ŞCOALA GIMNAZIALĂ „ION BĂNCILĂ”, BRĂILA

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FOREWORD

The current publication represents a compilation of the works produced by the students of “Ion Băncilă” Secondary School throughout the school year 2024-2025. It has sprung from the teachers’ desire to honour our students’ creativity, imagination and excellent mastering of the English vocabulary and grammar at such early ages. The students’ talent made the English words flourish and blossom into lovely pieces of writing, and the drawings they produced helped provide imagery for the wandering of the pencils.

The publication may constitute a pleasant reading for the leisure of the summer holidays or for any other time a reader may want to dwelve into the magical world of imagination. It also stands as a manner of encouraging our students to read, as well as to write, to discover the talent that lies within the small hands, the large, dreamy eyes and wandering thoughts. It can also be used as a source of inspiration for fellow colleagues – teachers of English – in search for new materials, strategies and methods of boosting their students’ skills in English, either during classes or throughout extracurricular activities. The materials include classical pieces of writing such as poetry, letters, stories, public speeches and compositions (on a given topic, given beginning or given ending), and modern approaches (cartoons and free writing).

Lavinia Aramă and Anamaria Dumitriu – teachers of English

EMPOWERING SPEECHES

BE AUTHENTICALLY YOU!

Berbec Raluca, class 7A

Authenticity requires vulnerability, transparency and integrity; authenticity is the soul made visible. Truth is, it is indeed difficult to be yourself in a world where you are constantly told that who you are simply is not enough. Whilst it may be callenging, it is a gift not only to you, but to the people surrounding you as well.

I know what you must be thinking: What if? However, what humans do not realise is that you have to be who you are, not what the world wants you to be; it is all right to be less than perfect. Instead of worrying about what other people may think of you, your only goall should be to find the truest version of yourself and be that person.

Until you spread your wings, you will never know just how far you can fly. You ought to be brave enough to show the world who you are without an apology, and don't you worry, the people who are meant to be in your life will support you. Honour your growth, but remain humble nonetheless, voice out whatever your heart feels the need to, your heart will never mislead you, it is the one who knows the way.

Therefore, under no circumstances should you let the distorted perceptions of you dictate how you live your life - people will always believe what they want, regardless of anything you tell them. Know who you are, stand proud in who you are, embrace the wholeness of being you.

SHAPING OUR FUTURE SELVES

Manolache Izabela, class 6A

Decisions. Experiences. Have you ever noticed how the two govern our existence and shape our future selves? Have you ever wondered how is it that we understand who we are right now, but it is impossible for us to predict who we could become in the future? Life is full of possibilities. Even though we may have a good idea of who we are today, we can change, grow and learn new things that will shape who we might be later on.

First, let us ponder on what it means to know what we are. Right now, we know our current personality, which has been built on the experiences we have had so far. For example, I know that I am good at Maths, but sometimes struggle with writing essays when it comes to literature. I also know that I am a caring person and like helping my friends. These things are true about me today, as I speak. However, I don't know exactly what I will be like in the future, since it is impossible to predict what experiences and people I might encounter along the way. I might discover new talents, develop new interests, or change how I think about the world.

Life changes constantly. People come from different backgrounds and go through different experiences, and it is these experiences in particular that help them either improve or regress, or simply swap from one preference to another. For instance, if someone loves painting now, they might become an artist later in life. Nevertheless, trying a new hobby, such as playing an instrument or coding may reveal a new passion they have never thought of before. Sometimes, the things we might become are not even on our radar until we try something new or enjoy new experiences.

Also, I believe we have the power to decide what we want to be. We can set goals for the future and work toward them. If I decide I want to become a scientist, I can start learning about science, I can read science books and do experiments. That doesn't mean I know exactly how my journey will go, but it will give me a direction to walk toward.

Our future is shaped by the decisions we make, the experiences we have, and the new things we try. Life is full of surprises and the best part is that we have the chance to grow and change into something even better than we might imagine. So just embrace the seconds to come and make the decisions!

THE MIRROR

Moise Maria Bianca, class 6A

Take a look at yourselves in the mirror! What is there? What you are able to see is who you are today: a student, a daughter or a son, someone with particular talents or hobbies. Take a better look! Here are your current likes and dislikes, your current strengths and weaknesses. But can you predict what you will be like in the years to come simply based on your reflection in the mirror?

The truth is we may be good at sports, love literature, or have a special way of making people joyful. These are things we already know about ourselves. But even with these in mind, we still don't know who we will become in the future. There's so much we have yet to discover about ourselves, and sometimes that can be both exciting and a little bit scary!

There is so much mystery that lies ahead!... We are completely unaware of our future selves... We can't possibly figure out in the present moment what we'll grow up to do or what talents we might develop over time. For example, you might love drawing now, but later on, you could discover a passion for science or become famous as an actor or an actress. Or you might start out shy, but over time, you could find the confidence to speak in front of large crowds. The possibilities are endless, and that's what makes life interesting.

Yet, this uncertainty can also be a bit intimidating. Sometimes we might feel pressured to figure out who we are and what we want to be right now, but the truth is that it is a common thing not to have all the answers. Growing up is a journey, it is about discovering who we are about to become. It is like being on an adventure where there are endless possibilities of swirling through experiences and shaping our personalities. That can be exciting, since we have endless chances to change and surprise ourselves. We don't know what we may be, but that is what makes life so full of opportunities!

Our journey is far from over, and the choices we make, the challenges we face, and how we grow along the way makes the journey worthwhile. Instead of worrying about having everything figured out, we should embrace the idea that our future selves are still waiting to be discovered.

CHANGES – THE UNPREDICTABLE WITHIN THE PREDICTABE

Roşca Cristina, class 7A

Our whole lives are governed by changes. Nothing is ever the same as it was yesterday. We know for sure what we are now, in the very second we call the present, yet we have no knowledge of what changes the future might bring upon us. However, if we look back at the way we acted, felt and thought sometime in the past, we can perceive better the way we have changed.

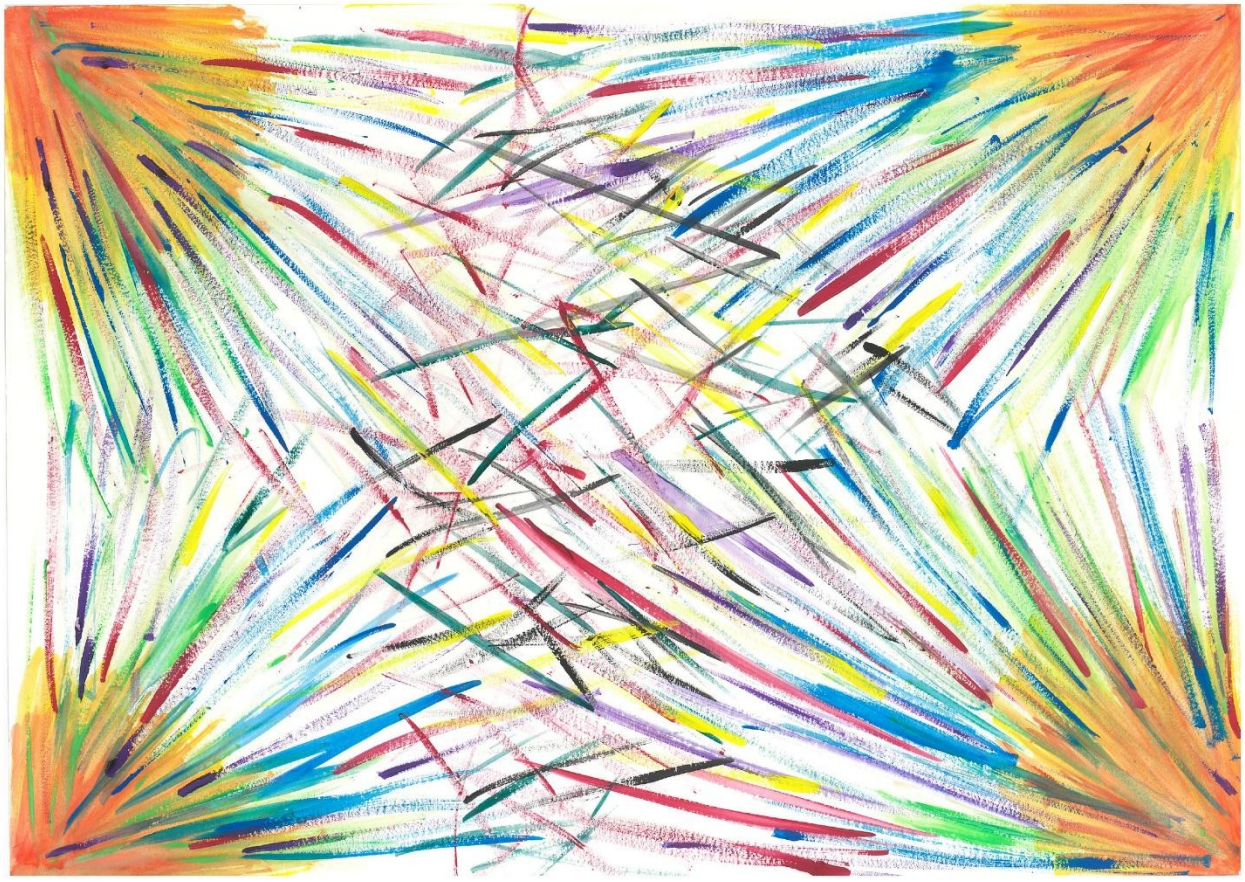
We lead our lives in a state of blindness towards our future selves, while constantly being aware that changes are bound to happen. Change is inevitable – it is part of our physical and mental processes, encoded within us by both biology and fate. We **have to** grow up. We **have to** develop our personalities. We **have to** learn how to adjust to any change we witness – be that of our own bodies and minds, or of the environment and people around us.

What we need to do is to see every change as a new opportunity for growing, for evolving. Every hard exam teaches us a new lesson. Every experience makes us learn. It is important to try and get the best out of every experience we have had, even out of the bad ones. Some may argue that, after getting treated badly, people go on and do the same thing to others. As an example, children who are brought up in abusive households end up being abusers themselves, usually without intending to do so. It seems as if violence has become engrained in their personalities. The change the abused go through, the unexpected, unpredictable change, is for the worse.

However, I am a firm believer in human beings' ability to change for the better. To provide a personal example, I will share with you a darker secret: I used to be envious of almost everybody around me, because their lives looked – or seemed to look – sooo much better! By consequence, while contrasting their so-called perfection to my own lack of perfection, I was no longer able to see the qualities I actually had and I started losing faith in myself. Only when I got to know that those people were as imperfect as any other human being did I manage to see my own qualities again!

Suffering, bad experiences and unpleasant memories should not prevent us from making positive changes. We have to learn from our experiences and become motivated to turn into better versions of ourselves.

The predictability of changes lies in the fact that they are bound to appear along the way. The unpredictability, however, lies in what exactly these changes will bring to each of us. Nobody knows what will happen tomorrow. Yet, since every experience we go through is meant to shape us as humans, I firmly state that it is **our own** responsibility and no one else's to get the best out of every change and evolve.



Drawing by Bălănică Andreea, class 6B

DISCOVERING THE POWER WITHIN US

Tudose Ioana Nectaria, class 8B

Potential. It's in each of us. Yet, the depths of our capabilities remain largely shrouded in mystery awaiting discovery.

The notion of what a person is capable of doing has fascinated the philosophy and science worlds for ages. Because of human potential, our world is constantly evolving and changing as individuals and societies seek to express their unique gifts and talents. But did those people know they had that potential to change the world and become extraordinary in the first place?

Some people are born with a purpose, a goal. Some others discover their passions and skills throughout their journey in life, while some haven't found their calling yet, awaiting the talents within to flourish. We admire our past accomplishments, yet what it holds for us is covered in a dense fog. Celebrating the milestones achieved, or knowledge gained, we forget the fact that we can do better. The past achievements are only mileposts on the journey to an unknown horizon. What might we become? What skills are locked deep within us, awaiting the right moment?

How can we unlock our hidden potential? It begins with a willingness to step outside our comfort zones, to embrace the unfamiliar, and to put ourselves to the test with the boundaries we've set. It requires us to listen to the voice inside our head: "Do it!". Most importantly, we need to be confident and believe that we are capable of doing far more than we realise.

For example, when you are cooking, you often stick to a tried and known recipe. However, one day you realise while cooking that you are missing some ingredients. You, then, explore and improvise, and in that moment, a hidden culinary talent emerges. This seemingly unimportant act of cooking a meal and experimenting in the kitchen becomes a representation of self-discovery. Like experimenting with ingredients, exploring our potential can lead to surprising results! We don't know how great we can be until we give it a try. The future is a blank page, waiting for each one of us, the author, to write the story.

So let's explore our potential and try new things! Within each of us lies the power not only to change our lifestyles, but to contribute to a world with infinite knowledge, making it a better place for all of us. We only need to discover it. The future of the world is in the hands of humankind. Be the change!

Drawing by Berbec Raluca, class 7A

A DROP OF POETRY

I WISH

M.A., class 8B

For I would, yet I find myself unable
To chant my words, to flow my own fable
For children to learn and critiques to see
To write my little world, only bound to me.

I wish words would fall right in place
Flow out my pen with all the grace
To fill my papers with feelings so heavy
Flow with elegance like my hair so wavy.

I wish for my writings to be painful
For certain people, just a handful
For those that are insane enough to realize
The ones able to see and emphasize

SOULS

M.A., class 8B

We all have our souls
Some are full, some with holes,
Some made out of misty smoke,
Some crafted of creaky oak.

Some are petty, some are grand,
Some are flashy, some are bland.
All unique, never the same
All of them, to some, mundane
While others care and love and cherish,
Some others crush your hope and perish.

All in all, no soul's the same
Really there's no one to blame
For each has its own certain way,
Some chose to leave, others to stay.

When one soul binds,
So does the flesh.
A sharp blade cuts right through the mesh
And so the body and soul winds,
What once was one became two minds.

Pillars of light surround the frame
Sided by realms, none of the same

For each soul has it s own place,

Some to succeed, some fall in disgrace.

OWN VOICE

M.A., class 8B

For I too wish I had a voice,

Of my own, no need for a choice,

My fingers hurt, my hands are sore,

I’m sick of my guitar once more.

Instead of strings for vocal chords

To make something for more than words,

To sound like bells and chimes in wind

Or creak like steel hitting the flint.

To sound like jewels hid in a crate,

To ring like drops falling so late,

To flow with whistles, chirps and creaks

To have my song craddle the weaks.

A GIVEN BEGINNING, ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES

NEVERENDING REALITY

Berbec Raluca, class 7A

Jessica had been reading for a while when she suddenly gazed outside her window, where she saw a beautiful bird resting on a branch. She decided to walk up to the window and reach out to pet the feathered friend. However, when Jessica's hand touched the bird ever so slightly, she blacked out, her eyes closed in an instant without her permission, it felt as if she had got snatched away. Jessica's eyes open like two flashlight beams, she felt cold beads of sweat running down the sides of her face, as her eyes caught a glimpse of her surroundings, shock crossed her face, her forehead puckered.

The room was shadowy, barely lit by the small dim light resting on a wooden table. On the same desk, there were a few unfinished reports and documents which coated the wooden surface in thick piles, seemingly there were way more papers than she had initially thought, but for what? Jessica continued to wander around the room, aparently very unfamiliar with it. In her closet there were clothes she had never worn, or at least she thought she hadn't. Walking up to a silvered mirror that was just next to her wardrobe, her eyelashes fluttered as she lightly ran her cold fingers down her face.

Jessica found herself in a moment of pure confusion, a bewildered expression on her face as she took note of the small sunken scar that ran from her lips down to her chin. The girl jumped slightly as she heard an abrupt knock on the thin door. The door creaked open and a somewhat tall woman came in. She had combed black hair barely reaching her collarbones, downturned brown eyes – she seemed to carry an air of confidence, an almost disdain expression on her face.

She appeared to know Jessica, while Jessica had no idea who she was. The woman's name was Nora. "Hey, you must've enjoyed your sleep", she said, as she seized Jessica up. Jessica was clearly making some effort to look neutral, but she failed. "What is happening? And who is this woman?", she kept thinking.

‘We have a mission.” The woman continued, as if reading Jessica’s mind. “We neeed to leave for the Deep Mountain in about … twenty minutes, so get ready!” Nora spoke slowlyyet left no room for arguments. The woman gave her a last glance before closing the door, the sound echoing in the small room. Jessica didn’t have the chance to say anything, but even if she had had such an opportunity, she wouldn’t have known what to say.

“We have to leave for the Deep Mountain”, Jessica repeated over and over in her head, as she was trying to remember something, or perhaps this was all just a foolish dream. She shook her head, however, she asked herself what happened to the book she was reading. Or what happened to her face? Where were her parents, whom she was so happy with? Jessica kept asking such questions as she was rummaging through the room, hoping to find something or someone.

She didn’t find anything, except for a chain mail. She inspected it carefully before putting it on her head. The metal felt very cold. She put on some boots she found near the bed. She looked in the mirror and, when she got closer, she heard her name getting called. She hesitantly took off.

The halls were huge – she could only hope she wouldn’t get lost. Outside, she saw the woman from earlier, not only her, but many other people. They looked fairly concerned, as Jessica approached them. Jessica felt quite terrified as she took note of the presence of certain intimidating horses that were surrounding the soldiers like vultures.

“Oh, hello Iris, didn’t know you were coming with us.” Said a tall woman with long blonde hair and piercing green eyes.

“Hi… Isabelle!”, Jessica spoke awakwardly.

“Isabelle? My name isn’t Isabelle. It’s…”.

Before the mighty woman could say anything, Nora, the mysterious woma, spoke. “ Ignore Iris, she took quite a hit yesterday and she wasn’t wearing her armour.”

“Wait, what?”, Jessica finally spoke up.

“Oh, yeah, I totally forgot about that. Well, we should get going.”, the blonde lady said, as she hopped on her horse. Jessica was still in a trance, until a familiar feathered friend landed on Nora’s shoulder and Jessica’s eyes widened.

“That’s …”, Jessica said.

“The bird from your story? I know.”, Nora continued. Suddenly, Jessica started to remember everything, how she got that confusing scar on her lips, she even started to remember her friends’ names.

“We don’t have time to waste. Let’s get going, Iris!”. Nora’s voice became muffled as the ginger woman stared at the bird that coeed in response. Jessica doesn’t exist. Jessica was an illusion. Jessica was invented by Iris, living her life instead of hers, after all, humans do this all the time, don’t they? Living someone else’s life instead of theirs, maybe they are just unhappy with their own, I suppose we’ll never know.

