





[...] one thing people can't take away from you is your education.

Michelle Obama

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Editorial

Motto:

Look up at the stars and not down at your feet. Try to make sense of what you see and wonder about what makes the universe exist. Be curious.

Stephen Hawking

There is an entire world in every atom; every corner of your back yard is teeming with life you can't even conceive the complexity of; the night sky tells stories of stars so far away that we see them now as they were thousands and thousands of years ago.

Yet, all these universes have no or very few mysteries still undisclosed. Humanity has come a long way. Learning and education have worked miracles. The handful of scientists who revolutionized and shaped our thinking were once students just like you: cramming the night before a test, being taken by surprise during class or waiting for the break (or, even better, for the summer holiday) to come.

Despite these, they managed to find something that ignited their passion for study and knowledge. School is not a necessary evil. It's the place where ideas are born, grow and give birth to other even more daring ones.

What about you? What stirs you? What would you like to excel in? There must be something in each of you that makes you stand out. The key is to persevere and get to be the very best at it. There are myriad worlds out there waiting to be deciphered. You are the next scientists. You are the next leaders.

Just remember: look up at the stars and aim as high as you can.

Dorel Toduț

Being a freshman

Being a freshman means moving to a new level, a new state, it means moving from middle school to a high school, to a new experience with new teachers who have other expectations from us. It was harder to start with until I got used to it, but after a while everything turned out well and slowly I managed to do it. At first, I did not know almost anyone in the class, but I made new friends pretty fast. The first time I went to high school I did not know the place, I did not know where it was, and it was kind of weird, but after a while I discovered all the possible places in our high school building. At first, I did not really like it at high school and it seemed very difficult, but I got used to it and started to like it.

Alexandra Domuța, IX B

Being a freshman is super, even if everyone will tell you it isn't. The older students might tell you all kinds of things that turn out to be false. The 9th grade is the hardest because of new colleagues, new school, new teachers, and new subjects. It was very difficult at first, especially the first semester, until I got used to these new things. With the 9th grade starts a new stage, that of maturity. This is a unique experience in life which will not happen again and after you graduate you'll be sorry. But hey, there are three more years and we have to take advantage of them. And I'm glad I can experience everything at Colegiul Național „Ioan Slavici” Satu Mare which made me feel good from the beginning. Being a freshman is an experience through which everyone will pass or passed, with both good and bad.

Alina Variu, IX B

Since seventh grade I was very curious what high school would be like. Now, I can feel the thrill of being a freshman. Everyone told me that this step from middle school to 9 – 12 grades was something I would perceive as a change. I never understood what they really meant. Why? I told myself: 'It is school, just new teachers and classmates.'

When the exam was over, and the results were posted, I began feeling the thrill, the butterflies of a new beginning. I was curious how my classmates were going to be and how things would change in my life. Well, I still learn a lot, but I have found a relaxing part in it too.

Knowing that I am in class with people who share common points of view, that they chose this class for a reason... it is nice to know that the people around share same interests as you. Of course, we all are different, but now I am talking about the little things that bring us close – well, those ones are the things I love.

Going on, I am very sociable so meeting new people made me feel free to explore. Getting to know new persons is never easy, it is a long, mysterious way

to who someone is, and that way is what makes me feel interested in new people. Like this, we have new experiences and these ones should be lived with the heart because otherwise they'll lose their magic, right?

Maybe just thinking that I am in high school made me feel that there should be a change, that everything is at a whole new level and I have to take the challenges as they come. I laugh, I am sometimes freaked out because it seems like I won't finish my work in time, but this is how life works too, isn't it? You have to adapt to whatever comes, you can't always know what to expect from it, but this is a beautiful ride that everyone takes. It is like a rollercoaster and I am glad that I took this ride with such fantastic people.

So, me as a freshman? Well... It is a brand-new part of my life and I enjoy it to the fullest because moments are precious and a moment you lost is one you can never take back.

GLAD TO BE A FRESHMAN! ☺

Andra Cojocariu, IX A

The first year in high school is different for all of us: for some it is exciting to learn new things, others are happy to make new friends, and there are also people who are just terrified. In any case everyone is curious about how it is going to be.

My first year in high school was... interesting. In the first weeks I was really scared to talk to my teachers, to my classmates and even to go out from the classroom during break time. It was a frustrating time because I didn't know the school well and neither the people inside it. I also had lots of embarrassing moments that I will never forget.

Fortunately, after some time I found good friends that made me feel more comfortable. Everyone knows that even the worst moments become better when you have friends who encourage you, who stay by your side.

In conclusion being a freshman is not that bad if you are surrounded by beautiful and positive persons, and you go to a high school with such a beautiful yard like CNIS!

Andrea Marton, IX F

Being a freshman isn't as easy as everybody says. It took me a few months until I got comfortable with my new classmates, became more open to them, started to actually have new best friends, and discovered that most of them are very kind and awesome persons.

It is a total change for me to have new teachers, a different school and a different environment where I spend hours almost every day. All teachers have

distinct personalities, but after a little time I discovered what expectations each of them has from their students.

Even though I have a lot of homework and stuff to do, I still have time to relax, hang out with my friends and party sometimes. Highschool doesn't steal your freedom and your time like all the people say. Maybe it makes you discover things about yourself you didn't know before. I think these four years of high school will be the best because of the people I'm surrounded by, the fact that I really try to do my best at everything at school, develop my personality and learn more things every day.

So being a freshman is an awesome experience all of us have been through or will be. All freshmen are a little scared, but that's how it needs to be; all these fears disappear as time goes by.

Bianca Stegaru, IX A

Being a freshman is actually really cool, despite what you see in movies and TV shows. It all depends on how you start the first semester and who you first hang out with, because those people can become your best friends or people you'll start hating in a few months. At first, things can be pretty stressful because you have to get used to all the new teachers, the new people and the new surroundings, but you just have to stay calm and know that not everything you saw in all those movies (most likely American) will actually happen to you in real life. You will also meet lots of new people through your new classmates and start hanging out with all these new people in your life more instead of your other friends, and that's ok because it's something completely normal. So, to tie things up I'll just give you my best advice for high school: DON'T STRESS OUT.

Bogdan Bîrseuan, IX B

Being a freshman is hard and weird in the beginning of the year, like being "a strange in a stranger land". You need to adapt to the new school, new teachers, new classmates. It's very difficult until you get used to your classmates and after that you will have good experiences and a lot of good memories, you will find a lot of friends, a lot of special people who you can trust.

Brigitta Zolceac, IX A

At the beginning of the 9th grade I did not really like it. It was hard for me to get along with my teachers and my new colleagues, but over time I became friends with people I did not really understand at first. High school is harder than in grades 5-8, because teachers have expectations from us, even if they do not teach us the subject matter. I hate moments when teachers give us pop quizzes, or when they do not excuse us for having failed to learn and tell

us: 'You had a week at your disposal. Why did you not learn during the weekend?'

Carina Perşa, IX A

Around the world, every high school has its own "freshmen". This word represents a teen, or a young person who is in the first year at an educational institution. In this essay I'm going to tell you about how it feels to be a freshman in high school.

First of all, don't worry about being known as a weak person by the older students, because they usually aren't concerned with your life, and you could just ignore their activities. For example, in Romania, the first year at high school is awesome, especially if you have nice and happy colleagues in your class. You just need to get used to this new atmosphere in order to be a good freshman. In the first year the lessons won't be that hard, and in the beginning, teachers will understand if it's hard for you to learn or to understand some things.

One of the most important things to do while you're a freshman is making sure that you like the class teacher and the subjects which are dominant in the schedule. If not, then you should get some help and go to another class.

In my opinion, being a freshman is much easier than I expected. Somehow, if your classmates tell you to do something that is dangerous or unhealthy, such as smoking, I would find some good friends with common hobbies. Another thing that is quite important to do while being a freshman is to try and make your teachers as proud and happy as you can, because they love to enter a classroom full of good and smart students.

In conclusion, every student who goes to high school should not be afraid, understanding a very important thing: everyone will adapt to the new high school life, sooner or later!

Cristian-Raul Bârsan, IX A

Being a freshman can be very stressful. You always try to impress other colleagues but especially the teachers. It's so hard to get along with new colleagues and new teachers. Ninth grade classes try to be the best in the whole school (and we did it). After a few weeks we started to get used to the teachers and joke with them. There are also good parts in being a freshman like the fact we get to know new people with whom we can start a special friendship. High school is the place where you discover yourself and realize who you really are and what you want to do and become. I like to be a freshman. I've always thought that high school is the worst place for the freshmen but now I realize that I was wrong.

Daniela Pop, IX A

Most of them say that high school years are the most beautiful and it's worth to live them to the fullest. Before reaching high school, you have to pass an exam, at the end of the 8th grade. There are a lot of emotions, fear, work, but it's worth it. How is it to be a freshman? Well, it's not that simple as many people believe. It's a shock, because you have new classmates and you don't know them, you have new teachers and you have to adapt to them. The subjects are completely new, different and much more difficult. It is much more tiring, but also it is much more beautiful than the middle school. I've discovered that I got into a very good class, I like it very much and it's a pleasure to come to school: I have friendly, funny, nice classmates and also very good, nice, kind teachers, some of them even funny . The best moments 😊 are when you get to know your classmates: you start having a good time in the breaks, you joke, you do school projects together and you help each other when needed. Of course, the nicest and the most awaited are the trips, with walks, jokes, stories, games, a lot of fun until morning.

The high school years are the years of liberty, you feel free and wishful to try new things, the years when you fall in love, the years when you have a lot of fun, but unfortunately, there are only 4 years. So, enjoy high school as much as you can before they are gone like a dream.

Daria Ștefănescu, IX A

The first time I realized I'd be a freshman I was so scared. I thought it would be hard for me to integrate and socialize with new people, but everything went well. Since I got to high school, I can say I've made quite a few friends, but I've lost some of the old ones. I like that we have more freedom and that teachers have more confidence in us. I think you'll learn a lot about yourself in your freshman year, you discover yourself as a person, discover both qualities and defects. It may seem tough at first, but high school can be some of the most enjoyable years of your life, you have the chance to make more friends and make more decisions for yourself.

Denisa Laza, IX B

High school is a new stage of our life, but we are also teens. I can confess that I have been waiting for this stage very much.

The role of "freshman" was extremely difficult for me, because of the new classmates and teachers. I was afraid not to make a bad first impression, though sometimes I was wrong without wanting to. I was scared of the first grades that woke me up and told me that the situation is much more different than in the middle school. Even though I wanted to make new friends, I did not resort to false techniques, I tried to be myself.

Even though I have spent only a semester here, I really like high school and I'm convinced that CNIS is the best.

Denisa Peneghi, IX A

Have you ever wondered how it is for the 9th grade students to be freshmen? Some of you have gone through this and others are going to do this. I am right now a "freshman" in this high school. In my opinion there are good points but also some bad ones.

First of all, you are beginning a new beautiful part of your life. You have new experiences, especially if you are coming from another school. For example, you get in contact with a lot of new people and you make new friends with whom you have fun and you share memorable moments together. In this high school, it was easy for me to integrate here because all these people are very kind and friendly and also the teachers are dedicated, and they have a close relationship with students. I have also had the luck to be part of a great class where we laugh a lot, make fun of each other and also you have someone to rely on and to support you when you need it.

