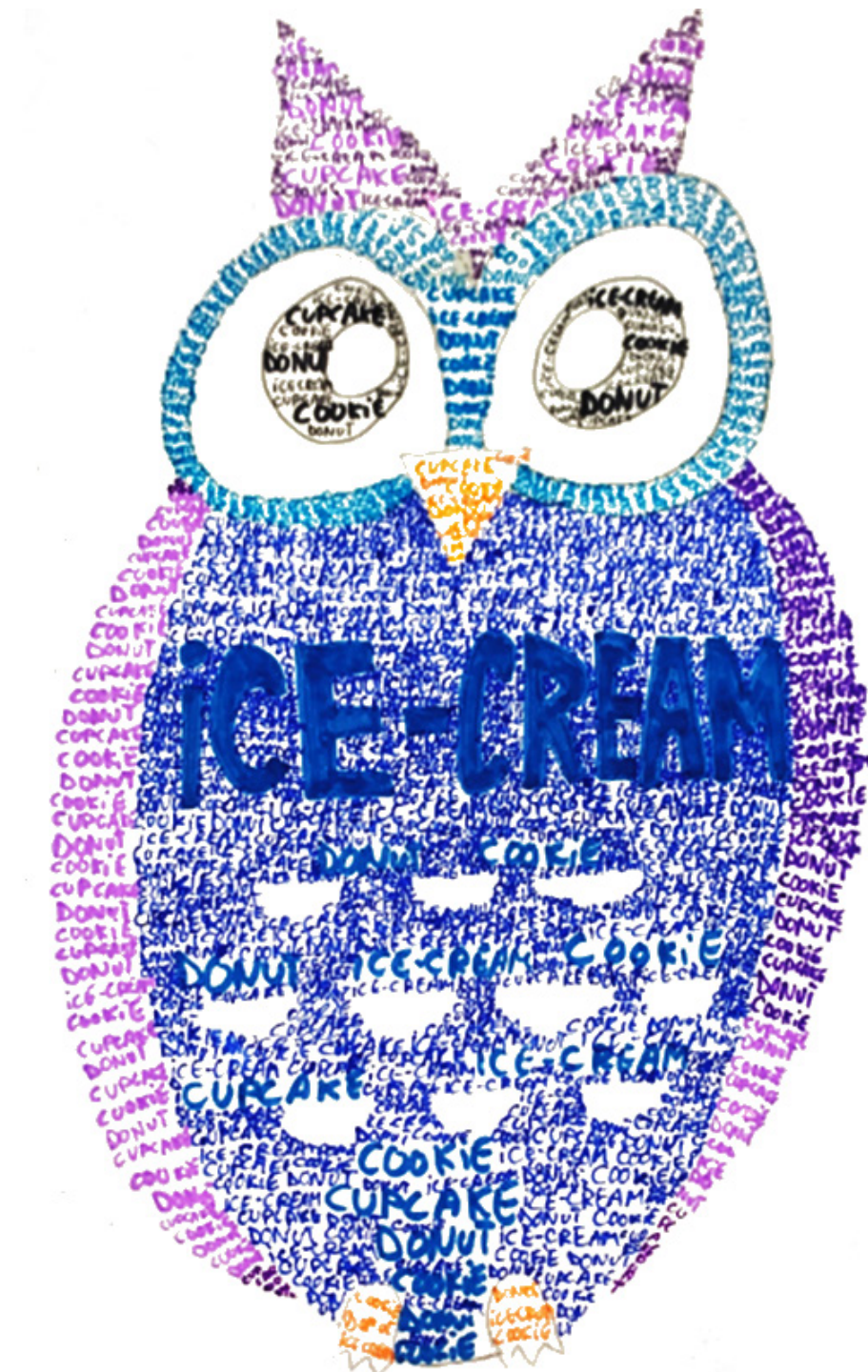
Since then, I run the super hero’s group who helps me solve all the injustice acts.

About my Owl!

By Raisa Predescu, 6A

I was in Mark’s class, Art and Design, when he brought us the tablets.

We had to do a piece of art using words. He said that we could either use an app or draw and write on our own. Most of my colleagues chose the app, but I chose to draw. I was really happy with my results and I will never forget that class.



CULTURES OF THE WORLD



NIGERIA

(Federal Republic of Nigeria)

Popescu Ilinca
Dică Sasha
Oancea Maria

HISTORY:

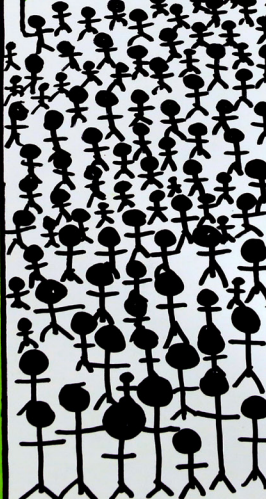
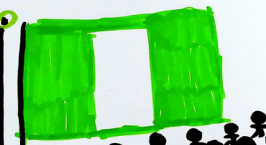
Nigeria, also called Federal Republic of Nigeria, is a country located in West Africa. Nigeria became a British protectorate in 1901. It first became a Republic in 1963.

SPORTS:

Football is largely considered Nigeria's national sport.

FOOD:

1. Pounded Yam;
2. Garri;
3. Egusi Soup;
4. Jollof Rice;
5. Efo Riro;
6. Suya;
7. AKara/Kosari;
8. Afang Soup;
9. Moi Moi;
10. Tuwo Shinkafa;



Did you know that...

- Nigeria has 524 languages;
- In 2014 the population was approx 190,9 m people and grew in 2019 to 200,96 m people.
- Most important monument:

ABUJA NATIONAL MOSQUE

Fun facts about Nigeria



DARIUS
ANISIA
CIPRIAN

BRAZILIAN CULTURE

a VI-a B



The official language of Brazil is Portuguese. It is spoken by 98% of the population. The Brazilian Portuguese is a bit different than normal Portuguese. There are some minorities that speak other languages.

The Brazilian Carnival is an annual festival held four-six days before Easter. The Carnival is the most famous holiday in Brazil and has become an event of huge proportions.

Brazil was a colony of Portugal for over three centuries. About 10 million of Portuguese arrived during this period and brought their culture to the country.

The national dish of Brazil is feijoada, a stew of black beans, beef, pork, and other meats.

Brigadeiro is very popular candy in Brazilian birthday parties.

Samba is a very popular dance in Brazil. Samba and Bossa Nova are popular music genres.



Football is the most popular sport in Brazil. Maracanã Stadium is the Brazilian national stadium and the largest in the world.

Popescu Ilinca
Dică Sasha
Oancea Maria

Japanese CULTURE

Top 10 Traditions

1. **Onsen** - Hot springs. Onsen are natural mineral water springs that are used for bathing and drinking. They are considered to be good for health.
2. **Cherry Blossom Festival** - A festival celebrating the cherry blossom. It is held in various parts of Japan.
3. **Tea Ceremony** - A traditional Japanese tea ceremony. It is a ritualized preparation and presentation of tea.
4. **Sumo** - A traditional Japanese wrestling sport. It is a full-contact combat sport.
5. **Onigiri** - A traditional Japanese rice ball. It is a popular snack.
6. **Yakitori** - A traditional Japanese skewered and grilled meat dish. It is a popular street food.
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FUN FACTS:
more than 2 billion manga magazines and books are sold each year.
they eat more than 11 million tons of fish per year.
there are more anime than kids.

KFC
on
Christmas Eve



1. **Cherry Blossom Festival** - A festival celebrating the cherry blossom. It is held in various parts of Japan.

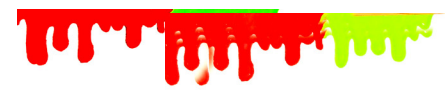
Top 10 Japanese Foods



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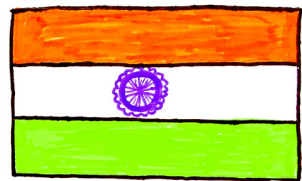
Japan

6B
Boromgila, Sofia
Stefanescu Alexandra



INDIA

by Natalia, Clara, Ana



Bollywood

Religion: Hinduism 79.8%
Islam 14.2%
Sikhism 1.7%
Buddhism 0.4%
Christianity 2.3%

- Samosa** - This is a fried or baked pastry with savoury filling.
- Korma** - Korma is minced meat or chicken cooked in Indian masala and made into a dry, creamy sauce by cooking it on a slow fire.
- Biryani** - This is a mixed rice dish which can include meat, eggs or vegetables.
- Tikka Masala** - This is a delicious spiced chicken dish with a thick, creamy sauce that is unforgettable after the first bite.
- Chaat** - They include a variety of savoury, spicy and refreshments.

India is in spring
people
with full moon.

Famous Singers: Sonu Nigam, Alka Yagnik, Mangeshkar

Indian Music: The two main traditions of Indian classical music are Carnatic music, which is common found in the peninsular regions and Hindustani Music.

Japanese food is one of the most popular cuisines in the world and for good reason. Based on "rules of five", traditional Japanese cooking, or washoku, emphasize variety and balance. This is achieved through the use of five colours (black, white, red, yellow and green), five cooking techniques (raw food, grilling, steaming, boiling and frying) and five flavours (sweet, salty, sour and bitter). These principles can be found even in a single meal of one soup and three sides paired with rice.

- The best Japanese dishes:
1. Sushi
 2. Tempura
 3. Yakitori
 4. Sukiyaki
 5. Kaiseki
 6. Udon
 7. Soba
 8. Sukiyaki
 9. Sashimi
 10. Miso Soup

Japanese calligraphy:
Pa, I, i, U, E, O, A, K, Ki, J, Ka, J, Ke, J, Ko
D, Ka, J, Sa, J, Shi, J, Su, J, Se, J, So, J, Ta, F, Shi
J, Tsu, J, Te, J, To, J, Mi, J, Mu, J, Ne, J, No

Religion:
Shintoism,
Buddhism.

One of the traditional clothing for Japanese people was the kimono. The kimono was once worn on a daily basis by most Japanese people.

Top 6 Festivals that Japanese people celebrate:

1. **Shogatsu (New Year)** - Ringing in the new year is taken very seriously in Japan. Shogatsu, the Japanese New Year celebration, falls on the familiar date of January 1st for the Gregorian calendar, but the celebration in Japan is stretched out days before and after. It's considered one of the biggest festivals in Japan.
2. **Setsubun (The Bean-Throwing Festival)** - Fun and lively, Setsubun is the first day of the new year (spring festival) in Japan.