Drawing by Moise Maria Bianca, class 6A

THE MAGIC BOOK

Purcăreaţă Alexandru Georgian, class 7A

Jessica had been reading for a while when the words on the page started to shine. She blinked, thinking she was just tired, but the light grew brighter and warmer. Suddenly, a gentle wind blew through her room, flipping the pages by itself.

The book was shaking in her hands, and before she could understand what was happening, she got pulled inside.

When she opened her eyes, Jessica found herself in a strange forest. The flowers around her were huge, and the animals could talk. A small rabbit came forward and bowed. He welcomed her kindly and said that the story needed her help.

Jessica looked around with wide eyes. The book was still open in her hands, but this was not just a story anymore. It was real. And now, she was part of it. Everything that she read about in that story was now surrounding her.

She didn’t know what to do next, but she was ready to try.

THE BIRD

Roşca Cristina, class 7A

Jessica had been reading for a while when a sudden noise came from her window. A bird had just hit the glass. Jessica was quite confused, but then she realized that it was the time of the year when little birds are learning how to fly.

When looking closer, Jessica realized that the bird's wing was hurt, so it will be stuck here in the winter if nobody does anything about it. She felt sorry for the bird, so she picked it up in a towel, trying not to hurt it. Jessica didn't know what to do, so she decided to go to hospital. She had no car, so she had to walk. Many people were turning their heads to look at the bird. An elderly couple stopped by and asked:

"Hello! What is up with this bird? Is everything all right? "

"Well, I found it near my window and its wing is hurt. Now I am going to the hospital for them to heal it. "

"Wow, but the hospital is really far away! " said the man. "We can get you there with our car. "

Jessica accepted, so they all arrived to the hospital in no time. The doctors took care of the bird and jessica went to see it every week. Its wing was already healed when winter came around.

THE SKY WAS DARK AND SCARY

Bunea Carmen Ştefania, class 6B

The sky was dark and the wind was blowing. I was in the park with my friends .We had been playing volleyball for two hours when the wind started to blow .

The park was full of children and parents. They ran to their cars. The wind blew down a tree next to us, so we were very scared. In a second, the sky got very, very dark and it started to rain.

We tried to call our parents , but there was no signal. We saw a lightning, then heard the thunder and we wanted to cry. We looked around and saw a building!

When we got to the building, we thought we were saved. But the building had a broken roof and windows. A few minutes later, the rain stopped, the wind stopped, as well, and the sky wasn't dark anymore. Our phones started to ring. Our parents were worried about us!

We were finally safe and there was a rainbow in the sky.

Drawing by Bălănică Andreea, class 6B

EVERYBODY'S GOING TO THE SKY

Codreanu Yanis, class 6B

The sky was dark and the wind was blowing, during the English lesson. We were doing a test for our final grade. Everybody was struggling, even the teacher said that she couldn't solve the test.

When the time almost ended, a loud siren, that even woke up Mihnea from his nap, warned us that a big thunderstorm, and also an enormous tornado would destroy most of the city. While everybody was panicking and screaming, our teacher was calm and didn't even flinch. She told us that it was just a false alarm and everybody should continue the test, even though we could see the tornado approaching us.

No one knew what to do, so we only waited for our faith. Even Marian was scared (normally he is very chill). When the tornado almost hit us, it disappeard. We were all very confused. It was like nothing was ever there, when, all of a sudden, the room started shaking violently, even the vase with its artificial flowers fell and broke into pieces on the ground (we thought that it was indestructible).

Mario C. looked out of the window and shouted "WE ARE IN THE AIR!!" The next second, everybody was at the window to see if what he said was true. It really was true, we were slowly rising into the sky. We couldn't believe our eyes. After some really long seconds, we realized we were within the tornado. Everybody was doing something, Matei was praying, Marian was trying to stop Mario C. from jumping out of the window (he wanted to try flying), Mario A. was playing "Brawl Stars", David M. was arguing with Andra, and the teacher was still trying to make us sit down and finish the test. No one listened to anyone.

As I was looking out of the window, I saw a pig and some birds flying along with us. It was a little strange to see birds, but then I looked down and realized that the ground wasn't in my sight anymore. It was already hard to breathe and the stars were already really close to us. When we thought that we were going to be lost in space, we stopped flying. The tornado ended.

After five seconds that felt like some hours, the school started freefalling. All of us started screaming, even the teacher, but she was screaming to stay quiet in our desks

and finish the test. Luca told us that he had an idea, if we jumped right when the building hit the ground, we should be just fine. We didn't have any more ideas so we decided to try it. When the school was a second from hitting the ground, we jumped. To our surprise, it worked! And most importantly, no one was harmed. All of us wanted to leave the school, but the teacher really insisted on finishing the test.

Everybody got a four on their test, but it was worth it, because we all had a crazy time.

THE WET SKATEPARK

Andrei Mario Ştefan, class 6B

The sky was dark and the wind was blowing. The clouds were dark, dark grey and the rain started. I was at the skatepark with my friends, then we took our backpacks and went to a fastfood restaurant. There we all ate the same meal, and when the rain stopped, we went back to the skatepark and started riding again.

The rain started again, but we couldn't go to the restaurant again. With some luck, one of my friends saw something covered, so we went straight there because we couldn't do anything else.

The next day we met at my house at 10 a.m. and we stayed there till 10:30 a.m. Then we went to the skatepark, but unfortunately the place was really, really wet. We felt upset, so we decided to go to the Cinema City at the mall to see the newly realesed Minecraft film.

These two days were awesome!

THE IMPORTANT DAY

Constantin Carla-Alessia, class 6B

The sky was dark and the wind was blowing. It was Monday and I was going back home from school. I was really tired because that day I had a test, but I knew I did the best. My walk to school was like driving a car which was about to stop due to the lack of fuel. The atmosphere was really sad because it was raining. I was lucky because I had an umbrella with me. I finally arrived home. All the lights were closed. The house looked like nobody lived there. I was confused.

When I entered the house the lights went on and my family said “Happy Birthday!” with a big cake on the table. Then, I remembered that it was my birthday. How could I forget my own birthday?

I smilled and my family hugged me so hard that I almost ran out of air. Then, my phone rang. I received a message saying that I had passed the exam with a score of 98! I was happier when I told my family what I had got.

After some minutes I felt something punching the air. Something like flying. When I looked up, a big colourful parrot was staying on the table, next to the cake and my gifts.

It was the best gift I had ever got in my life! Actually, it was a double gift, the grade and the pet. They both changed my life from that day on.

THAT SPECIAL NIGHT

Ene Ştefan Alexandru, class 6B

The sky was dark and the wind was blowing,but... It was the fifth night in a row I couldn't sleep ,so I decided to read a little story.

Well, I might have become bored and probably quit reading, but, I think I started to see angels in my room. Actually, I started reading the Bible, because I had a harsh day and I wanted to relax my mind!

After some moments, the room was full of lights and a person appeard from that light ... It was actually St. George with an angelical voice singing a little prayer that made me feel relaxed and unstopable!

That night I can say that I was blessed and I had a life changing experience that turned me into a better person form and made me see life differently!

In some words, that night was simply lovely!

THE SUSPICIOUS NIGHT

Gurău Irina Elena, class 6B

The sky was dark and the wind was blowing, when I heard something weird.

Last night, when I was sleeping, a strange sound came from the window. It sounded like someone was tapping on it. I was very afraid because I was alone at home. I tried to ignore it but the sound got louder and louder.

Then I took the torch and got out of bed. I looked at the window and I saw a silhouette in the dark. I returned to bed and covered myself with the pillow. I tried to see what was there. When I looked again, the silhouette was calling me, but with a strange voice.

I opened the window and I saw a parrot covered in a coat. He had a letter in its beak. I grabbed him and read the letter. It started to sing a beautiful song, ”Happy birthday”. The letter was from my family, they couldn’t come for my birthday, so they made me a surprise. The parrot was supposed to give me the letter, but it arrived earlier.

It was the best gift I have ever had, but also the scariest.

THE STORM AND THE SURPRISE

Ion Teodora, class 6B

The sky was dark and the wind was blowing. Clouds stretched across the sky like thick, gray blankets, low enough to look like they were trying to press down on everything below them. Leaves danced across the sidewalk, collecting in noisy piles around parked cars and trash bins. I kept my head down, trying to walk home faster. The sidewalk was damp from a light rain earlier, and my shoes were squeaking with every step I made. The wind pushed against my back, almost like it wanted me to go even faster.

The walk home wasn't very long, but it felt strange, like the world had been muted. No birds chirping, no dogs barking, just the constant rush of wind squeezing between houses and trees. By the time I turned onto my street, the temperature dropped even more. My hands were cold. My house stood on the end of the block, the porch light flickering like it couldn't decide whether to keep going or give up. That porch light has never flickered before.

I stepped into my house and dropped my backpack by the shoe rack, glancing around as if expecting someone or something to jump out. Everything looked fine at the first glance. The couch was in the right place, the table wasn't knocked over, and the curtains were hung perfectly still, the complete opposite of what I was expecting, nothing like those scenes in classic American horror movies. But the lights didn't turn on when I hit the switch, and that was the first real sign that something was wrong. It might have been the wind, sure, but the silence, the deep and unnatural silence, was what truly scared me. No fridge buzzing, no ticking clock, just silence and the wind pressing against the windows.

I slowly moved through the house, peeking into the kitchen, the living room, even the bathroom. Nothing looked out of place, but I couldn't shake off the feeling that something was wrong.

Then, from upstairs, I heard a small thump, followed by something being scraped faintly across the floor. My heart skipped a beat and I froze in place. The sound came again and it wasn't loud, but it was way too clear to be my imagination. I made my way to the bottom of the staircase. My feet didn't want to move, but I made them. The

staircase groaned under my weight like it hadn't been stepped on in years, and each slow step felt like it echoed through the air. My chest was tight and my heart, confused and overreacting, started pounding against my chest. I reached the top of the stairs and turned the corner. My bedroom door was open just enough so I could see that the window curtain was fluttering. Another gust of wind must have slipped in...

The scraping sound happened yet again, soft and quick, like something was being dragged or pushed. I slowly stepped towards my bedroom door, mentally preparing myself to fight a monster who was ready to eat me alive, just like in those spooky movies my dad likes watching at weekends. I slowly, very slowly opened the door, almost at a snail's pace, and to my surprise, there was no blood-thirsty vampire or a brain-eating zombie. Everything looked the same, exactly how I had left it in the morning before going to school. The floor was littered with a few pages from my notebook, and my crochet yarn was scattered across the rug, trailing to the basket where I had left my unfinished sweater project.

And then, that sound from earlier was heard again, this time, coming from the basket. I made my way to the source of the sound and found a tiny gray kitten, just like the color of the clouds in the sky, no bigger than a loaf of bread, rolling around in the yarn like it was tangled. It pounced on a knot with its front paws, rolled onto its side, and then kicked the air like it was fighting an invisible enemy. Its fur was fluffed up slightly from playing in the yarn, and its ears twitched with every new sound the wind made. I stood there for a while, watching it, my heartbeat finally coming down. The kitten didn't even notice me at first, too busy playing with the leftover yarn I had completely forgotten about.

Eventually, I sat down on the rug, close enough to the basket to keep an eye on the kitten. The cat paused, stood up on its four paws, looked up at me, then climbed out slowly. It walked over to me like it owned the place, then curled up in my lap as if it was claiming its property.

The wind was still blowing outside. The sky was still dark. Some raindrops started tapping on the window. But in my room, I was in my own little world, playing with a kitten who was purring in my lap. Everything was fine again. The world seemed more peaceful than before.

RESCUE AT THE RESTHEAVEN CASTLE

Iordache Maya, class 6B

The sky was dark and the wind was blowing. Stars were shining on the gloomy sky like little lamps scattered all over the place, giving everything beneath the infinite dome a mysterious glow. The big, round, full moon was in the middle of everything guiding the crystals of the heavenly vaults.

On the ground, a cool breeze was drifting through the leaves of all the trees in sight, some branches even moving along. Even with the magical stars and peacefully looking trees, everything felt slightly eerie. It wasn't like the usual summer nights, there was something sinister about it all.

Despite everything outside, Chloe's room was the opposite. It was warm and comfortable. She was lying in bed, tucked in with her stuffed plush animals. The girl was reading a book, while waiting for her cup of tea to cool down enough for her to take a sip. That was her favourite thing to do on an evening like this, when school had ended a while ago and she wasn't able to sleep.

The girl had barely got to flip to page 60 when she heard a bell ringing. It wasn't one of the sounds the chimes in the middle of the town made, what she heard was a deep echo that repeated itself for so many times that the girl lost count. The worst part was that each time it called, it got louder and louder. It didn't sound like an ordinary ring coming from an old clock, one that tells you it's noon, signalling it's time for lunch. It felt like it was calling out to her, telling her it's time for something big, something important.

She looked out the window, thinking the other citizens were already outside their houses, running around, wondering what was going on, but no one seemed to be bothered. But little did she know that she was the only one hearing all of this.

At the same time, the loud noises stopped. Chloe noticed a STRAY star falling, leaving a white, sparky trail as it was making its way to the ground, but the girl's attention was immediately drawn to the letter being placed on the edge of her window. She froze in place. She took every ounce of courage she had left and took her blanket off,

her feet touching the cold floor a second later. She took shy steps, but the closer she got to the sill of the window, the more hesitant she got.

When she got there, Chloe took the envelope and opened it carefully. Inside, there was a piece of paper which read “Save the people’s dreams.” What did that mean? Was it really that urgent? Why was she supposed to do that? She was more than confused, she was thrown off, baffled even.

She quickly ran down the stairs, heading to her parents’ room, and pushed the door open. No one was there. That’s when worries began to sttle in her head. She was alone in the house, with an unknown letter in her hands that told her to do something basically impossible.

Chloe put on a random pair of slippers, probably her mom’s, and headed outside. She didn’t know why she did that, but it felt right. She walked around her neighbourhood, the air current significantly stronger and colder as it pushed her hair back. Chloe knew it wasn’t very nice, but she couldn’t help but look inside her neighbours’ house. There was no one there. It was like evryone had vanished except for one man who was dressed entirely in black. He seemed ominous, but Chloe had no choice but to go up to him. She tapped him on the shoulder, the stranger jumped and turned around to face her.

“Sorry… I was wondering if you have any idea of where everybody is…”, she said, nervously, while fumbling with the hem of her pyjamas shirt.

The man appeared surprised, yet the girl didn’t quite know why. Chloe didn’t even get to take a proper glimpse of the person’s expression before it hardened, turning serious again.

“None of your business.”, the passerby said, with a stern tone in his voice.

She didn’t give up and she asked again, but paused before she could finish her sentence. The stranger was wearing a dark hoodie and from his pocket came a yellow light.

“What is that in your pocket?”, Chloe asked, having a feeling that it was something she was looking for.

“None of your business.”, the man repeated. He turned around, trying to walk away and leave Chloe behind, but she couldn’t let that happen. She snatched whatever was in the person’s pocket, but it accidentally slipped out of her hands. The object was a jar that seemed to have small, sparkling stars inside. Once it hit the ground, the container shattered, making the little lights turn into glitter that the wind took on an adventure. Chloe looked up at the stranger with an apologetic look on her face.

“Why did you do that?”, the man exclaimed, visibly annoyed at what had happened.

He continued scolding her for a little while, but they were both too busy to realise what was happening next to them. The stardust that they both thought was gone actually gathered itself and turned into a portal. After the scolding faded, everything went quiet, and only then did they get to appreciate what was next to them. Chloe’s jaw dropped, and the stranger’s eyes got wide.

Not wasting any more time, the man hopped into the dimensional door, and, as Chloe didn’t want to miss out on this once-in-a-lifetime experience, she did the same. On the other side of the gateway, they both felt dizzy. They came to realise that they were in a forest, but not just an ordinary woodland that one could find at the exit of a small village. It seemed like it stretched endlessly, a living painting only one of the most talented artists could create. Ancient trees with their trunks twisted covered the night sky with the emerald leaves they owned. Soft beams of silver light escaped the canopy of green, making dancing shadows on the plush moss-covered ground where scented flowers bloomed. The air was thick with magic – you could definitely tell there was something special about it. The smell of fresh grass ligered in the air and somewhere in the distance, a joyful melody of a crystal-clear stream seemed to awaken every soul of every living creature.

They walked around, taking in every little detail. It was quiet. Almost too quiet, so Chloe decided to ask the stranger what was actually in that jar she had dropped earlier. “There were people’s dreams.”, the man said.

It seemed familiar to Chloe. And then she realised …

She quickly took the envelope that she got from the stars and opened it again, this time not as cautiously, as the first time. She passed the message that was still inside, hoping he knew something about it.

As they continued to make their way through the forest, the girl found out that the letter was from a wizard, and not from the stars, as she had thought. The magician was actually the stranger's father who talked to him about how everybody, except for Chloe and the two of them, had been pulled into the realm of their nightmares. Thye man told the girl that he didn't trust just a 13-year old girl with this important mission, so he ignored his father and went on the trip himself.

Right when the wizard's son stopped talking, they met the first magical creature, a dwarf.

"Hello!", said the joyful little person with his high-pitched voice. "You must be new here. I haven't seen you before."

"Yeah, yeah. We're busy right now.", the man cut him off.

Chloe didn't know where they were going, but the stranger certainly did. She was sure of that, as the man was in such a hurry.

"Wait! Maybe he can help us... wherever we need to get...", the girl said.

The man sighed and turned around, as he wasc already walking away.

"OK, look, little guy...", he said, kneeling down to the elf, to be at his height. "We need to the Castle of Dreams quickly."

"Restheaven? I can help you... I'll ask my friend to fly you there.", the gnome said, clearly happy to help.

Just a second later, the dwarf whistled and a pegasus appeared out of nowhere.

"Come on, go!", the elf said.

Chloe and the stranger climbed up the winged horse and a moment later they found themselves over the entire forest. They flew over rivers, trees, small villages, and even a grand waterfall that sparkled in the moonlight. They kept flying for what felt like forever and Chloe noticed a castle in the horizon when the sun was coming up. The building was getting bigger and bigger as they got closer.

The magical creature finally landed and Chloe got up first. She looked up, to appreciate the castle, but it was too big.

“Come on!”, the stranger said, clearly wanting to get this over with.

The girl followed him into the palace and right at the entrance they were greeted by a huge library. Books were flying everywhere, some were even flipping their own pages.

“Look, uhh… little girl”, the man said, not knowing the girl’s name. “We have to find a purple book. It’s called ‘The Magic of Nightmares”. Tell me if you find it, all right?”

Chloe nodded and her eyes scanned the room. She looked everywhere, hopped on chairs and tables, and after a few minutes she saw a purple book with the exact same title that she was supposed to look for.

“I’ve found it!”, she exclaimed, stretching her arm out to reach for the book. She grabbed it and, at the same time, the stranger was right next to her.