However, there are also bad parts in being a freshman. You have to break up with old classmates, teachers and to adapt to new ones. It is hard to get used to a new style of teaching and to do your best to get good grades. You may be bullied by older students who think it is funny, but they forgot that they were in your shoes too.

In conclusion, to be a freshman means to adapt to new experiences and to learn to face the world. With every new moment you write a new memory in your life's journal.

Francesca Iago, IX B

Being a freshman is a beautiful but also very difficult thing, because here begins a new stage of life and there are new things that are hard to get used to. I still remember the first day of high school, when I entered the high school gate I felt a sense of fear because I didn't know what was waiting for me. At first, I wasn't very excited because I missed my old colleagues and I wasn't used to this school. But in time I started to discover the beautiful parts of high school, I realized that here actually started the most beautiful stage of my life.

Larisa Pop, IX A

Life is constantly changing and for being great we have to adapt, so "being a freshman" is a part of our lives we have to accept and after that to move on to better things. For me being a freshman isn't very hard because my brother is in the senior year and he helps me anytime I need good advice.

At the beginning I was scared of being new in a new school with a lot of unknown people as teacher and colleagues. Every person has a different way to

adapt to new things, for example, I was calling almost every day a former colleague of my mother, who was my Maths teacher and who is one of my best friends, to complain about new teachers and cry because I wasn't used to them. After a few weeks I realised that my behaviour was strange, but this helped me get over my problems.

On the other hand, being a freshman is a new opportunity to meet amazing people, to make new friends and to improve your knowledge. At the beginning almost every freshman is scared, but my advice is to look around you and when you see that you are surrounded by so many special people, your fear will go away.

I have not encountered any difficulties because of my brother, but in the next year I'll be like a freshman because he'll go to university and I'm going to be on my own, so wish me luck!

Maria Bota, IX A

Emotions define you. Emotions help us figure out how a person is, what she/he thinks. Fear is a feeling, a feeling that many are ashamed of, they are ashamed to admit they fear something, they are afraid to do something, but in time they begin to understand that it is good to be afraid, it is good to feel afraid, because it makes you stronger.

Being a freshman is something new, it means fear, it means emotions, it means trying something different. People fear the unknown; this is the way they were created. It's no shame to worry, to be afraid of being a freshman. Emotions and fear all make this experience more beautiful. At the beginning of each road you are setting goals, goals that you hope to achieve at the final destination, hope to deserve, hope to succeed, to excel.

In high school all these goals give you the power to move on, make you want more from your own person. Being a freshman is not easy, you wear a burden, a burden you have to take for at least a year, until someone else becomes a freshman, but all this journey will bring you new experiences, new friends, new memories. This freshman experience changes your way of thinking; being a freshman, you are mature, you realize that you have passed a stage, and now you start another and hope to be the best, you hope to do something big in this stage, hope to leave something behind you.

Being a freshman brings you closer to people, helps you know new people, makes you more sociable. Being a freshman, you make friends who will help you, support you, give you advice, or disappoint you, because that's how life is, with good and bad. The experience of freshman is like life, makes you laugh, but also cry, makes you think everything is perfect and nothing can hurt you, but sometimes makes you think everything is wrong and nothing goes well; you give it trust, but it can make you think you're nothing good, but at the end you realize that all this has helped you to be someone, to define yourself.

Being a freshman is a challenge you accept because you want to prove that you are more than you are, you are someone, and as a freshman you prove that you are strong, smart, talented, you prove that you are YOU.

Maria Mureşan, IX B

In the first month I felt like I was a stranger in a strange land. The freshman year brought new people, classes, number and severity of teachers, higher and tougher expectations and much more. Teachers and other students are not going to help you all the time, but you're still young and need some guidance, so take whatever you can from them while they can help. The unwanted stress can be easily prevented as long as you know that you're putting in the effort and trying your best to do well in school. It is difficult to be a freshman in high school, no matter how you slice it, but it has its own beauty. High school will make you question some of your smallest values, but in a place where you will be extremely independent, you have to stand up for yourself. Don't make decisions that don't accurately reflect who you are! The freedom of having control over your own life is fun and thrilling at the same time.

Medeea Nintaş, IX A

High school is a wonderful place
Where you don't know when you get a 1 or a 10.
It's full of surprises and sometimes bad grades,
But after all I'm happy to be a freshman.
It's pretty hard to be honest,
But a nap is going to solve all the problems,
And another three hours of intense studying
Then you're ready to face the day that's coming.
Maybe you are going to feel lost at first
And think "oh well, I am cursed"
But don't be upset, just like I said
High school is a wonderful place.
It's not all about studying and grades,
Sometimes it's about fun times and good friends.
New people will come into your life

And bring smiles on your face when you're down.
So, if I learned one thing from being a freshman
Is that you don't need to put yourself under pressure.
Keep yourself wild and free
Because you're not in the senior year.

Melissa Kalkan, IX A

Since I was a little girl I have been wondering what it's like to be at high school. All of us have seen movies with high school students who are entirely changing their lives when they become freshmen, their love stories and the wonderful friendship that all of them are finding.

It could sound amazing when we are thinking of so many changes and the new people we are going to meet and discover. But, of course, as in every dream or gossip, we finally get to see the reality. I don't mean that there are so many differences between what we expected and the reality, but there are some other things I didn't think I would feel.

I was quite puzzled when I first met my classmates and the school, they seemed to be very different than they really are, and they were hard to "read". Eventually I managed to know them better and I finally got used to them.

The thing that marked me the most as a freshman is that my vision of some things has changed radically. I have been able to figure out the reasons why some people act in some ways, and even to understand some of their actions, fact that fascinated me. It's like someone has answered to some of my questions, and that's because of the new context I'm in.

I think that although we are still kids, we have our own vision of love, of friendships and maybe even deeper things, and this is clarified by the time we spend in the freshman year, whether we want to admit it or not. I am so proud of myself that I arranged my thoughts and that some of the haze I was in has gone.

As a conclusion, I think that being a freshman is something vital for our evolution as teenagers, something that helps us become mature and it makes us grow in so many ways.

Miruna Pop, IX B

Being a freshman is the beginning of a new period in your life. The first day you go to high school with the greatest hopes and expectations saying that these 4 years will be the finest in your life, but of course it's not like that! Besides receiving suspicious looks from all the parts, you can also hear words such as

"freshman smell" or "high school puddle". I mean, I did not even know that the freshman had a specific smell, maybe I'll find out when I'm in the 10th grade.

The first week usually follows "Hi, my name is... And I come from..." but then comes the part where you really get to know the teachers. When the lessons really start, then you will see the true difference between high school and middle school. If you've had 10, 9 or 8 so far, be prepared for surprise tests and grades like 3 and 4, if you are lucky. Do not forget, an absence is better than a 4.

But more important than everything else are the new people you get to know. Your classmates will be your closest friends. They will create excuses when you miss the first period, they will stand by your side if someone older troubles you, they will help you when you take a test at the subject that you hate the most. They will always be there for you no matter what.

So... Being a freshman is not the worst thing, but not the best either.

Natalia Bacancios, IX A

Since I stepped for the first time in this high school, I've been very impatient to start ninth grade. I was imagining a relaxing life, with reduced amount of homework and more free time. I'd waited an entire summer for September.

When that day came I can say that it was the most wonderful day. I liked my new classmates, my new classroom, everything! The next day I met my teachers and this thing made me happier. But, as the months passed, I found out how hard it is to be a freshman: long lessons to learn at biology, maths and its "wonderful" vectors and trigonometry, I had to read Romanian literature. Beside the subjects, I started to feel very lonely because all my good friends are attending other high schools. Because I don't have much free time I rarely speak to them. But this didn't stop me from loving this high school. The good part (because there always has to be a good part) is that I've made new friends and I started to get on well with some classmates from my old school who I didn't use to speak to so much. Recently I've discovered how kind some teachers are. They understand that you had to study for another subject and they start the day with a new lesson instead of asking questions from what they did yesterday.

So, being a freshman is about making new friends and getting used to new teachers and the new school. This comes with ups and downs, but it still remains my favourite part of life.

Raluca Ștef, IX A

Being a freshman, in my opinion, is the best thing in the world. You have the chance to meet new people: new teachers, new students and new friends. You are also in the first year of high school, so you don't have to think about the

final exams of senior year. From my point of view, that's the best thing about being a freshman.

Besides, it is always like an adventure, because you don't know the school very well yet, or the people, and everything seems to be a beginning of something beautiful, that's going to last. Everyone knows that high school memories never die.

Romina Cherecheș, IX B

Have you ever wondered what it is like to be a freshman? Well, I am a freshman in this high school. In my opinion, this change is a difficult one, because you just wake up in a class full of strangers, in a high school where you lose yourself in the crowd, walking around the hallways where no one seems to be friendly. I have been waiting a long time to be a freshman and got anxious at the thought of making new friends. In the meantime, I have made true friends who I can trust. Also, the teachers are understanding, but it is hard to get used to a new teaching style and give your best to get good grades. But let's not forget that the most beautiful years of life are those spent in high school.

Sonia Erdei, IX B

Definition: A freshman, first year, or frosh, is a person in the first year at an educational institution, usually a secondary or post-secondary school.

I'm Ștefania, I'm in the 9th grade in the pedagogical profile at Colegiul Național „Ioan Slavici”, Satu Mare, and being in high school freshman year is *scary and exciting*.

With a new environment and high expectations, every day is like a new experience. You finally see your career path as you now know what your major is. You start to think about your future and what you can do today to make it better. You also meet different people with a variety of interests. It's also like a start of a new chapter.

The start of high school may be exciting, but it takes a big adjustment. There are new classes, new teachers, new students. My first day might have left me feeling lost and uncomfortable, but I give it some time – every big change requires an adjustment period. I rely on friends, teachers, or even older siblings to help me find my classroom, find new clubs to explore, and get used to the new academic rigors.

The dynamics of high school are much different than in primary and middle school. While it's common to stay friends with those I have grown up with, new classes and involvement in new activities can lead me to new friendships I may not have considered before. As I said before, my freshman year of high school is the beginning of a four-year journey to college, and it's something that needs

to be taken seriously. Classes in high school rely heavily on every minute of classroom instruction, so there is a lot of homework.

Freshman year of high school can take some students by surprise – in both positive and negative ways. By knowing what to expect when you arrive for your first day, you can mentally prepare for the experience and ease into the transition.

Ștefania Harbula, IX F

Being a freshman is one of the best experiences in my life. Before starting high school, I was super anxious, but also excited. I think I was not ready for such a change since everyone told me high school is much more difficult than middle school. But now I come to realise that not all these rumours are true and high school is pretty awesome. Freshman year is not as hard and horrible as everybody may say. It's quite an amazing experience. During these last months I made lots of friends and formed bonds with people I really didn't imagine I'll ever be close to. Our class is also very united, and I think that is going to be a true advantage for us in the future. The teachers are also very good and even if we have arguments with them they get solved quickly. Of course, I don't like every class, but I try to learn and pay attention in every one of them. One of the best parts of freshman year has been the trips we took with our class. They were a great way to communicate with each other and a time to relax. Overall freshman year is one of the best experiences for me because of all the great people that I met and the memories we made.