3. **Hanami (Cherry Blossom Festival)** - An ancient tradition, the word Hanami actually means "flower viewing" and that's exactly what thousands of people do during the thousands of Cherry Blossom Festivals. What could be more enjoyable than sitting under beautiful blossoms with food and drinks?
4. **Golden Week** - It's throw one big holiday in Japan to plan around. It is Golden Week. Fail to do so and you could find yourself spending much of your trip waiting in queues.
5. **Obon** - Although technically not an official national holiday, Obon (sometimes just bon) is the most widely observed of Japanese festivals in the summer.
6. **The Emperor's Birthday** - Emperor Akihito, the Emperor of Japan, was born on December 23, 1933.



National symbols:
The konji 日本 that make up the name of Japan that mean "sun origin"

Descriptive writing · class 10

- The Mountain -



The fire joyfully crackled between the silvery cobblestone-built walls of the archaic fireplace. As the room filled with an abundance of enchanting aromas of home-baked, crusty bread and perfumes, I decided to leave the house and proceed a short, recovering walk through the woods. It was only a matter of derisory fractions of a second after I gently left the rustically carved door of fine maple wood ajar, when the cold and bitter winter air struck me without mercy.

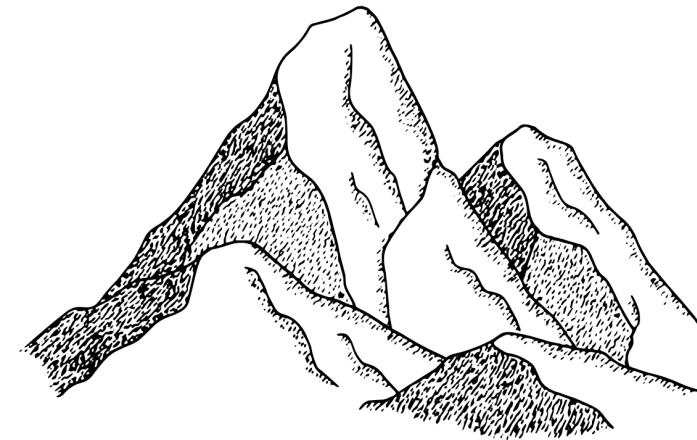
At first, it was hard for me to open my light-sore eyes. But when I finally managed to gather myself into accommodating with the strong light, reflecting in the snow, there it was. The almighty, brobdingnagian peak of Weisshorn, standing and majestically rising with its renowned pyramidal shape around 4500 metres above sea level. Now that my weatherworn skin got used to the high pressure of the altitude where our little, old and poorly but carefully handmade built cottage lied, I enabled the clement sun rays to tantalize my skin while I closed my eyes again and took a deep breath of Swiss winter air.

Alexia Harpa, class 10

There I was, at the base of Mount Everest, ready to climb it to the top. I couldn't see the summit due to the fierce snow storms and the severe winds. Everyone was very thrilled, but at the same time fearful because they knew that if something happened to them, there wouldn't be any chance of survival. After one hour we left the camp to ascend the mountain, walking towards it making it seem a lot bigger and more terrifying. Unfortunately, the weather got worse and worse as time went by. Me and my team eventually got to an enormous wall of ice, when we tied each other with a rope and took our pickaxes. We were half way through and a wind gust blew off one of our teammates; thankfully, the rope held him. What a relief!

At long last, we succeeded to climb the wall, but when I looked forward, I wished I had never started this journey. There were all the corpses of the people that tried to climb the mountain and failed lying before me. More and more we feared for our lives at the terrible sight of this.

Bruno Mella, class 10



Just as the storm fades away, a mesocyclone starts to form in the distance. The tiny shed at the top of the mountain slowly sways, as if pushed by the frail touch of a child. Dark funnel clouds gather around, covering the sunset. The winds intensify, making the updraft rotate, as a result of the force released. The shed starts to wobble harder and harder causing the recklessly adjusted screws to twirl and fall off. Its timber walls slowly detach from the substructure.

As the winds of the vortex reach the speed of 100km per hour, they fiercely force themselves into the vacant shed, shattering its windows and carrying its rotten wooden planks down the slopes. A sinuous vast shadow swallows the mountain and the colourful meadows at its foot. Sunflowers face the ground and so does the shed.

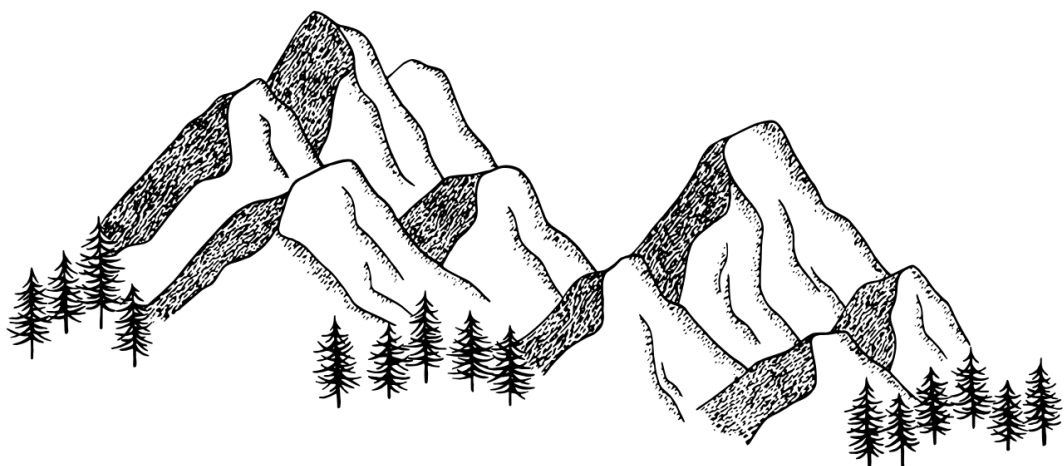
Petra Tudose, class 10

The crispy cool weather was blowing against my face as thousands of crepuscular rays were drifting through the marshmallowy clouds like a golden honey dipper. It was a raw spring Montana morning and the mountains were dusting of the last snowfall off their shoulders. The faint sound of chirping birds was entering upon the world as it was waking up. The lemon-piney scent of beargrass was tickling the roof of my nasal cavity. I could taste the fresh and cool air that was lurking around. The phantom-white peaks were sky-stabbing the landscape like a bunch of pitiless knives. Blood was rapidly rushing towards my head, the sinus pressure reaching an unbearable level.

I felt dizzy. I panicked.

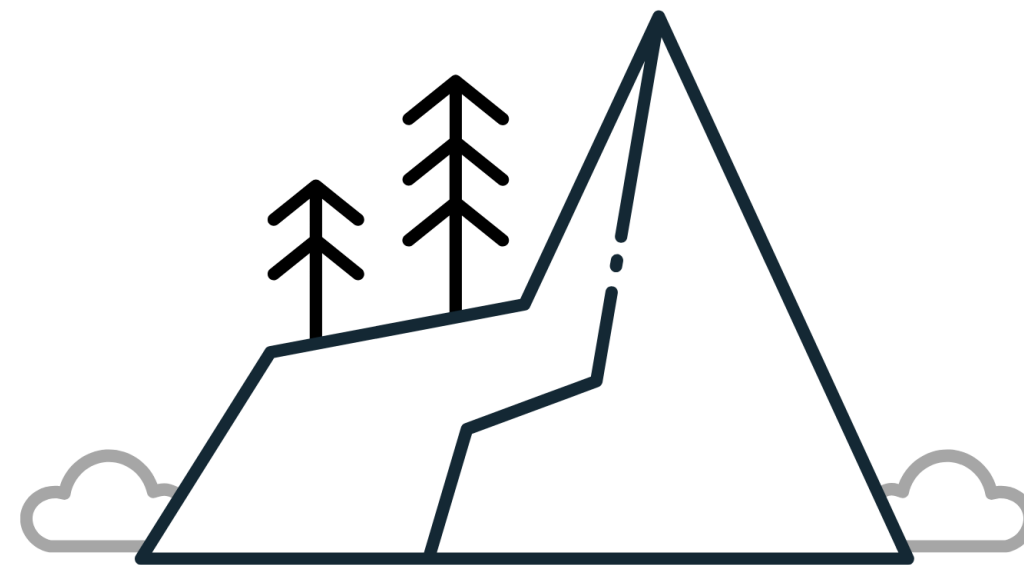
At that moment I was questioning my irrational choice of position. So I put down my legs and veered my body 360 degrees. Now that I was finally standing straight, the view that seemed to be a threatening landscape was just postcard-perfect.

Nora Stancu, class 10



At almost 6 degrees Celsius, my whole body starts to shake as if it were an untamed animal. Suddenly, a breeze of fresh air has taken me by surprise, stiffening my face. The unpredicted road that lies in front of me reveals the stunning summit of the mountains, flickering like glitter in the distant view. Around me, the coniferous fire gives off a piercing, penetrating odor, and the green needle-shaped leaves amplifies the serenity. A pass is yet to be seen in the shadows of the range.

Maria Patraulea, class 10



Silence. I lay on a fluffy snow blanket while the mountains seem to be piercing the sky. At -47.5 degrees Celsius, my waterproof ski costume was frozen and the air felt ice cold. In front of me was a breath-taking view with millions of tiny little snowflakes that were melting on my Oakley Flight Deck XM Snow Goggles. After a deep moment of silence, between the cloud belt in the horizon and the wonderful sunset, the birds were silhouettes against the orange-kissed heavens.

As I look down the hill, the snow winter trees shiver in the bitter wind and they are full of glowy snow and every second a small piece of snow joins the collection.

Maria Ciorchină, class 10

The sky was a light blue and cloudless. On my left there was an eight-meter-rock wall and all around were anthropomorphous megaliths sprinkled with mugo pine. The grass had a deep yellowish green color and the wind spelt like spring. The valley was cut in half across the middle by a long narrow river surrounded by big boulders. The falcons were flying and searching for food. There were no signs of civilization, it was as if humans had never set foot in that valley.

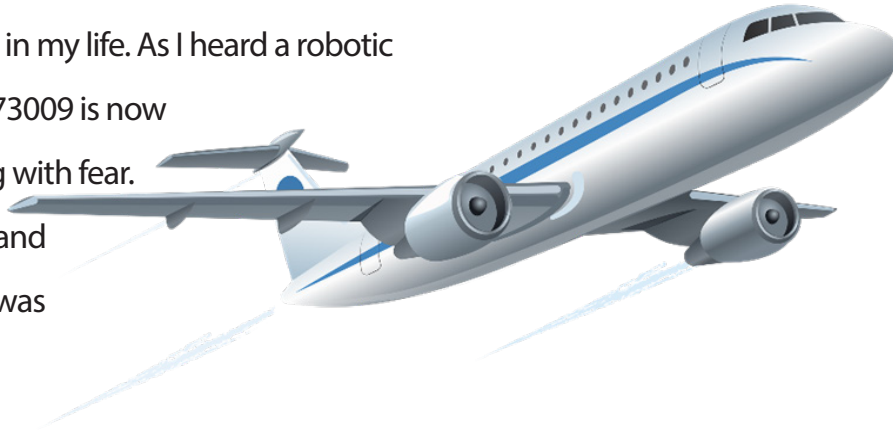
Maria Baltac, class 10

THE ADVENTURE OF MY LIFE

By Daniel Cârstoiu, 8A

I had never felt so nervous before in my life. As I heard a robotic voice saying "The airplane Boeing 073009 is now boarding" my hands started shaking with fear.