Luckily for them, they didn’t have to look for the right page, as the book was already opened there. The stranger showed Chloe where and what she was supposed to read, and she started saying something that seemed like a spell. Something about nightmares, something about dreams, then poof! She was right back in her room, still tucked in bed with her book in her hands, her plushies still there, and her cup of tea, hot. What had just happened? How did she get back so easily? She had so many questions, but she pushed them to the side and decided to get some sleep.

The next morning, she was woken up by her mother’s “Get up, honey, it’s late!”, but she couldn’t care less. She had just saved the world!

DON'T DO THAT AGAIN!

Lefter Luisa, class 6B

The sky was dark and the wind was blowing. Esther was outside sitting on a tree stump near a little grove as she observed the heavy clouds of silver slowly roll overhead. Even through her big, puffy jacket she could still feel the cold air, which made her shiver, and the girl knew a snowstorm would likely stir up soon.

Esther needed to hurry home, and so she turned around to call for someone. But for whom? Well, for her younger brother, of course! She was meant to watch him play. Although, no matter how hard she looked or listened, there was no sound of his sweet little giggle or a sign of his bright blue outfit among the trees.

The girl began to panic and swiftly decided to try venturing deeper into the thicker parts of the woodland to search for him. Despite having been there many times before, with the worry gnawing on her stomach, all images she saw seemed but a blur: the same tall pines, the same thorny bushes, the same moss-covered rocks, all of it over and over again.

The weather quickly intensified, a cool gale blowing over the first few tiny snowflakes, like frosty petals caught in a breeze, which would go on to set off the entire blizzard. It was becoming awfully difficult to see, and Esther felt as if the powerful wind could've knocked her down at any second. Tired and hopeless, the girl started to wonder whether she should just attempt going back and telling her mom what happened, knowing she would surely receive a big, though deserved, scolding afterwards, probably even be grounded for months on end. But wouldn't it be worth it in order to get help?

Just then, something colorful caught her eye. Esther thought her mind was simply playing tricks on her. However, when she got closer, she realized it truly was her younger brother, curled up between a few boulders and trying to shield from the snowstorm.

At that moment, Esther was filled with relief and marched forward to come and embrace him. The scared boy didn't want to leave, but she consoled him and urged that they had to leave as soon as possible.

With her mind cleared, the girl managed to find the way back and, after a long and exhausting journey, they were finally home. The two immediately shut the door behind themselves and didn't think twice before collapsing onto the couch.

Their mother worriedly asked why they were outside for so long and Esther had to make up a less dramatic story so that hopefully she wouldn't be upset with her. After that, the children had some time to rest, yet, before Esther could let her younger brother go into his room, she came over and, in a whisper, made him swear to never leave without her again. Undoubtedly, the little boy shyly agreed, quite ashamed.

THE WORST STORM

Pascu Matei, class 6B

The sky was dark and the wind was blowing. It was a warm night of August, when suddenly a very cold wind started blowing. I was infront of my house with my friend. Then the sky took a very dark colour.

I heard a hoise and after that my mum called me inside. My friend and I said "Good Bye", to each other and startED walking home. After I entered the house, the rain started, at first it was leaking, but after that it turned into a very bad storm.

I went in my room and when I looked out the window, I saw my little cat fighting for his life in the rain. I Immediately tried to reach the front door, but my mum stopped me, saying it was too dangerous. I started crying because I loved my pet so much and no other cat could ever replace it.

Finally, after some minutes which felt like an eternity, the storm stopped. I ran out so fast and when I looked around for my cat, it was nowhere to be found. I searched for him a lot, and suddenly my sister found it under my dad's car. When he saw me, he came to me as if it was the first time we met.

I'm very happy that in the end everybody was good and safe.

AN ADVENTURE UNDER THE OPEN SKY

Ungureanu Eva, class 6B

The sky was dark and the wind was blowing. I was in a forest camping with my friends. They were warming themselves by our campfire, eating snacks and talking. I was sitting alone on the cold ground, admiring the bright stars, almost falling asleep.

About half an hour later, I was woken up by my friends' screams. I saw them very scared. I quickly got up to see why they were screaming. They told me to look into the bushes. I was terrified. A strange creature was growling at us. It had red eyes and a mouth full of sharp teeth. It started running very fast towards us. Scared, we quickly gathered all our things. As we were getting ready to run, I realized something.

That unusual creature was actually a scared dog. I stopped my friends and showed the puppy. They sighed in relief and laughed. We went back to the campsite, fed the dog, and played with it.

It was a very crazy night!

THE MESSAGE

Giurcă Sara-Maria, class 5B

"**It was Jake's birthday and he was felling very happy**", this was the beginning of Jake's message recived on my phone. He said „It's my birthday, come to Happy Land, number 4, Tea Party street. Be there at 1 pm. With frendship, Jack."

I was so excited to go to his party to celebrate! But I forgot to buy a gift for him, so I went to a store to get him a toy car. It was so pretty! Then I had an idea to buy a cake with a lot of chocolate. But... it looked so delicious that I ate the whole cake..... Oooopps..... I hope Jack won't get mad at me...

After I left the store, I went to Jack's party. When he saw me, he seemed very happy (he didn't know that I ate the entire cake by myself!). He said "Thank you, it's the most beautiful gift which I have ever reiceived."

A LOVELY BIRTHDAY PARTY

Jîiu David, class 5B

It was Jack's birthday and he was very happy. When he woke up, his parents surprised him and came with a cake with the photo of his favourite game on top.

Then, he and his family went to an amusement park where he and his siter had fun. They ate ice cream and relaxed. After the visit to the park, they returned home to dress smartly. It was time to go to a restaurant! At the restaurant, his parents presented him with yet another cake and sang "Happy Birthday!".

His birthday was lovely and, when he went to bed, he thought to himself: "How will my birthday be next year?"

A RAINY BIRTHDAY

Lazu Claudia- Maria, class 5B

It was Jack' s birthday and he was feeling very happy. His friends came to his house to celebrate his birthday. They were dancing to his favourite music. When a heavy rain started, they were sad, but Jack happily ran outside in the rain. They followed him, then played with him.

The drops were starting to get heavier, so they went back into the house and changed out of their wet clothes. Jack's mother then prepared them some hot tea and a fluffy blanket to keep them warm. After they finished their tea, everyone in theroom sang ,,Happy Birthday, Jack". Then his mother cut the cake and they ate it.

This day was one of Jack's most beautiful days with his loved ones.

AN EXTRAORDINARY PARTY

Mocanu Elisa, class 5B

It was Jack's birthday and he was feeling very happy. Surprises were so many and Jack was so amazed. I offered him a jacket, sweets and a T-shirt because it was summer. Jack and I ate chocolate muffins. They were delicious!

Jack sang focus music with te Cameli. They are best friends. All the people danced at the song Jack and Cameli played. The light of the room was multicolory and beautiful!

Jack's birthday was extraordinary!

JACK'S MAGICAL BIRTHDAY

Suceveanu Andrei, class 5B

It was Jack's birthday and he was feeling very happy. Today the Star Wars crew came to his birthday, with a big surprise! Chewbacca welcomed him to the Jedi Alliance where he would fight alongside many characters to defeat Darth Vader, his most famous enemy.

After such a magical battle, Jack returned to Chewbacca, to tell him that he had won.

And finally, Jack invited the crew to eat some cake.

THE SURPRISE

Uţă Antonia, class 5B

It was Jack's birthday and he was feeling very happy. All his friends came and gave him gifts.

They played a lot of games and jumped on the trampoline. After that, they ate pizza and cake. Jack had a lot of fun. At the end of the party he opened the gifts he got, in the presence of his friends. Jack got some money, some clothes and toys.

When he finished, he noticed a weird box. He got closer and opened it. There was a hamster inside. The pet had white fur, black eyes and the top of its ears were a dark grey. Jack was so happy when he saw it that he took it out of the box and showed it to his friends! Everyone told him how cute it was.

As soon as the kids stopped talking, the hamster jumped from Jack's hands onto the shelf. Every kid started panicking and tried to get it down, but nothing seemed to work. The hamster looked at Jack and backflipped on the floor.

After that incident, Jack's friends nicknamed it "The backflipping hamster", but Jack named it Ash because of its ears.

In the end, he and Ash remained the best of friends, backflipping together.

DIFFERENT STORIES, THE SAME ENDING

ENCOURAGEMENT

Berbec Raluca, class 7A

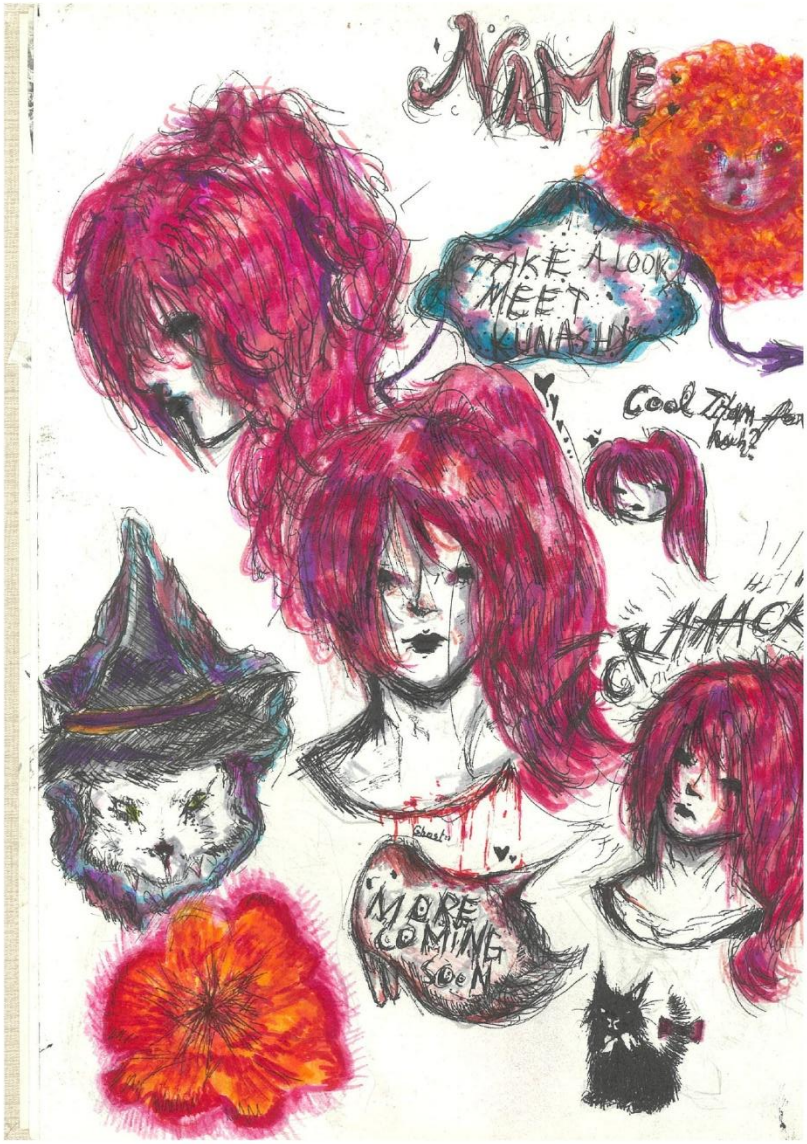
Jessie is known as a young prodigy, whose intelligence and eloquence are simply unmatched. At least that's what everyone say, she remains humble and preoccupied with learning more and better by the day. Her teacher, Miss Lenz, who has been teaching her English ever since Jessie was a little girl, announced that the international English Olympiad will be tomorrow. Jessie, however, was quite worried as she was a foreign student, therefore she had always considered English harder in comparison with other subjects. On the other hand, she also knew she had to study a considerable amount of grammar. Jessie simply couldn't let anyone know she was struggling, and so, she kept her calm façade on and began studying.

By this point, it was already 9 p.m., three hours had passed since she started studying, even so, she found herself in a stressful situationas she could not focus on the task at hand. Every now and then she shifted her gaze towards the clock in her room, and it only seemed to be ticking faster. Jessie let out an exasperated sigh as she now saw the time: 11.30 p.m. She couldn't bear staying awake since her eyelids were only getting heavier and her mother wasn't giving her peace either, constantly telling her to go to sleep, she gave in eventually.

8.a.m. was the time when her alarm went on. In a hurry, she got ready, as she didn't want to risk being late. Whilst her parents were driving, she felt a sudden rush of panick flow through her veins. Before she could even react, the car stopped in front of a well-known school, where the Olympiad took place. Her pals were sweaty as she wandered through the crowded halls, hoping to find the right classroom. Classroom number four, she looked on the list and saw her name – "Jessie Evans". The subjects were given. You might be thinking Jessie was feeling better now, but it only got worse. For some reason, she simply couldn't comprehend what she was reading. To be more straightforward, she didn't know anything. Then, she remembered what Miss Lenz had once told her: "In the midst of movement and chaos, keep stillness inside of you." Jessie

took a deep breath and let her hand run free on the paper, writing what she thought was right, what she subconsciously knew was right.

Two hours had passed and so that meant the Olympiad was over. Everyone dropped their pencils and the papers were already getting taken. Jessie along with everyone else left the classroom, her heart was beating faster than it had ever done, even so, she kept her calm. Jessie ended up having a score of 98 points, which meant she came out first Jessie was happy because she knew she had worked really hard, but she felt even happier that her English teacher was proud of her. To this day, Jessie is aware that, if it hadn't been for Miss Lenz's sayings, she wouldn't have been able to make it this far. It turns out **every cloud has a silver lining**!



Drawing by Berbec Raluca, class 7A

THE TEST

Roşca Cristina, class 7A

It was Monday morning. The prior night Sarah had been studying for the English test, only being able to sleep for a few hours. The test was about to be during the first class.

The alarm didn't go off, so Sarah woke up way too late. There was only an hour left unti she had to be at school. She brushed her teeth, dressed up, made her backpack and ran as fast as she could towards the bus station. She remembered that she had forgotten to learn a whole paragrah for the test, so she started reading it.

A whole half an hour has gone by and the bus finally came. She had time to study a little bit on the bus. When she finally arrived at school she was 20 minutes late. Sara felt extremely embarrassed to enter into the classroom, but, surprisingly, it was empty. A teacher was walking along the hallway.

“Excuse me, can you please tell me why this classroom is empty?" asked Sarah.

"Oh, the English test is going to be take tomorrow, not today." responded the teacher.

Sarah was amazed. Now she had more time to study and all of her worries seemed to be for nothing.

Ever since that day, she always remembers to check her notebook and alarm twice. Also, whenever anything stressful comes into her life, she is always calm, knowing that **every cloud has a silver lining**.

CHRISTMAS INSPIRATION

THE LAST HOPE OF CHRISTMAS

Chiricuță Iulia, class 7A

Once upon a time, people began to doubt the magic of Christmas because of the one and only Santa Claus. Why? you may ask. Because Santa Claus had been fired, people didn't know it yet, but they were about to find out.

In a city in England, more exactely Manchester, there was a small family who truly belived in the magic of Christmas, so they were still very nice, as opposed to those who were beginning to doubt the magic of Christmas.

In this family was Freya, the youngest child, Ivy, her older sister, Grace and Liam, their parents. Freya was 6 years old and a really cheerfull kid who enjoyed playing and telling stories made up in her head, Ivy was 14 years old and a rather moody teenager who valued her friendships more than anything, Grace was a 48 and a pretty strict mom, while Liam was 49 and the opposite of Grace. They all had dark brown hair and brown eyes except Freya who had dark blonde hair and blue eyes.

One day the girls were at school when Evelyn, a girl in Freya's class, started to make fun of her because she made a presentation about Santa Claus. She went to her sister for help, but what she didn't know was that Ivy's best friend's sister was Evelyn, and like I said previously Ivy valued her friedships more tham anything, so, as expected, Ivy did nothing, she didn't try to stop the bullying or talk to her best friend about what Evelyn had done. Freya felt betrayed, as everyone started to laugh at her because she still thought that Christmas was real.

Later in the afternoon the girls came home and Grace saw that Freya had red eyes and was also sad, so she asked her what was wrong, but Freya assured her that nothing was wrong and that she had something stuck in her eyes and Ivy just ignored them and went into the room she shared with her sister. In the evening, their father got home from work and they all had a nice dinner. Freya tried talking to Ivy, but Ivy was too mad because of her sister the whole school knew that her sister was a gullible child and her friend still wouldn't talk to her.

And the months went by without the girls getting in each others business until the night of the Christmas Eve. When the girls were sleeping, Freya heard a noise at her window and went to check it. Ivy was also awake and what they saw left them shocked. At their window was a reindeer, and because Freya has just woken up she though it was a dream, so she opened the window with the intention of getting on the reindeer, but, as she was about to get on the reindeer, her sister pulled her away from the window. She somehow managed to also get Ivy on that reindeer, and by somehow I mean she literally jumped onto the reindeer.

The reindeer took them somewhere with not a lot of people around, right in front of Santa Claus. Freya immediately recognized that man as Santa Claus and she was so excited that she started screaming in Ivy's face about how the magic of Christmas actually existed and that Santa Claus was real. Ivy on the other hand was anxious, because who knew who this man really was and how he had a reindeer as a pet. Santa tried explaining why they were brought here and what exactly had happened, but he couldn't since Freya was too busy screaming and Ivy asking questions, so he used his powers to freeze them. Now that the girls were staying still and listening to him, he told them that he had been fired from his job because he was too grumpy, plus he hadn't done any good things for these past 7 years, so he needed kids to help him get back his job as Santa Claus. If not, people would get meaner and meaner as the days passed.

At Freya's requests, the girls were in Santa's sleigh, trying to help him get his job back. Santa didn't tell them how they would help, he just told them that they would be of much help. Santa opened a portal and they teleported right in front of the courthouse from the North Pole.

As they went into the courthouse, the girls saw penguins as judges and elves as lawyers. The lawyers started showcasing the good and bad acts of Santa Claus, and then it came his turn to defend his actions. So he said something that made everyone shut up. He said that 6 years ago his sister from Earth struggled with having another child, so he made an elf that wouldn't remain small, and left it at his sister's door with an adoption form. Ivy suddenly connected some dots and realised that the child he was talking about was Freya herself, because when she was 8 years old she remembered that her mother also struggled with having another child and finding a baby at her doorsteps, but kept quiet about it.

After that, Santa Claus got his job back and thanked the girls for coming with him, since they had been his last hope. He got them back safe home right through the window that they were taken from. After Santa said his goodbyes, Ivy felt the need to apologize to her sister for not having stood up for her and for having picked her friend over her own sister.They hugged it out and learned that the key to good Christmas memories was kindness.

Drawing by Suceveanu Andrei, class 5B

THE MAGIC WORD

Ene Ştefan Alexandru, class 6B

When you say the word “Christmas”, you imagen a big table with tasty dishes and many people smiling and singing Christmas songs in front of the Christmas tree! Well, now I am going to tell you my Christmas adventure that I lived a year ago!