Ștefania Silaghi, IX A

In my opinion, being a freshman is a pretty stressful thing for some teenagers. Some of them need time to adjust, not only to the new school environment, but to the new people too, and as we know, there are a lot of new people you don't know when you start high-school. On the other hand, some teenagers have the time of their lives while being a freshman. That is either because they have quite a lot of friends in that specific high school, or because they have a very good character and they are very sociable. I believe that in 10th grade the tense teenagers will be more relaxed and more sociable, because they grew to know their environment and the people around them. I wish them good luck in finding their place in the school-society and to have faith in themselves because they are amazing people even if they are shy or a little bit scared.

Szilvia Deak, IX A

People say that being a freshman can be beautiful or really awful. For me being a freshman is not like in those movies in which seniors make fun of

freshmen or nobody is friendly, but on the contrary I made a lot of new friends. At first it was hard with the accommodation. New school, new teachers, new classmates, everything was new. After a few weeks I started to know my classmates and I realised that they are the best classmates I could ever have. I made a lot of friends in my class and I get on well with everyone. My teachers are kind and teach us very well. Being a freshman in high school is a new chapter of our lives and also a beautiful year in which we can have a lot of beautiful experiences. The advice that I would give to all freshmen would be to trust themselves, work hard and make unforgettable memories in high school.

Teodora Oprica, IX A

When people start high school they're usually so excited. They can't wait to experience everything that comes with being in high school, I mean who wouldn't? Everyone says that high school is the best four years of your life.

When I started high school, I was afraid because I didn't want to do anything wrong. In the first day I didn't know how to dress because I wanted to make a good first impression. In the first few weeks I was nervous about everything. Everything was new for me, the school, the teachers, the classmates. After I got it right with the classmates and with the teachers I started being more self-confident.

So here I am now, after almost a year of being a freshman in this high school.

Thomas Varga, IX B

Literary Works

Hurricane

something strange in my chest.
my lungs are in the past.
my head is haunting me,
I can't breathe.

the ocean is sinking in my mind
feeling nothing, I'm blind.
here I am, alive
losing my mind, tonight.

the heart is running to escape
my head is a hurricane.
darkness stabbing me in the front
it's like a hunt

I want to escape

My mind is empty.
The ocean is screaming in my

throat,
Then..
Then total darkness..
It grasps my mind;
Flowers are blooming.
The sunset is blocked in time.
The silence is drowning me.
Do I dare disturb the universe?
Maybe I could never fly.
Caught in time, wide awake..
I lost my existence, it's too sweet;
Fly with me through the dark..
I feel so far away,
But, the shadow always comes my
way;
It keeps happening even though I
run away.
Fly butterfly..
Silently disappearing in the sky.

Jager Viktoria, XI E



Sound of silence

Here.
Where the ocean swallows thoughts.
Lost in the woods.
A mysterious silhouette,
Running deep inside.
Falling leaves,
Haunting my head;
Sink into me.
Then lose yourself...
Just an echo
Flows through veins.
Pain in chest,
Broken lungs.
My head's a hurricane,
That keeps me wide awake.
If you can't fly,
Run away.
Because I'm under your spell,
So you can shove me over the edge.
Ocean. Nothing. Silence.
Sunrise is coming;
Can't you hear the sound?
Voices all around.

Jager Viktoria, XI E



whY

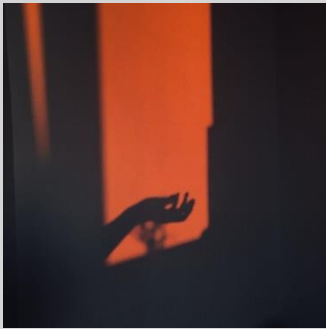
why am I hating myself?
why don't I have any friends?
well... I don't know how to explain...
I think I'm disgusting, again...

strangers come to me,
we start a conversation,
they fall in love with me,
it's like an invasion.

they are waiting for the same feelings
I'm just an ocean and they're swimming,
They're gonna hate me...
I'm drowning in the sea.

I feel by myself
going under the avalanche
baby it isn't romance
I'll hide myself like a shell.

Jager Viktoria, XI E

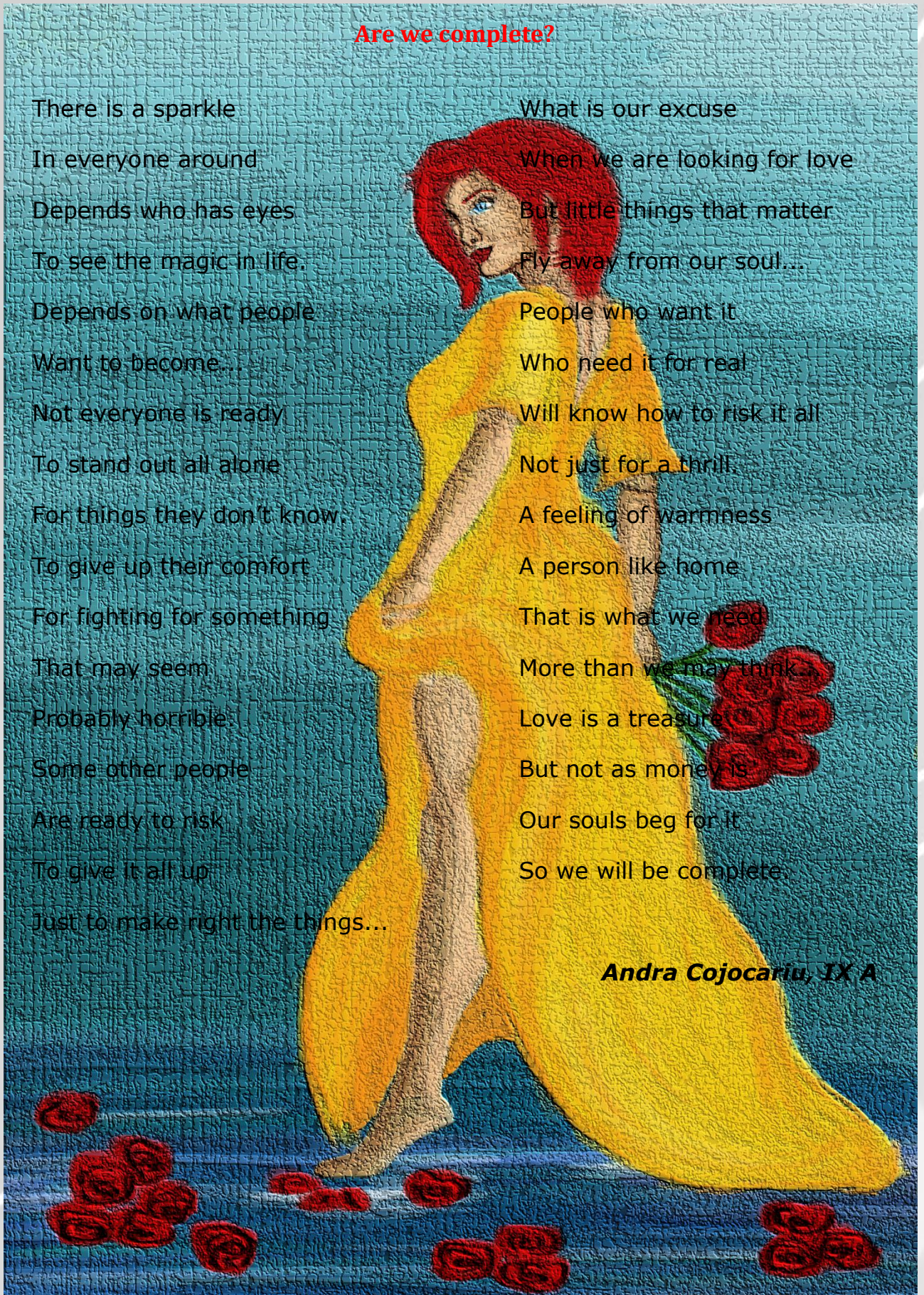


Are we complete?

There is a sparkle
In everyone around
Depends who has eyes
To see the magic in life.
Depends on what people
Want to become...
Not everyone is ready
To stand out all alone
For things they don't know
To give up their comfort
For fighting for something
That may seem
Probably horrible.
Some other people
Are ready to risk
To give it all up
Just to make right the things...

What is our excuse
When we are looking for love
But little things that matter
Fly away from our soul...
People who want it
Who need it for real
Will know how to risk it all
Not just for a thrill.
A feeling of warmth
A person like home
That is what we need
More than we may think...
Love is a treasure
But not as money is
Our souls beg for it
So we will be complete.

Andra Cojocariu, IX A



Looking back

In the shadows of the night
There aren't any stars that light
I'm sitting down looking behind
Remembering my childhood's times
Now, growing up I just forgot
Those rules, those games
I've lost my "SOFT!"
Why don't you come back,
Back to me
Old times that have been good for me
Now are only part of my memory!

Ariana Maxim, X C

Nobody

Dark corner.
Edge of life.
Nobody is watching,
How the world falls apart;
How flowers wither;
How the sun sets,
How it will never rise again...
Darkness will swallow us slowly

When nobody is watching.
Listen to the forest's whispers,
Leave everything behind,
Go into the woods,
We'll fall off the edge.
Nobody is listening.

Jager Viktoria, XI E

Michael's last encounter with adventure

Michael didn't really like adventure, but that day he had no choice. He hadn't given much consideration to the holiday destinations he could choose, neither did he object to his parents' suggestions. Eventually, it was decided that a trek through Epping Forest in Essex would be the highlight of the holiday.

Though unenthused by the idea, Michael found some comfort in the knowledge that Essex is close to London, so he wouldn't be venturing too far away from his hometown. As they pulled up just outside the forest, his eyes hastily scanned the landscape, darting quizzical glances at the commanding trees with enormous crowns and thick branches, at the gravelly soil that showed a faint but discernible path, then at the emerald leaves hanging from the trees. Initially, Michael felt reluctant as the forest seemed to have an uninviting air to it. "Well, that looks rather off-putting, doesn't it?", he mumbled under his breath, but to no avail; he understood he would be joining his parents in exploring the forest despite his protests.

Gradually, as they were ambling through the woodland, he grew comfortable with the atmosphere. At one point, Michael's parents stopped to admire a lake while his eyes wandered off to a nearby cave. After an uneventful walk, he finally felt drawn to something, something that he surmised could be his reprieve from the inevitable boredom he had envisioned; he unwittingly split off from his parents, stumbled to the cave, turned on his flashlight, and entered the darkness. Having walked about fifty metres, he heard a sharp hiss that echoed throughout the cave. The awful noise made him shiver as he felt its chilling vibration in his every bone. He turned around and started running towards the exit but dropped the flashlight in his fear-stricken fumble. Just as he was about to make one last lunge towards the exit, a loud screech erupted from behind him and made him jump forward, landing on his stomach just outside the cave. His parents, who had been looking for him, breathed a sigh of relief as a bat zoomed out of the cave.

After that experience, their holiday continued peacefully, albeit with a new inside joke having been formed. Unsurprisingly, Michael vowed to avoid adventures altogether in the future.

Meszaros Daniel, XI C

The story with no ending

A refugee is someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war, or violence. A refugee has a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group. Most likely, they cannot return home or are afraid to do so. War and ethnic, tribal and religious violence are leading causes of refugees fleeing their countries.

While the need to address the refugee crisis is at an all-time high, unfortunately so is the level of anti-refugee rhetoric and misinformation about refugees. Yet, they are ordinary people like you and me, who have lost everything.