I had never been on a plane before and always dreamed to, but now that it was happening, I wasn't so sure about it.



I felt quite apprehensive walking slowly and cautiously by the tempting shops in the airport. I arrived at the gate after all the possible checks: my clothes, my ID, my bag, still scared and excited at the same time. Then went outside, feeling the breeze in my hair and saw it. A gigantic airplane. The shape of it was familiar, as most of my childhood I had a toy that looked just like it, but not as big as this. I never knew planes could be this massive.

Once in it, fear left, as I waited with excitement. It started moving, going faster and faster. My adrenaline level increased when we could hardly see anything but the running fields on the little window. Then we took off. I could feel the pressure squishing me, as the land became little and little. I could see the cities and fields, brightly colored with green, yellow and red, and I smiled most of the time. We flew without any turbulences for two straight hours, and boredom never reached me, curiously inspecting the aircraft. I was amazed and happy, though the adventure of my life had only begun. I even got some relaxing sleep, while the flight assistants were serving us the lunch.

Then it was time to land. I felt confident, even though I had never experienced it before. We were close to the earth and as I could see the running fields again, I waited for us to reach the asphalt, being ready for its rocky surface and the shock I was about to have. When it finally happened, just a bit scared this time, my whole body was agitated and my hands started shaking again. Then we arrived in the new country where I was about to start another adventure.

FAIR PLAY

By Flavia Comanici, 8C

I had never felt so nervous before in my life. I stepped slowly on the freshly prepared grass for the football match. I think there were about 20.000 people on the stadium, half of them wearing our red team's shirt.

I occupied my position on the pitch. A little later, the referee blown the whistle. The game started. I was sweating like the clouds are pouring the heaviest rain on Earth. I believe there were about 30 degrees Celsius outside, feeling like the summer didn't want us to play that day.

After 25 minutes of play, we were all focused on the game. Suddenly, one of my teammates screamed: 'Pass the ball to me!'. I listened to him, I got the ball back -everything was happening so fast- then, I scored such a beauty of a goal! Everyone was jumping and yelling, so I felt like I was in heaven.

It was the 87th minute of the game, I scored two goals and I wanted a hattrick badly. I started to run desperately towards the opponent's net, pushing the ball with my foot. I got supernatural powers, running like a cheetah!

After ten seconds, I suddenly woke up on the ground. Many people were surrounding me, trying to take care of my injured head. The referee raised the red card in front of the opponent who hit me with his elbow in my face. He left the stadium, being irritated. A little part of me was hating him so bad!

'Now you need to stand. Ready?' asked kindly one of the doctors. I forced myself, my feet were shaking, but in the end I was walking to the locker

room. The pain was so deep and I was dizzy. My soul was broken. I wanted to finish the game. Quite unexpectedly, the crowd started to call out my name. That was so encouraging and profound. Finally, I managed to leave this game in glory.



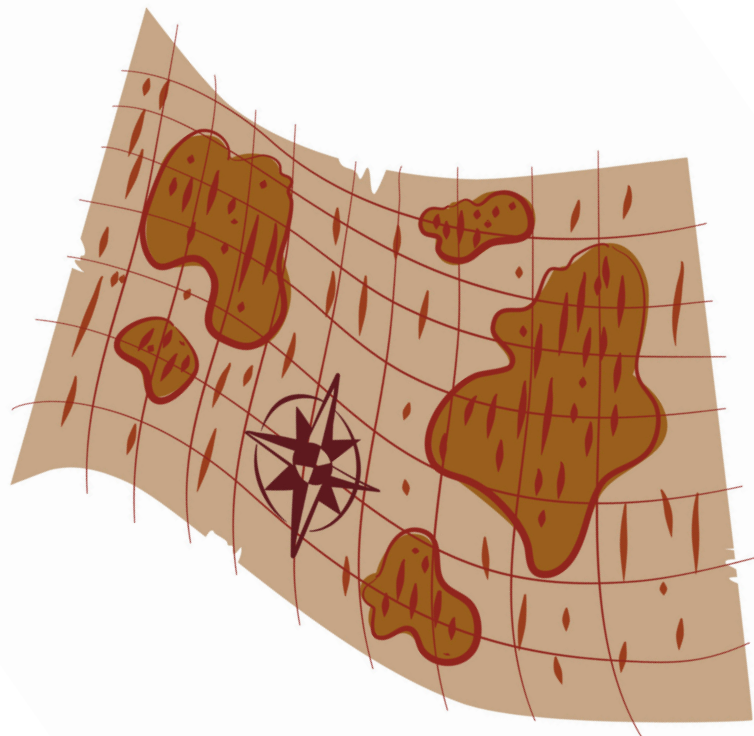
LUCKY DAY

By Deniz Gun, 6B

It was a lucid and golden morning when I unexpectedly received a surprising message from an unknown person.

In a few moments I excitedly punched the air and after that I dressed up and went outside, letting my curious cat home alone. In the message there was a map that led me to an open area. In the grass I saw a big "X" and I doubtfully supposed that there was a treasure buried in the deep ground. I started to dig up a hole and happily realized that my supposition was correct. As I was holding the treasure, I kindly thought that it would be best if I donated the money in it to a shelter, so I returned home and in the next morning I was at the shelter, giving the money enthusiastically. The children's shiny eyes lit up and a charming smile appeared on their faces when I looked at them. Their smile warmed my heart.

When you first read the title of the story you thought it was a lucky day for me, and you were partially right.



THE HAUNTED HOUSE

By Eva Iancu, 5A

It was a rainy day and I was alone in my house. I decided to call Carla, my best friend, to visit together the haunted house that was next to my home. We had been waiting to do this for ages.



I didn't know why, but I was curious. So, we decided to be there at 9pm so that it would be a little bit creepy.

When we got there, a strange noise could be heard... We realised that the noise was getting louder because it was closest to the door. What could have been?

So, we opened the door slowly and a creepy face with a lot of blood on it appeared! The face took Carla so quickly that I didn't have any chance to save her...

The next minute I found myself running like the wind and pale like a white blanket to the police station. When I told the police what had happened, I started to cry like a baby. They got me home and started to look for Carla, but since then she has never been found.

Why did we enter the house?

Maria

By Mara Mardale, 5B

One day, the clouds were fighting and the sun was trying to stop it, but even though he tried as hard as he could, he just couldn't stop it. This is a day in Maria's life. She always gets bullied at school, so she always feels bad and she doesn't want to go to school because of that. Her life was tough and it hasn't been enjoyable until now.



Maria thought no one can help her so she kept all that sadness for herself. She ended up getting only bad grades and losing all of her friends. She also fell out with her mom and dad. She knew something was wrong with her.

She tried to ignore those bullies that were making her feel bad, but that didn't work so well. Maria kept getting bad grades and losing everyone's trust.

One year passed by after Maria started getting bullied. She wanted to talk to a therapist. Her confidence was getting worse every day. She knew her parents couldn't help her.

Now, Maria is getting well with her parents, her friends, her teachers, but without talking to a therapist, her life would've been miserable. Now, she understood that bullies have problems at home, so that means they don't hate you. They might be jealous or mad about their life.

Maria is 14, so she has a lot of friends and her grades are the best. Everyone got bullied once so you know the feeling of being useless. Bullying is not good! Stop bullying!

THE CAVE

By Maria Predica, 6B

My family and I discovered a cave in the forest and we all decided to go in.



It was dark and lonely, but we continued walking. After about 5 minutes a noise came from where we entered. I headed back quickly to see what happened. The entrance was closed. There was no way out! I ran as fast as I could to inform my family, but they weren't there anymore. I started screaming, but no one heard me. When the thought that I was lost crossed my mind, I started to panic. After some time of thinking I realised there were two tunnels, so they might have gone that way. I ran without caring what was behind me and I saw them. I was so happy! I felt like everything was good again!

It was a horrible moment that I hope I will never have to experience again.

Mermaids all the way

By Gheorghita Iulia, 5B

It was a scorching summer day in Greece. Melody, a 12-year-old girl, was sitting on the sandy dunes of the beach. Out of nowhere, a pink dolphin popped. Filled with shocker the girl jumped.

"Who are you and what are you doing here?" asked Melody with terror in her voice.

"I'm Doris, the dolphin. Poseidon sent me here to inform you that you're actually a mermaid!"

"Wait, what? I can't be a mermaid. I'm Melody. Just the ordinary Melody."

As soon as she got home, Melody discussed everything with her parents. It was true. Melody had always been a mermaid. With tears in her eyes, both from joy and sadness, the girl moved in the ocean the next day.

At first it was hard, but Melody managed. Even though she enjoyed being a mermaid, she visited her parents once a month. It was a life changing -experience for Melody, but now her life was like in a fairy-tale.

In the end, the girl was loved and well known.



The uninvited guest

By Miruna Sorescu, 8A



I had never felt so nervous before in my entire life. It all began when my mom told me that she really had to leave me home alone at 9 p.m. because she had a press conference. I told her that it wasn't such a big deal and that I was mature enough to take care of myself.

When she finally left, I felt like a bird in the sky. Of course I started to play video-games with my friends. Everything was going as usual, until I heard a deafening sound coming from the main entrance of the house. I quickly got up and sure it was locked.

After five minutes, it happened again, but it came from the window. I really wanted to see what it was, but I also didn't want to pull the curtains. I was terrified. I thought a monster was waiting for me on the other side. I hesitated a bit, but I did it. There was no one. This made me have butterflies in my stomach even though I also thought that it was just paranoia. I had never been deceived so hard in my entire life.

Eventually, I thought that too many games caused me those hallucinations, so I went to bed. The banging started again, but this time I knew it wasn't me that had a problem. I got off my bed, opened my bedroom door and I started to walk slowly down the dimly lit corridor. Then, down the old rusty stairs. After all that, I made my realization. The noises were coming from the inside.

Mona The Princess

By Eva Dragomir, 5A

Once there was a princess named Mona. She was only 8 years old when she started getting interests in under water world. She was in love with mermaids. Her room was full of books that she read, she knew everything about every fish or plant under the water but, that wasn't enough for her. She wanted to go diving, to see the world with her eyes. When she asked her parents if she can, her parents said that it would be dangerous and it wouldn't be nice for a princess to do boys sports. That's when she decided to do it on her own.