The day started with opening the Christmas gifts and going to church with my family for an activity where we sang and we recited poems! After that, when I arrived home I found a letter in my Christmas tree that said a house address and the final thing was a big “HO HO HO!”.

I thought my parents made a little joke, but in my childish heart I thought I could meet Santa Claus! In two minutes I called my friends on face time and they had found the same greeting card in the same place, it was as well in the Christmas tree! The next day we decided to go and find the address from the letter! When we arrived, we found out it was a very big house that was colourful and had many ornaments. The front door was huge and there was a great sign that said “SANTA CLAUS TOYS FACTORY”! I was so confused! But Santa wanted us to help him with the gifts, so I was so exited! We knocked at the door and when the door opened I expected to see Santa Claus but I was wrong. The person that welcomed us was an elf, who wasn’t so tall, had a white beard and a small belly. He was very happy when he saw us! He knew what was happening. We introduced ourselves. He said his name was Jolly and he knew many good things about us. He gave many hugs to everyone! After that, he invited us to a little tour. I looked everywhere and I was fascinated about everything! At some point, Jolly the elf clapped three times and a little chest appeared in his palm. He gave it to me, together with a shiny golden key for opening the silver chest. It was the chest of virtues!

Every bauble had a symbolical colour! Jolly invited us to decorate the Christmas tree with all the ornaments that we found in the chest. At that time we sang and laughed! It was a beautiful moment! Jolly told us the meaning of all the ornaments. The first ones represented “LOVE” and the colour of the bauble was red because it represented the love in the family, the love between friends and the love among people. The yellow ones represented happiness. The white angels represented the truth. The pink doves represented friendships. The orange stars represented courage. And the blue

baubles represented loyalty. The green baubles represented generosity. But in the same chest there were some old, broken gray baubles. Jolly showed us those baubles and asked us not to put them in the tree because those represented the LIE. Jolly was very happy and proud of our job! All the ornaments that were put in the tree represented the emotions of Christmas! The star from the top of the tree was the light that gave the power to be good, not just in the days of Christmas, but during the whole year! All these things - happiness, love, friendship, truth, courage, and loyalty - we need them all year round!

After we finished our job of making the Christmas tree, we were very happy and felt like some little children decorating the tree with their family! After some moments, a tall and big person came from the deer shed. It was actually Santa Claus with a big beard as the white snow! And a light red coat and his well-known red hat! He was very happy when he saw us, and he didn't show the attitude of some elderly person - he was actually very relaxed and in a great shape!

When Jolly saw Santa he became very happy, but a little bit nervous. We stayed some time and we spoke about our childhood memories! Some of my favourite moments were when I was in the kindergarten and I wanted sooooo bad to sing a little song to him! Or, when I wanted to see him giving me a present! These were some golden moments, and another thing was the presents! My favourite present was a Lego car and an advent calendar with little chocolates and a football! I remember how nervous I was in my first year of kindergarten, when I sat in my class and heard his voice! When I recited a little poem and he looked at me with a relaxed happy face! You can say Santa Claus is the grandfather of all the children around the world! Every year I prepare him milk and cookies, sometimes a muffin, he said that every year when he comes to my house he likes everything I prepare for him and he remarked that. Every year I don't prepare the same thing! Every year when I make my present list, he brings all that I have dreamt of!"

Suddenly, a bell rang. Ring – Ring ! – Ring – Ring! ... Oh... It was the clock ! It was 8:00 and it was the time for me to wake up, from a dream that seemed to be real. It seems to be a regular school morning were I needed to prepare for a new Monday! But next to the clock I found a nutcracker that held in his hand the little golden key and the letter with the magic word: "THANK YOU!"

A CHRISTMAS TO REMEMBER

Manolache Izabela, class 6A

It was a stormy day like the last few days. Christmas was near and my family still didn't set up the tree. To be frank, I think they never felt like doing that anyway. Not like I cared. I hated Christmas. The only good parts were receiving gifts and the food.

I was laying in bed, looking at the ceiling. Sometimes my bed felt like the only safe place that existed. My hands and feet were cold yet I refused to cover myself with the blanket. I looked at the plush I was holding, my favourite plush, Bill. A smile creeped on my face before disappearing when I heard my mother's voice.

"Sky, we need to go! Get dressed!" My eyes closed in disappointed. I got up and did what she asked me to do. Once done, I went into the hallway. My mum hurried my father and into the car. For context, we were going to my cousin's house for a week to celebrate this holiday.

It was a 2 hour long drive. Once arrived, my aunt and uncle helped us. From the corner of my eye, I spotted my little cousin, Ruby. She notices me and hugs me.

"I missed you! How have you been? I have been great! You won't believe what happened at my school 2 weeks ago." She said before going on a rant. I didn't listen to her story. Ruby snapped her fingers in front of my face.

"Hey, are you even paying attention to me?" I nod. She opened her mouth but closed it as soon as my father called for my help with the packages.

After settling in, I grabbed a cup of water from the kitchen. From my peripheral, I spotted my cousin. She startled me and I almost choked.

"Oh my gosh, are you okay? I didn't mean to scare you. I just wanted to ask you if..." I interrupted her.

"Are you out of your mind? You almost killed me! Whatever you meant to ask, the answer is no. Just.. Just leave me alone!" I angrily slam the cup on the table before I walked away. Why did she always have to be like this? I went into one of the guest rooms and screamed into a pillow. Christmas was supposed to be a fun holiday, to be

spent with the ones you loved. I didn't love them, my family because I didn't feel lived by them. I held my emotions in and grew quiet, hoped someone would've heard my silence, but I only grew quieter until I forgot how to speak.

My mother's voice startled me.

"Are you alright?" she asked, voice warm and radiating, but I felt cold.

"Yes, I'm fine. What do you want?" I don't turn to look at her. There were a few moments of silence until she spoke up.

"Ruby's going to play a song she learnt on the piano. You should come down to hear it." "I can hear it from here, mum." My mum frowned. She stepped near me.

"It would be very impolite of you not to be there for her during this special moment. You wouldn't want to make her sad, would you?" I didn't respond, biting my tongue. "Sky, answer me and look at me!"

"Why is it always her?" I asked, voice barely above a whisper, fists clenched tight. I was holding the rage I felt, the burning hot flame that only kept growing.

"Excuse me?" My mother asked, confused. I turn to face her, tears running down my cheeks.

"I asked why it's always her. Didn't you hear me?" My eyes were bloodshot red.

"That's absurd! What kind of question is that? You're my child. I care about you." "Don't tell me you care if you don't even care when I need comfort and reassurance the most. Why don't you tell me the truth? I don't want anymore lies."

My mother started to yell back at me. "Don't you raise your voice at me, young lady! You can either go downstairs, be happy and listen to Ruby play or you can stay up here alone and be miserable. Your choice."

I opened my mouth but the words didn't come out. I turned away form her. She took that as a no. "You've made your choice. Don't come crying to me when you feel bad" she said before slamming the door shut.

I felt my head pulse from anger and disappointed. She was my mother. She was supposed to nurture me, take care of me, but all I ever felt was the painful gap between

us. I never felt like her daughter, as if I belonged to the stars. Maybe that is where I belonged, the galaxy. The universe, full of chaos yet peace, creating the perfect balance between them. I took deep breaths, trying to calm down.

What felt like hours were actually a few minutes before Ruby finished playing the song. Why couldn't I be like her? She was so optimistic all of the time. Her smile always left an indelible mark on everyone's hearts.

Somebody knocked door. Cracking it a jar, I saw Ruby peek in.

"Hey." I say in a cold tone. "Hey" She responds. We sat in silence, tension so thick you could've cut it with a knife.

"Are you alright? You seem sad." "Wow, what gave it away?" I whispered sarcastically. She sat next to me, looking with pity at me. I wished she didn't though.

"Sky, answer me truthfully, do you hate me?" "What?" "Do you hate me?" She repeats. I took some time to answer. I didn't want to hurt her feelings. It felt as if my own mouth was betraying me. "No"

"I don't believe you. Whatever I did, I'm sorry. I just want to be like you." "Well, let me tell you this, Ruby. That's a horrible wish." She visibly deflated. Unfortunately, she wasn't giving up on me easily. She hugged me tight. I struggled against her before I heard her soft sobs. I stop and pat her head awkwardly.

"I was so excited to spend Christmas with you! I don't understand" Guilt overwhelmed me. Maybe I could compensate my mistake. I shush her, trying to calm her down. After a while, we ended up embracing each other in silence.

We got called down to get our presents form under the Christmas tree. I felt nervous . Ruby grabbed my hand, urging me to go on, be brave. After all, they were family. I looked at them and finally saw their true selves for the first time. Joyful, loving, caring. How could I have bene so blind? I happily unwrapped my gifts, burning with excitement. I didn't get much, but I didn't mind considering the fact that no amount of gifts could suffice to the gift of love. Seems like the key to all of this was compassion as always. Maybe Christmas isn't so bad after all. I'll always remember this day.

PIRATE JANE'S GOLDEN KEY TO CHRISTAMS MEMORIES

Nuţu Maia Violeta, class 6A

Hi there, my new friend,

I'm pirate Jane and this story is about a little secret that I have. No one knows about it, because it's special.

Every kid waits for Christmas, for the presents, for Santa, but their parents want memories. None of the adults forgets what happened that day, and most of the kids ask "How is your memory so good?". Well, without The Golden Key, no one will remember anything. Of course now you're asking "What is the Golden Key ?". Well, The Golden Key is a special pirate instrument that lets us (the pirates) close humans minds so the memories won't get out. Also, the key can open people's minds and let them see their own memories. But there is a strict rule: The Golden Key can be used only on the 24 or 25 of December.

And now, the real story begins.
This year a new guy became a pirate. His name is Adam. He is a bit dumb, but he's a chill guy. I taught him what a pirate should do, and I showed him The Golden Key. At first he thought that the key was normal, but I told him the hole story about it. His training to become a pirate took him 6 months, because he didn't like to learn. It was almost Christmas, and we had a lot of chores.

Everyone knows that the pirates have big ships and they sail around the world. However, this pirates don't need a big ship, they already have a magical key that can transform into a floating ship.

The 24 of December, what a beautiful day... For a human, for a pirate not really. Me and my friend Adam need to concentrate, so everyone gets to see their memories until the 26 of December. We have two days available.

First, we went to a family with four members and we opened their memory chest. There were a lot of Christmas memories. Once, the kids baked a cake and, on the 25th, they gave it to their parents. How adorable! Another time, the parents bought tickets for a Christmas movie, and took the kids to the mall.

Then, the funniest memory was Jimmy's. When we first went to his house, everything was messy. There were soda cans and bottles on the floor, the light bulb from the living room was broken, his toilet was clogged and the TV was smashed. We had to search through his miserable house. After 5 hours of hard work, we finally found the memory chest. We opened it. He kept a picture of his family. No one was standing still, so the picture came out very funny. Next time we went over, Jimmy fell over the Christmas tree…Very funny!!!

There were lots of houses besides Jimmy's!

Finally, we went to a house that really scared us. Street 4, house number 4… There lived an old lady with her cat. Adam started playing with the kitten. "What a real pirate, very focused". While he was playing, I had to work, so I asked the woman where is her memory chest and she said "I don't have a memory chest". After hearing this, we were both shocked. "That's impossible!"

We asked the woman if she can search for the chest, but she said she had none in her house. We searched in her mind. We found nothing. But then…a small, little chest showed up. We opened it. There was a single memory. The memory was with two kids. The first was red-haired, like the woman and the other had black hair. They gave presents to each other. The boy gave a doll to the girl and she gave him a book. They hugged each other and said good bye, because they knew they will never meet again. Adam and I started to cry. What a sad story. We had to do something about it. Pirates never give up. So, we took the Golden Key and we told it to bring us to the boy from the memory. He wasn't too far, so we reached to his house before Christmas. We told him about the memory and he agreed to accompany us to the old lady's place. They didn't remember each other, but when we showed him the flashback, his memories came back: the two of them were best friends a long time ago. They decided never to part again.

That was the best Christmas ever. We made a lot of people happy and Adam got promoted as a real pirate. I felt very proud of myself that day.

I hope that you won't tell anyone about our little secret.

Now let's close your mind with the Golden Key… See you next year!

Lots of love, pirate Jane!

BACK IN TIME THROUGH THE MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS

Pascu Matei, class 6B

It was a very nice day of December.

It was snowing outside, and, because of this, there was a magnificent landscape. I love the Christmas atmosphere because it gives a certain peace of mind, it is very beautiful and it helps you focus. Back then, it was a day like this, I was sitting in the house, covered with my very warm blanket and a mug of the best hot chocolate ever in my hand. I could have stayed there all day, it was that confortable.

Suddenly, the bell rang, it took me a few minutes to get up, but in the end I succeeded. Once at the door, I opened it, only to see the delivvery man. He handed me a package and said it was already paid for. I was really excited to find out what was in it. Suddenly my phone rang, it was my mother. She asked me if I had eaten, I said ”yes”, impatiently I started tell her what had happened. She asked me to wait until my sister came home, so she could enjoy the unwrapping process as well. I accepted. I went back to my blanket and started watching TV. Finally, after a long time of waiting, my sister came home. I immediately notified her about the mystery bow and she said, she did not know anything. Excited, we started. At the beggining, there was a big box, inside which was another box, then another and so on. After a long time of unpacking, I arrived at a small box, it was the size of the palm of my hand. Inside there was a blue clock with a print that looked exactly like outer space, full of stars. I really liked it, I put it on my hand and noticed it was not set to the right time. I asked my sister what time it was - it was 1:30.Trying to set it, I pressed the wrong button and suddenly, I noticed that the time froze and a portal opened in front of me.

Out of childish curiosity, I entered the huge hole that appeared. There I saw many things that seemed familiar to me, realizing that they were my own memories. Advancing through the crated universe, I saw how the last thing that appeared was a memory of the age of dinosaurs! Excited by what I discovered, I wanted to enter that dimension. Once inside, the first thing I met was a dinosaur eating leaves. I went closer because I knew it would not hurt me, I had read this in a dinosaur book when I was younger. Happy that I managed to get to see this view, I sat down on some grass to continue admiring the scenery. All of a sudden, I heard a noise - it was a giant T-Rex...

He did not seem too happy to see me! I started running as fast as I could. After I got rid of it, I tried to activate the clock. It worked. The portal opened, but after I entered ,the fierce dinosaur entered with me. Worried, I started looking for a plan to stop it. The first idea that came to my mind was to send it back to where it had come from, but I realized that it would not do it willingly. I thought I would make it fight something, while I ran back to the real world. But it was not a good idea, because I would have unleashed another creature and they could both enter the other realms. Finally, I looked around and saw that among the other realms, there was also the ice age.

So I came up with the plan to go there, find a mammoth from that time and, if somehow I could pet it, make it fight the dinosaur to force it to go back to the age of the dinosaurs. I knew that a mammoth had the advantage of large horns, while a dinosaur had small hands. Now I could only hope that the plan would work. Arrived in the frozen land, I very quickly found a mammoth. I took it back and it chased the dinosaur back to his family. Now I just had to get it back to its own family, before I went back to mine too. I said goodbye and went home.

When I got home, my sister was very happy to see me safe and sound. After all that had happened, we decided that we had better take the batteries out of the watch and put it back in the box, to prevent this from happening again. I asked my sister not to tell my mother about it and she agreed. After all this incident, everything went back to normal.

Despite this, it was still the best Christmas ever, I do not think it will be one better than this one!

CHRISTMAS HERE, THERE AND EVERYWHERE

Puia Darius-Iulian, class 5B

My name is Darius and I am 11 years old. In December there are lot of holidays that we kids wait, like, Grandfather Nikolas, Santa Claus and New Year. We have a lot of traditions for Christmas that we try to keep every year.

I and my family like winter holidays very much and we wait eagerly for Christmas to come. In our family we decorate the tree much earlier than others. I and my father decorate the tree while my mother prepares the Christmas food and we listen to Christmas songs. I'm a drummer and the last day before Christmas I play some Christmas songs. Also my parents give it a try, too. It is so much fun!

On Christmas Eve, I and my mother bake some cakes and cookies for Mr. SANTA CLAUS. Before I go to bed, I put the cookies and a glass of milk near the tree. The next day we wake up very early to see the presents. An important habit that we have on Christmas is to exchange gifts that Santa gave us. Christmas is a holiday with peace and quiet. It is a holiday when we need to give more things. Sometimes I and my family go out to help the poor people and even become friends with them. After we are done with the presents, we go to my grandmother's to eat. On holiday, I and my friends go carolling together to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Last year, we spent our Christmas at Sovata, somewhere in the mountains, with our friends and family. On the way there, it started snowing with big snowflakes that were flying in the air really hard. We stopped at the first gas station to take some photos and had a snow fight. On the way you see a lot of cool houses, decorations more and more beautiful. After we got there we started to put our things in place, but after twenty minutes we got ready and went outside to make a snowman and play with firecrackers and fireworks and went down hill with the snow board.

In the morning we went downstairs to see the presents that SANTA CLAUS had brought to us. We rushed to get our presents. We were very happy to see what we got. After we arrived, a lot of people started to go downhill. After all that we needed to go home so we did two more rides, one with my father and one with my mom. Every Christmas is unique for everybody - it depends how we want to spend it. This time of the year is full of joy and happiness. And we need to be happy of what we get.

A VERY WEIRD CHRISTMAS EVE

Stoian Anastasia, class 7A

Once upon a time, on what seemed like a normal Christmas Eve day, at the orphanage there were two twins, a boy named Patrick and his sister Josephine. All the children were happy and preparing the goods for Santa Claus. With the help of the workers there, the children prepared gingerbread men, only if they knew what would happen later.

Josephine was 11 years old and a very beautiful girl, with long dark hair, fair skin, long dark eyelashes, pink lips and big brown eyes. She had a very aspiring personality and always saw the good side in the people she met. Patrick was also 11 years old, had long, curly, dark hair, very big brown eyes and beautiful freckels. He was a very brave and wise boy who would do anything to keep his sister safe.

The night came, it was peaceful and snowy outside and all the children were sleeping, waiting for the next morning to see what Santa Claus had brought them.When all of a sudden, Josephine heard a strange noise from the cafeteria, the place where the gingerbread men were placed for Santa. She was way too scared to go investigate on her own, so she woke up her brother, who was very confused at first and didn't want to get out of bed. In the end, he agreed and they both went to see what was going on in the cafeteria.

