

#### HELLENIC AMERICAN EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION ATHENS COLLEGE – PSYCHICO COLLEGE ATHENS COLLEGE JUNIOR-HIGH

# THE ATHENS COLLEGE NEWS

**VOLUME 37, MAY 2017** 



# Welcome to the 2016-2017 edition of the *Athens College Junior High School Magazine*!

I would like to thank all of the students who have contributed their work to this issue and the teachers who encouraged them to express their creativity. Our students have responded by producing some amazing pieces of writing.

The works included in this edition will surely provide readers with a peek into the teenager's thought processes and their creative thinking. It is a lively and illuminating experience to see these enthusiastic writers voicing their feelings through stories, poems, articles, essays and posters.

The works of this volume constitute only a sample of the writing produced by all students throughout the school year in Athens College English classes. Here are a few pages to keep you company through the hot summer months and may provide an inspiration for future ideas!

As the editor of this year's issue, I would like to express my gratitude to my colleagues and to all of the students involved.



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### MODEL UNITED NATIONS

#### My Dsa-Mun Experience



Model UN is a popular, competitive activity for some participants, however, to the majority of us, it is something more. Model UN has helped us be remodeled to leaders, ascertain our place in the world, become confident in ourselves and mingle with people from all over the world.

Recently, I had the great chance to attend a three-day conference in Deutsche Schule Athen. I was representing the Republic of Korea in the ECOSOC (Economic and Social Committee). On day one, we attended the opening ceremony in the General Assembly room and on days two and three, we went through the lobbying procedure, where we formed alliances, discussed and submitted resolutions and debated controversial, vital topics such as countering migrant smuggling, creating job opportunities in post conflict countries and more. This was a captivating and unforgettable experience to say the least.

Through MUN we learnt to be diplomatic, we became more aware of the world around us, evolved into more mature people, improved our critical thinking skills, and we felt as if our actions could make a difference. As cliché and cheesy as it may sound, by participating in this experience I came to the realization that we, the youth, are powerful and through our ideas, inspiration and will, we can change the world. We can stop religious intolerance and racial discrimination, we can eliminate world hunger and we can encourage peace and justice.



MUN made me understand and appreciate the fundamental quality of friendship, equality and peace. I learned to stand up for myself and for others and fight for equality, human rights, discrimination intolerance, freedom of belief, thought and conscience.

For the aforementioned reasons, I encourage everyone who gets a chance to participate in MUN, for not only will you acquire a new wider, innovative mindset, but the odds are that you will find yourself having an amazing time, with new people you will encounter on the way.

#### Katerina Karaindrou BN1



## SKYPE-A-THON

The English section AN9 had the opportunity to participate in the Global Skype-a-thon initiative, organized by Ms. Eve Psalti (Microsoft Corporation, Director, Worldwide Public Sector, Education Audience Strategy) through Skype for Business. The event took place on November 29th, 2016 at the HAEF campus in Psychico. After the event, students wrote the following reflections on their experiences.



#### **SKYPE-A-THON CALL**

Our class had the opportunity to participate in the Global Skype-a-thon initiative. We talked with kids from the Grammar School in Nicosia, Cyprus and from St. Joseph School, in Malta. Many kids from our school asked some interesting questions that were about food, culture and activities for each city. We learned many things that had to do with traditions and customs. We also asked Mrs. Psalti questions about education and technology. It was a great experience!

**Nicholas Spanodimos AN9** 

**ATHENS:** The city that gave birth to democracy, and fine arts is revealing its secrets. A city with great history and a unique civilization – iconic places like the Parthenon and the Acropolis. But also, a vibrant megalopolis, with so many more activities to do. A beautiful city belonging to all humanity and the Mediterranean light. This multicultural city has contributed to world history and culture and has influenced so many civilizations throughout eternity.

**Angelina Samiou AN9** 

YOU CAN NEVER GET ENOUGH OF GREEK FOOD: Greeks love eating together, it's a tradition. A well-known food is souvlaki, a tasty combination of bread, meat, french fries and a unique sauce tzatziki, which includes yoghurt and cucumber. The best dish for a meat lover. Another traditional Greek dish is fresh sea food. Octopus, calamari and many other kind of fish are really enjoyable with some lemon and salt for taste. If you are not really into meat, fish, or a vegetarian, Greek salad is the perfect treat for you. It includes tomatoes, cucumber and olives. When dressed with olive oil and oregano it can be really enjoyable with some bread.