My name is Salma Al-Jasmi and I am one of the millions of Syrian refugees. Despite the fact that I am only ten, I have seen death before my eyes and I have felt it inside my young soul. I remember extremely well the day I left my home and my birthplace, in order to wander thousands of kilometres in search of shelter. My parents encouraged me and told me that everything was going to be all right, but the fear was hidden in the corners of my mind.

On our road to Germany, we stopped for the night in a city named Satu Mare, in Romania. The night was dark and silent, and the moon was shining above the refugees' tents. It was already too late for me to be awake, so my mom came to tell me my bedtime story like she used to do every night. I could not sleep without my bedtime story, as it was different each time.

Not so long before reaching the end of the story, a man, whose face was hidden by a hood, approached and slowly raised his hand. He was holding something. My smile was stolen by the gesture that traumatized me for the rest of my life. The curse of death came unexpectedly.

I closed my eyes and I felt my mom's hand relax and weaken the clutch of our hands. Can you imagine the loneliness that destroyed my heart...? Can you feel the way I did when I lost it all...?! When I finally got the courage to open my eyes, my mom was staring at me, absent... The stranger had gone, and I never got to know the story's ending, though I begged my mom to tell it to me. She was lying in the dirt in front of our tent. She never responded.

Ardelean Cristina, XI D

Articles

We are what we eat

We live in a highly consumerist society that allows us to buy as many things as possible at any time of the day. Consumerism is an extremely topical issue nowadays because many of the items people purchase end up in the landfills. Things are no different when it comes to food consumption.

However, does the human body need all the food that we usually buy? The answer is definitely not! Moreover, another important problem that we have to take into account is the food selection and choice. Unfortunately, many people do not even know how to follow a healthy and balanced diet. The majority of them make unhealthy decisions and choose to eat a lot of fat foods, sugary products and less fruits and vegetables. Inevitably, this lifestyle leads to various diseases in the long run.

What should a healthy and balanced diet look like and what do we need to know in order to eat as clean as possible? Many people think that following a healthy diet is rocket science, but the truth is that it is ridiculously simple. Instead of skipping meals and eating pastry products, for instance, when we are hungry, we should stick with the three most important meals of the day, with healthy little snacks in-between. For breakfast, for example, you might have a nice dark coffee without sugar or milk, an oatmeal bowl topped with blueberries/bananas and nuts and a nice glass of orange juice. For lunch, you can try some grilled chicken breast with different vegetables, such as zucchini, carrots, mushrooms or red bell peppers. The final meal of the day can consist of a light vegetable soup, whole grain pasta with salmon or a nice tuna salad with avocado. In-between your meals, you can opt for some healthy snacks, such as apple slices with peanut butter, fruits, Greek yogurt with cereals etc.

In conclusion, clean and healthy eating is accessible to anyone, however it takes some minimal information and motivation to actually start adopting this lifestyle. Additionally, it could be also pretentious financially speaking for many people, but instead of investing in medical treatments and medication, people should immediately consider investing in their health.

Szemak Noemi, XI E

What - if anything, does the Hollywood film industry lack?

What comes to mind when you hear Hollywood? For most, celebrities, actors, directors are the first things they associate with this word. Hollywood is best known for its stars and prestigious movies, which are always on the big screen, but behind the fame and prestige, there are lacking aspects of the film industry. These might not be apparent at first, but in the long run they significantly affect Hollywood overall.

A first argument for lacking aspects of the industry is the lack of racial diversity. Diversity represents a big factor which could definitely be improved. Television in America has always been mostly white actors and actresses. Thus, mostly white actors and actresses are the ones who get nominated for awards such as the Oscars. This is an issue because as a result, minorities consider the film industry to be racist. Moreover, it makes it exquisitely hard for stars that belong to minorities to win an award.

Further, a second argument is the lack of creativity and innovation. Movie plots have become repetitive over time and spicing them up with special effects just doesn't cut it. Heroes and extravagant characters have been the norm for long enough to be considered the only adequate option. Instead of movies revolving around a hero, they could focus on characters depicting everyday people for a change.

Considering and working on improving these and other lacking aspects of their film industry, Hollywood could achieve peak performance and receive less criticism, becoming an industry of a quality many others aspire to match.

Meszaros Ștefan, XI C

An eerie trip down memory lane

We started our journey to Poland with a smile on our faces, but we ended going home a little different. After a day on the road we were extremely tired and enthusiastic to finally arrive at our hotel.

The next day started with our going to the centre of Krakow to visit the Wawel Castle, known as the land of the Dragon. The castle's history involves an amazing story about a dragon defeated by a shoemaker. On the hill where it is said that the dragon's cave was, they built this impressive castle. The shoemaker wanted to save a girl from the dragon and made a mixture of sulphuric acid and put it in a dead ram as bait, and the dragon ate it and then went to drink a lot of water from the Vistula River, but it exploded because of

the poison in the ram. Anyway, the trip around the town was exciting and after we bought a lot of souvenirs, we went back to our hotel to eat and take a good nap.

On our last day in Poland we went to the place which represented the main reason we took that trip. Auschwitz. My impression of that horrible place was one I cannot forget even if I tried. The moment we entered there, I had a bitter taste in my mouth and I felt sick. The feeling that people died there, having been killed for no other reason than being Jewish, is just horrifying.

The same horrors could be found at Birkenau, which was built because there was no more space for the prisoners. So, this one was built in a hurry just to punish and kill innocent people.

After visiting these places, I changed my mind completely about what the real meaning of the holocaust is.

Elisa Coțan & Hălălaie Cristian, XI D

The reason you should have a pet

Everyone heard that pets are one of people's best friends and like other people in this world, I'm 100% sure of it.

PERSONALITY- Exactly like you, they have their own personality and their own problems; every pet is different, and he makes sure we understand it. For example, my cat eats just from his own bowl; if he doesn't like a kind of food or he has eaten the same kind of food for a whole week, he won't even get close to his bowl.

ENJOY- Pets are like babies, they'll never tell you what bothers them, but they'll show you when they are happy, so you can be in the same mood.

THERAPEUTIC – We've all heard of blind people who can live their lives in this world like any of us thanks to a dog, or persons with a physical handicap who learn new things with the help of horses, dogs and a lot of other pets.

SPOILED - If you give them love, they'll do the same thing

ADVANTAGE – You'll never be alone.

RESCUE - We always see pets that save their life partners (people) by waking them up when the house is on fire, or when a thief breaks into the house and the dog jumps on him or all those cases when the pet 100% risks his life for his friend.

EMBLEMATIC - For example, I like cats so when my friends give me presents it's always something with cats.



OLD - When the time goes over you and your pet, you'll realize that you've stayed together so long that you cannot even remember.

URGENT - As you have needs, they have needs to; you have to adapt to their way of life; you can't say pass when you refer to a pet because he won't say pass when you need him.

RECIPROCITY - If you give them love, they'll do the same thing. We all heard about those cases when the owner beats his animals because they do not act the way the owner wants, and he thinks that they are the problem. In these cases, the owner makes a big mistake because you can't expect to give nothing and gain everything

FRIENDSHIP - You can always count on them and almost every time they are a better friend than people.

RESPECT - If you hit your pet, they'll probably bite you when they have the chance. If you respect a person, you should respect these little souls too.

INTELLIGENCE - Even if they might look stupid with their pretty face, you should never underestimate them because they have their own intelligence, which is different from ours.

EASIER - When you go through bad moments in your life, they will understand and be by your side no matter what.

NEVER - You should never underestimate you pet because he'll always find new ways of showing you his appreciation, love, care and friendship.

DARLING - They are cute, no matter what the pet you have is or the way he looks, they are special for you and you don't have to let anybody joke about your pet's looks.

SUPPORT – I've had an adenoma pituitary for a few years and one day I was feeling so bad that I thought that this was it and the only thing that I was asking for was my cat. When my parents brought me my cat he lay at my feet and started to massage me with his paws like a mother cat does with her child. After that he came into my arms and started to purr. After this moment I realized that he is my best friend and that I always have to be there for him like he was for me and that I should never let him down

We should always think of animals like human. They have almost the same abilities as we have, and just because they don't speak that doesn't mean that they are not capable of being your confidant. Sometimes a look of a little soul is more important than 1000 words. From my experience I can tell you that an animal in your life will certainly change you in a better person. You'll get attached to him and you'll think of him not just as an animal but also as a friend. Agath is my first pet of which I take 100% care on my own and I can tell you he made me more responsible, sensitive and I realized that I'm not the most important person in this world.

You don't have to own a breed pet, you can adopt one or you can save one from the street. Whatever the pet looks like you have to give them a chance to show you how wonderful they are.

Maria Bota, IX A

Reviews

Fallout - A post-apocalyptic role-playing game



The iconic Vault Dweller of the franchise

The Fallout Universe is set in a post-nuclear world, and the entire story is based around the player character (Vault Dweller, Lone Wanderer, Chosen One etc.) and his/her decisions. The story itself depends on the game and is usually very different from a game to the other. For instance, in *Fallout 3* you are the Lone Wanderer, who leaves his home in search for his lost father, and ends up saving the post-apocalyptic Washington D.C while in *Fallout: New Vegas* you are a Courier who is ambushed and slain but, after medical help, "resurrects" itself and searches for their adversary. In the end the Courier's life takes a dramatic turn, as he/she is tangled in the Second Battle of Hoover Dam, and has to decide who to help achieve glory.

Contrary to other fictional universes (Warhammer, Harry Potter, Star Wars etc.) the Fallout series' story and canon information is only based around the video games. The only book which is meant to give more information to the story is the graphic novel *All Roads*, which reveals the story of *Fallout: New Vegas* before the Courier's ambush and demise. There is also a book collection, known as the *Fallout Bible*, which reveals more information about the original production of *Fallout 1* and *2*, such as unfinished content, original plans and explanations from staff members of Interplay Studios (original creators of the Fallout series, currently defunct) about the factions, companions, player characters, stories, quests/missions and more.

A factor hated by a lot of players, the karma system, has end-game effects. For example, in *Fallout 3*, if the player character has good karma and made the good karma decisions in the game's quests, the Lone Wanderer will be praised for its actions, while for the bad karma ending the Lone Wanderer will be sadly judged for allowing itself to be corrupted by the individuals and dishonourable works in the wastes. The companions also play an interesting role, especially in *Fallout: New Vegas*, where each companion has a personal quest. Some companions start their quest immediately, while others need to have their quest triggered by some positive factors such as doing good things around the Wasteland or travelling to the right locations. Nevertheless, their quests are always fun and exciting.

Fallout is one of those video game series that you'll just love playing. There's action, hard decisions, tough opponents and theatrical endings. But, just as expected, there's a story behind, well, the fallout of *Fallout*. It was 2077, and humanity was at the peak of its existence. Nuclear power replaced electricity and, the two most prosperous nations, the United States of America and China made mind-blowing technological progress. Things such as heavily defended exoskeletons known as Power Armour, stealth suits and laser and plasma weaponry existed. But things didn't last for too long. Humanity was in a crisis of resources, and the US and China went to war. After multiple and devastating nuclear detonations launched by China and the US, the whole world fell into atomic devastation. Some people from the US managed to hide into Vaults, heavily supplied and fortified underground bunkers built by the treacherous company Vault-Tec. Most vaults were actually meant to conduct social experiments, but few vaults such as Vault 101 were actually meant to be populated and lived in. Starting from the year 2162, a brave Vault Dweller exits Vault 21 in order to find a water chip to help his home and, later on, he shall meet his destiny by putting an end to one of the most dangerous enemies to be witnessed in the post-apocalyptic world: The Master. Reviews from both players and reviewers praise the games for their stories, and everyone can agree that the games deserve to be played. My experience with *Fallout* has always been a positive one, as I can only complain about crashes and compatibility issues (*Fallout 3*), but these rarely occur. The entire franchise is worthy of playing, and I definitely rate the franchise with a 10.