A couple of minutes passed by and they saw a very small thing, that looked very angry. It was completely magical. The twins were very confused and didn't think that the small thing, which turned out to be a gingerbread man, would harm them in any way possible. They were wrong. The next second, when they were not expecting it, one of the gingerbread men opened a portal that got the children to a weird place, the Grinch's house. The Grinch was a weird creature that despised Christmas and all the happiness that came with it. He said that it was a very stupid holiday that brought crazy people together doing crazy stuff, but deep down he knew he was like this only because he had no one by his side and had a very sad life with no friends.

Both of them were very scared and confused and all they wanted to do was to go home in their warm cozy bed with all their friends, but instead they were stuck in a scary house with a creature that hated Christmas and happiness.

The next moment, they heard a very deep and scary voice… It was The Grinch. He told the twins to dress up as elves and enter Santa Claus's workshop, the place where all the toys were being made for the children or else bad things would happen. The Grinch's plan was simply to make Santa suffer and fail at his job of delivering presents, to stop happiness from spreading around.

Patrick and Josephine listened to The Grinch because they were very scared, but they knew that Santa would not let that happen and that he would try his best to make every child happy, as kindness was the key to living a life full or harmony and peace. Later on, when they arrived at Santa's place, they didn't think they would have the courage to tell Santa and the elves the truth. They were wrong, indeed. Santa and the elves were very understanding and they all made up a plan to defeat The Grinch.

Their plan was actually very simple and on point, they just wanted to confront The Grinch and help him understand that he was wrong and that everyone deserved to be happy with their families and friends. Of course they also had a backup plan, let's just say, you don't want to know how aggressive the elves could be… But hopefully there would be no need for that.

They wasted no time and headed straight up to the Grinch's place. Santa Claus talked with him and he agreed to stop hating at Chritmas. He also admitted that the only reason he was like this was because he had no one by his side, and didn't know how happiness felt.

Josephine and Parick were then transported back home to the orphanage in Santa's sleigh. It was an unforgettable experience, seeing all the houses and cities decorated with colourful lights! At the end of their trip, Santa gave the twins 2 wishes, one for each of them. They both wished that a family would adopt them and that they would finally be truly happy. The moment they stepped into their room, they immediately fell asleep because of how tired they were. Little did they know that in the morning they would have the biggest surprise of their lives. The woman that was taking care of them woke the children up and told them that a very nice lady with her husband had adopted both of them! Finally their wish had come true!…

In the end, both twins, but also The Grinch, learned a very important lesson: kindness really is the key to pretty much everything.

NO NEED FOR A GIVEN TOPIC

ENTRY 1

Manolache Izabela, class 6A

Mabel encouraged me to write my feelings and Dipper told me to note down anything important in this journal. So here I am writing in this old, empty book.

My name is Bellatrix Yin Galaxy. I run a witch shop with my younger sister, Yang Willow Galaxy, and I find the strange fascinating.

This summer, my sister and I have moved here because we needed a break from the city. By coincidence, our cousins, Dipper and Mabel, were spending their summer vacation with their great uncle Stan.

Dipper was anxious yet brave . I admire that. Not many kids have courage like him. Mabel is artsy and full of whimsy. I wouldn't be surprised if she was full of glitter and happiness instead of blood and organs. Stan is... something for sure. He was unlucky his whole life and lived as a conman. I honestly respect that. My sister is similar to Mabel with a few differences. And me? Well, since I was younger, I have always attracted the strange. Take that as you will.

Anyways, introductions closed. The reason I'm writing in this journal is because I saw a strange, ancient writing. Can't remember where, but I took a photo of it. It goes like this:

"Sixty degrees that split apart,

A shattered world, a bleeding heart.

Born from lies, forged in flame,

No one stayed. They cursed his name.

He smiled wide. He cracked the sky.

He lit the stars just to watch them die.

But then she came. She didn't run.

She saw the fire—and called it "fun."

She kissed the match. She held the flame.

She didn't flinch. She spoke his name.

Not as a curse. Not as a plea.

But like it meant—

He could still be."

Sounds like an ancient prophecy, but then again a drunk Gravity Falls citizen could've written that. So who knows? I wonder who they were talking about. I'll search it up later.

REMINDER TO SELF: Return Dipper's journal back or else he'll throw a plaidypus at you, again.

(Yes, plaidypus exists. It's a platypus made out of plaid. It's terrifingly cute.)

DAUGHTER OF SHADOWS, HEART OF LIGHT

Moise Maria Bianca, class 6A

Everyone thinks they know who I am. Bellatrix—fierce, cold, loyal to Gramorr. His apprentice. His weapon. His *daughter*. But they only see what he made me. Not who I really am.

Yes, I was raised in the darkest corners of Ephedia, trained to conquer, to crush, to obey. Gramorr taught me that emotions were chains, that loyalty was power, and that love was for fools. And for a long time, I believed him—because what else did I have? But something changed. Or maybe... *someone* did.

Iris. She's everything I'm not supposed to be drawn to. Light where I'm shadow. Hope where I was made of fear. She should be my enemy—the rightful heir to a throne my father tried to steal. But every time we clash, I feel something shift. Not just in the air, not just in my magic... but in me. She fights with fire and heart. She protects, she forgives, she *believes*. And somewhere, in the silence between our battles, I started to wonder... What if I'm not meant to follow him? What if I could be more than the role I was forced into? What if I could stand *with* her?

I know I've done things—things I regret, even if I'll never admit it out loud. The Princesses have every reason to hate me. Iris has every reason to push me away. But when I look at her... I want to be better. Not for Gramorr. Not for redemption. For *me*. For the girl I could have been, if someone had shown me the stars instead of the shadows. And maybe—just maybe—for the one girl who makes me believe I still have a future beyond the dark.

THE BESTIES♥

Nuţu Eva Gabriela, class 3A

Lana-Strawberry is the princess from the Fruitful Fashion Kingdom. She is a very beautiful princess. Of course, her parents, Alex-dragon fruit and Penny-lemon, are very rich and powerful, but they're also kind and perfect like their daughter. She has got a lot of friends but her best friend is Lina-Watermellon. And Julie-Blueberry.

One day, she goes with her friends to pick flowers and berries. In the evening Julie-Blueberry said:

''Let's go home, girls! I don't want to sleep here!''

But Lana-Strawberry said:

''Please...Let's stay here more! Just ten minutes...Please...''

''Ok''

The girls stayed there for a long time. Julie said:

''Can we go now! It's midnight!''

''No, it's just...TWELVE O'CLOCK!''

''Yes!''

''We need to go home!''

But then Lina said:

''Um...first...where are we? I think you know Lana!''

''Well...no''

''Well...NO?!''

''Yes...''

''What are we going to do?''

''I don't know!''

''Well let's stay calm...''

''No Julie! We can't stay calm!''

‘’But we have food you know…?’’

‘’No we haven’t…!’’

‘’Actually we have-‘’

‘’We have the berries!’’

‘’Ugh…’’

The girls ate and went to find a place to sleep. They found some leaves, then, with them, they made three pillows and a blanket. The next day the girls wanted to go home. But now they are separated. Let me tell you what happened.

First Lana said:

‘’Why are you so obsessed with me?’’

Then Lina said:

‘’Ok! If you think you are the best…Then bye bye girl! I’m going to be on my way, you on your’s and Julie on her’s. Ok?’’

‘’Yes…’’

‘’Yes!’’

Lana goes by instincts, Lina by the sun and the sounds and Julie goes by strategy. At the end of the day Lana was there, Lina was there and Julie was of course there too. They understood that arguing is very childish for their age…and they became back besties, for ever, and they celebrate with cupcakes.

THE DRAGON QUEEN

Nuţu Maia Violeta, class 6A

In the very old past, they said there lived a powerful creature, who controlled the 4 elements: fire, water, earth and air, but also the weather. No one ever saw this creature. For the people back then, it was a god. Although they didn't see it, the people thought the creature looked like a dragon.

On a stormy night, a child was born. The little baby had a mark on his neck. The mark looked like a tattoo with a dragon holding the 4 elements in his hands. Her mother got shocked. She knew the story about the creature, and even more about it than anyone else. She knew that her kid was chosen by the dragon to become the next queen.

As the years passed, the girl became more beautiful and intelligent. She learned to wield a sword and to ride a horse. She found out that she can control the weather, so she preferred to stay calm, so it wouldn't rain or storm. She was happy most of the time, and the weather was beautiful. But sometimes she was getting out of control.

One night, a mysterious figure appeared in the girl's room, and said:

"Ji-Woo, you must come with me."

The girl looked confused in the eyes of the being. Then, she wrote a note for her mom, she let it on the bed and left with the appearance.

When they stopped, they were in front of a huge palace in the sky. There, the girl looked at the creature. It was a dragon. Yes, an actual dragon. She asked him if he knew about the mark on her neck. He said it was a symbol from the god of dragons, his brother. His name was Hyun-Woo, and his brothers name was...

A thunder interrupted them. It was the king. He was mad. Hyun-Woo told the girl that she is the only one who is able to speak to the king, while looking into his eyes.

"But it's harder than it looks to go to the king", spoke Hyun-Woo. Only a dragon can fly to him. And you are just a girl."

Sad, she looked down.

“Though, I can train you to become like a dragon: agile, strong and even teach you how to fly.”

Happy, she thanked the dragon and hugged him. From that day, the girl started training with the dragon.

First, she had to remember the king's long name: Myung Hye Gong Jae-Won Dong. Pretty unique. After 5 repetitions she succeeded. Then, she had to learn how to fight, but she already knew that, so she went to the next step.

Now, finally, the dragon transformation. She had to become a dragon to fly. So, she searched all along the sky to find ingredients for the dragon potion. And when she found them, Ji-Woo was very happy, and Hyun-Woo was proud of her. He made the potion, she drank it and transformed into a dragon.

“Now you must fly all the way to the king, and he will know what to do, said Hyun-Woo.”

Ji-Woo took her position and flew of the ground. She really was in the sky, like a dragon.

When she arrived at the king she looked deeply into his eyes and said:

“I'm here Mr. Myung Hye Gong Jea-Won Dong.”

“I can see that. And… Are you ready?”

“Ready for what?”

“Ready to become the dragon queen.”

“Hm… Yes! That sounds interesting.”

Now the only thing she had to do was to grab the magical crystal of the 4 elements. And that’s exactly what she did.

Poof! She became the dragon queen. Not very hard. And that was it. Or it wasn’t.

To be continued…

THE REALM OF FAIRY TALES

THE BIG KINGDOM

Băjenaru Răzvan Andrei, class 6B

I made my worst decision ten years ago, when I and my army tried to attack a very big castle...

That day, we decided to attack because we wanted our territory to grow bigger. Little did we know how powerful their army was! We kept fighting since that day until I went to talk to a witch in a forest in order to ask for her help. She accepted on one condition: I had to bring her the heart of a dragon. So I and some of my bravest soldiers went to fight the dragon. After two months, we managed to kill it and took its heart. Happily, not a single soldier of mine died!

When the witch got the heart of the dragon, she gave me a very powerful weapon. The weapon worked and we won the war, but when I returned home I found my family was killed – that was how the weapon could be charged! Ever since that moment, I have refused to go out of my castle. I keep asking myself: “Did I really need to make my kingdom bigger?”

RUBELLA'S EYES

Berbec Raluca, class 7A

Everything started in the winter of 1876, when I was just sixteen years old. Being the King's daughter meant a fancy life full of extravagant yet beautiful dresses and eating the most delicious and expensive pastries and so on. Though all of these things never amazed me, I was grateful, but not happy. But I know someone who sure is: my older sister. Her name is Frieda and mine's Historia.

Everyone always loved Frieda because she looked like our mother, who dies when we were only children, the reason being unknown to this day, at least to us. Her long blonde hair that was always kept up by a gold jewelry, and her rosy lips, it all belonged to our mother. I was never told I looked like her, I resembled my father more, whose beauty wasn't as appreciated as my mother's. My father's face would always light up when he happened to see Frieda, but as soon as he saw me, it would sadden and he could not look me in the eyes, something I never understood.

I had recently discovered that my mother's name was Rubella, the maids told me that, to which I could not help but think about it and the meaning, I never found out.

Today was the day the Queen was chosen, and because of this, we as princesses and the so-called decisions had to doll up. With the help of our maids I chose a green, simple, yet gorgeous dress, while my sister chose a blue one that complemented her eyes. I let my black hair down and put on some long boots that were covered by my dress.

Soon enough we were requested by the King's huge throne, to which we obliged. My spot was always on the left, and so I looked to my right, where the other young lass stood. Her lips curled up into a spiky grin. Our father sat wisely on the throne, the room falling into a deafening silence. The royal court was full of people from the village. The King then spoke. My eyes widened as I heard my name being announced as the Queen. The crowd was shocked, despite that, they began to applaud, and I saw my sister's smile drop. My father then turned to me and spoke. "You have your mother's eyes. She would have wanted you to be the Queen." He finally looked me in the eye with tears running down his face, then handed me the crown. I was left utterly speechless.

Everything changed after I became Queen. There weren't any homeless people anymore, everyone had food to eat and was provided with clothes that kept them warm in the merciless winter. Everything was done at my orders, and instead of buying a ridiculous ammount of fancy things that we didn't need, like Frieda would have done, I wanted to help, like my mother would have done. As I was sitting on the throne one day, the maid that had raised my mother looked at me and said: "She would be so proud of you!" I smiled gently, a small yet genuine smile. I then looked at my reflection in the crown that rested on my lap and looked at my own green eyes, Rubella's eyes!

DREAM OR REALITY?

Caraman-Bancu Luca-Adrian, class 6B

In my kingdom, the Kingdom of the Seven Seas, everybody lives their dream, and so do I! Every day, I go to people's houses and make sure everything is all right.

Let me introduce myself and tell you how I got to be the king.

Everything started a long time ago, when the Seven Seas Kingdom's King, named Alexander the First, was going to Valressia Mountain. There lived a terrible witch called Miranda that loved causing pain and chaos. King Alexander alomg with hundreds of soldiers wanted to stop Miranda. Of course they couldn't do that... The King always claimed "If one can destroy hundreds, hundreds can destroy one."

Our brave men and soldiers left the kingdom at midnight and surprised Miranda. At first, she just spelled some strange words. Everybody stayed still, in curisity. A terrifying cloud appeared outside, in the skull forest, and trapped everyone. Pretty astute, right? Sadly, this was the end for them...

Two years later, I was born. My mom, Queen Redstorm, named me Percy, like Zeus's kid. Tragically for me, both parents died, so I became the new King. My people took care of me. I grew up with them. We are like brothers and sisters. Thirty years later, I am still here, looking out for my people. I love them and my kingdom. We live happily.

All good, but one night I dreamed that Miranda and the White Dragon were destroying my "home". I sweat and struggled to wake up. In the morning, a young lady told me something like "You won't get rid of Miranda!". She laughed and went away.

Everything in my kingdom has a precise schedule that repeats itself. I mean I don't have a lot of "new things" every day. But one day, Miranda appeared, so I panicked and had my people evacuated, so they could be safe!

I woke up in a cozy room, in a comfortable bed, no longer being a king... My parents hugged me and told me I had had a nightmare. Only a bad dream.. Yet, at my window, there was the White Dragon, along with Miranda, looking at me!

THE DECISION

Chiricuţă Iulia, class 7A

I woke up hearing crying and screaming – it was crazy that waking up and hearing such things had become a normality to me. It hadn't always been like this, one month ago I was the Queen of a realm hidden by humans and now I'm just a prisoner, forced to watch my people suffer from the tortures the humans make us go through.

I was currently in my cell, thinking about how this had happened. I still remember the day I found out our realm was discovered because someone from the palace had made a deal with the humans. What that person didn't know was that he had made a stupid mistake because he was the first one to be killed by the humans. It pained me to know that somjenone so dear to me had betrayed the whole realm, but I had to get over it really fast and come up with a plan to escape.

For the past month, I had learned the humans' schedule. I had learned the time they switched positions, so every guard would get at least four hours of sleep. I had also learned some ways to two secret passages. The only problem was that I didn't have a means of communicating with any of my people, as they had put me in a cell and I had no idea when they took people to torture them. That meant I didn't know when I could escape and also bring some people with me.

I had thought avbout talking to some of my people while we got tortured, but they never took me, well, they did, but not to torture, they just asked me questions like "How can we get to the gold room? or "Why can't we enter the palace?", they even asked me why I refused to cooperate. I never answered any of their questions, and I knew my people wouldn't talk either, as they had sworn loilaty to me. And even if the humans somehow managed to find out how to enter the palace and get to the gold room, they couldn't because they needed my permission to enter, which I would never give!

After some hours, it was my turn to get "tortured", and while walking to the torture room, we got past some cells and I saw my people lying on the cold surface. That was the moment something inside me told me to get everyone out of there as soon as possible. As I was sitting in the torture room, getting asked questions I refused to answer, with the last of my strength, I used my mind control power and every single one of them fell into a deep sleep. I was weak, but I still stood up from the chair and took a

pair of keys; the humans thought that only the animals from our realm had magic powers – the joke's on them, as every single one of us has magic powers, but we are too weak to use them since we aren't fed properly.

I quickly ran to the cells and let out some of my trusted men and women. In total, we werev five, so we could move more easily and quickly. I told them about what had happened and about the passages, and then we were off. I noticed that one of us had remained behind because she was too weak, so I went to her and helped her.

We got to the passages and decided to separate because we didn't exactely knew if one of the passages had a dead end or not. I went with my best friend and a man to the first passage, while the other two men went to the second one.

After a lot of running, we finally got out of the palace were keeping us and started hugging each other and crying. Our joy was put to an end when we heard some sounds close to us and we started running until we found a cave where we could spend the night. It was cold and we were hungry, yet we had to wait until morning to be able to leave the cave. We wanted to get back to our realm so we could find the pixies and ask them for help. We were sure that they hid well.

The next day we set off and managed to get to our realm. I was surprised to see that there wasn't much damage for our realm, that meant they were more preoccupied with getting into the castle. We went into the gold room, as the pixies usually stayed there. But it wasn't the pixies that we found in the gold room, it was the humans – more precisely humans fully armed. I didn't understand how they had got there, but then I saw something that I hadn't expected: it was the person who had betrayed me and who I believed to be dead!

We didn't have a way out, I was about to die with my best friend and my trusted friend right into my home. It was tragic, but then came an offer! They said that they would let me and my two friends leave and go into hiding for the rest of our lives if I make one of them a king. It was a hard decision, I couldn't just let everyone die and go away with my friends, but it was so tempting that I finally accepted...

I grabbed my friends and ran – I felt bad about letting everyone else behind, but I had to save myself and my friend...

TOUGH CHOICE

Chiriţă Petru David, class 7A

Today I woke up having a great feeling about the day that was about to come. Then I did my morning routine and sat down on my throne. As the king of Cylurscape, a technologically advanced kingdom, I had a lot of work to do. I have received a note from a great musician who asked me to be allowed to come on stage in the local amphiteatre. I agreed, as it seemed a good idea.