Eating in Greece is a tradition. We love it! One of our favorite dishes to eat on a Sunday get together is Mousaka. It's a texturally dynamic dish but also very nutritional. A perfect example of Greek Mediterranean cuisine. The best breakfast to eat while you are in Greece are colorful delicious bread rings also known as koulouri. In Greece you are spoilt of choice. There are so many dishes you can choose from a number of different kinds of fish, salads, pasta, meat and delicious deserts. Even Greeks don't know what to choose sometime even if they have been going to taverns all their lives.

**Mellisanthie Tsohandaris & Thetis Fourli AN9** 

#### **Athens and its Historic Triangle**

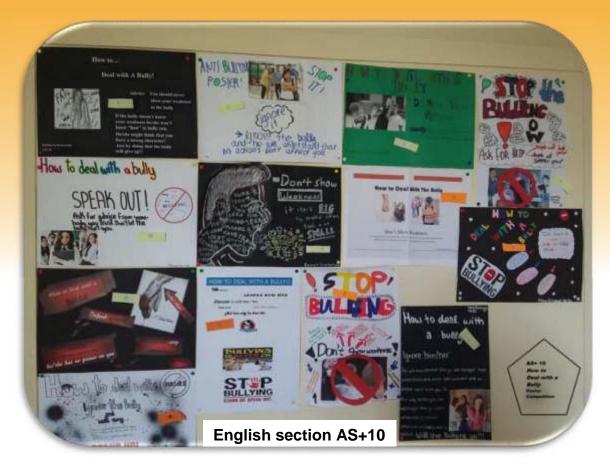
Athens is one of the most historic cities in the world. There are many things to do in Athens. Firstly, one can visit Anafiotika, an area situated beneath the Acropolis. Long ago, the inhabitants of a Cycladic island called Anafi moved to Athens to begin building constructions for king Otto. What they made were replicas of their Cycladic houses. Moving on, we can see Monastiraki Square, the Flea Market. Here people can buy old and new wares. Further along, we can visit one of the oldest markets in the world, the Ancient Market, or more commonly known to Greeks as the Ancient Agora. Even though the Market doesn't work anymore it is still visited by thousands of people every year. Leaving the Ancient Agora, we find ourselves in the neighbourhood of Plaka, which is known as the district of Gods. Small, winding streets offer interesting memorabilia for tourists and visitors. Next, is Psirri, the Street of Light. This is a very trendy place full of bars, restaurants and music tavernas. It has become a very sought after place to stay. Afterwards, we can stroll down Dionisiou Aeropagitou Street, which starts near Philopappos Hill, and ends on Amalias Avenue, close to the Arch of Hadrian. Finally, we end our journey in Syntagma Square, a very important place historically and socially.

#### **Achilleas Frangos AN9**



## BULLYING IN MODERN SOCIETY

"There are numerous cases of children that are being bullied. Write an essay about the phenomenon of bullying and cyber bullying."



Bullying has been around for decades, but it has evolved into a large problem lately and it is prevalent in many schools. It is a form of aggressive behaviour that we have all been exposed to at one point or another in our lives. Although it is a very big and dangerous problem, there are some measures to be taken in order for it to be solved.

To start with, bullying has changed forms over the years. Twenty years ago, we all knew who the bully was and what to do to avoid him or her. Nowadays, it is an overused word and an issue that no one wants to address. It can happen to anyone, anytime. With the development of technology, Internet accessibility and lack of supervision, children are more likely to bully and to be bullied. It no longer exists solely in schools, but it can happen online, via text messages, pictures and social media. In other words, it happens less face-to-face and more behind the scenes.

Although bullying is an existing phenomenon, there are ways it can be resolved. One of them is to stop it from happening in school by changing the

way parents treat their children. Bullies come from homes where physical punishment is used and children are taught that physical violence is the only way to handle problems. What is more, another way to stop it from happening is something to be done at the school level. There should be programs that address bullying involving counselling, either by school counsellors, teachers or the principal. In addition to this, in the classroom setting, teachers should work with students on this issue. Rules that involve bullying behaviour should be clearly posted. Finally, school could also ask local mental health professionals to speak to students about this and how it directly affects the victims.

All in all, bullying is something that not only should be overlooked, but should be given thorough attention. Instant measures should be taken by parents and schools in order for it to disappear once and for all.

Vivian Gioxa CS+2



"There are numerous cases of children that are being bullied. Write an essay about the phenomenon of bullying and cyberbullying."