Later that night, she took her bag with food and cozy clothes and, when she arrived at her ship driver, she asked if she can get in and leave. He said: NO!, but of course Mona how smart she was, she said that he can't say no to the royal family and he has to do what they said. At that point, he didn't have anything to say so he told her to come in. In the morning, in the middle of the sea, Mona was getting ready by putting her diving costume on.

The second she jumped in the water, she realized that the prettiness she saw, was completely different from the world 3 meters higher. All the fish, from brown to neon colors, and from neon colors to rainbow were hiding in seashells and corals. The view was surreal and, until awake took the princess to a different world.

This world was even prettier than the other one, and... there were only mermaids! She cried and then went to a mermaid asked how is this world here, and how do people know that you exist? The mermaid said: - Once there was a queen that was loved by everyone, her name was Angelica. She wanted to visit earth and when she got there, she fell in love with a normal man. She took him here and they lived together until he decided to use her to tell people that mermaids exist. When she found out, she was so sad that she turned into dust... since then, people who come here by mistake, can choose if they want to become mermaids and live here or to go back and never come again. Will you choose?

From that moment, Mona was thinking if she should become what she always wanted to, or to go back to her family and life. She watched the mermaid place one more time and decided to stay. Her family didn't want her anyway and she wasn't allowed to have friends or choose whatever she wants.

Since then, Mona lived in the under water world with new people and a new life came at her.

Mona became a princess there as well and she lived her best life. If you are asking what her parents did, when Mona turned into a Mermaid the other mermaids gave them a dust to forget her. And that's the story of a young princess.

Never give up

By Tanasa Mara-Ilinca, 8C

I had never felt so nervous before in my life. I knew what I had to do. I have been training for this moment since I was still only a little girl. I have participated in different competitions, won prizes and even if I failed, or had a bad day, with my parent's encouragement, I would get up and work harder. I never gave up, I couldn't. It was my dream, my goal in life, to be a gymnast.

It was late in October, on the 2nd, the most important day in my entire life. I had different parts of the contest to complete, but the hardest of them all were the parallel bars. I was supposed to do a double flip while standing on them and then turn around and land in a perfect position. I was aware of how hard it was, and the effort I was supposed to put in, but nevertheless I was confident that I would do a great job and eventually qualify for the Olympics.

I stayed seated next to my best friend, Aria, who came there to support me. She was very excited, probably more nervous even than me. Aria always told me that if I work hard enough my dreams would come true. I just had to have faith. I stayed like this talking to her, watching the other competitors, until I heard my name called out loud.

I went over to the bars, closed my eyes and visualised what I was about to perform. I took a deep breath and then I threw myself onto the bars. The cheerful audience was clapping rapidly. I started smiling...

Out of the blue, I felt insecure, nervous. I was at the end of the so called double flip, prepared to land. It was as if I couldn't control myself anymore. The last thing I heard was the screaming of the audience and all I could feel was an unbearable pain. I was laying on the ground, almost unconscious.

I woke up in a hospital bed, surrounded by my worried family. Three weeks had gone by since the accident and I had just woken up from a coma. My face was pale and my body was so sore I couldn't feel it anymore. The polite doctor came and told me what happened. I had a really bad accident and injured myself pretty hard. My thigh was broken and I had a metal foot rod. I was supposed to do therapy so he explained, which was devastating news. I couldn't leave gymnastics!

My parents hugged me the second I started crying. My voice was trembling, but even so I couldn't say a word of how angry I felt. They were telling me that it was all going to be fine, but deep down I understood how different my life was going to be since that accident. I wasn't able to perform as an athlete anymore the way I used to.

Even though, as my friend Aria always told me: I had faith! I made a promise to myself I would never give up, not now, not ever!



IN THE LAST SECOND

By Dragos Prundeanu, 8C

Garry was a normal guy with not very much friends but a lovely family. He was pationed by true heroes that, even if they don't have superpowers, they save people.

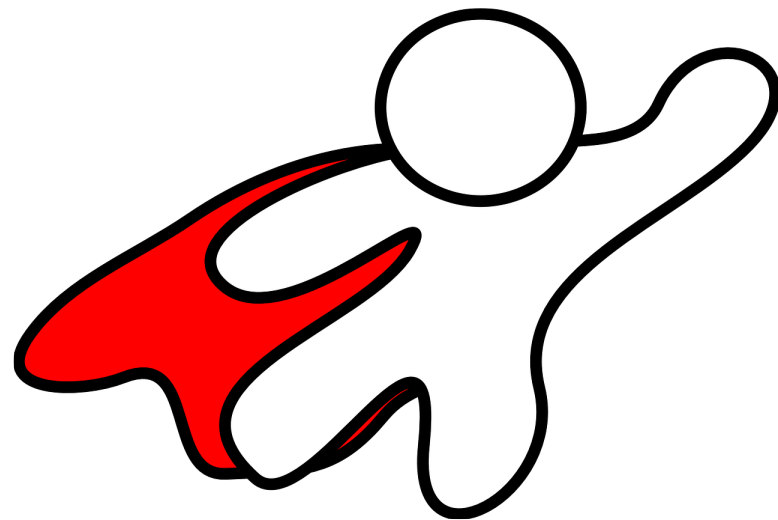
On a sunny saturday Garry went to buy some carrots from the greengrocers. But when he was going down the street, he suddenly heard a scream: "Aaaahhhh". He ran to the mysterious noise and saw a poor woman that was being chased by a thief. He wanted to steal that woman's purse. The boy never saw a robbery before and neither a thief so he was completely puzzled.

Garry wanted to help that woman immediately but then, completely out of the blue, a strange man came in front of the boy. He told him not to go because he was just a little young boy and he didn't stand a chance against that cruel man.

Garry thought about what the man said and he agreed with him. But, as he ran away, he looked in those woman's eyes and they were asking desperately for help. Garry threw his fear away and ran to that evil man. He snatched the woman's purse and the thief ran away.

The woman thanked Garry for saving her and, at that moment, Garry felt like a real hero.

Not listening to the strange man's "friendly" advice proved to be the best thing Garry had ever done. He couldn't be any prouder of himself because he had not fallen for his tricks.



Sloppy advice

By Ana-Maria Grigore, 8C



Timothy was going on a holiday in bansko with his family and girlfriend. They were all going skiing high in the mountains, one day, but they decided to split up,so Timothy and Luna,his girlfriend, went along the abrupt precipice,while the others went the opposite way.

On the way down, they met a man in his forties who offered them a piece of advice which consisted in going down the gulf. He assured them it was completely safe, and that it was way shorter than the original path. Timothy looked at him hesitantly and then he looked at his girlfriend. 'No thanks, a little bit of effort won't kill anyone, will it, now?' he said with a small gulp in his throat. Then, they headed towards the other side of the path, where there was a small hot chocolate stand.

They sat down, drinking their warm beverages looking at the strange man on the other side. Another couple past by and he approached them too, but it looked like they weren't as cautious as our couple. They jumped directly into the precipice and went down the so called slope. The girl lost her balance and fell on the side of the cliff. Timothy stood up and rushed towards the gulf and threw himself in towards the poor girl. Luna joined him from behind and they both hurried to reach the victim. They called 112, the emergency number and tried waking the woman up.

Helicopters and ambulances were coming from all directions, their sirens filling the air. The couple was transported to the hospital as fast as possible and Luna and Timothy never saw them again. But by helping them they knew that they would thank them without necessarily saying it out loud. Not listening to the strange man's advice proved to be the best thing Timothy had ever done. He couldn't be any prouder of himself because he had not fallen for his tricks.

An amazing holiday

By Andrei Lebit, 7B

Last summer Max and his family went to the mountainside. When they arrived, his parents wanted to relax because they were tired after the long journey.

Max wanted to go out in the nature and explore, so he went into the forest nearby. The birds were singing and the air was very clean and fresh. In front of him it was a darker area, but he was not afraid and kept going forward.

Suddenly, he heard a really loud noise coming from his right. He turned in that direction and saw a small bear, which was injured and could not walk. He got really scared at first, but then he realized it was only a cub. He wanted to take it to the vet, but then a man came from the back with a gun in his hand. He turned the gun towards the bear, and told Max that he needs to shoot the bear because it's a wild animal and it's dangerous. Max started running with the baby bear in his hands, and the man started shooting at him with his gun! Fortunately, the gun remained without bullets, so Max and the baby bear were safe again. He got out of the forest and went straight to the vet and left the bear there. He returned at the hotel and told his parents the whole story.

They said it was a very good decision taking the injured cub to the vet and they also told Max that they could not keep it because it's a wild animal. They went together to the vet and he told them that the bear can walk again soon.

'What an amazing day!' Max whispered to himself as he got into bed that night.



The surprise

By Calin Dinu, 7B

Max is a fourteen-year old boy who really loves animals. He is playing with them since he was four years old. Now he is having a part-time job at the zoo.

Even if he is staying and taking care of animals all day, his parents did not want an animal in their house because they are saying that Max is not responsible enough. One day, one of his friends, Alex asked him if he could take care of his dog and Max accepted .

When he got the dog they went together in the park. The dog was walking slowly and it was stopping from time to time. Nanny the dog stopped and started crying. when I got there next to the dog there was a little puppy. I wrapped it with my jacket to keep his body warm.



When I got home and told my parents about what happened they told me that I can keep the puppy if I want because demonstrated that I am responsible enough to take care of this puppy. What an amazing day! Max whispered to himself as he got into bed last night.

Max's wonderful birthday

By David Nedelea, 7B

It was the third of August, it was Max's birthday. Max was a ten-year old boy and he was very excited for it. He was a tall boy with blond hair, green eyes and a passion for adventure. Max was ready to celebrate his birthday. He invited all his friends to venture with him in the forest.

Everybody came and they were ready to explore. They got suited up and his mom got an actual explorer to take care of them. They entered the forest, there were so many animals: snakes, frogs, turtles, birds and many more animals. They heard a roar, all the kids got scared and ran away. The explorer tried to collect them all from where they went but he missed one, he missed Max.

Max was in the middle of the forest all alone. He was wandering scared through the forest. And then he heard a hiss there was a cobra right in front of him. Max was scared he was scared for his life. Cobras are one of the most venomous snakes on the planet and one bite can kill an adult. What about him?

A single bite could kill him. Then Max's whole life went before his eyes. The snake jumped and it was going to bite him. But then the snake was destroyed it was hit and sank to the floor then ran away quickly. He looked behind him and saw a bear it was the bear they saw earlier it saved his life but the question was is it going to end it too. But unexpectedly the bear took Max by the shirt and took him back to his mom.

Max was very thankful it stroked its fur gently and said thank you. He went to his mom where he saw the explorer he was explaining to his mom where he went. But when his mom saw him she hugged him and then canceled the party immediately and went home.

What an amazing day! Max whispered to himself as he got into bed that night.



An unfair contest

By Niculescu Deea, 8C

Aden is a nine-year-old kid that lives near me. He seems like a normal child until you find out his story.