The day of the show was a cold and rainy Monday. I had a seat in the front row and the performance turned out to be excellent. People loved it and the artist became our official musician. The following day I received a note from our “next-door” kingdom. They accused us of having stolen their greatest musician and declared war!

I didn’t know what to do... On the one hand, if I didn’t accept the war declaration, we would be seen as a weak kingdom. On the other hand, I didn’t want anyone to get hurt. Yet, there wasn’t any peaceful way out of it. I spoke to a lot of people, including peasants, I even stayed up all night to think about the consequences and what option to pick.

In the end, I picked the peaceful option so that no one would get hurt. I paid some money to the kingdom who had declared war, as I consider that lives are more important that anything else. At the end of the day, I can finally sleep peacefully.

MY KINGDOM

Constantin Carla Alessia, class 6B

My kingdom is huge. It is very bright and it is coloured in pink and gold. It is not an ordinary kingdom, as it lies in the clouds, surrounded by a lot of stars.

Everyone is happy and creative. They make new recipes and interesting robots: for example, yesterday a woman invented a robot named Star because it had a star on its metalic paw. I like what my people do, and they love me, their Queen, because I give away things that I have in my room or in my basement.

My kingdom has animals and plants, too. It has pink trees and colourful flowers. The animals are rare and have special powers. My friends are some fairies that are really nice to me. They have stars on their wings!

I have just made a decision regarding my kingdom. I will make them feel happier, I will give them ideas on what to create and I will visit my people more often because they might need some help. I will also make some changes about what my kingdom looks like. I will have a painter paint some walls with clouds, stars, moons and rainbows. I will have benches installed and have a builder make a bridge to connect us to the real world.

My people will study more about geometry, astronomy and Greek mythology. I want them to have more knowledge than they do now. I will also have signs installed, informing everyone that stealing is against the law.

We will have so much fun! I would like to find out my people's opinion on what I've said so far. I have a feeling they will agree with me!

PERFECTION IN A KINGDOM

Cristu Ionuţ Gabriel, class 7A

I like to take my dog for a walk and make new friends. I like helping people and making them laugh and smile every day. When the night comes, I go out and explore every shop and every house that is new in the kingdom. When I make a new friend, I always ask him what a perfect kingdom for him means, as any feedback helps me improve our kingdom.

At the time speaking, new shops open every day. The palace is the most beautiful building and all the people stop to admire its structure. When the sun rises, I start my day by asking the villagers what their problems are and help them fix any issue along the way.

My dream kingdom is the one where every villagers works hard for best results and the shop sellings increase every day. For the time being, I want to increase the shops' income in order to make the owners rich and happy, because everyone fights to earn money, to become rich and popular in our kingdom.

The kingdom's currency is called "cillager coin" and it is very difficult to get if you don't work hard and if you are not fair. All the people in the village are very skilled at what they do and very friendly with the travellers.

This is how I would rule a kingdom if I ever had the chance to rule one.

THE RULER

Ene Ştefan Alexandru, class 6B

I'm the only king in the Napolitanian Kingdom. We are the greatest kingdom in the universe! You will get to know me after I introduce myself: I'm King Alex... yes, it's boring, but ... I'm the king that has raised a continent by himself and I raised a population and I gave them everything I only to create a kingdom from a simple tree!Yes, it'a a tree kingdom – a kingdom in a tree of about one million kilometres.

I felt totally frustrated about the fact that my best friend, who was a big help for me, created a kingdom by himself as well. Its name was the South-East Continent and it hosted the most dangerous people in the universe. The place was so dangerous that King Luke, my friend, needed to build some borders just because everyone stole candy from everyone! Candy? You will think that's some sort of a joke, but in this universe payment was made in candy.

On a very bad day, the South-East border was destroyed by the red men. They were the population of the South-East Kingdom. And the worst came very fast because a candy war started... Luke and I decided to help our teams, yet it wasn't enough. After that day, my kingdom stole half of the South-East Continent's candy gold.

That night I decided to help my team mates, or, how I call them in our language, 'lads", to give all the candy to the red men. I made an agreement with Luke and our kingdom has found peace. That night I felt as if I needed to make a big decision!

PEACE OR WAR?

Gerea Alexandru Nicolae, class 6A

In a kingdom with a lot of problems and unusual things happening, there need to be a king who can handle all of that and, fortunately, that's me, King Alex.

Today is a very important day and you might be asking why. Well, today is the day I and my enemy, King Arthur, decide if we continue or stop the war between us. It was around 1 p.m. when I went to pay King Arthur a visit. He's a very smart person and he's also strong, but he cannot be trusted. His kingdom is way richer and more powerful than mine, and his army is way bigger!

When I arrived, we talked for a while and found out we had a common enemy that went by the name of Martin. Even though Arthur couldn't be trusted, I decided to ally with him and defeat King Martin.

A few days later, I and King Arthur prepared our armies and went to fight King Martin. King Arthur sent me a letter telling me he would meet me there. You are about to find out why in a bit...

When I reached King Martin's kingdom, I was surprised to see King Artur's and King Martin's armies together! That's when I realised they had formed an alliance against me! They started rushing towards me with their now unstoppable unified army. I managed to escape, but my army didn't... With no army left, I was an easy target, and my only chance was my friend, King Lewis.

Lewis was well-known for scamming and betraying his friends and allies, yet I had to trust him as my only hope. How wrong I was!... After some talking and convincing, he agreed to help me take down King Arthur and King Martin, only to betray me when we reached Martin's kingdom. They trapped me... Now, with no escape and no army of my own, I decalred myself defeated. I'm telling you: don't trust anyone!

THE DRAGON

Geru Daria Maria, class 7A

I am Queen Iris and I do my best to keep the people who love me safe throughout the kingdom. Today, in the afternoon, will be the end of a decisive day. I am now getting ready for this big day, my emotions grow bigger and bigger, I feel nervous and a little happy, as I have been waiting for this day for a long time.

Yet, there is sadness, because Jay, my husband and the king of this kingdom, passed away last year. He sacrificed himself for my safety and for our kingdom, because of our nightmare, the one who made our days filled with fear, the dragon who killed my husband. We had been trying for years to defeat him, but there was no use – the dragon was too strong and could kill us within seconds.

Meanwhile, it's afternoon and a lot of people are waiting for me outside. I step in, revealing myself to them, with a beautiful royal white dress. I start talking, I tell them how much I love being their queen and how happy Jay would have been to be here with us. I can't help feeling sad and it seems that something is missing. I push this feeling away and try to focus on the present, not on the past.

Some people still suggest to have one more atttempt at killing the dragon, but I can't accept that. As we keep talking about the same subject, we hear someone flying in the sky – not a bird or a flying animal, something worse... We look up and see our biggest fear, the dragon. Everybody screams, and I quickly open the gates for all the people to come inside the palace for safety. I see fire everywhere, the dragon is ready to attack. I don't know what to do, how to save my kingdom. I feel lost and helpless, but then I notice another dragon who is attacking our enemy, as if he were trying to save us. We all watch the two dragons fight and the good dragon win!

I am shocked and thankful. Everyone applaudes and we proclaim the day a special one for our dragon who has just saved us. I am looking to the sky with the hope that the king is proud of me and this kingdom for finally managing to live in peace and safety, and for the good dragon who is now the hero of our kingdom.

ONE HELPFUL FLOWER

Iordache Maya Alexandra, class 6B

It wasa hot spring day. May barely had started and the smell of fresh grass was already hovering the trees, over the citizens, over the kingdom. Flowers and trees blooming all around, children running around, picking flowers from the green hills and meadows, in which sometimes rested a tired bee or a lazy butterfly. It was peaceful and all, but most people were busy and couldn't take advantage of this wonderful spring weather.

I, the queen of this magical, fantasy-like realm, just woke up, rubbing the sleep away from my tired eyes, as a long yawn escaped my mouth. While stretching my limbs, I let out a high-pitched noise. The clock on my fency, white nightstand was telling me that it was already time for breakfast.

Taking the laced blanket off my body, I stood up. Letting my legs swing off the bed, I finally got up. Making sure I looked presentable in the mirror, I opened my bedroom door and walked down the hallway until I reached the long, spiral staircase. I was expecting the palace to be quiet, since it was pretty early, but to my surprise it was agitated.

With a confused look on my face, I asked one of my cleaning ladies that was walking past me what was going on, to which she got the most ground-breaking information: my mom got really sick and the only way her condition would be healed was by this magical flower that could only be found in the woods nearby, but for it to actually work, it had to be touched by royalty. Which was me.

I didn't know what to do. Should I leave my kingdom unattended and save my own mother? After a lot of thinking I decided to take that risk, as it was my mom we were talking about. I got dressed, packed some food and water and I was already on my way. My heart was beating fast as I was alone, walking through a forest. Since this is a magical realm, I met interesting creatures such as dwarfs, unicorns, speaking animals, griffins that all surprisingly knew where I was supposed to go. They all helped me find that special flower, and when I found it, the sun was already setting.

The flower was placed in the middle of a circle of old trees and it looked like it was radiating with light and glitter. Shy and scared, I got closer, timidly touching its soft petals. Removing it from the moist soil, I held it softly, making sure it wouldn't fly off with the wind that was blowing.

I was now running in the woods, trying to get to my palace, to my home before it got dark. I successfully managed to do so, as one of my maids was impatiently waiting for me. She greeted me warmly when she saw me, and I did the same as I was running past her, trying to get to the room where my mom was probably sleeping.

After searching around a few rooms, I finally found her, lying on a bed. There was also an unknown man, most likely a doctor. He immediately took the flower and disturbed the poor woman's slumber, shaking her shoulder slightly. The woman woke up, but to her surprise, she was given a petal from that same flower. She looked a bit confused, but she understood she had to eat it, which was exactly what she did. She almost instantly got better, as she was now walking around like nothing had happened.

I went to bed before I could even have dinner, as I was so tired, but even with that I was at peace and thankful that I had made the right decision.

Drawing by Rădulea David Ioan, class 6B

THE TRANSFORMATION

Manolache Izabela, class 6A

I had no other choice. In order to make peace between my kingdom and his, I needed to marry him and so I did. My kingdom was the Dream Kingdom, a place where you could sing in public and not get judged. The flowers that grew there were absolutely beautiful. Such a shame I had to abandon it to live with that monster... Nonetheless, it was for the safety of my people. No matter what, I would never betray them.

Then, the day came. I left my palace, my people and my kingdom, taken away by his royal carriage that felt like a cage. Once arrived, I hesitated. Is this really the best decision? Maybe war would have been better... I suppose I've laready made my choice and there was no turning back. I was stuck in Arthur's kimgdom, the Chaos Kingdom. The guards took me to his castle.

Pain. Misery. They were everywhere. How could a king be so cruel? The inside of the castle was Gothic, skulls on his throne, and there he was, sitting up so high, a smirk on his face. The guards made me kneel before him.

"Well, well, well. Never expected to see you like that, my queen." His tone was mocking. I couldn't stand it!

"Don't act cocky with me! I won't let you get away with this."

"With what? The fact that I'm letting you live?" That made me shut up. "Better be grateful that I'm so kind." I wanted to scream, cry, but I couldn't. I wouldn't. I would not sabotage my kingdom. "Guards!!!", he shouted. "Take her to her room!" I allowed myself to get dragged, humiliated.

I had to endure this for several years. I got sick and tired of it. He forced me to be his "perfect wife". I needed to cook thousands of meals per day, clean the entire castle and wash his clothes, even though there were maids in the castle as well. Seems like there weren't enough for him.

King Arthur has punished me to the brink of my sanity. He had his chance to redeem himself. Now it was gone. During my lonely days, I made up a plan. Intoxicate him.

King Arthur was sitting on his throne, counting his money, when I came in with a tray. The only thing on the tray was a cup of tea. “Finally!”, he exclaimed. “You’re really slow, you know that? Maybe I should punish you. Maybe not. I’ll determine the answer based on how good the tea is.” He greedily grabbed the cup and gulped it all in one sip. Suddenly, he started to feel lightheaded. He could barely see. “What… What did you do to me, you, witch?” I smiled wickedly. “It’s nothing. Just the poison in your drink.” Arthur looked at me in fear, trembling and feeliing woozy. The colour in his lips drained. “Honestly, this is what you deserve. All the people you bahaved badly to. All of the kingdomes you destroyed. This is just karma.” I responded calmly. “You… You are no better than me, you, monster.” He shutters, falling off his throne. Dead. Finally, he was dead.

He looked like a fish on land. So ugly. So hideous. The old me would have been petrified, disgusted by this. But I wasn’t. In fact, I would have never killed a person. I would have never betrayed my kingdom. But now? Maybe Arthur was right, I was no better. I even broke a promise I had made a long time ago. I suppose it didn’t matter now. Not when I had so much power in my hands. I will rule both kingdoms, turning peace into destruction. Oh, how delightful it will be! The people nhave no other choice but to accept as who I have become. May the Evil Queen rise and rule forever!

WATER AND EARTH UNITE FOR ONCE

Manole Alexandra Maria, class 8B

The sun shone brighter than ever that day. As I arose from the silky red sheets, I got greeted by a knock on the large wooden door. “You are expected, Your Majesty.” I immediately sprang on my feet and leaped to the closet, put my usual gown and cape on and rushed. Duty called after all.

As I swept through the massive cold halls, I politely saluted all the commoners that just turned up for their jos, from maidens rushing to the royal kitchen to lads mopping the frozen gold-like marble floors and dusting the imposing weaponry on the walls, even the axe I once welded. The flowy black dress wouldn’t be enough to show my status if it wasn’t for the navy blue cape I wore, tailored with the finest hands and needle, slightly enhancing my silouette. I was sloppy, my hair still undone and no jewels or medals in sight, but the collar of the cape and the sound of my boots beaming through the thick stone walls helped enough. I then arrived at the main hall. My most prized mercenaries stood by the throne, quite unusual for that time of the day. Something awaited behind the arched gates ahead of me. “Igor announced that I was expected. Sir Angus, enlighten me.” My voice shook the room. “The chief of the Water People’s tribe has arrived. He announced an offer.” “Well, be polite, don’t leave the poor man waiting, Angus!”

The large gate squeaked, as a tall and spear-like skinny figure entered shily. He walked slowly, with his chin down, almost ashamed seemingly. Little did I know this encounter was to change the course of my entire kingdom, all the vast territory, from the Crystal Mines to the Great City of Spring, and still beyond the Sea of Apes. He stopped walking, right a few metres away, and knelt. He lifted his dark cloaks hood and spoke:

“Your Majesty, Empress of this Realm, Queen of Khajiit. I have come to announce my submission. I, Chief of all Water People, surrender and attribute you victory.”

“Speak, Sir Loolau. May your words be fair and true.”

“I have come to the conclusion that joining forces and giving in to your kingdom will do us a real good.” He stopped for a bit, stood up and slithered his scaled teal hands

down his cloak, and proceeded to hand me a scroll bound in tanned deer skin, highest of quality.

"You will rule over my people equally, and the border will be removed. Merchants will roam freely and the Great port will hold the Royal Fleet. With your fearless gold-plated warriors and our incredible merchants and artificers we will outshine any kingdom that dares approach. Is the deal sealed?"

"Loolau, you have my approval. I shall rule over the Water People, and treat them as my kind. No matter their gills, no matter their scales, I will encourage them to blend in the human society in peace. Let the fight stop once and for all. For now and for tha many generations that follow."

Later that day, all the fences and sturdy towers were crushed. The border was totally deleated. I stood there and watched thousands of souls, both among the rich and among the poor, spark with joy. I saw blue and teal skins step slowly over the remains, covered in cloaks to shield the sensible blue skin of the seen. I saw mothers happy to rejoin their husbands, childhood friends glow in awe, royals shaking hands, merchants swapping goods. Even children joining games, the slanky tall green figures chasing around the streets along the little humans, playing cards and swapping jewelllery.

The two nations glowed together, and bonds were immediately made, form as far as I watched. I greeted the Blue Court, they joined in my party and moved their headquarters to my palace.

This was truly the first day I felt proud to rule over my kingdom. I saw joy instead of hatred, I saw Blue Guards uniting with their human family again. No man of my kind was ever brave enough to remove the border.

The sun is setting and I'm sitting in my greenhouse. I greeted so many people today that my hand is sore, really. So many generals and chiefs, party leaders, aristocrats... No hand left unshaken. I'm tired, but what we achieved today as a nation cannot be equaled. I am proud to be the one that made this happen. I for once feel my ancestors' souls lean proudly above me. "Well done, Margot..." I say to myself, for none of the ones I rule over know my true name. "Today you really got to unite two nations!"

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A QUEEN

Moise Maria Bianca, class 6A

The first thing that I do when I wake up is change out of my nightgown and with the help of my ladies in waiting I get dressed for the long day that is ahead. Usually I wear a teal dress with black and gold as accent colours, but anyway. Then I exit my sleeping quarters and head to the banquet hall to have breakfast. After breakfast I look at what needs to be done being the Queen of England. It isn't easy after all, it definitely isn't just about fancy dresses and a nice crown.

In the evening, I usually head to my study, as I have to approve film and song ideas and other things. This particular evening I chose who won "The Artist of the Year" award. This year I also chose a new artist called "Chapell Roan". Why her, you may ask? I like her songs, the lyrics, the melody, the meaning behind the song as a whole.

When I finish all my duties, as night time rolls around, I deal with more political stuff, like making allies or helping other countries in need. Most of the time, I decline the requests, but if it benefits both countries I accept them.

All in all, my life as a Queen of England is hard, but it does have its perks!

THE PLAN

Muşat Elena Florentina, class 8B

There once lived a queen, the kindest of all. She was always praised for her creative ideas, for helping with the kingdom's problems, some said she was a true angel that had come from the Heavens to help them. It was truly a miracle compared to the previous crown wearer. And that queen was me. I fought for this kingdom more than anyone could ever know, from making tiny choices for my people, to fighting a three-headed creature. Was it tough? Yes, it was, but for a kingdom I considered my family it was all worth it.

It was time for another day, and this time I needed to help with a serious case: a kingdom wanted to attack us while we were still working on building a bridge to the nearest water source, as we were low on supplies. A commoner had told me about this just a few days before, so I knew it was up to me to do something about it. But what ...? I kept thinking and thinking. I decided to make a deal, so I sent my most trusted helper to the enemy. The idea was to send three dragons and some other supplies that would come in handy at some point, all that for my kingdom's safety. Yet, they didn't want peace, they said thay had enough supplies, too many to even count, they didn't accept money either, only the victory that, in the king's eyes, was so sweet. No goods could ever replace that...