Today's society suffers from what we like to call "bullying". In simple words, bullying is forcing someone to do what one wants by using superior strength. It is a recent problem that appeared in the 21st century and is mostly seen in schools, especially among teenagers. This essay will discuss how bullying has changed throughout the years and it will offer some possible solutions.

Within the last few years, a new form of bullying has developed which is

spread through electronic media. This is cyberbullying.

Cyberbullying started when social media and similar online platforms became popular. It is verbal bullying spread with the use of the Internet and thus, it is as serious as bullying.

Cyberbullying is mostly seen



among teenage groups, as teenagers are the users of social media.

There are several ways to prevent bullying and find solutions to the problems it causes. To start with, if you are the bully, you should think maturely about what you do and if it is worth doing. Moreover, if you are the victim of bullying, you should turn to an adult who will be able to help, such as parents and teachers. Lastly, if you have witnessed a bullying incident, you can discuss it with the victim, or the bully, or report it to an adult.

To sum up, bullying, in all its forms, is a very nasty phenomenon that occurs in most schools nowadays. However, both bullying and cyberbullying, which are equally important, are preventable and relatively easy to detect.

Vangelis Kollias CS+2

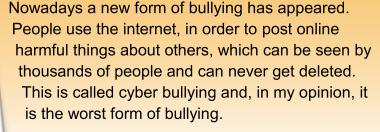
Topic: "There are numerous cases of children that are being bullied. Write an essay about the phenomenon of bullying and cyberbullying."

Bullying is a phenomenon, which can happen anywhere to anyone. It is defined as an unwanted aggressive conduct among school-aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance, threat or injury. Lately, bullying

takes place mostly at schools and it comes in various forms. It makes children feel sad and depressed and can sometimes lead to suicide. This is why we need to find solutions, in order to prevent it from happening.

Bullying has changed drastically over time. In the 50's bullies would pick on weak classmates physically or verbally. In the 80's, bullying involved mostly bad comments and laughing at young people who were different. They were

also blackmailed.



Preventing bullying is something really difficult. First of all, in order to stop it, schools should organize anti-bullying programs for young people and old people, especially parents, in order for everyone to realize the seriousness of the situation. Also, young

people in schools should discuss their problems and their experience with each other and also talk to a teacher or a doctor if they need help. Finally, everyone should learn to control themselves, in order to avoid fights and be friendly to others.

To sum up, in my opinion, bullying is a really big problem for many teens today, which makes people depressed and sad. The best way to prevent it is to stop it before it starts.

**Angelos Georgakopoulos CS+2** 



After having read the short story "The Last Leaf" by O' Henry the students were asked to think back on their lives and write about the greatest sacrifice they have ever made for another person.

"What is the greatest sacrifice you have ever made for your family or friends? Write a short story about something you decided to do or not to do, so that you could help somebody else."

It was a rainy Sunday, and I had made plans to go to the park, but they got canceled due to bad weather. Hence, I decided to stay at home and organize my closet.

At the beginning, I separated the clothes that fit me from the ones that don't. When I finished, I decided to put the clothes that don't fit in the basement, so I would give them to my cousins when they get older. But then, my mind went to the children in need, who don't have any clothes to wear, so I asked my mother where I could donate the clothes that I don't need anymore.



Eventually, we found a charity organization that needed clothes and money to get by. After donating my clothes and an amount of money, I felt surprisingly happy that I could help the ones in need.

Nadina Youni CS+2

"What is the greatest sacrifice you have ever made for your family or friends? Write a short story about something you decided to do or not to do, so that you could help somebody else."

I remember when I was very little, I would always ask my dad to give me some money for ice-cream. So one day, I was heading with my sister to the nearest kiosk in order to buy ice-cream, when suddenly we saw a homeless person begging for money. I felt very bad and I instantly suggested that we give him some money to go buy some food. My sister replied by saying that if we did that, we wouldn't have enough money for ice-

cream. I was very hesitant at first, but then I took the decision to give him money and help. Even though I didn't eat my ice-cream that day, I felt something very strange, an amazing feeling because I had helped another person. I felt so full of hope and solidarity. Sometimes, if you sacrifice something to help someone else, it turns out you have been helped too, by becoming a more dignified and better person.

#### **Konstantinos Grintzias CS+2**

"What is the greatest sacrifice you have ever made for your family or friends? Write a short story about something you decided to do or not to do, so that you could help somebody else."

One day last year, as my grandma was going down the stairs, we heard a loud scream and someone tumbling down the stairs. It was my grandmother! She couldn't move and she was crying out in agony. We rushed her to the hospital where they told us, she had broken her hip.