Last week his parents were out of town and they asked me to babysit Aden for the weekend. I agreed to the proposal and on Friday morning I stood on their doorstep with a small luggage ready to spend my weekend with the kid. Never would I have guessed that he can be that fascinating.

When I first entered their house Aden was standing next to the piano. After his parent left he started playing. Suddenly, I felt overwhelmed with emotions. I had no idea what hit me. This kid was gifted with a special talent. I started asking him about where he learnt to play, he replied that he had been playing since he was 3.

He then started telling me a strange story about a boy and a contest that sounded like this. His piano teacher's son was performing at the national contest. At first, I thought he was very strange because he was much older than the boy.

After the first rehearsal the teacher's son came to him and told him that it would be for the best if he didn't perform, because his father told him that he isn't an eminent pianist. After some time I realised that the story was about Aden. He decided for himself that it would be best if he followed his heart and pursue his true passion. It turned out to be the best thing he could have ever done. Everyone was deeply moved by his talent.

Not listening to the kids friendly advice made one of the best piano players in the world and he would never become what he is now without trusting his guts.



The forest's whisper

By Ilinca Gabura, 8C

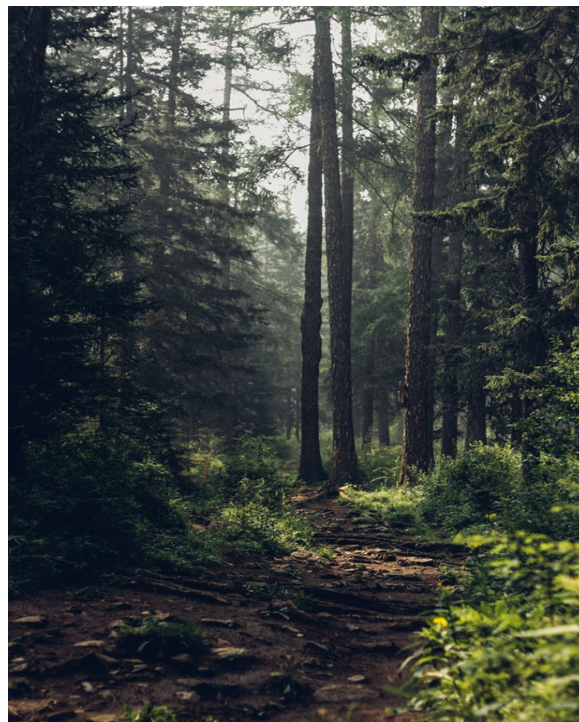
Aged trees formed a nice arch above Mason's head. It was dark because the light couldn't pass through the branches of the trees. The forest was silent, only some birds and the wind could be heard. As the sun was setting, Timothy was desperately looking for the way back home. In his hands, he held two baskets full of mushrooms for his mother. The path was covered by leaves and Mason, as he looked for mushrooms, forgot from which direction he came from.

He felt frightened and suddenly, his feet started shaking. Mason didn't feel this before, but it was almost night and he knew nobody was still in the forest, to ask for help. The boy moved to the north, as he thought it was right, looking after known places. From his back, he heard a branch breaking. His heart sank! Mason didn't look back, but a thick voice echoed in the forest: "Little boy, are you lost?"

Mason turned back and saw an old man talking to him, but he wasn't sure if he should run or ask for help. Instead, he answered and with a trembling voice, Mason said he was looking for his home, next to the farm. The stranger looked in the baskets and started laughing hysterically. The boy stepped back and was ready to run away, when the man advised him to go in the opposite direction, in order to get home and he started laughing again.

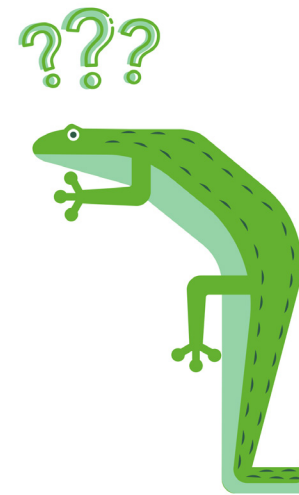
Scared, Mason thought for a moment and started running to the north. He didn't listen to the advice the stranger gave him... He left the stranger laughing behind and while running in fate's hands, he saw a light. It was the light from his house!

He felt relieved that he followed his instinct. Not listening to the strange man's 'friendly' advice proved to be the best thing Mason had ever done! He couldn't be any prouder of himself because he had not fallen to his tricks.



Special kid, tricky mind

By Dermengiu Andrei Noah, 8C



Timothy was one of the greatest students his collage had ever had. He was truly special and smart, but he wasn't accepted in any social groups because he was too nerdy for the teenagers to hang out with.

Timothy really wanted to change himself to attend parties and to have fun with others, so he would do absolutely anything to achieve this. On Saturday, one of his classmates was going to throw a massive party where the whole school was invited, except for him. He tried everything to get invited as well, but nothing seemed to work.

Out of the blue, Timothy's classmate came up to him and said that he could come, only if he'll bring as a gift a specimen of an endangered species of lizards, that being an Iguana. Timothy wasn't told that it was an endangered exemplary so he agreed. Right at the start of the party, he went talking with a stranger that his friend assured him is trustworthy and that he could buy the Iguana from. The man was really shady and started giving out signs that what he was doing wasn't really legal. Once he threw a glance at the lizard he was about to buy, he recognised it and understood everything that just happened and what he was going through. He let the man hold the deal for a couple of minutes, while he was subtly calling the cops.

Minutes later, police cars started showing up at his classmate's house.

The lizard seller was arrested, but the cops started searching the house for any other things that they could possibly find. After minutes of searching, the police found many other endangered animal species and the kid was also taken to the police station. Not listening to the strange man's friendly advice proved to be the best thing Timothy had ever done. He couldn't be any prouder of himself because he had not fallen for his tricks.

BENJAMIN'S GREAT DISCOVERY

By Teodora Vlad, 8C

Attaway Village, a place where nothing exciting ever happens. No drama, no politics, there was nothing interesting happening in that ancient British town. Until one day when 11 year old Benjamin Brown made a huge discovery in his carrot garden.

It all began during the Christmas holiday. Ben's parents left the town for a couple of days, so the poor boy was home alone. Whenever he needed something, he would have knocked at his neighbor's door and asked for help. His neighbor, Mr Roland, was one of his parents' bestfriend. He was older and wiser than any other person Ben has met. Once a week, after school, he goes at the man's house and enjoys a cup of tea, while Roland narrates one of his amazing life stories.

One freezing day, when Benjamin went outside to feed his dog Baxter, he saw a very strange rock in the middle of his father's beloved carrot garden. He looked carefully at that unusual rock that landed out of nowhere in his garden. It was enormous and so colorful, it almost seemed like it was part of a rainbow. He slowly touched the rock, when he got shocked.

Scared of what might happen, he started running for help. He went straight to Mr. Roland and showed him his discovery. The man wasn't as excited as Ben thought he would be. He told the poor boy that probably someone wanted to get rid of some kind of a garden ornament, as the man called it, and threw it over the fence. But Ben was sure that his rock was a comet or even a star. Roland told the boy to stop dreaming with his eyes wide open and come back to reality.

Because of Ben's curiosity, he called the nearest museum and asked if they can come and help him discover if the rock is something as marvelous as he thought. It took him by surprise that his presumption was in fact true, the rock was a beautiful comet. For his discovery, he received £1000 from one of the museums archeologist.

As soon as he found out the exciting news, Ben went straight up to Mr Roland and bragged about the fact that he will become a millionaire. Mr Roland started laughing and he hugged the boy tightly.



Night of gold

By Thea Tatoiu, 7B



It was the night of Halloween when Mia decided to go to the gold site. So she took some food, water and other necessities.

She arrived there and started exploring, but then she heard a strange noise. When she turned around she froze in fear, the gold was taking shape and transforming into some weird creatures! She wanted to run but she couldn't, her body wasn't responding. She was breathing heavily and her heart was beating so fast she thought it would explode. But then she realized the creatures were looking just as terrified as she was. They were afraid of her!

She came back to her senses and ran as fast as her legs could carry her screaming so loud that one could hear her from miles away. When she reached her house she was breathing so heavily she thought her lungs would burst.

She went to bed trying to forget what happened and she said to herself that she would never go out at night on the site.

The Heart of the Sea

By Georgescu Maia, 7A

"Don't go too far out to sea. It looks as though there might be a storm", the boat owner warned us as we set off on our fishing trip. Anne and I notice the terrifying weather and waved back at him with a raging smile on our faces.

In the distance we noticed an unusual animal. Confused, we kept staring at it until it got closer and closer, then it became massive. It was an enormous underwater bird looking creature with colored beak and fins and feather and also an unpleasantly broken leg. As Anne had been going to the National University of Biology, she patched it and together we gently put him back into the sea.



As the sunset was setting and it was pouring with rain, we decided it was better to dash. While we were sailing back to the shore, I noticed that the injured creature was following us. In vain did we try to feed it, but it just kept on following us. As we approached the quay the man who lent us his boat, who had been waiting nervously for us to make sure his boat was in a good quality, asked about the animal.

So after some time and some arguments, the man agreed to keep him. As the days passed by, we kept on visiting him. But strangely, one day he did not show up. How could I have imagined that others would be as surprised as us...?

The Flight That Changed My Life

By Patrick Budui, 5A

It was a cold Monday morning. I had to go to the airport because I was going to my parents' house. So I lazily got myself out of bed and ate my freshly made breakfast. I felt really tired.

When I got on the plane, I was greeted by the flight attendants. I went straight to my seat and tried to sleep. At about 2000 M above the ground I heard a loud crack, so I opened my eyes and I was shocked. A window was cracked open due to the high pressure and the cold weather. Everybody started screaming because the plane was losing altitude quickly. The last thing I saw was a lightning, after that everything suddenly went blank.



I woke up on the ground, cold and scared. It took me a few minutes to realize what had happened. I found out that I was on an island alone. I got the bright idea to build a raft and sail to civilization. The next day I started the project. I spent weeks building it. Because it took me a long time to build the raft, I needed to find a source of food. I found a bush of berries and a palm tree, so I mostly ate fruits and some fish. When the raft was finished, I got on it and sailed until I found land.

I saw some land. I was excited to see people again. When I got on the shore, I quickly got off the raft and started exploring. It was a small town with great people, weather, food and most of all, the nature. I decided to stay because I felt really happy and free there.

THE GOLDEN SETUP

By Vlad Dumitru, 8C

On a summer evening, Archie and his friends were returning from a birthday party. After a long walk, they separated and each of them left to his home.

Archie was walking with his hands in his pockets and whistling, when a strange man jumped in front of him. Archie wasn't able to see his face. The man was carrying a bag and he was breathing like he was exhausted. He approached Archie and told him to take the bag with him. He said it would help Archie with any problem in his life.