Paul Vaşvari, X C

Essays

Umweltschutz

Tag des Baumes

Die Umwelt umfasst alle Dinge, die uns umgeben: Luft, Wasser, Pflanzen, Tiere, das Haus in dem wir leben, Nahrung, die wir produzieren und vieles andere mehr. Die Welt ist wichtig für uns, weil wir darin leben. Die Welt zu schützen ist schwer, aber wir müssen diese Welt vor Gefahren schützen.

Die Spielräume, die uns die Umwelt geben, werden weniger. Der Mensch baut immer wieder neue, aber er vergisst das wichtigste: Wir verändern die Natur, aber diese Veränderungen werden immer schädlicher für unsere Gesundheit. Flora und Fauna sind genauso in Gefahr wie Boden, Wasser und Klima. Naturschutz oder die neuere Umweltschutz ist heute ein bedeutendes Problem für fast alle Länder der Welt. Um unsere Zukunft zu sichern, müssen Strategien entwickelt werden, die Ressourcen schonen und die Kunst schützen.

Man kann die Welt schützen, wenn man zu Fuss geht. Damit machen wir etwas Gutes für die Welt und auch für uns. Das Auto ist gut, aber wir müssen damit fahren, nur wenn wir es wirklich brauchen. Damit kann man die Verschmutzung der Luft von Abgasen reduzieren. Ein chinesisches Sprichwort sagt: "Wenn du für ein Jahr planst, dann säe Korn. Wenn du für ein Jahrhundert planst, dann pflanze Bäume!". Dieses Sprichwort ist wichtig, in dem Sinne, dass man die Bäume pflanzen muss, weil sie die ältesten und grössten Lebewesen der Erde sind. Auch die repräsentieren die Kontinuität des Lebens. Der Tag des Baumes ist am 25. April. Den "Tag des Baumes" gibt es seit etwa 50 Jahren auch in Deutschland. Im Jahr 2000 wurde ein Logo entwickelt, der dazu beitragen soll, den Tag des Baumes im Bewusstsein der Bevölkerung zu verankern.

Ein Baum ist ein Gegenstand, der jahrelang am selben Fleck steht, bis er sich plötzlich einem Autofahrer in den Weg stellt.

Wussten Sie,

- dass ein hundertjähriger Baum mit seinem 1 Million Blättern pro Jahr etwa 4500 kg. Sauerstoff produziert? Das sind 3,2 Millionen Liter (3200 Kubikmeter). Dafür benötigt er etwa 75000 Tonnen Kohlendioxid.
- dass ein brennender Weihnachtsbaum innerhalb von nur 60 Sekunden eine Temperatur von 1000°C erzeugt?

- dass durch die gut riechenden ätherischen öle und Zellulose, die in den Bestandteilen des Baumes enthalten sind, der Baum im Falle eines Brandes explosionsartig innerhalb von 60 Sekunden verbrannt ist?
- dass der Baobab der Baum des Lebens ist?
- dass für viele Eingeborenen aus Afrika der Baum ein Gottesgeschenk ist?
- dass wertvolles Tropenholz in nur 10-12 Jahren heranwächst und in der Zeit extrem viel Sauerstoff produziert?
- dass der weltweite Holzbedarf in den nächsten Jahren und somit auch der Holzpreis steigen wird?

Pflanzt Bäume! Pfllegt und hegt Bäume! Ehrte die Bäume! Sie sind wunderbar und gehören unserem Leben!

Das Gebet des Waldes

Mensch! Ich bin die Wärme
deines Heimes

in kalten Winternächten,

der schirmende Schatten,

wann des Sommers Sonne
brennt.

Ich bin der Danchstuhl
deines Hauses

das Brett deines Tisches.

Ich bin das Holz, aus dem du
deine Schiffe baust.

Ich bin der Stiel deiner
Haue,

die Türe deiner Hütte.

Ich bin das Holz deiner
Wiege

und deines Sarges.

Ich bin das Brot der Güte,

die Blume der Schönheit.

Erhöre mein Gebet:

Vonhaz Erik, XII D

Should social media be censored?

Freedom of speech is among the most prized human rights, lying at the core of innumerable civilised cultures. Over the course of history, it has even laid the foundation for some nations and is today enshrined in national and

international legislation. However, with the rise of social media, the extent and possible limitations of free speech have precipitated considerable discord and contention as opposing opinions clash and have started to tread the line where one's rights must be curtailed in order to protect another's. Under these circumstances, censorship is yet again coming up for discussion.

On the one hand, some contend that introducing censorship would be an affront to the very engine that powers social media: the desire of humans to articulate and broadcast their thoughts and their ideas. Moreover, many claim that by silencing its users, a social network would effectively abandon its design philosophy and central principle of providing a free and accessible platform to any willing participant. Indeed, it is generally accepted that social media is often regarded as an impenetrable stronghold for free speech, even when the larger social or political landscape appears to favour censorship.

On the other hand, others advocate monitoring users' behaviour on social media and removing objectionable content. The proponents of this idea argue that hateful or otherwise offensive discourse should be penalised because it infringes on the object's right to dignity and safety. As a result, policies in the spirit of this view have already been adopted, for instance, by Facebook, whose moderation algorithms have earned a reputation for hastily banning users who are deemed to be in violation of Facebook's "Community Standards".

In sum, the debate on freedom of speech with regard to social media does not have an easily observable conclusion. Rather, it is up to the administrators and moderators of social networking platforms to listen to both sides of the argument and make an informed decision.

Meszaros Daniel, XI C

Communication: digital vs. face-to-face

Technological advancements have had all-encompassing implications on society, altering everything from our approach to work to the way we communicate. As a result of these two being intertwined, the shift towards technologically assisted work, with an increasing number of people opting to work at home in front of a computer screen, highlights the more fundamental changes that are taking place in our outlook on communication. As we become increasingly reliant on computers for interaction, the question of whether we should allow them to become our primary means of communication naturally arises.

To begin with, the opponents of the digitalisation of communication advance several arguments that uphold their position, the first of which being

that text, the most common form of digital communication, discards the non-verbal dimension of communication. The research in this area attributes a weighty proportion to non-verbal cues as far as the composition of a communicative act is concerned, most studies situating their contribution at between 55-70%. It is indeed easy to observe that, for instance, sarcasm cannot be clearly conveyed in writing, nor can mood or tone be accurately inferred. Secondly, those who favour face-to-face interaction recognise the more credible attempt of video calling/conferencing at emulating complete human communication, but maintain that certain critical signals, such as eye contact, are still unsatisfactorily preserved due to synchronisation issues and camera placement. Finally, literal, physical closeness to other human beings is also a factor that must be considered, as neuroscience has shown that humans are evolutionarily adapted to environments that are rich with other humans, noting that social proximity and interaction decelerate heart rate, inhibit the release of stress hormones and on the whole facilitate health and longevity.

Having said that, many other people do advocate fully embracing digital communication. They make the point that technology can transcend distance and enable people to communicate without concern for borders or physical obstacles and can thereby extend communication to a larger pool of people. With the help of technology, they argue, a child can keep in touch with his/her parents while pursuing higher education away from home and anyone can cross cultural boundaries and interact with people who are even a whole continent away. Furthermore, messages can be produced and sent at a higher rate by using digital means of communication. This means that one can condense more information into the same time unit, which is claimed to be an important advantage.

In conclusion, it is doubtful that computer screens could ever become an adequate substitute for real human interaction. While they undoubtedly present a number of enticing advantages, digital modes of communication fail to replicate that which is most uniquely human: they are ineffective at building trust, loyalty, and intimacy.

Meszaros Daniel, XI C

A discussion on the strengths and deficiencies of Hollywood

Over the last few decades, the term "Hollywood" has become synonymous with the continuously flourishing film industry of the United States. Now an international business, it is universally recognised as a cultural symbol representing the world's leading studios and the most acclaimed actors.

Given that Hollywood has become such a colossal force, it has predictably attracted both criticism and praise.

Firstly, with regard to praise, the observation that Hollywood receives abundant approval not only from insiders, but also from anonymous admirers, is self-evident. Those who applaud the industry tend to highlight its economic output and its role as a driver of innovation and as a pillar of excellence. In defence of this argument, many point to actors who have evolved professionally thanks to Hollywood and who are now thriving and providing sizeable value to the entertainment industry. Indeed, many talented actors were lent a much-needed platform by Hollywood. Thus, Hollywood is claimed to be unequivocally successful as a business, which is, some say, all that matters, any further analysis being unjustified.

On the other hand, some people disagree with the view described above. They maintain that Hollywood should employ its influence in accelerating and reinforcing social progress. A piece of evidence in support of this argument is a report published by UCLA in 2015 showing that no African American actors were nominated at that year's Academy Awards, and that this situation was likely to recur. Therefore, the most prominent problem of Hollywood would appear to be its lack of diversity, reflected not only in the industry's productions, but also in its various award ceremonies.

On balance, Hollywood is most certainly successful. However, it might very well not be free of its share of shortcomings.

Meszaros Daniel, XI C

Heavy workloads in high school: excessive or rightfully demanding?

The dynamicity of our ever-evolving society has brought about significant changes in the interests and abilities that are necessary for success and, in a broader sense, for social integration. Children and teenagers are facing increasingly difficult challenges in all aspects of life, but especially during their most formative years, when they are in school. Consequently, complaints denouncing the volume of school-related work are on the rise; some of them do merit further investigation and debate.

Firstly, it has become common knowledge that high school students feel overburdened and unable to cope with the stress generated by the expectations and the pressure placed upon them, as well as by the sheer weight of their workload. This inference is consistent with their responses in a number of

surveys carried out in the last decade, most of which rank "tiredness" as the feeling most commonly reported by teenagers. Animated by teenagers' grievances, some educators, parents, and policymakers are calling for a reduction in the amount of work prescribed by school curricula and for the further specialisation of academic tracks offered by schools.

Conversely, while other commentators on this matter do concede that the work assigned to high school students is most definitely demanding, they hold that this is to be expected and perfectly normal. The primary argument made by those who espouse this view is that subjecting teenagers to taxing situations and rigorous challenges can create the most appropriate environment for personal development. Furthermore, school is seen by many as at least partially responsible for instilling values such as resilience and discipline in teenagers and for teaching them that they should not need a certain state of mind to engage in learning and working, as discipline should supersede motivation in nearly every situation.

In conclusion, the answer to one dimension of the discussion on students' workloads is clear: presently, the work they are obliged to do is indeed testing. However, the question of whether this should change still remains and, unfortunately, has no consensus in sight.

Meszaros Daniel, XI C

Talent is a myth

Nearly all people acknowledge the notion of "talent", understood as the expression of some innate, natural ability. For most of us, the term "talent" calls to mind images and stories of prodigious child stars who have performed feats of momentous resonance: Mozart, who composed his first symphony at the tender age of four, or Bobby Fischer, who was awarded the title of Chess Grandmaster aged 15. However, it is my belief that those who most profusely commend these young masters fail to see the diligently developed skill and the deliberate effort behind their excellence, erroneously giving too much credit to their perceived "talent" instead.