My grandma has always been a woman who takes care of us in the house. During her recovery she was very depressed, so I gave up a lot of things to stay with her, keep her company and cheer her up. I would listen to her stories which she repeated many times, her words of wisdom and even her criticism about what she thought I was doing wrong. She also taught me how to needle- point, to knit and to bake delicious cakes.

Even though I sacrificed my fun times with my friends during that period, I benefited as well. Not only did I get closer to my grandmother, but I also learned things and I realized what an amazing wise woman she truly is. Six months later, my grandmother recovered and she went back to her usual routine. I still spend some quality time with her.

#### Elena Abakoumkin CS+2



## STORIES...STORIES...STORIES

#### Giving Is Twice as Good as Receiving

A few years ago, my family decided to go to New Jersey in order to spend the Christmas holidays with our cousins who live there. We arrived in JFK, New York, early on Christmas Eve morning, got an Über and set off for New Jersey. I was exhausted, so I fell asleep in the car.



When I woke up, I opened the car window and saw the captivating landscapes of New Jersey's suburbs. A smell of burning wood, beautifully fresh, complemented with earthy hints of black pepper and citrus, equivalent to a big warm winter's hug suffused my lungs. The branches of tall trees were shadowing the wet, dark-colored asphalt roads. There were many detached houses with wooden shutters and small gardens teeming with colorful flowers whose blossoms enhanced the atmosphere. It was just like a movie.

Arriving at our cousins' house, we were welcomed by Alex, my oldest cousin, who was 20 years old at that time. Entering their beautifully decorated house, we walked down a corridor to the living space where everyone else

was waiting; Mark, Alex's 18-year-old brother, and their parents. We sat by the fireplace and tried some American ginger ale and a few homemade lemon cookies. We then decided to go to Brookes Dale Park in Alex's car. Our parents stayed home to prepare Christmas Eve dinner. The park was teeming with bushes and tall trees with wide leaves that all had dark-colored barks. After roaming around the park for a while, we encountered a homeless, pitiful, shabbily dressed, scruffy young boy who was sitting on the edge of a bench crying. I approached him and sat next to him. I looked at him tactfully and then asked, "Why are you alone?" He said nothing. He looked at me and then he started running. When we got home, I was still thinking about what had happened.



My mum and my aunt had already laid the table. Christmas Eve dinner included roasted butternut squash soup with spiced crème fraiche, asparagus salad with roasted sweet potato, honey glazed ham and orange dressing and roasted chicken and wild mushroom tartlet served with baby spinach, red wine syrup and walnuts for starters. For a main dish, we had roasted turkey breasts and baked ham served with sage and onion stuffing, cranberry jam, turkey juice and sweet mashed potatoes. Red velvet cupcakes, chocolate bourbon with cream cheese and eggnog crème brulée were our desserts.

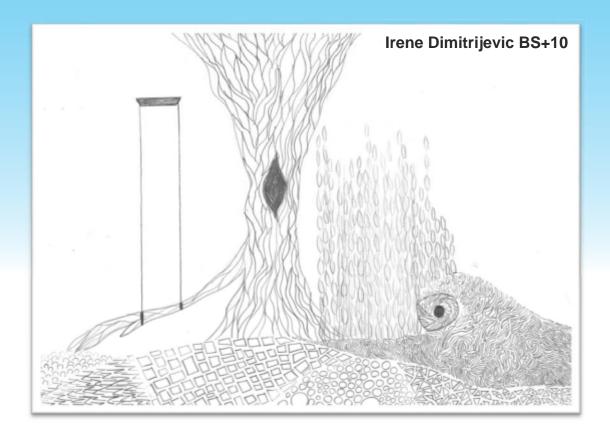
When we finished eating my cousins, my sisters, my brother and I decided to go back and find the boy we had met earlier. We left for the park having taken with us a few leftovers from dinner, two warm cozy blankets and a few Christmas books. When we arrived at the park, we saw the boy sitting on the exact same bench. I approached him holding a blanket and told him "Hey, I got you this in case you were cold". He said nothing. He wiped

out a few tears, reached out his hands and I gave him the blanket. Only then did he shyly say, "Thank you!". "We got you some food and we can sit with you and read these Christmas stories," said my brother showing the books. A smile suddenly appeared on the boy's face. We sat on the grass and started reading stories.