Archie felt there was something shady about the man, so he kept walking, completely ignoring him. Just to be sure he couldn't be followed, he started running. While he was running, Archie thought about that man. The way he talked, the way he was dressed, even the way he was breathing, everything. He knew from the very beginning that making a deal with such a person couldn't possibly end well. When he arrived home, he sat on the couch and turned the TV on. He couldn't believe his eyes! The man who tried to convince him to take the bag was arrested! Apparently, the bag contained dozens of gold bars that the man stole from the national bank.

Archie was in awe. His instincts were right the whole time. Everything started to connect in his head. The man wanted Archie to take the bag so that he wouldn't be caught. He wouldn't have cared that he lost his money, he just wanted to escape the police.

It was on that very night that Archie realised the difference between having power



and having precision. He could have taken all that money without anyone ever knowing, but he decided to follow his gut, and it proved to be the best thing he had ever done.

THE SNAKE BITE

By Oana Olteanu, 8C

Last weekend Bill and his dog went on a hike. It was kind of cold so there was almost absolutely nobody, except them. They were having a lot of fun and everything was going well until, suddenly, they saw something moving in one of the bushes.

A snake jumped out of it and quickly ran away. It all happened so fast, Bill didn't even have time to process. The next thing he saw was his dog, Sammy, yelping on the cold ground. Due to his behaviour Bill quickly realised that the dog has been beaten by the small, but poisonous animal. Determined to get to the hospital before the venom spreads



into Sammy's body, Bill started running as fast as he could.

Out of nowhere, a strange man appeared in front of Bill and stopped him. He rapidly told the man what had just happened and then continued running, but the man intercepted him again and offered his advice. He said that he could take care of Sammy, while Bill could

wait in his old shack. At first Bill was so happy that he found help, but then something seemed strange. He told the man he was going to call the vet ambulance just in case something would go wrong, but the man started being aggressive and he was trying to convince Bill that there is no need for that. Bill started to be a little sceptical about letting Sammy there...He knew there was no time for arguing, so he made the fastest decision and turns out also the best one he could do he grabbed the dog from the man's arms and continued running to the hospital. The strange man kept yelling at Bill, but there was no turning back.

After a long run, he finally arrived at the hospital where Sammy got proper care off. Turns out the police was looking for the old man for weeks and now they finally caught him. After all Bill couldn't be any prouder of himself for not believing the man's tricks and saving his best friend's life.

The lottery ticket

By Zahiu Coral, 5A



It was a cold winter morning. I was walking my dog when I saw an old homeless woman. I'm that type of person who feels bad about these type of people so I sat down with her and started talking. It turned out that she used to be a poor woman who couldn't pay her rent anymore, so she ended up on the streets.

She was really kind so I visited her almost every day. But one afternoon, everything changed. I was walking towards a supermarket to buy some food. When I went to pay my food I saw that you could win 5 million dollars by buying a lottery ticket, so I decided to buy it. And then I forgot about it.

Some days later I was watching TV when I remembered that I had a lottery ticket, so I switched the channel quickly so I could hear it on time. When they started to read the numbers my heart started to beat faster as I saw that my numbers matched the ones on TV. I couldn't believe it. I had won the lottery. I didn't know what to do with 5 million dollars and I needed time to think.

In the end I wanted to give 3 million dollars to the lady on the streets and to the other poor people. She was very thankful for the money. There have been some years since that, and I still keep in touch with her. She has a better life now, and I think it was the best decision ever.

The hilarious rivals

By Anita Panican, 5B

You do not even know what technology can cause. Have you ever had a fight with your grandparents, parents or maybe aunts and uncles about technology? Well, I am sure it does not compare with what happened on Barron Street in the last three months which finally ended five hours ago.

Two neighbour couples, best friends actually, lived in beautiful townhouses. Everybody was admiring their style of living! They were spending most of their time outside talking and laughing over the fence.

I do not know how, but they started a technology war. Maybe they thought that they need to keep up with the rest of the "croud", and be modern. Anyways, the fun thing was that they had around 80 years old each. To be honest, they knew nothing about technology. And, come on! We live in the 2020s!

Every single day they were arguing and bragging over the fence about brand new electronics they merely knew how to use. And, yes, they were oldies.

One day, while watching them from my rounded clean window (with a bowl of popcorn in my hands), I heard the Barkers saying "We now have a tembelision, (television is the right pronunciation, but they said it like this!), you fools! We are modern now!"

I could not stop laughing! Right after, the Williams said "Oh yeah? That is what you think? Well, we bought a LedTop! (actually, it is called Laptop) I bet you did not know about this awesome thing! Look who is modern now! We have a little problem though, we are afraid that the cat will eat the mouse!". The Barkers immediately said "Bad for you! Ha ha ha! I knew your cat just confuses you up. We have a turtle now, called Control and she gets on really well with the remote!"

The fight continued every day till today. They were just unconscious about what was happening.

I was starting to worry about their fight. I knew this can continue forever, and I was scared they will end up fighting for real, and maybe get hurt, arguing on this blind technology.

In the morning, I decided to stop by. I am a psychologist and I know how to talk to people with problems. We talked for hours. I was trying to resist all the nagging. Then, they realised how silly they looked in this constant fight mode. We all started laughing and they apologised to each other. They hugged each other, realising how foolish they were. They thanked me a lot, but I said that this is my job. I love to make people realise how precious life is and find ways to get along.

So, dear friends, appreciate friendships and do not let technology ruin them!



THE OGRE

By Thomas Paturan, 6B

There was once a small ogre village hidden in the mysterious depths of the forest near a powerful, gigantic castle. Legend has it that the ogres usually kidnap people and cook them for dinner. Our story begins with a little baby ogre named Shrek.



Shrek was living a happy life because he had what many people don't have: a thoughtful, caring mother, who always played with him and gave him attention. One rainy day something horrible happened! There was a raid upon the small village. Shrek's mom hid him where no one would know. The very next day the baby ogre woke up under a blanket in a small wooden basket. He noticed that everyone was gone, even his mother! Shrek observed that the village was destroyed. No one was left. They were captured by the knights under the command of Lord Farrquad.

Many years passed and Shrek became a fully-grown adult. He was the last ogre to live in that forest. But wait! He moved from the forest to a swamp located in the land of Far Far Away. There he was welcomed by the people for who he really was. But there was something that would not leave Shrek's mind. The thought of his mom being kidnapped was still haunting him to that day. He almost organized a secret operation to at least try to enter Lord Farrquad's castles.

But Shrek always knew there was much more to life than revenge. He wished that raid had never happened, although he still thought of doing something to rescue his mom. We just have to wait so we can see what Shrek will be up. Patience is a virtue.

The poor man

By Ana Gavrizescu, 5B

At the docks, on a small and dirty bench, there was an old man sitting. It was ten o'clock and the night was falling over the huge Greece. It was dark and cold and the wind was blowing hard. You may ask yourself how anyone could survive in these conditions? The answer is obvious, very hard. And what happened next?

The man suddenly started to walk slowly on the small streets of Skiathos, like he had used to do it for the past two years. Two minutes later, he found 1125 euro next to a trash bin. He looked behind him to see if someone was there and then he turned around and took the euros and ran back to his so called home, because he was living behind a tree, in a park.

The next day, he knew exactly what to do with the money. So, he bought some materials to write some books. When he published them, the people loved his books and a famous writer wanted to talk to him. This way, they became good friends and the later one helped the "poor man" to buy a house.

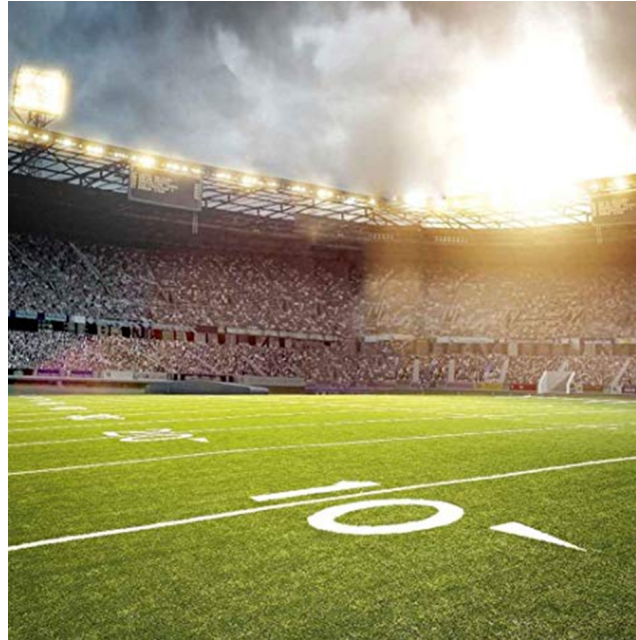


Now he is rich and he is a famous writer too, but he hasn't forgotten where he started from. He didn't forget about his friends, being still outside. This is why he decided to offer them some food and clothes once per month.

Timothy's lucky day

By Mara-Ilinca Tanasa, 8C

Timothy heard the sound of the coaches whistle and started running rapidly along with his other friends. He was a 17 year old boy, training to become a football player. The wind blew in his face, and the cold from outside made him feel sick, but it didn't really matter to him. It was late in november, and the frost had already reigned upon Ohio.



There was this match on the 1 st of december that he was going to attend to. This was his dream, because if winning the game, that meant obtaining a scholarship and getting into UCLA.

Time flew by so fast that little snowflakes could be seen through the frozen window glass. It was the day, Timothy's day of succes, so he thought, standing up and gazing at nature's transformation during this cold season. He put on his lucky shirt, jumped on his bike and drove off to the field. The game began and everything went smoothly for the past half hour. They were winning with all the points they have obtained until now. Of

course, most of them were thanks to Timothy, who was captain of the team. The real explanation for what happened next wasn't really discovered, just presumed that the rival team got a little too angry.

Suddenly, one of the other team mates, made Timothy trip over and hit his head really badly. All audience responded with a big furios scream. The feeling of pain struck him, he couldn't move. The referee told his friends to scatter around, so that they would be able to call help.

Unfortunately, this meant losing an important part of a game, and Timothy knew he couldn't let that happen, so he got up in his knees and told everyone to remain calm, he was going to continue the game and he will no listen to the referees advice, a strange man's advice. Continuing to play until the last minute, convinced the coach from UCLA, who was watching the match that day, to come and congratulate Timothy and welcome him to college.

He got his scholarship! Timothy was feeling way more than just excitement. His heart was beating so fast that he thought it would explode out of his chest. Not listening to the strange man's 'friendly' advice proved to be the best thing Timothy had ever done. He couldn't be any prouder of himself, because he had not fallen for his tricks.