In the end, I had to fight – that was my only option. And so I did, I told everyone about what was going on and asked them to hide if anything goes worse than it already was. After hours of fighting, my kingdom was scared for my fate. It had never taken me hours to have something done, usually it was about half an hour. But we were taling about a real fight here, and it was no ordinary one. A fight with a cruel king, and no time to think, since all he wanted was to swing his sword at me. It was the fight between a kind queen and a heartless king.

In the end, I made it, but at what cost? I was bleeding, barely standing, but to my surprise, my people took me in their arms, helped me get well, helped me see that even in our lowest moments, there is someone to rely on, no matter the problem. Just like I had helped them so far, making sure they had always stayed safe.

And this is a lesson everyone should take in with open arms: if you are kind to others, they will return the favour and be kind to you, no matter the cost.

THE KINGDOM OF BEES

Nicolae Robert, class 7A

It was a beautiful day in the kingdom of bees. Everyone was going to work with a smile on their faces. As the king of this realm, I was looking happily at my people enjoying life. Suddenly, some guardian bees rushed into my room to tell me they saw an army from an opposing kingdom, the wasp kingdom, coming towards us. I sent out an alert to warn the bees going to work that they should hide out in the nearest bunkers. I started preparing my own army while sending some of them to stop the wasp army.

I waited for about thirty minutes until a single bee came back to tell me that the wasp queen had sent even more troops. In that moment I panicked. I sent out every bee in my army and I joined them. We fought the wasps and won, and after that we reached the wasp kingdom. No one was there, every house was empty. Not even the castle had guardian wasps and the queen's room was empty as well. I then realised that every wasp had gone to my kingdom, where there were only working bees left. I demanded all my army to rush back, fight off the wasps and recruit and train some more bees. I thought that I should ask other realms for help, as the wasps were way stronger than us.

The wasps hadn't always been our enemies; once, they had been part of our kingdom. But they were always mean and didn't respect us, bees. One day, they decided to create their own kingdom. The rebellion was caused by a friend of mine, who was a guard. She is now the queen of the wasps.

After remembering this, I realised whom I should call for help. The wasps were inspired to create their own kingdom after another species had done this, a species also formerly part of our kingdom: the hornets. They had split out of our kingdom peacefully and always showed us respect. So I went to talk to the king of the hornets. He understood my situation, as he had also been attacked by the wasps once, so he agreed to help. Hornets are as strong as wasps, but also really big. I returned to my kingdom accompanied by the king of the hornets and his army.

Once I reached my kingdom, I realised that there were only a couple of guards and working bees, while there was still a massive army of wasps. It was evening and the hornets really helped. We aere all overpowering the wasps. I finished off the queen. The new king in charge was peaceful.

This was the decisive day for the fate of our kingdom. Everyone who had lost their lives were missed and the rest lived happily ever after, without any other conflicts.

YOUR DRAGONS OR YOUR KINGDOM?

Nuţu Maia Violeta, class 6A

I can't believe this day is finally over! I can go to sleep now. But not before telling you what happened.

So... First I woke up, I brushed my teeth and then went back to sleep. After an hour, I woke up again and went to the living room to eat. Normal things so far. I fed my horse, but decided that horse-riding was too boring, so I wanted to ride my dragon, Adam. He has yellow wings, eyes, horns, tail, most of his body is yellow, except for the paws and head. I love him. He's very cute. Adam tries to make me fear him, but I like dragons too much to be scared of them.

After our 3-hour trip we came back home. Sadly, on my way home, I dropped a heavy diamond. Someone found it and came to me to let me know that he had found it first and that his three neighbours wanted it. I told him that the gem was mine, so he understood and returned it to me.

But this wasn't the worst thing today! The Metherian King, from the kingdom next to me, told me he wanted my dragons, or else he would destroy my town! I didn't want my dragons in his hands. He kills everything he touches that belongs to me, so I gave him fake dragons instead. I had to take sheep from my people, and they didn't agree at first, because some of them don't even care I am their Queen. After they realised that my dragons had a lot of power, they offered me their sheep.

I dressed the sheep as dragons and taught them how to act like a dragon. Then I gave them to the Metherian King. Can you believe that he actually thought my 3-meter sheep were dragons? How cool is that? After three hours, the king came to our town. He shouted angrily: "Are these sheep dragons to you?" I said "Yes, why not?" I started laughing at him, but he brought his soldiers and started destroying my kingdom.

I couldn't let this happen. I took my dragons and stopped the enemy. Or at least that's what I thought! But, no! He had a stone that controlled the dragons... Yet, I managed to get the stone from him somehow!

After the fight, I had to fix my kingdom, so I had my dragons do it for me. You know, they are still working, except for Adam, who is staying right here with me and is listening to the story.

Well, dear diary, that was it. A very tangled story, I know. But this is how life goes when you are an immortal Queen. See you tomorrow! Bye!

Drawing by Moise Maria Bianca, class 6A

THE DAY WHEN THE BEST WINS

Pascu Matei, class 6B

I have been the king of Supermania for eight years now. But yesterday, a really bad man came to my kingdom and told me he would become the king! I didn't like that, obviously, so today I need to make sure this will never happen again.

I have brought my army and now we are going to his temple in the woods. I don't like the atmosphere, I'm not gonna lie to you. I'm not very sure about this, maybe I need to go back. But no, I am the king and I am the one who decides who is welcome in my kingdom and who is not. We are arriving at his location in a few seconds, so I'm ready. I don't know what I am going to do, but I am sure this is going to happen.

Now we are in front of his place, so I decide to go alone. He is staying on the couch, not doing anything – so I make up my mind to attack. This is a sign for my army to intervene. We have him in a cage and march back to my castle. The distance isn't very long, so we gat there in three minutes.

In gthe backyard of the palace I have a very large arena for fighting. I know that a king in this situation would choose a massive and muscular worrior, but not me... In front of all my citizens, I ask the bad monster for a duel. I bet he will agree, because a man like him is not afraid of losing, as he considers himself the most powerful. I have to win against him, to show my kingdom why I am the king. From now on, I have to prepare for the big fight, but I promise I will be the best and protect anyone who would come to me.

The day of the fight comes. I am in the southern part of the arena, while he is in the northern one. The gate opens and I watch him running towards me. I can see the fear in his eyes. I stay calm and take a step forward and to the right. This makes him fall. In this very moment, I have the opportunity to fight him, yet I don't want to. I'm not a bad king. I'm the good one. So I take a step back and speak to my people: "See? The strong one is not the only one able to win – the most important part is the brain!" They cheer for me and I like it. I'm so glad that I can win without any muscles, but only based on my brain!

THE MAGIC GRASS

Purcăreaţă Alexandru Georgian, class 7A

I woke up in the morning after I had barely slept from nervousness last night. Today is the day, that day that I had been waiting for the past weeks. My kingdom was in true dager, and I couldn't let it be destroyed by our rivals, the Barbarians.

My kingdom was named the Ancient Meadows, because it was all filled by magical grass that only grew there. That special type of grass made anyone who touched it extremely powerful, but when the grass died from the cold weather in winter, it never grew the same, as if it never had any magic in it. Although the grass wasn't the same, as if it never had any magic in it. Although the grass wasn't the same in most of my kingdom, there was still one place left where it had never disappeared, the outside meadow of my castle.

When the Barbarians found out about it, they became angry and frustrated. After some time, they decided to attack our kingdom. This was the final day of the war, when everything could have ended. My kingdom's military got weaker and weaker as our defenses collapsed and got destroyed. The Barbarians were strong, but so were we.

We aere starting to lose hope as they were slowly destroying everything in their path. They lost almost everything of their defenses, too, but they were not turning back, and neither were we.

It was true that the grass was special, but we didn't think it would create this much damage to a kingdom... In the afternoon everything wasn't going great, our archers and soldiers were being destroyed by the Barbarians, since in their kingdom there was a special type of metal that was undestructable, and they had made armour out of it. Every arraow that would come in contact with the metal was instantly brought back right where it came from. We stopped using arraows and used the magic grass instead, and cut through metal. The fight was intense, but we were determined to win. At night we began using even more grass and it definitely was more powerful. They were losing, their metal stopped working. It was almost over, we had become unstoppable. Everything was set on fire, yet we were winning.

After that day, everything was over, but at what cost??? Our kingdom was damaged and we had to rebuild it entirely. A few months later, everything was back to normal and there was no longer a war, the magic grass grew back throughout the kingdom, on all the meadows, and we all lived happily ever after.

THE NATURE KINGDOM

Rădulea David Ioan, class 6B

The birds are singing and the sun is shining in the sky. My kingdom is very beautiful, it is quiet every day and the villagers are very calm. Our kingdom has water and lakes from the boats and for the fish. We have a lovely tower full of flowers and a lot of lights that shine as brightly as the stars in the sky. My favourite villageris Tom because he works very hard to have a very big farm. He likes cows and pigs, which I appreciate because they are calm and peaceful.

Every weekend we have a treasure hunt with pastel eggs. Our kingdom has a lot of flowers and trees. Our flowers are the rarest on the planet and the trees are the most beautiful in the world, with magic lamps that fly around them. My favourite tree is Sakunes – it has the same name as the Queen of the kingdom.

This Queen is very brave, as she has saved the villagers from the biggest snake that has ever existed. The snake tried to attack and kill the villagers in our kingdom, but the Queen had a magic stick that could destroy any creature that attempted to do us harm. Now our kingdom is happy because of her deeds and, as a sign of appreciation for what she has done, we made a special statue representing our Queen, and also placed a special rocks with the Queen's name on them on every tree in the kingdom.

Today there is a horse race and the winner gets to stay with me at the castle for an entire day. Surprisingly, Tom, my favourite villager, is the lucky winner! I am very happy because he can help me with my responsibilities and the animals I have in my garden. To show my gratitude for his help, I will prepare lunch with all the things he likes: chicken, salad, vegetables. Also, as a bonus for cleaning my castle, I will buy more cows and pigs for him.

Unfortunately, a dragon attacked our kingdom, so I and Tom went to fight the dragon. At first, the monster destroyed the houses and the tower. Yet, I knew its week point (the legs) and took a sword, cut its leg off and killed it. The villagers were so happy that placed a statue of me right next to the one representing the Queen.

Now our kingdom is peaceful and calm again, and our villagers are happy because they feel protected from all those creatures. Even the sun seems more beautiful these days! As a matter of fact, the end of the day is wonderful and you feel better when you know that you are the hero of your kingdom!

THE END AND THE BEGINNING

Roşca Cristina, class 7A

We have lived our best moments together. The world is beautiful! We took care today to leave it that way, so the next people who will come will be able to enjoy it as much as we did.

All the creatures, the elves, the lights, and all the animals are now here, waiting for the little lake to be ready. We are staying around it. All of us chose some other soul to live their new lives with. The clear water of the lake started shining blue. All the souls will have to jumpwith their pairs in the lake when their time comes. The fate is going to take them to another dimension. Feelings, creatures and places we could have never imagined will be shown and lived by us. We might be born as elements or as shapeless creatures. Some lucky – or unlucky ones – will be born here again.

All the pairs are jumping, one by one. Everybody is allowed to leave a present to the next people who will come to this world. They will all forget everything about this world, but they themselves will never be forgotten. Some left learning, some left wealth, some left protection. Pairs of brothers and sisters mothers and daughters, husbands and wives are going one by one.

Since I am the Queen of this place, I'm the one who will jump last. Surprisingly, none of us is actually sad. We have come so far. We lackedf innocence, the base of everything. We lacked love. Now, with all the qualities we have received, we will go and save others. I have been told that the place I am going to get to is just like the place our kingdom used to be.

When only the stars, the Moon and Mother Earth are left, I step forward with my Mother, the One who created everything, the One who exists in every universe. She already knows where we are going, but she wouldn't tell me. The other pairs were assured that they were going to be together, only the two of them, in every universe, but my Mother is the Mother of the whole world, so she won't be with me physically.

We both jump into the lake. I am born as the first sign of life from a place called "Earth". My Mother will be born many times after that. Whenever the world is in danger, she will be the one who sees all the destruction and creation as Shri Mataji, the Pure Mother.

A VERY LONG WAR...

Stoian Anastasia Elena, class 7A

It has been a long war and we have lost many soldiers and friends. Our lands are damaged and our cities destroyed, but it is finally over. The Challenging Creatures are defeated and they cen never harm us, the fairies, ever again.

You might ask yourself what these Challenging Creatures are. Well, as the Queen of the Fairies Kingdom, I'm here to tell you: they are horrible beings that feed with thye happiness and love of other species, especially fairies, since we carry the most happiness of all. The Challenging can imitate other species and they can blend in with the society very well, and when you least expect it, they can attack, and that's what they did!

Eight hundred moons ago, I woke up to a horrible sound, almost like a little fairy's scream. I immediately got upand allarmed the guards. Little did I know that it was a Challenging! The creature had been pretending to be one of my closest and dearest friends, whom I trusted a lot.

The Challenging, or who I thought was Magnolia, broke the magic shield and let the other Challenging creatures in. That's when the worst day of my life started. They burnt almost everything down, including the castle, my home, the place where I grew up, learned how to fly, and act as a proper Queen. The castle was the only thing reminding me of my parents, the best rulers of all time. After their mysterious death, I became the Queen and, when I least expected it, I had a whole kingdom to rule upon.

Over the eight hundred muoons, I protected the society on my own, since the trained soldiers were battling the Challenging. But now, with the help of the dragons and trolls, we defeated the Creatures, bringing peace to our kingdom.

We are very grateful and happy that the other beings helped us get over the war and the sadness. The King of the Dragons, King Sombra, flew over the Challengings and killed most of them. The Trolls' Princess, Ariadna, caused dangerous earthquakes in the Challenging base and destroyed their resources and weapons.

Now, as the Queen, I can finally say that we are free and happy.

KARMA

Tănase Diana Anamaria, class 6A

Once upon a time, I had to make a very important decision for my kingdom. It wasn't easy, but I had to. A mistery person threatened me that if I didn't give up my kingdom, they would take my brother and his family and kill them by poisoning them. But the problem was that I didn't get along with my brother. Because I'm older and he wanted my kingdom, which I got as a first-born. Since he got mad at me for that, we hadn't talked for years at that point, so I didn't care what happened to him. As a result, I took the choice that was best for me: I told the threatener that he could kill them, as I was not plannig on giving my kingdom away. Even if I felt a little bad for my brother's family – yet, I hated everything about him or made by him! I hated it no matter what!

The next day I woke up happily, but not before long someone burst my door open and started yelling at me. After I saw her more clearly, I knew it was my mother, and, unexpecedly, my father was right behind her. I didn't care what she was telling me, so I let her know that, if she didn't leave, I would call my security on them and kick them out of the kingdom. After telling her that multiple times, she left...

I got to enjoy my morning happily until I went outside and I saw a lot of people furious at me for what I had done. I told them they were free to leave the kingdom if they were not satisfied with my decisions. It only got worse... Yet, I kept saying the same thing to my people, and the worst thing happened to me, the Queen!!!

The whole kingdom left... Everyone, not a single person was left... I went into my castle and cried myself to sleep. The next day, my mother came again, and I showed her the marks on my face from how much I had been crying. She laughed at me: "I've told you so!". It was then that I realised that was the true meaning of karma!...

ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL

Tudose Ioana Nectaria, class 8B

Being the queen of a fantasy realm isn't as easy as it seems. My kingdom is quite fussy and gets upset over small things, despite the breathtaking scenery they live in. I wonder... What could I have possibly done that affected their way of living life to the fullest?

As I woke up, a loud chatter filled my palace. My citizens were once again complaining about the fact that they need to explore and discover new things. "Why do they feel the need to do that? Is this fantasy land too outdated for them?" I thought.

I started my day off with a royal breakfast in the dining room. Chandeliers and statues decorated the room beautifully, reflecting my royalty. The table was filled with fine cutlery and extravagant dishes. "Good morining, Your Highness!" greeted Anton, my butler. He seemed jolly, but I could sense nervousness in his voice. I politely asked him if he had any news to share, but as he was answering, he got interrupted by the loud chatter from earlier. "What's going on?" I asked, walking towards my balcony, where I would greet my citizens.

My eyes widened. A sea of unsatisfied villagers waved, shouted and protested. What in the world? "This was the news..." sighed Anton. I was utterly confused. Anton told me that this angry crowd was pleased because the didn't get to travel that much and that the attractions and facilities in this city are boring! How could they possibly say that? I have to find an urgent solution, or else I might not be their queen by the end of the day!

I got dressed in much more formal attire and pulled up a seat on the balcony. I wanted to communicate with my people: I didn't want to leave them angry like that! My notebook and feather were judges by my side, since I wanted to take notes on people's opinions. "I'm listening to your offers, one by one!" I said, as persuasive as ever. "Oh, Your Majesty, I would love to travel the world, but I haven't got the money, and the museums and the attractions are becoming unappealing... Hmmm, what if Your Majesty could gift us some travel coupons or so?" asked a villager. "What about a trip to Italy, all of us, you decide!" "No, the Pyramids of Egypt are much more interesting!" "Hey, what

are you talking about? Some dusty triangles sitting in the firey desert? I'm thinking New York, Manhattan, Liberty Lady looks gorgeous!"

"Enough!" I raised my voice. "I've got the solution to satisfy each one of you adventurers dream of! We'll travel the world without travelling!" I announced. "How is that possible, Your Highness?" asked someone. "We'll bring the desired destinations here! We'll create versions of each tourist attraction, we'll bring the Pyramids, the Statue of Liberty, everything you could have imagined! We'll also upgrade our facilities, making the city more fun! Who's with me?" The sea of frowns turned upside down and cheered. They seemed to like the idea! Suddenly, the shouting was turned into cheering…

And so, war is over! I sleapt peacefully that night, and I woke up to the sounds of cheering, laughing and music. The following day, my plan was already put in action, as royal workers contributed to make the town smile again. It looks like this "queen of disaster" made a smart choice, and brought happiness to her citizens. A happy queen is a happy kingdom after all!

THE NOSTALGIA OF LETTER WRITING

A LETTER TO BELLE, FROM BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

Barbu Erika, class 5B

Dear Belle ,

I have a question for you: What do you do in your free time? Personally, I'm trying to have fun and relax.

My favorite animals are cats. I love cats. I have two cats at my home. Let me know what your favorite animal is.

I also like to eat chips and pasta. What about you?

I am looking forward to your letter.

Fondly,

Erika

A LETTER TO CINDERELLA ,

Giurcă Sara Maria, class 5B

Dear Cinderella,

Because you are my favourite caracther in the fairy tale, I want to tell you about my daily routine.

I wake up at 8 o'clock in the morning and I brush my teeth. Then I eat cereal with milk. After I eat, I make my bed, I read the lessons and at 11: 30, I go to school.

What does your daily routine look like? What do you do every day, Cinderella?"

Maybe you wake up at 10 o'clock. Maybe you eat a big cake whit vanilla. After that, you go to the spa with your friends at 1 o'clock.