I never really learnt why he was crying, nor have I ever seen him in person again. To be honest, I don't even know his name. But what I do know is that our 30-minute talk helped him so much, because when we read the last story, he got up, took a blanket and a book and said "Thank you! Thank you for giving me hope and making this my best Christmas!" I absolutely don't know how just a talk helped him, but I do know that the satisfaction I got from hearing his words is just invaluable. I realised that giving is twice as good as receiving. Any act of kindness, no matter how small or big can change someone's life forever. The boy is now the founder of an organization that protects abused children.

Katerina Karaindrou BN1

#### Stories inspired by 'The Tell-Tale Heart" by Edgar Allan Poe



#### **Horror Story**

My father and I were in the car driving back from a play we had gone to see. As it was nighttime, in Seattle, it was dark, really dark out there.

At some point, Dad stepped on the brakes and I found myself on the front seat, as I was not wearing my seatbelt. "What's wrong?" I shouted at him and he pointed out of the window. There was a young girl hitchhiking.

Then my father said to me: "Please, make some space for her to sit." So I returned to the back seat. She stepped inside the car and said as she was sitting right next to me, "My house is five minutes away from here." She was so close to me that I could smell her

scent, this of rotten meat.

Later on, I felt that she had her eyes fixed on me the whole time and I decided to turn around and find out. Yes, she was staring at me. immediately turned my head the other way. Thank God, at this point, my dad announced that we had reached her house. However, when we both turned to look at her, she wasn't there, not a single sign of her. Since we had reached her house we decided to knock on the door and find out what The owner of the had happened. house said that they used to have a daughter who had disappeared 10 years ago.



When we returned home, I went directly to bed. The last thing I saw was my alarm clock flashing 00:07. Suddenly, that girl appeared in front of me and pushed her long sharp nails through my chest, pushing them deeper and deeper. Her other hand tried to muffle my screams. I woke up all sweaty, breathing a sigh of relief, when I realized that it was only a dream.

I realized that the girl whom I had dreamt of was the one who had disappeared 10 years ago.

Later I looked at my alarm clock. It said 00:06 and I heard my closet squeak, as it was slowly and cautiously, very cautiously opening.

Then the strange girl was on me! I closed my eyes!

I couldn't bear seeing her! I was afraid. She tried to open my eyes with her nails. She then covered my mouth with her other hand. Her eyes looked at mine viciously, very viciously. Her face was full of scars and scratches. She groaned like a psychopath!

"Don't be afraid! It is my birthday today. Happy birthday to me!" she said

The pain I was feeling was awful, but then I closed my eyes and stopped feeling it.

Nobody knows until today what killed Gwen. It will always be an unresolved mystery.

Stella Katsarou CS+2



Vassiliki Bakola BS+10

#### A Terrifying Experience

It was a sunny day in July and I was at the beach with my parents, my brother and three family friends. In the beginning, we decided to rent a small boat and go sailing. We were sailing further and further away from the shore. It was a beautiful day and we were enjoying ourselves immensely. However, no one could imagine what would follow.

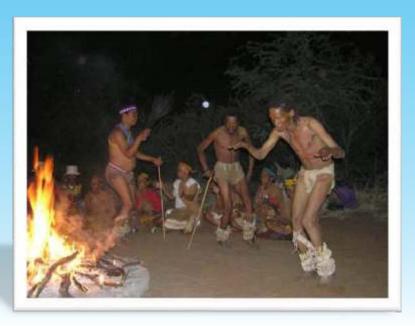
All of a sudden, the engine of the boat stopped working. We were watching the water rise and the boat started to flood quickly. We soon realized that it was going to sink. My younger friend and I started screaming in terror. We were going to die. The boat was too far away from the shore

and it was getting darker by the minute.

Immediately, we all jumped into the water and started swimming back to the shore. Three hours later, we were still swimming. The ocean was dark, black and actually terrifying, but we had to keep going. We kept hoping that someone would rescue us like some boat nearby. However, nobody ever appeared, and no one ever heard us screaming.

After four hours of swimming, we finally arrived safe and sound at the nearest beach. We were all exhausted, but thankful to be alive. It was one of the most terrifying experiences in my life and one I would never forget.

Nadina Youni CS+2



#### **Horror Story**

The 37 year old man was looking for his younger brother who had been lost somewhere in a jungle in Latin America. The sun started setting and it started getting really dark. The man was getting more and more anxious as he was really worried about his little brother who he loved dearly.

After a while, the sun was not visible any more. The man lighted his torch and kept on walking next to the tropical plants of the jungle, calling out loudly the name of his brother. At that moment, he noticed smoke going up in the sky and lights in a glade. He started moving towards the lights and as he was getting closer, shouts and songs in a strange language could be heard. Eventually, he reached the lights and hit behind a plant. He couldn't believe his eyes!