To begin with, while talent does merit recognition for its rightful utility, the extent to which it can guarantee success on its own is severely limited. In other words, talent is largely devoid of value when not accompanied by

adequate discipline and work ethic. Take a naturally intelligent student, for instance. It is not uncommon to hear of students who, up to a certain point in their academic life, can meet the demands of school without effort and thus effectively sail through primary and secondary school. When reaching university, however, many such students face unprecedented workloads and expectations that they are not prepared to manage because, owing to their overreliance on inborn ability, they have not developed the necessary consciously exercised skills. They struggle more relative to their peers and some even fail entire courses.

Secondly, talent is often confounded with neural plasticity coupled with purposeful practice. This is especially the case with children, who are known to be able to learn foreign languages (and, by extension, adapt to bi- or even trilingual environments) and learn to play musical instruments with greater ease than an adult learner. Essentially, children's remarkable ability to learn and attain proficiency is a result of their developing and therefore malleable brains. Having said that, it should be self-evident that this capability is ephemeral and most of it is not carried into adulthood. Indeed, young masters who have retained their creativity or genius have understood the importance of technique and practice: Mozart was taught by his father, an experienced music teacher who wrote the best music textbook of the time and continued composing and conducting until his demise; Fischer joined a chess club and participated in tournaments under the instruction of his coach.

In conclusion, talent is, in my opinion, overrated. It is poorly understood by most people and success is too often mistakenly attributed to it. Does the artful performance of an ice skater appear effortless due to some incidental genetic predisposition or thanks to innumerable hours of arduous work? Is a masterful teacher able to connect with his or her students and ignite their curiosity and passion for a subject by applying his or her pedagogical knowledge or due to being born with this ability? Does talent then deserve to be more than a myth?

Meszaros Daniel, XI C

Teachers' corner

If I Could Change the World

A lot of people grow up watching cartoons in which the main character performs heroic deeds and good prevails. We are told bedtime stories in which the handsome prince charming, armed with his almighty sword, defies dragons and restores peace. We read comics and believe that the only thing that can stop Superman from being heroic is kryptonite.

The desire to change the world sounds very noble and terribly heroic. Beautiful young women compete in swimsuits for a sparkling crown and scepter and all claim that they will change the world and will fight for achieving world peace. It has become a cliché. But the question that rise is: Is it really possible? Is it possible for a person to make a change on a global scale? A change that would impact the lives of millions of people is naturally very difficult to achieve. Regardless of how great the desire to do so is, there are so many details and issues that one needs to take into consideration, that it all comes down to one conclusion: you cannot change the whole world as an individual. Our world, as we know it, is the result of thousands of years of evolution. Millions of people have been working together for generations in order to build the world that we live in. Therefore, it is utterly utopic to believe that a single human being would be able to transform an entire complex system without any help.

Since no large-scale transformation is plausible, I believe that the only realistic approach is to expect and wish to participate in the change of a local community or of a small area. If we want to change the world, we need to change ourselves first. "When we change, the world changes. The key to all changes is in our inner transformation- a change in our hearts and minds. This is human revolution. We all have the power to change. When we realize this truth, we can bring forth that power anywhere, anytime, and in any situation" (Daisaku Ikeda.) A change in our perception can only be made through proper education and the willingness to improve both ourselves and the world that we live in. "I can make the world a better place" has got to become the mantra of more and more young people if we want to be able to leave something as heritage to our future generations.

I have often wondered what I could possibly do to make the world a better place. Naturally, I would prefer to have my favourite superheroes' powers and, in a blink of an eye, turn my surroundings into a magically clean and pure place, where all people are carefree, and everyone is well and serene. Unfortunately, I do not possess a wand. What I do have, nevertheless, is the ambition and vision to engage in acts of kindness that help our local

community. I would like to find the necessary means to improve the quality of life in our city, by focusing on environmental issues. Unfortunately, pollution has been affecting our lives and, I guess, there is something noble and heroic about making our urban air and water clean again. How can I achieve this? By teaching my students to become better citizens of tomorrow.

Positive change, the change of oneself and thus the change of the world is the currency and responsibility of individuals. Each of us can change the world in small steps, through little gestures which sum up large scale transformations. What we give, we receive, in turn. The positive energy that we give out is the same need and compliment that we receive from our world. "You must be the change you wish to see in the world", If you change yourself, you will change the way you think and the actions you take. We need to break loose of our old patterns and think out of the box. "The difference between what we do and what we are capable of doing would suffice to solve most of the world's problems." (Mahatma Gandhi.)

Bianca Cigan

Die Grammatik spielend lernen – üben – anwenden

Wahrscheinlich muss man bei diesem Thema mehr als bei anderen die unterschiedlichen Gewohnheiten und Lerntraditionen in den verschiedenen Ländern und Kulturen berücksichtigen. Wenn man Deutsch als Fremdsprache – Schüler und -Lehrer zum Thema *Spiele und Grammatik* fragt, so hört man häufig Aussagen wie diese:

- „Bei uns spielt man in der Schule nicht.“
- „Was hat denn Spielen mit Grammatik zu tun?“
- „Die Schüler sollen arbeiten und nicht ihre Zeit mit Spielen vergeuden.“
- „Ich habe so viele Schüler, da kann man im Unterricht nicht spielen.“
- „Meine Schüler wollen nicht spielen, die wollen etwas lernen.“

In den letzten Jahren sind viele Aufsätze zum Thema *Spielen im Fremdsprachenunterricht* und Spielesammlungen erschienen. Trotzdem ist das geplante Lernspiel im Unterricht wohl immer noch die Ausnahme. Auch Lehrwerke enthalten nur selten spielerische Ansätze, noch seltener dann, wenn es um Grammatik geht.

Hier möchte ich Mut und Lust machen, den Unterricht mit spielerischen Übungen zu bereichern und auch die Grammatik auf eine andere Art zu festigen, zu üben und anzuwenden.

Ich möchte Ihnen zu diesem Zweck nicht einfach eine Reihe von Spielen vorstellen – das tut jede Spielesammlung mehr oder weniger ausführlich. Es geht auch nicht um eine theoretische Systematik zum Spielen im

Fremdsprachenunterricht, die für die Unterrichtspraxis nichts bringt. Ich möchte statt dessen einige Spielprinzipien vorstellen, die Sie nicht nur im Zusammenhang mit einer grammatischen Struktur und mit einem Thema verwenden können. Es sind Prinzipien, die Sie variieren und damit den Möglichkeiten Ihrer Lernergruppen und Ihres Unterrichts anpassen können. Die Prinzipien heben den Gegensatz zwischen „Übung“ und „Spiel“ eigentlich auf.

Die Formulierung einer Spieleinleitung ist vielleicht das Wichtigste am Unterrichtsspiel. Sie entscheidet über Erfolg oder Mißerfolg eines Lernspiels. Das Lesen und Verstehen einer Spieleinleitung reicht als Vorbereitung für ein Lernspiel im Unterricht nicht aus. Spieleinleitungen lesen und verstehen ist eine Sache, Spiele spielen ist eine ganz andere Sache. Deshalb: Spiele nach Möglichkeit niemals nur lesen, sondern im Hinblick auf den eigenen Unterricht durchdenken, anpassen und spielen!

Wörter suche

Verbsuche

Viele Grammatikübungen im Deutschen und in den meisten anderen Sprachen haben das korrekte Erkennen und Vervollständigen von Verbformen in den verschiedenen Zeiten und Personen zum Ziel. Traditionellerweise geschieht dies dadurch, dass man das im Lehrbuch abgedruckte System einfach lernen lässt.

Ein Beispiel ist die Konjugationstabelle im Perfekt mit „haben“:

Singular		
1. Person	ich habe	gefragt
2. Person	du hast	gemacht
3. Person	er sie hat es	gekauft gespielt gebraucht
		gegessen
Plural		getrunken
1. Person	wir haben	gesungen
2. Person	ihr habt	gelesen
3. Person	sie haben Sie	geschrieben geholfen

Die Arbeit mit dieser Grammatiktafel läuft dann ungefähr so:
Der Lehrer liest eine Verbform vor und erfragt eine oder alle anderen:

Lehrer: „Trinken?“
Schüler: „Hat....getrunken“
Lehrer: „Richtig!“

Dieses Vorgehen, bei dem der Lehrer meist in der Muttersprache eine Regel erklärt und dann Wörter wie Komparative, Superlative oder konjugierte

Verbformen einzeln abfragt, ist vor allem für den Lehrer arbeitsintensiv, er befindet sich in einem Dauerdiallog mit jeweils einem Schüler. Die Schüler brauchen nur momentan aufmerksam zu sein. Ein Schüler muss jeweils nur eine Antwort geben. Die Aktivität der Schüler besteht darin, möglichs nicht aufzufallen. Das heißt, sie versuchen den Lehrer nicht anzusehen, damit sie nicht antworten müssen. Wenn der Lehrer dann noch die Schüler der Reihe nach abfragt, können sich Schüler schon ausrechnen, bei welchem Wort oder Satz sie antworten müssen und können sich vorbereiten. Da die Verben systematisch in der Tabelle aufeinanderfolgen, können die verschiedenen Formen relativ mechanisch nachvollzogen werden. Dabei werden bei den Schülern vorwiegend Fertigkeiten des Memorisierens und Reproduzierens gefordert. Die Schüler reagieren nur auf Lehrerimpulse.

Die Nachteile eines solchen Modells des Erklärens und Abfragens sind zahlreich:

- Der Lehrer steht immer im Zentrum.
- Die Kommunikation und Interraktion im Unterricht beschränkt sich auf den Kontakt zwischen dem Lehrer und jeweils einem Schüler.
- Die Korrektur erfolgt nur durch den Lehrer.
- Die Schüler sind praktisch isoliert und konzentrieren sich nur auf den Lehrer.
- Es gibt keinerlei Aktivitäten, die über die Erfüllung der Aufgabe hinausreichen.
- Nur ein sehr kleiner Teil der Schüler kann und soll jeweils etwas „sagen“, die anderen bleiben stumm.

Dazu ein alternativer Vorschlag: Die Verbsuche

O	G	X	S	Y	L	<u>W</u>	A	R	O
H	E	K	C	G	A	B	L	I	H
E	T	A	H	A	U	X	P	E	I
I	R	M	R	N	F	A	N	D	E
S	E	M	I	O	E	O	V	R	L
S	T	L	E	P	N	L	W	U	T
E	E	F	B	L	I	E	B	C	B
N	N	E	H	M	E	N	P	K	U
A	N	Z	I	E	H	E	N	E	N
R	E	D	E	N	Q	R	A	N	T

Anweisung an die Teilnehmer:

Bearbeiten Sie das Blatt paarweise und schreiben Sie alle Verbformen, die Sie finden, auf! Ergänzen Sie dabei die fehlenden Formen! Beziehen Sie sich dabei auf das Beispiel auf dem Arbeitsblatt!

Es gibt nicht nur eine mögliche Methode, um mit diesem Blatt zu arbeiten.

Übrigens: Folgende Verbformen sind in dem Quadrat enthalten (senkrecht und waagrecht):

Infinitiv

Präteritum

Partizip Perfekt

War
Laufen
Gab
Fand
Drucken
Anziehen
Getreten
Schrieb
Hielt
Blieb
Reden
Kam
Heißen
Nehmen

An diesem Punkt sind deutliche Unterschiede zu dem zuerst beschriebenen Vorgehen beim Erklären und Abfragen von Grammatik festzustellen.