Let me know soon.

With love,

Sarah

A LETTER TO CINDERELLA

Lazu Claudia-Maria, class 5B

Dear Cinderella,

I have a question for you. I know your birthday is coming up soon and I have no idea what to get you.

I was thinking of getting you a long blue dress with glitter, or a vase because I know you really like flowers, especially red ones with a strong sweet smell. Honestly, at first I wanted to get you a parrot so you could have a friend by your side, but the I remembered that I can't come to your birthday party.

So, what do you want for your birthday?

Now I am waiting for your answer to prepare your gift.

With love,

Claudia

A LETTER TO SNOW WHITE

Mocanu Elisa, class 5B

Dear Snow White,

You are my favourite character because you are beautiful and so cute. I've heard your favourite food is pasta. This food is delicious, I like pasta too.

What is your favourite animal? My favourite one is a cat – they are so cute,right?

I am waiting for your answer!

With love,

Elisa

Drawing by Mocanu Elisa, class 5B

A LETTER TO DOPEY

Suceveanu Andrei, class 5B

Dear Dopey,

I've always wondered what your routine is and what activities you do in your free time.

What kind of food do you eat? What animals do you like? But most of all, I wanted to ask you if you learned to talk. Do you know what Snow White is up to?

And if you want, you can borrow an alphabet book from Pinocchio. I've heard he has one. I hope you'll answer my questions.

With love,

Andrei

Drawing by Suceveanu Andrei, class 5B

A LETTER TO ROZ

Uţă Antonia, class 5B

Dear Roz,

My name is Antonia and I am from Romania. I am writing this letter because I want to know you better. What I know is that you live on an island full of animals together with your son Brightbill, who is a goose.

I am going to ask what you do every day. I normally go to school, then do my homework and enjoy my free time. At the weekend, I go out with my friend Gabriela or with my family.

Also what is your favorite color? Mine is purple.

I don't really know what other things to ask you since you are a robot so I hope you can tell me when you write back to me.

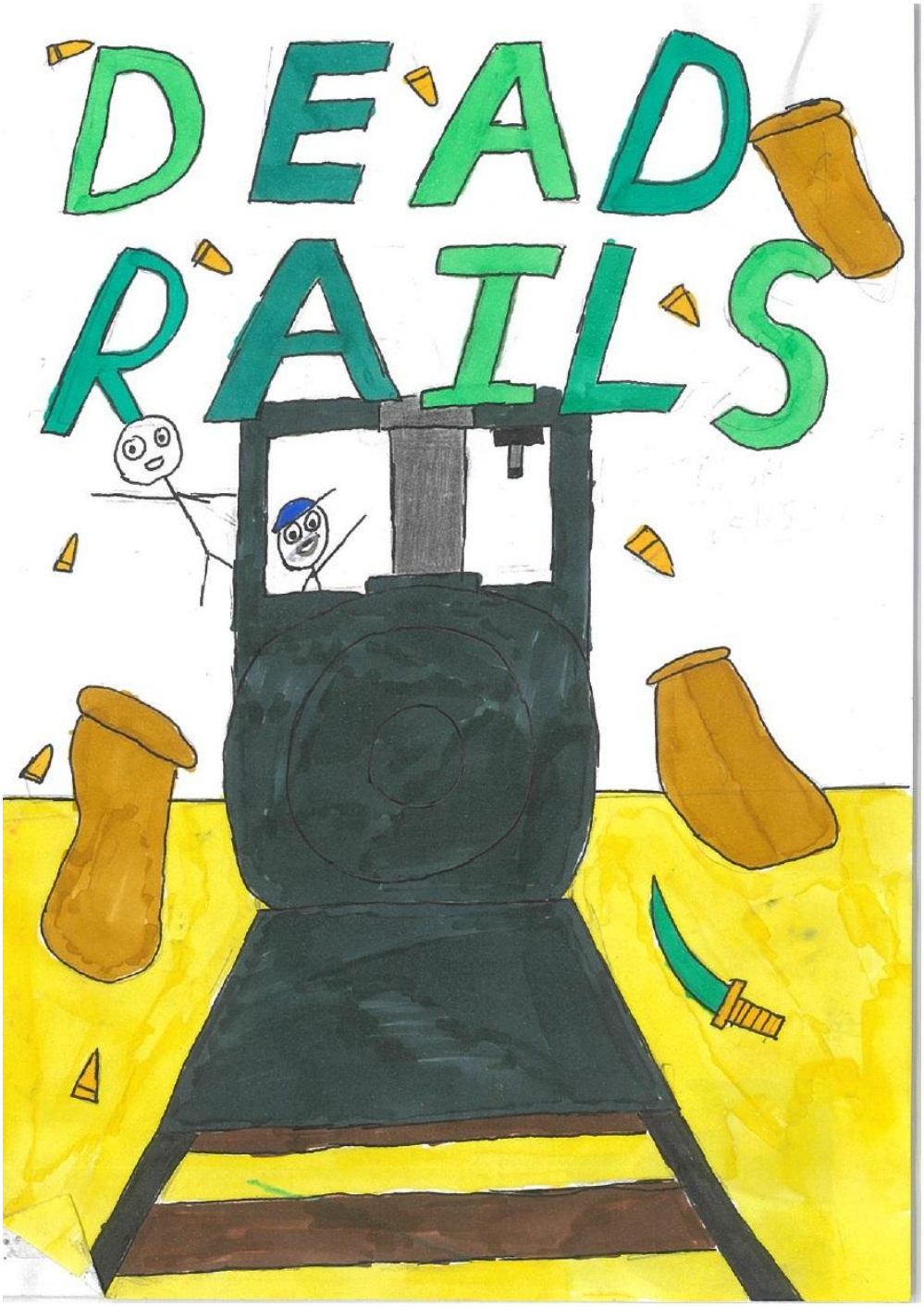
Sorry but I can't write anymore. My mum is calling me. Bye!

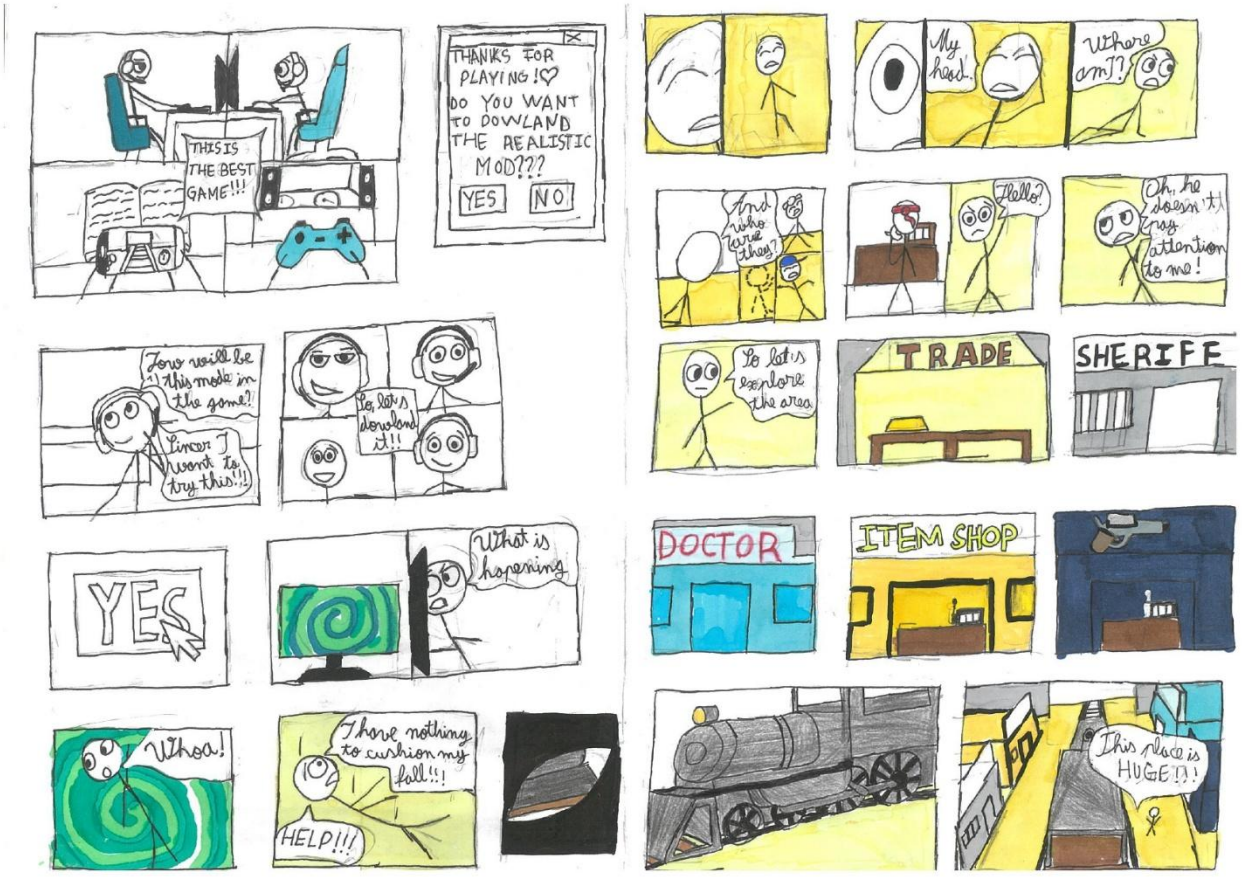
Your new friend,

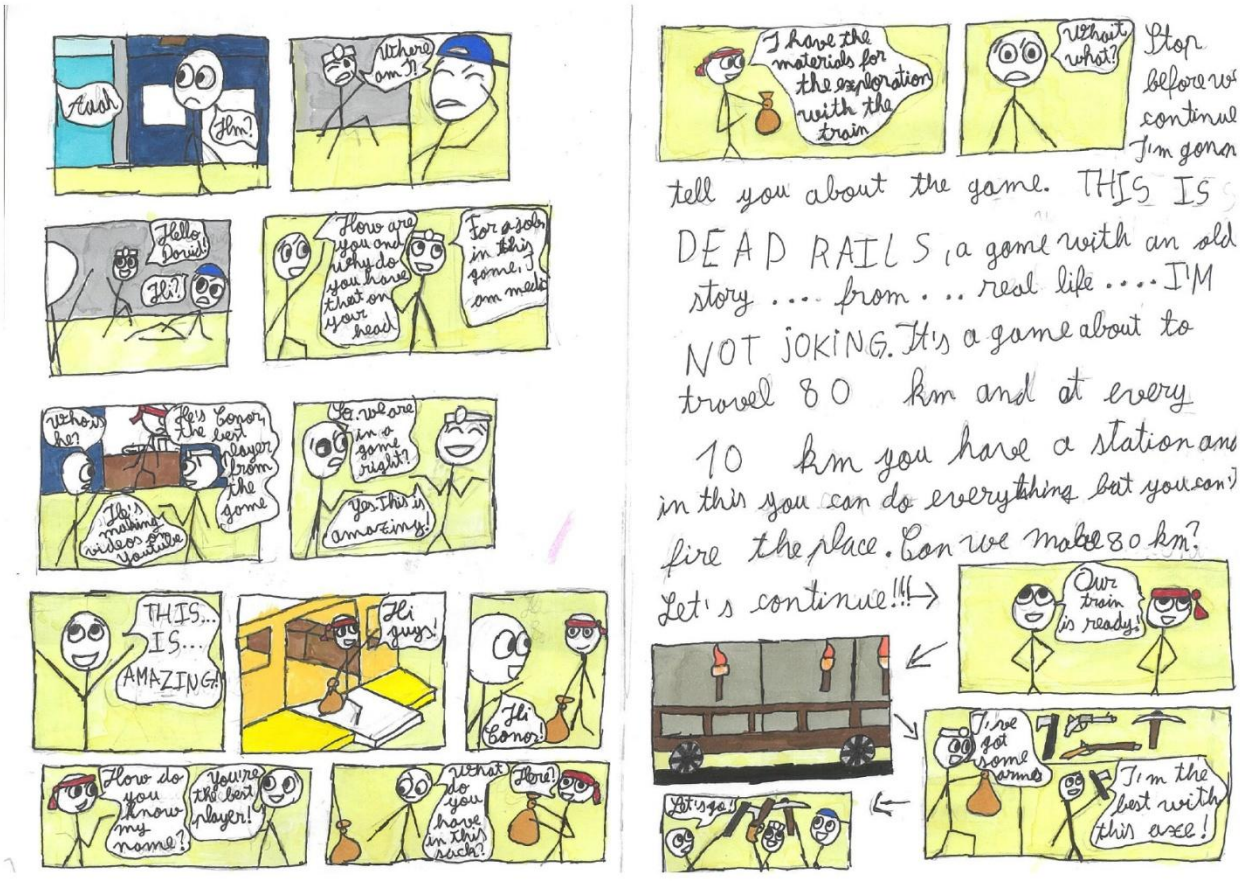
Antonia ☺

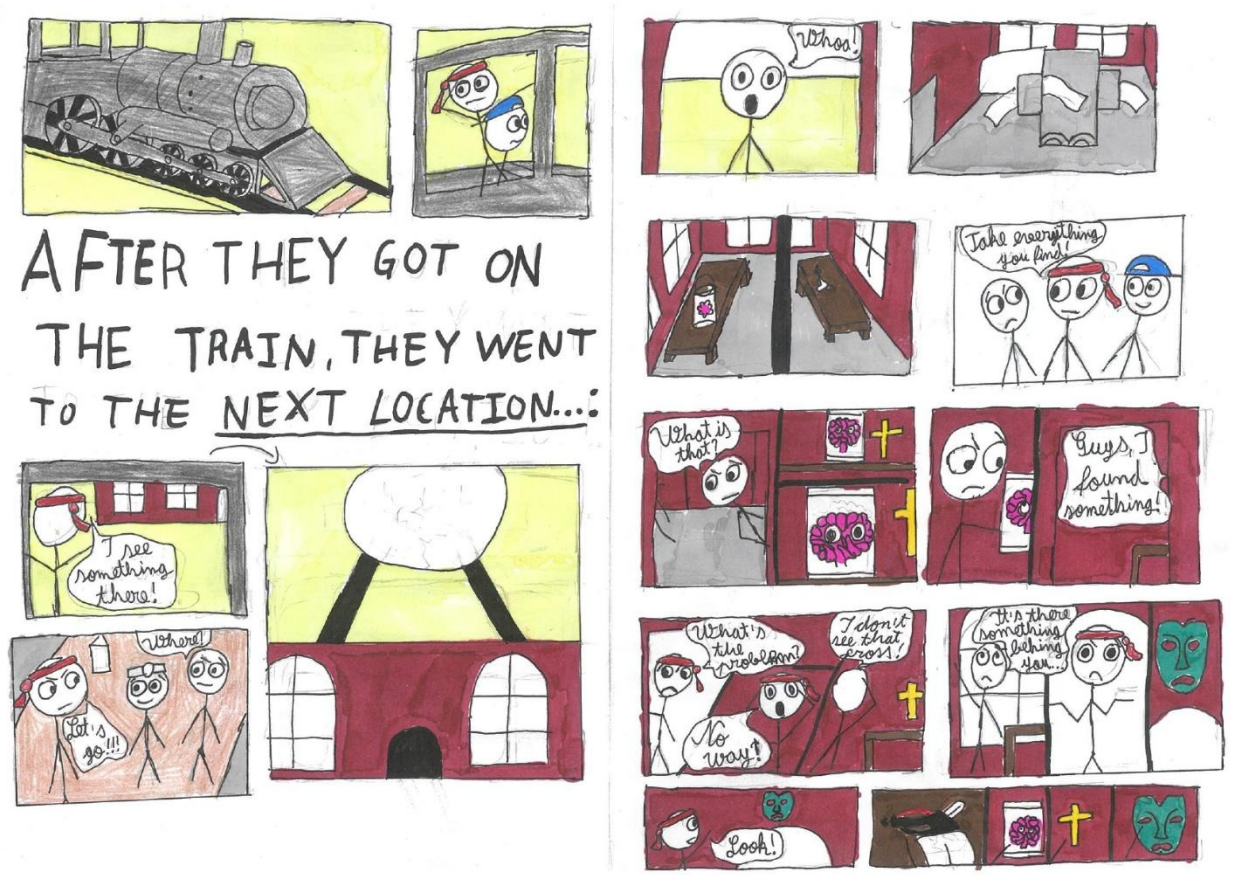
WRITING AND DRAWING COMBINED – THE WORLD OF CARTOONS

CARTOONS BY JÎIU DAVID, class 5B




THIS IS THE BEST GAME!!!
THANKS FOR PLAYING!♡ DO YOU WANT TO DOWLAND THE REALISTIC MOD??? YES NO
How will be this mode in the game!
Lincer I want to try this!!!
So, let's dowland it!!!
YES
What is happening
Whoa!
I have nothing to cushion my fall!!!
HELP!!!
My head.
Where am I?
And who are they?
Hello?
Oh, he doesn't pay attention to me!
So let's explore the area
TRADE
SHERIFF
DOCTOR
ITEM SHOP
This place is HUGE!!!


Hash
Hm?
Where am I?
Hello Donut!
Hi!
How are you and why do you have that on your head
For a job in this game, I am mech
Who is he?
He's Conor, the best player from the game
This is making videos on Youtube
So, we are in a game right?
Yes. This is amazing!
THIS... IS... AMAZING!
Hi guys!
Hi Conor!
How do you know my name?
You're the best player!
What do you have in this sack?
Here!
I have the materials for the exploration with the train
Without what?
Stop before we continue I'm gonna tell you about the game. THIS IS DEAD RAILS, a game with an old story .... from ... real life .... I'M NOT JOKING. It's a game about to travel 80 km and at every 10 km you have a station and in this you can do everything but you can't fire the place. Can we make 80 km? Let's continue!!!
Our train is ready!
I've got some arms
I'm the best with this axe!
Let's go!


AFTER THEY GOT ON THE TRAIN, THEY WENT TO THE NEXT LOCATION...:
Whoa!
Take everything you find!
I see something there!
Where!
Let's go!!!
What is that?
Guys, I found something!
What's the problem?
I don't see that cross!
No way!
It's there something behind you...
Look!
AFTER THAT, THEY GOT ON THE TRAIN AND THEY WENT TO THE FINAL LOCATION...
We did it
Let's pull the lever
Guys we have a problem!!!
It's time for fight!
Take from here
BOOM!
Surprise!
I'm out of Bullets
Me too
HELP!!!
Think, think!
What, I have an idea!
Help us please!
15 minutes LATER
NOTHING
We did it!
No you did it!
I want to give you my lucky bone!
This is my lucky day.
Thanks!
TELEPORT
YOU SURVIVED 80 hm!!! Play again?
YES
NO
NO
THE END....

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