Away from Maui

By Alexa Gh Milicin, 7A

"Don't go to far out to sea. It looks as though there might be a storm", the boat owner warned us as we set off on our fishing trip. It was a cold day when Maynard and I were sailing on the raging sea of Hawaii.

We had been sailing away from Maui for a pretty long time, we were looking out at the endless sea, when a wave frantically hit our boat. We couldn't keep our balance so we both fell and hurt our heads. After a while we opened our eyes widely and caught a sight of what was around us. Nothing was recognizable anymore.

We decided to look around and we spotted some unusual and horrifying plants and trees. As we were walking, we saw some wood boards and repaired our damaged boat with them. We finally managed to leave the terrifying island. We paddled without a map and got to land. It wasn't the place we came from, but the locals helped us by calling 911 and getting us back to Maui.

When they guided our way back, we reported to the local newspaper office and to the National News that we discovered an island and after a few weeks, it became an attraction to people all around the world and Maynard and I became quite famous for it. After we were interviewed, we felt like true explorers. Now we knew how William Adams felt when he discovered Japan.



A RIDE FOR PRIDE

By Alexia Harpa, class 10

"I swear it was a mistake!" I shouted so that the teacher could hear me through the icy wind. And it was true, indeed. I surely did not anticipate what was going to happen.

And here I was.

"You can say whatever crosses your mind, but for now, you are done!" he shouted back. What could this mean? Did I just spend my very last seconds in camp? Great! Now everyone was discussing the matter at hand. I only had a few minutes to re-think and realize what just happened and somehow pray that I could get myself out of this...

It was only about a quarter of an hour ago that this brilliant plan struck my head. This teacher of ours did not let us, snowboard students, pass "his highness" on the slope. And obviously, I started to get bored of riding my board slowly, behind him.

The snow storm was powerful, striking my face with a force that stung. Snowflakes were not soft and pleasant at touch anymore, but rather sliced our exposed skin when making contact. At the corner of my eye, I could see the snow being lifted and swirled like a tornado and then slowly fall on the ground again. The blizzard was so thick that I wasn't able to see in front for more than 10 meters even with my goggles on.

"Everybody, STOP NOW!"

As the teacher demanded, the whole group slackened its pace and sat in the snow. I could not take it anymore. Stopping?! Again?!

Suddenly, an idea came up to my head while I laid, fully relaxed, onto the ground. The left corner of my upper lip lifted and my eyes smirked. It was the perfect diversion!

About 8 meters in front, there was a snow cannon, spitting and blowing artificial snow on the slope like a furious dragon. If I passed simultaneously with my teacher through the misty cloud that formed because of the cannon, he would lose sight of me and I could finally ride fast. It was perfect. What could possibly go wrong?

"If anybody dares to outspeed me, there will be serious consequences! It is a warning!" the teacher looked back at us, heavily lifting himself off the ground in a struggling manner, as his feet were tied to the board. He made eye contact with me, pointing his finger in my direction.

"Sure, no problem sir!" I shouted back, but he was already gone with the wind.



This was the moment, a few meters away, the cannon designed my ideal break-out. My thigh muscles contracted and the nose of the snowboard tilted towards the slope. Faster, I thought. Faster!

As we entered the cloud, I was riding shoulder to shoulder with my teacher. And the best part was that he couldn't see this!

Or I thought so...

Before I was able to realise this, the teacher was not next to me. Not as I had planned. And of course, something had to go wrong. Before I entered the radius of the cannon, I forgot to lower the goggles from my helmet. And I could not see one thing, but only feel the pressure of the snow coming straight from the cannon. As I fought for escaping the hurricane of snow, the toe side of my board got stuck in the massive layer of snow and there I was, rolling like a boulder on a ramp. And all boulders have a target. Mine was my teacher.

As we both exited the cloud, my teacher was wiping his goggles and wasn't paying attention to where he was going and I, well, was rolling with lack of victory in his direction. Boom.

And here I was.

I tried my best to explain and find a plausible excuse of the incident that just occurred. No one was hurt, but someone was definitely mad as a hornet. So mad that I expected to see smoke coming out of his ears at any moment.

"Today is your lucky day."

"I doubt that," I added, disconsolately.

"You're not leaving camp early. At least, not today," the teacher said.

I felt a rush of hope pumping through my veins. After all, I am not already 'exiled' in the second day.

I hurried to grab my board, trying not to show the excitement that was exploding in my body.

"Wait a second!" he said, with an evil smile. "Your snowboard seems tired. I think it wants a ride."

I stopped and lifted my eyes in his direction, rolling them at the same time. "I'm sorry, what is that supposed to mean?"

"You'll be walking the whoooooole slope aaall the way to the bottom!"

I watched him turn around and laugh, hopping on his board, with my mouth open widely.

The trip is without a doubt amazing so far..

A Peculiar Call From The Underground

By Alexia Junănu, 8A

I had never felt so nervous in my life. The spine-chilling feeling I had when the dark, sinister figure followed me through the deserted streets might just have been a sign of my paranoia. That was when I felt a cold touch on my unsteady arm.

I turned around and my face went white. The faceless creature gripped my arm rigidly when I started closing my eyes and uncontrollably screaming for help. I opened my eyes to find myself in a bizarre place. I perplexedly turned around when I heard a deep voice coming from everywhere: „Remember me?” How could I not remember such a terrific place? „Let me go now!” I screamed to the blank walls, as I could feel a hot tear dripping down my shiny cheeks.

I blinked again and observed that I was sitting on a chair, my arms tied around it, so I couldn't move. I kept screaming and screaming until my voice cracked and I remained voiceless.

And I heard the voice again: „I put you on earth so you could save people, not destroy them!” the deafening sound broke the silence. I blinked and woke up on Earth again.

I knew what I had to do. I had to confess my act of selfishness that forever marked my life. I had to come clean to the police...



THE RAVEN

By Eric Păturean, 6B



I was at home alone because my parents were at work and I was preparing my meal before going with my mates to play football when, suddenly, I heard a weird knock on the door. A part of me was terrified, but

the other half told me not to be, because probably it was one of my friends coming too early.

I deftly opened the door but saw no one with my little scared eyes, not knowing who had knocked, so I exited the house to see what? I didn't know who to expect, a friend? No, a raven. It flew down to my porch having in his beak an old, weird-looking letter with a gigantic text on it. Curiously, the bird just let me take it, knowing I was not going to harm it. I opened it to see that the text was covered by scrabbles. I felt like the raven was showing me something because it was shaking its head in the direction of an unused pathway that I used as a kid to go to kindergarten.

The bird climbed on my shoulder, so it didn't have to walk or fly. After twenty minutes we ended up in a dark cave having someone inside, an old man? Yes, it was an old man wearing an old, dirty, white robe with many holes in it. The old man stated that I was the ultimate raven whisperer, giving me as a pet the raven that led me there, but only now I could really understand what the bird was saying. The last thing the old man said was that from then on I couldn't get any help to get home or to control what the raven was doing. Suddenly, the wise man disappeared, leaving a note saying that the cave was going to collapse, so we quickly ran away to my home so that my parents wouldn't look for me in the whole city.

I safely arrived at home with the black raven with purple eyes, having a strong beak, but I wasn't scared at all and I will love the bird because it chose me, knowing who I really am inside, not how I look.

The Lost Letter

by Sofia Dermengiu, 6B

A long time ago, there was an esteemed man, Venus, also known by the others as The Leader.

He lived in a beautiful place surrounded by nature and a lucid sea. One night, once he entered his intricate house, he left his coat on the couch and went straight to his office. He then grabbed a stained, old paper that

looked like a letter and started scrutinising it. He realised it wasn't just a letter. The paper had on it writings that could have been from the future. After Venus read it many times, he made sure that no one would ever see it again, or at least until year 2020. He put the mysterious letter in a glass bottle, took his boat out and sailed it until he couldn't see the land anymore. He then threw the bottle in the waves.

Two centuries passed up to now. On a shiny day, two girls were just having a picnic on the beach and one of them spotted something in the sea. They weren't sure what exactly it was. Because it wasn't at a great distance from them, they made courage to swim and retrieve it. They came back and opened it. Their eyes got very big, their faces went red like roses and their face expression changed from a smiling, to a shocked one. It was the letter thrown by Venus two centuries ago. The girls read it and understood that someone who lived such a long time ago knew exactly what would happen 200 years later. They didn't tell anyone about it because they knew that if they had, someone would eventually try to steal their letter away.

One night, when the two girls, Kayla and Karla, were on their way home, the atmosphere was getting cloudy. On the street opposite them, they barely saw



through the darkness a strange man looking at them. Kayla and Karla tried to move as fast as they could, but to the same time not letting the man know they'd seen him. Three minutes after chasing them he tried to confuse them. He went back and forth for about 2 minutes, as if he didn't know where he was going, but also kept an eye on them.

They finally got home and went upstairs to read the letter more carefully. Because they saw how important and unique this letter was, especially for finding out more about people's history, they went to a historian. On their way to the historian, they saw the same man from the other day coming for them. They somehow managed to lose him and arrived at Mr. Smith, the historian. He told them that the letter was very special. Two days later they went and sold it to a journalist that also published the news about the new discovery that the two girls had made.

After the news spread around the world, Joana read about it. She was one of the most fearless and intelligent people in the world. She always thought there existed a time machine, but couldn't prove it. With the appearance of the letter and the key words she found in it, she was able to locate the time machine. It was in a forest, next to the village she was living in. It was rusty and full of dirt. She opened the door and saw an old woman standing on a chair, sleeping. Joana moved the old woman's chair and she woke up. The old person, Hailey, told her about her life and that she was the one who wrote that letter. Hailey travelled in many different centuries and because of that, she wanted to give clues to important people from that era or century, so that they can discover new things and simplify people's future.

Because Hailey was old, she gave Joana the time machine as a gift, but only if she promises to travel a lot and help people make discoveries.



A huge accident

By Harpa Sophia-Andreea, 5A



In the eastern part of Australia, there was once a happy koala family living in the tall trees.

On a sunny day they were having their meal when, suddenly, a strange smell struck their noses alarming them that something was wrong. Kangaroos started jumping frightened to the other side of the forest. The family was really confused until a huge angry fire was approaching their way! They tried to run as fast as they could

to a small village near the forest. The poor animals

tried to get attention of the people so they could call the emergency service. A great number of police officers and firemen teams came to rescue them, but, unfortunately, many animals were injured severely and some people lost their homes.

One of the koala cubs was still in the wildfire lost and scared! The animal rescue teams didn't have any hope for the poor cub because they thought that nobody would survive the fire, especially a baby koala. The cub was still alive on a branch on one of the tallest trees of the forest, still holding tight. He tried to get down and succeeded by making it to the rescue base with a couple of bad burns. Happily, the doctors said that he will survive with proper medical care.

The bushfire left tons of damage behind it that firemen were trying their best to stop. The animals and people that were injured so they received medical care and lots of love.