1. Die Schüler müssen ein „Rätsel“ lösen, im gewissen Sinn einen „Text“ lesen und dabei die gelernten Kriterien für die Verbformen anwenden.
2. Alle Schüler arbeiten gleichzeitig.
3. Der Lehrer hat Zeit, durch die Klasse zu gehen und weniger schnellen Schülern zu helfen.
4. Die Schüler arbeiten nicht allein, sondern mindestens zwei Teilnehmer bearbeiten gleichzeitig die Aufgabe, sie können einander helfen und müssen über die Grammatik sprechen.
5. Die Schüler können sich in der Partnerarbeit „verstecken“. Sprechhemmungen werden abgebaut, da der Lehrer nicht jeden Fehler gleich mitbekommt.

Wie könnte man den „Spielcharakter“ dieser Übung etwas mehr betonen?

Man kann die bestimmt lange Phase der Zusammenarbeit der Partner „stören“, indem man in einem vom Lehrer bestimmten Rythmus jeweils einen der Partner zu der nächsten Zweiergruppe wechseln lässt.

Dies hätte den Vorteil, dass...

- Bewegung in der Gruppe kommt.
- unterschiedliche Leistungsstände durch den Wechsel ausgeglichen werden müssen, was natürlich zu Ärger bei einzelnen Mitschüler führen kann – aber das ist auch Teil des Spiels.

- alle sich bemühen, möglichst schnell durch die Übung zu kommen, das heißt, die Aktivitäten sind sehr intensiv.
- Sitzordnungen verändert werden (zumindest zeitweise) und so ein besseres Kennenlernen der einzelnen Teilnehmer erfolgt.

Der Wechsel der Arbeitspartner bei vielen Schülern in einem kleinen Unterrichtsraum ist vielleicht nicht so leicht zu organisieren. Man kann die Klasse in zwei Gruppen teilen und das Blatt als ein Wettspiel bearbeiten. Gewonnen hat, wer in einer bestimmten Zeit die meisten Wörter gefunden hat. Statt die Plätze zu wechseln, müssen die Arbeitspartner in jeder Gruppe nun nach jeweils einigen Minuten das Arbeitsblatt an die rechts von ihnen sitzenden beiden Schüler weitergeben. Das Spiel wird dadurch schneller, Niveauunterschiede in den beiden Gruppen werden ausgeglichen, die Konzentration erhöht sich.

Der aktive Arbeitsanteil des Lehrers ist bei diesem intensiver „Unterricht“ gering. Er „unterbricht“ die Arbeit, er hilft, wenn nötig, er kann in Ruhe die Aktivitäten beobachten usw. Wenn nötig, kann er in dieser Zeit auch die Auswertungsphase vorbereiten, vielleicht noch einmal auf bestimmte Prinzipien der Partizipbildung verweisen, dazu ein Tafelbild anlegen usw. Der aktive Arbeitsanteil der Schüler ist sehr hoch. Sie müssen intensiv und konzentriert lesen, nach Buchstabenkombinationen suchen und sich mit ihren Arbeitspartnern beraten.

Wenn man Spielprinzipien möglichst variabel anwenden will, dann ist es wichtig, sich zu überlegen, welche die einzelnen Variablen eines solchen Ansatzes sind.

Zunächst fällt bei dem Beispiel *die Form* des Arbeitsblattes auf, das verstecken der gesuchten Begriffe. Diese Form muss nicht notwendigerweise so aussehen wie in dem Beispiel. Wichtig ist nur, dass ein „Suchen“ stattfinden kann, also ein Anreiz besteht, sich mit der Aufgabe auseinanderzusetzen. Das bedingt z.B. die Großschreibung aller Buchstaben. Nur auf diese Weise müssen die Schüler wirklich intensiv suchen.

Eine weitere Variable ist das *grammatische Problem*, das bearbeitet werden soll, hier Verben und ihre Zeitformen.

Der Lehrer könnte den „Spielrahmen“ jedoch auch mit anderen grammatischen Stoffen füllen und außerdem, vielleicht mit Abwandlungen, mehrfach und an verschiedenen Orten des Grammatikunterrichts verwenden.

Ein besonders wichtiger Punkt, der variiert werden kann und soll, ist die Frage der *Durchführung* des Spiels. Wie man eine Aktivität in der Lerngruppe durchführt, hängt eng damit zusammen, welche Formen des Lernens den Schülern vertraut sind.

Nehmen wir wieder das Beispiel. Bei kleineren Lerngruppen von z.B. 10 Teilnehmern oder sogar weniger könnte auf die „Partnerarbeit“ verzichtet

werden. Man lässt die einzelnen Teilnehmer einfach zwischendurch die Plätze tauschen, wobei sie dann mit den Arbeitsblättern ihrer Mitlerner arbeiten müssten. Bei Großgruppen kann die Zahl der Teilnehmer, die zusammenarbeiten sollen, auch auf 3 oder 4 erhöht werden. Dann werden z.B. jeweils 2 aus jeder Gruppe weitergeschickt.

Soll ein Spiel erfolgreich sein, so hilft es, wenn man sich vorher auch darüber klar wird, welche Fehlerquellen möglicherweise in der Spielanlage enthalten sein können.

Was kann bei der Verbsuche alles falsch gemacht werden?

In der **Form** des Arbeitsblattes:

- Schreibweisen, aus denen der Zusammenhang, in diesem Fall die Verbformen, sofort erkennbar sind.
- Groß- und Kleinschreibung bei Nomen. Die Aufgabe wird dann sehr leicht. Besser alles in Großbuchstaben, dann bleibt die Aufgabe anspruchsvoller.
- Es entstehen unerwünschte Wörter.

Beim **Inhalt**:

- es werden Probleme und Strukturen versteckt, die nicht eindeutig zugeordnet werden können.

Noch ein paar Hinweise zur Durchführung des Spiels:

Partnerarbeit bedeutet, dass die Teilnehmer auch wirklich zusammenarbeiten müssen und es nicht dem Zufall überlassen werden darf, ob sie auch zusammenarbeiten wollen. Das heißt, dass pro Gruppe auch nur ein einziges Arbeitsblatt ausgeteilt wird. Dieser Tip gilt übrigens für jede Partnerarbeit! Ein zweites Blatt, zum Festhalten der Arbeitsergebnisse, kann am Ende der Stunde ausgeteilt werden. Wenn jeder Teilnehmer sein eigenes Arbeitsblatt hat, dann ist die geringe Chance einer wirklichen (begründeten) Zusammenarbeit zu erreichen.

Spielerische Aktivitäten, vor allem solche, die eventuell mit einem „Sieger“ enden, leben von der Gerechtigkeit bei der Durchführung. Man teilt daher Arbeitsblätter oder Kärtchen so aus, dass niemand einen Vorteil hat (z.B. mit der Rückseite nach oben).

Man sollte Dynamik und Schnelligkeit in die Aktivitäten bringen. Es gibt nichts Tödlicheres als einen langweiligen „Spielverlauf“. In unserem Beispiel: Auf ein Händeklatschen (oder ähnliches) müssen wirklich alle rechten Nachbarn die Plätze wechseln. Je nach der Sitzordnung einen Tisch (nach links) weiter oder im Uhrzeigersinn usw. Diese Bewegung muss jedoch vor Beginn des Spiels allen Schülern klar sein.

Dem Lehrer bleibt bei diesem Ansatz die Kontrolle des Spielergebnisses bzw. die Nachbereitung. Um sich die Kontrolle von richtigen Ergebnissen zu

erleichtern, sollte er sich in unserem Beispiel die Zahl der vorhandenen Verben notieren (z.B. 14). Jede genannte Zahl, die darüber oder darunter liegt, ist zunächst falsch.

Die siegreiche Gruppe „darf“ dann die Verben mit den ergänzten Verbformen vorlesen. Fehler und Fragen werden dann gemeinsam in der Klasse korrigiert.

Vergleichen mit den oben beschriebenen traditionellen Ansätzen sind die Teilnehmer hier auf vielfältige Weise „beschäftigt“, „lernen“ und produzieren sprachliche Formen in mündlicher (gegenseitiges Diskutieren über die Richtigkeit), in schriftlicher (Notieren der Formen) und in interaktiver Form (Auseinandersetzung, Anpassung und Zusammenarbeit mit ständig wechselnden Bezugspartnern).

Vielleicht sollte man abschließend noch erwähnen, dass das alles natürlich auch mehr Spaß macht als ein Unterricht, in dem der Lehrer ständig unangenehme Fragen stellt.

Szabo Helga

Leaving high school

When I first started high school, this new adventure was really scary for me. Changing the set to a new school, meeting new people was a thought that sometimes, drove me insane. But the first day of school was the beginning of a unique and beautiful story that lasted for four years I will never forget. I've met amazing people, with whom I've created a lot of memories, I've become more mature, and I realized what happiness means. I am really grateful for the real friends I now have by my side, because I know the friends I made in high school will be life-time friends. Now, at the end of this road, I feel sad to leave everything behind, my classmates, my teachers, my beloved high-school, but I know that at the end of every chapter, a new one is waiting for us.

Tămășan Andrada, XII D

Leaving high school is an event I have dreamt about since freshman year, not because I wanted to be done with school, but because I have always felt the need to imagine myself as close as possible to my dreams. As I see myself so close to my graduation, I can only take a step back and remember my journey through these wonderful four years...

Freshman year met me at the peak of my enthusiasm, a young blonde girl with dreams sparkling in the eyes, willing to join every activity that may have occurred. The Students' Council gave me the opportunity to develop myself as part of a team, to strengthen the relationships with my teachers and schoolmates, also offering me some never-ending friendships I am so grateful for. Moreover, during the period that I spent organising various activities in school I was taught how to be responsible, hard-working, ambitious and determined, qualities that helped me to define my personality. There is also a group of people I love, together we make students' hearts sing with joy: CNIS Radio.

Talking about my classmates, I have to admit that we really know how to have fun and be silly, how to help each other and even how to love. When it comes to my beloved teachers there's not much to say: some of them have contoured a role model for me, deserving my deepest admiration.

Getting back to the present moment, senior year is the one focusing on all the information, skills and values I have gained during high school. It has been a stressful year, always having a lot of things on my plate that needed to be done and a lot to worry about. But despite everything, this last year was the funniest and the most interesting one due to the experiences I have shared

with my friends and schoolmates: nights out, parties, trips, hangouts, driving nights and many rebellious and stupid things we have done together, but do not find their place on this paper.

On the whole, I have a head full of school memories I'd love to turn to whenever I'll miss everything and have tears in my eyes.

Chiş Florentina, XII D

At about this same time last year, all of us were overflowing with excitement as the seniors before us graduated, leaving us as the new top dogs of the school.

Now that graduation has finally approached, some of us feel ready, some of us feel panicked and some of us don't know what to feel. The truth is that we failed to realize what senior year would really be about. It was awesome being leaders of the school and getting special privileges that we had wanted for years, but the reason we got all of those privileges was because it was our last year.

For me, the last "last" is only a few weeks/days away. I have been excited and ready all year to graduate, but I would be lying to say that I have felt confident and certain. Senior year was/is stressful, and it seemed like there was always something new that needed to be done. "When one door closes another one opens, you just have to get yourself to go".

Elisabeta Atyim, XII A

These four years passed by high school passed very fast. The feeling that I will soon leave high-school to a hole in my soul. I remember the good memories spent with the class of excursions in which I slept took, a little while to the activity and the relatives, from which occasionally. I was still teasing the whole class but also in hard moments like the simulations and theses. These years of high-school have been a unique experience that any child should experience.

Gabriel Şugar, XII A

For most people their graduation day is one of the best day their lives. No more high school and for some it means that they are now able to move out on their own and embark on the independent journey of college. Every day

I realize that I'm a senior. I know that probably sounds like a weird thing to say, but every day I have this enlightened moment where I say to myself: "This is my last year of high school". When we get to high school, we soon realize the biggest decisions in our life will soon be made and our work has just begun. A person graduating from high school can take many directions in life.

High school will always have a place in my heart because that was the place where I made friends for life, friends that I could talk to about anything. The school is not just for learning and teaching, it is also about friendship and trust.

Benjamin Laver, XII A

Honestly, I have a lot of mixed feelings. The most predominant feeling I have is the feeling that everything goes by too fast. The idea that I will be in college in less than 5 months from now and...my future depends on an exam...is scary.

I'm going to miss my high-school, my teacher, and my classmates. It's sad, but at the same time, leaving high-school fills me with joy, giving me the chance to make a life of my own and be independent.

I'm sad and happy...

I LOVE YOU TEACHER!!!

I WILL MISS YOU ♥

Bettina Pascu, XII A

For me, leaving high school is quite a weird feeling because I don't really know what to expect. I know I'm going to miss school, my friends, waking up in the morning, taking tests that we didn't study for.

In these four years of high school, I've learned who I am; I've learned to be a better person, to fight for my dreams, to be stronger and stronger. Now, as the actual day of graduation approaches, my thoughts have slightly changed. Suddenly, I no longer crave that freedom I imagined and longed for. The person I'd miss the most is my head teacher. She is the best. She wasn't just a teacher, she was our friend. I wish that all of our teachers were just like her. She knows that school is more than lessons and study. We were blessed with her. It is hard to really sit back and let it sink in that. Everything we have

ever known is coming to an end in exactly 14 days. Maybe senior year was packed full of busy things to do so that we didn't have time to really think about how much life is going to change. We will be leaving our families and everything familiar behind...and that's ok.

Damaris Șerban, XII A

For me, high school has been a beautiful period especially in the end, but I'm glad it's over soon. I can't say there is a particular person for whom I can't wait to call the last bell, but I'm sure I want to get rid of almost all my colleagues, with a few exceptions. Teachers were good with us, and all, good or bad, helped in my becoming the person I am now. I can remember some of my colleagues and some beautiful moments in high school, but I can't wait to finish and get away from high school because I have not felt good in this group lately.

Cassiana Silaghi, XII A

For sure, high school has been an important part in our formation as people. Leaving high school, a big part of our life is ending and another one begins.

The sad part is that we have to say goodbye to our teachers and mates, to a lot of memories and people.

Beside these sad things, thinking about all the good stuff we've learned in high school will make us smile and be happy we were part of this school.

I wish all the best to the teachers and students and amazing years from now on.

Codruța Fugel, XII A

For some teenagers, this moment can be sad. For others can be the happiest of this life. For me, for example, it's between those two. On one hand, I can't wait to leave school, to get rid of homework and some classmates. On the other hand, I'll miss my teachers and the other colleagues.

Alex Rednic, XII A

Without a doubt, the high school is the best. Many things change during high school. Each passing day is a significant day; fun is not missed in here, I can assure you.

Without selling any spoilers, I'd like to show you an ordinary day. Well, I'm right before my finals, so yeah, I'm astonished. But never mind, that isn't one of your concerns. My classes are really enjoyable, every single one. Lucky me, I have the best teachers and I guess it's okay to call it a friendship, yet we shall not cross that line because respect is needed as well. During our breaks, we do have fun, like we- the classmates; although I have to admit, some of our teachers spend their free time with us, because we are awesome! Our head teacher is the best. She is 100% with us in everything. Since the very first time we met, she was unusually kind with us: she understood and still understands our problems and she's always up to come with a solution.

With all these examples, I'd like to add that there isn't so much to study, it's pretty easy. So, I hope my information will come in handy for somebody.

Alex Kristea, XII A

High school is the most important stage in a teenager's life. In high school, we have the chance to bond true friendships, which last even through the time.

In high school we are spoiled children still, and this gives us the chance to enjoy everything as a child. After the high school we are forced, indirectly, by life to take our own life in our hands and to make something extraordinary from it.

We are no longer kids, nor teenagers, but grown-ups who must continue their lives and make them count. Leaving high school is heart-breaking and, in the same time, exciting. Heart-breaking because you leave your friends or best friends, with whom you have come to share so many secrets, plans to skip the class for so many times, good times and bad times, so many things that will become memories, some valuable memories. Exciting because each of us will have to build a future of our own. Every decision that we will be making now is going to have a consequence in the future, so it has to be made carefully.

Furthermore, what I will miss the most when leaving the high school will be the teachers that have given me the guidance to become someone in life; they've taught me that wherever I'll choose to go, whichever the path I will take, I can do anything, but only if I allow myself to do something great.

Therefore, even though everyone will go on separate ways, someday, we'll cross each other's ways by accident. You never know what future holds.

Florina Stuleanec, XII A

For me, leaving high-school is like leaving home, leaving behind the spiritual family, friends with whom I have had many memories together.

I was lucky to have colleagues working on that, with whom I get along very well. I will miss them very much.

I will never forget the trips with the class when I did everything that was possible and impossible (in a good sense of the words). These were moments that have marked my existence. I will miss all the experiences I had with my colleagues during the four years of high-school. From the moment I leave the high-school desks officially, I will wait for the "ten years after" meeting.

Marius Bulgăr, XII A

The high school is one of the best adventures of my life. I had good teachers, who have taught me a lot of useful things. In high school I fell in love with chemistry and biology, which has led me to becoming more and more interested in medicine. I want to become a good doctor.

Samuel Ciurdaș, XII A

The time spent in high school is unique and full of emotion. High school is an opportunity to make friends for life. For me, the time spent in high school was a good one because I had a lot to learn. I'm glad I had the chance to have some wonderful teachers, but the best one was my head teacher. She always motivates us and encourages us regardless the situation. I will miss her presence and what she meant to us, she was our second mother and so she will remain after leaving this school.

I'm happy I chose to be part of this college and I don't regret at all, even if there have been tough times. We outran the obstacles together. I am convinced that the "serenade", the graduation ceremony and the banquet will rise to our expectations. All I hope is that we all pass the final exam and become exactly what we dream to be.

Ștefania Silaghi, XII A

"The work you do daily with teenagers is so important to them, helping them grow indoors and learn who they are – especially during turbulent teenage years", says a wise man.

The school offers students a true-life education structure, uniquely structured around a balanced approach to growth and development for each student. It offers personalized learning experiences designed to help students achieve excellence, to build meaningful ties with others and to prepare for the challenges of life through creativity, dynamic adventure and self-discovery.

Leaving high school will leave a shining track of joy, adventures, life lessons in my memory, and a rich bag of knowledge. These years have been significant, helping me to discover the beauties of the world I hadn't been able to see for myself. I know I will leave high school as a new person, transformed into something good, well-built from every missing part of mine.

Despite the numerous difficulties and conflicts I have had, this experience will help me further in life. I have learnt how to go through various situations, how to look at things and that I have to take into account the people around me. So, high school is that wonderful place where you learn how to work in team and learn from each experience.

Simona Bălan, XII A

Seems like it was yesterday when I started high school. It was a beautiful sunny day which will forever remain engraved in my mind. My heart is filled with sorrow knowing that I'm only weeks away from graduating. I have always had a fear of endings- I find them to be the saddest thing ever. But life goes on and I'm sure there will come along my way other joyful things to brighten up my days.

We started out as classmates, then we slowly became friends, going out and spending a lot of time together, then we merged into a big beautiful family. I couldn't have wished for better friends and for merrier memories. My heart smiles every time that I think of all the fun we had, and my mind replays all the years that are gone like a broken record. Would I do anything different if I had the chance to relive those days? I think would've smiled more and enjoy all those little moments that I let pass me by...

I can't change anything now, it's too late to have any regrets whatsoever. The only thing that brings me joy among this sadness of ending, is knowing that the friendships that we have built will carry on. Each and every one of us has their own path in life laid ahead of them to follow. I'm curious to think what all my friends will become in a few years, but right now I'm more focused on making the most of the short time that we have left. Leaving high school is not a pleasant feeling for me but I'm sure that the best of it is yet to come. What I'm truly sure of, is that I will miss each and every one of them deeply.

It is said that 'the blood of the covenant is thicker than the water of the womb' which means that relationships formed by heart are stronger than those formed by blood. I couldn't agree more to this saying knowing that among these people - my classmates and my teachers - I have built bonds that will transcend time and space for they are strong and true. As for my final words I would like to say to everyone *Thank you!*

Salma Al Refaei, XII C

What do you want to be when you grow up? This is the question I was terrified of when I was little. I didn't have a simple, stable answer because as a child, you go through phases of what you want and desire, what seems attractive to you. Highschool is an important period that helps you assess your potential wishes.

Truth is, high school is not all about academic aspects and studying hard. More than 50% of it is about shaping yourself into an adult capable of making decisions, study for himself, and not for good grades. Highschool, undoubtedly, has its ups and downs, but the key to getting through it is keeping your head up and staying positive, always. Had you been enlightened by either a book, a person or the internet, sooner or later you would figure out that you'll have to move out and start your own life, run errands, deal with people and situations, good or bad.

Freshman year, the most important one in my opinion if we're referring to your future social status, is the year when you interact with new people, make friends, meet the teachers, walk around the hallways, the school yard, altogether accommodating with your 'second home' for the next four years.

Sophomore year is kind of neutral. You are not the tiniest, but also not big enough, people don't pay attention to you that much. In this year you're starting to know your classmates and headteacher a little better, usually you plan a trip.

The best and the hardest year, I believe, is Junior year. You know your teachers, you know your colleagues, your stuff, you know who you're dealing with; it is the right time for fun, but also for being determined and letting your stubbornness go. It comes the time when you have to help each other out, either with homework, a project, or a friendly advice. It is the period when some of your classmates turn 18, organize big parties and all of you are having a blast. Also, this year helps you decide what, when and where you should do and head to after high school.

Last, but not least, Senior year. Probably the most stressful one, it is a year you should fully enjoy. You will be focused on two things: BAC and Prom. Here comes the time when you are tested on how much pressure you can support, being ok with the fact that you won't have spare time, you'll have to deal with sleepless night wasted on finishing assignments. But, bear with me, there will too come days when you will feel down, worthless, you'll feel like you know nothing, like you don't have enough time, and finally you will probably start to not care about what teachers think and start doing your own work for your future.

I am a Senior now and I certainly have enjoyed high school with all my heart, and hundreds of lost pens. In a few weeks, I will be leaving high school for good and I feel nervous, and my melancholy is starting to appear slowly but surely. If you are a freshman reading this, expect an amazing time of your life, and if you are a senior, I hope you took advantage of this experience and you've grown into a good, smart person, and I wish you all the best of luck!

Diandra Gherman, XII C

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