The Dragon Rider

By Ioan Vlad Prundeanu, 5B

Once upon a time, there was a dragon rider named Jake. How did he get to ride a dragon? Well, I'll tell you about it right now. He liked to ride horses and took great care of them. One day, walking through the forest, he suddenly saw something white among the trees. At first sight he thought it was a sheep but when he got closer he saw that it was a sleeping dragon. Jake realized it was a girl because it was white. He thought of calling her Riley. Jake stayed all afternoon, until it darkened and then he went home.

The next morning, he went straight into the woods to see what Riley was doing. She was already up and started to stare at him. Jake slowly approached and put his hand on her head. It seemed that Riley liked that because she sat on her belly like a puppy. He scratched her a bit and then saw that her tail had been cut.

Jake got so sad about it but he had to go back home. As soon as he entered the door, he began to make a kind of plaster. Jake finished it late at night, when he went to Riley to stick the plaster. She didn't even feel it.

The following morning, Jake started to build a mechanical tail for Riley. After a while he took a break and went to feed her. They ate together and stared at the blue sky that looked like the sea. Then he gathered some leaves and sticks to make her a shelter. He said good night and returned to his project. After one hour he collapsed in bed, tired out.

Early the next morning, Jake went enthusiastically to Riley with the mechanical tail. She suffered when he fixed it but got used to it immediately. She got up slowly and began to fly. She landed on the ground and Jake started to ride her. Riley and Jake flew to the sky where they disappeared.



PERFECT TIMING

By Sara Amza, 8C

After what had felt like the longest four hours of their lives, Peter and Christian were finally heading home from detention. It was late autumn, the sun had already set and the freezing earth smelled like pouring rain. Struggling to keep warm, the boys were walking cautiously on the icy, narrow streets of Pasadena.



All at once, they heard two feet scraping the ground indignantly, and a shady man crawled from a gloomy alley. Peter didn't want any trouble, so he carried on walking, attempting to seem unbothered, but he froze in fear as he heard his friend talking to the creep. He reluctantly turned around and tried signaling Chris to come, but the man had already caught his attention by showing him appetizing kinds of candy.

How convenient for him that the boy had a sweet tooth! The weird man revealed his crooked smile and headed towards Peter, but he knew better than that and shook his head firmly. The man growled and turned to Chris, who quite unexpectedly took the candy right away. Pete watched in horror as his friend swallowed the whole thing with a satisfied 'Mmm..' and his eyes instantly turned bloodshot, his movements became violent and his whole expression was screaming hatred. It was crystal clear that he was intoxicated, but the guilty man had already disappeared in the shadows.

On the spot, Peter reached for his phone, but his friend gave him such a dirty look that it sent shivers down his spine and he dropped it. Chris was getting closer, and the boy was getting more and more frightened by the second. He fell on the ground and stretched his hand to reach the phone, and...

In the blink of an eye, a policeman made an appearance and saved the day. He grabbed Christian by his wrists and promised Peter that he would immediately take him to a rehab centre where he could recover. 'Perfect timing!' he thought. He had called the police just in time to be saved. 'One more minute, and God knows what could have happened to me..! Nonetheless, he had nothing to worry about now. His friend was going to be safe, and so was he.

Walking home, Peter kept looking back to what had happened. Not turning a blind eye to the situation and persisting in trying to help proved to be the heroic choice and he couldn't be any prouder of himself.



Raining with eggs

By Jasmine Stefan, class 10

'Come on, guys! You should've been ready by now!' spat Claw with anger.

I am the only one not putting the 'good stuff' into the trunk of the car, because of my back injury. When I try to rise above one of the boxes and grab it forcefully, my back muscles ache with sore pain. I can feel little tingles tapping my back bones in such an aggressive manner that I let a cowardly screech escape my swollen mouth. The boys look at me subtly, like lions ready to attack. I can feel the blood in my cheeks gradually warming up while waiting to be made fun of for being 'too delicate'.

'Why are you guys so slow? We can't risk to not be ready before 11:00PM!' howled Eagle, the most organised and precocious out of all of us.

As always, his face was tense, expression weary, his heavy forehead falling over his eyebrows with a frown. You could see from a mile away that his thoughts were zooming too fast, tiring him like intruders inside his brain. He always had a sharp look in his eyes. He was always ready for anything. But today was going to come like a hard punch in the stomach, not only for him, but for our entire group also.

They are done packing by 11:06PM. I jump into our new van, and make sure the windows are all down, and the sunroof open. Our so called van, was actually Vimini's car, inherited from his grandfather, a car which needed a lot of repairing before it could carry all of us through our missions. We loved to pull pranks on people. That was what kept us united for all these years of our childhood: The love for adrenaline and a good laugh. The expressions of confusion and anger of the people were, of course, a bonus.

It's already 11:40 when we arrive in front of the Peterson's house, the most impressive mansion our prestigious town has. The eggs are prepared in cardboard boxes, at our reach anytime. We stay put, behind an oak tree next to their front yard. From my place in the car, you can see perfectly inside their house. Immense chandeliers dangling from painted ceilings, lighting the furniture made out of the finest wood. Bottles of champagne and plates filled with food, balloons and presents in all colours, all for the celebration of the new year to come. We are the only misfits in this perfect snow-globe-of-a-town, and tonight it's our time to shine.

When every single person in the house, lavishly dressed and ready to celebrate, occupies their places at the big table, we are ready. Only a few minutes from the clock to strike midnight, Beast turns on the engine with a roar and carefully presses the gas pedal.



The car lodged a few meters forward, then came to a halt. Scared that we have been spotted because of the atrocious sounds the car let out, we all hide behind our chairs like sardines in a can.

'Every one of you, take a box of eggs and run to the house! We are doing this on our own feet!' said Eagle with a determined voice.

As he is still speaking, we close the doors of the car shut and run to the mansion. 'Its shiny, white exterior is going to look perfect with some egg yolk on it' I tell myself, because the boys are too far away to hear me.

And the war begins.

The first one to throw an egg was Claw, and of course, we followed. The owners, alarmed by the sounds coming from outside their house, push the front door open and come after us.

Scared that we are going to get caught, we drop the boxes and start running for our lives. The only things I can hear anymore are my own breath and the even louder beating of my heart. The others are behind me somehow, and knowing that looking after them will slow me down, I hesitate. Then I hear my name shouted and stop. Neighbours were now coming from every part of the town, surrounding us angrily. Eagle signals us to stop, and so we do.

We gather in a circle and wait for the neighbours to see our faces. The least we could hope for now was to get ourselves seen and recognised for what we attempted to do.

Police came shortly after and questioned every single last brain cell of ours. We had to fill out whole papers and wait for our parents to get us out of there. Everything seems to have lasted for ages. Now, as our parents and the neighbours have decided, we have to do community work for the entire year to come. It is going to be a long, long year, may I add.





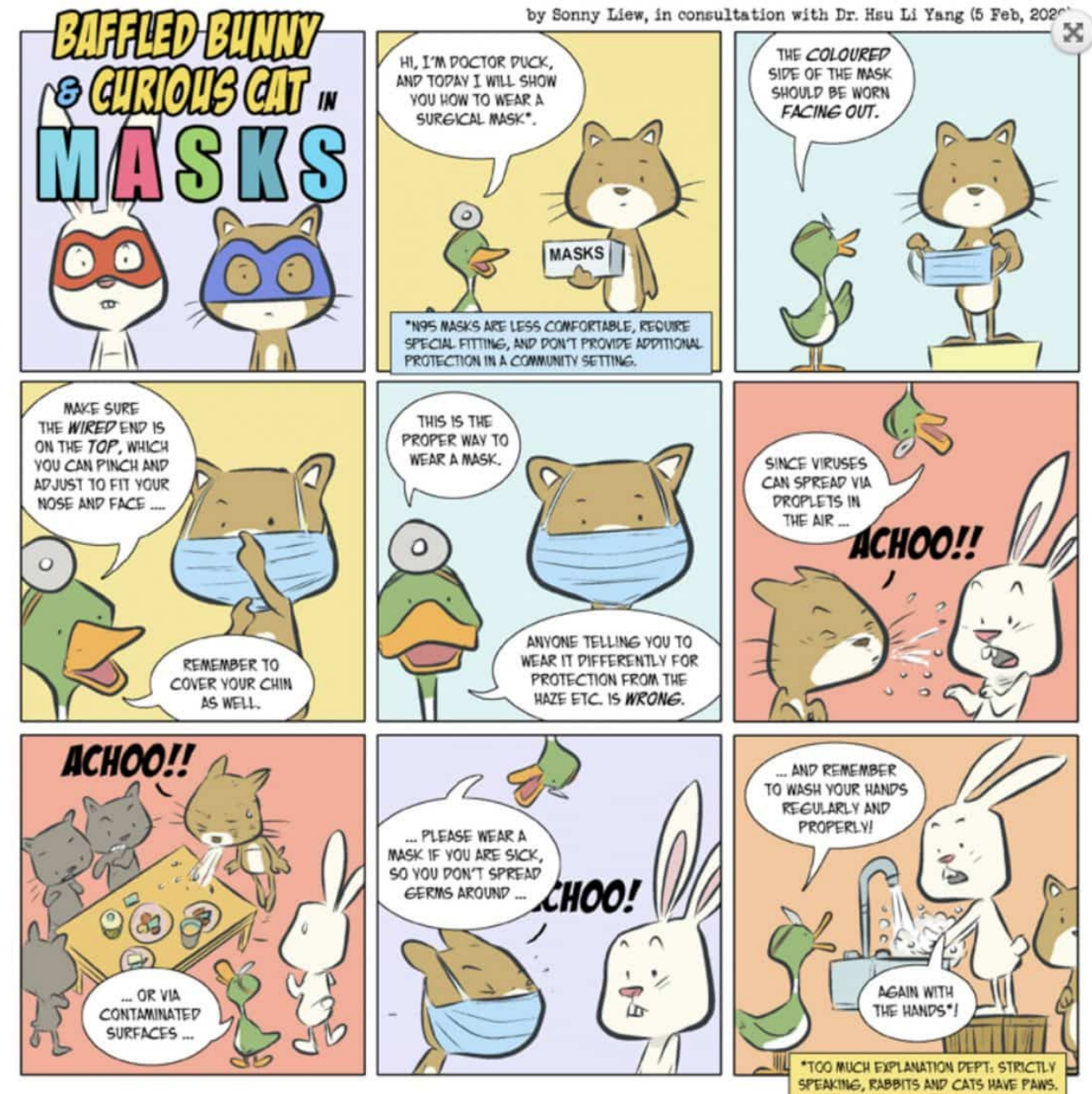
Laughter
Zone



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WHERE'S WALDO?

SOCIAL DISTANCING EDITION



APOLOGIES TO WALDO

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