The man was staring at what was happening. People of an ancient tribe were gathered, singing and dancing, as they were in the middle of a ritual. Suddenly, he saw something

unexpected. He saw his brother's head, which had been stabbed with a piece of wood, getting engulfed in the flames of a large fire. He screamed desperately. Unfortunately for him, he was heard.

Men wearing feathers and colorful leathers started chasing him. The man threw the torch on the ground and ran away so fast that he wasn't paying attention to what was in front of him. The men were getting farther and farther away. They couldn't follow him. He felt relieved, but also terrified by the picture of his brother's head. His poor little brother was dead!

It was almost midnight. The moon was shining bright. The man had found a huge tree under which he could rest. Trying to lie under the branches of the tree, he felt the ground shaking. He was caught in a trap and the men from the ancient tribe appeared again! He then knew that his fate wouldn't differ from that of his brother.

Vangelis Kollias CS+2



A Full Moon

It was a dark and cold night in Hodgenville, Oklahoma, in the sixteenth century AD. Hodgenville only had 763 villagers. It was a remote area and at the time, the villagers believed strongly in superstitions, since human knowledge couldn't explain the unknown. A young girl feared that the story of Magnus Bain was more than a bedtime story and was about to come true. The full moon had turned red and blurry. villagers ignored her and made fun of her. So, she screamed: "It's the truth; it's the truth, I swear!" But the people of the village didn't listen.

During that summer night, as she was walking home, she looked up at the full moon. She recollected that evil spirits were stronger during this time and able to control mundane beings. Fearing the worst, she tried to calm herself down, but an atrocious spirit took over her mind and body. The spirit made her commit cold-blooded murders with no remorse. Only at the crack of dawn, with the first beam of sun light was she able to turn into her normal self again. Thus, nobody could trace her.

The spirit was called Magnus Bain. A British lawyer. In a case of a false murder accusation, he met a British Royal, named Camille Bullecourt. He instantly fell in love with her and so did she. The King forbade their love, and he was sent to exile. Bain stayed,

fought for his true love, failed, and was handed the death penalty. Before his execution, Bain swore revenge. Thus, he comes back every full moon to possess unmarried girls, in order to seek revenge by killing innocent adults. As of that night, the demonic spirit took control of her body and started killing everyone in the village apart from children. When no adult was left alive, the spirit couldn't control her any more. She then ran far away, climbed a really tall mountain, and chained herself to it hoping she would no longer hurt

anyone.

Years later, the children who were left alive became adults and started their own families. They tried to forget the past and live in contentment. But the full moon summoned the

vengeful spirit once again.

She came back with her excruciating, brutal and heartless stare and brought a harsh and barbaric death to everyone. However, she acted differently this time. The unpredictable, atrocious soul executed everyone, but spared an old man. He was told to spread her story.

Helen Exarchou CS+8

Once in a small town called Cobris, not far from Pennsylvania, lived a quiet and beautiful family. It was a family of four and the children were named Patricia and Joy. The two siblings were inseparable and never argued. But one day, something terrible and unforeseen happened!

Being the older brother, Joy always rode shotgun and Patricia took the back seat. While their father was driving them home, Patricia started arguing with her brother for the first time for no apparent reason. The fuss they caused distracted the father and made him lose control of the vehicle. The awful crash that followed claimed Joy's life. There was no way of consoling the grief-stricken family and especially Patricia, who held herself responsible. From that day on, Patricia's behavior changed completely.

Once a cheerful and lovely girl now became a lonely and miserable being who went through a series of consequences. First, Patricia lost all her friends. Secondly, she became a terrible student. Thirdly, she started acting in a weird way. She never smiled, always wore black, and showed interest only in horror stories. Teenagers of her age considered her "paranoid." This attracted her parents' attention, who at first tried to be supportive and comprehensive. When the problem grew bigger, they decided she should visit a doctor. After examining Patricia's behavior and state of mind, the doctor diagnosed that she suffered from a type of mental illness, and she had better be admitted to the local mental hospital. This drove Patricia even crazier, who could not accept that she was mentally ill. From that day on, she could not handle the misery. Fatigue had overwhelmed her entire body, and she couldn't even walk to her bedroom. This led her parents towards one solution. They decided to get the best drugs they could buy in order to make their child well again.

The drugs didn't have the result they hoped for. Patricia was able to sleep, but still felt terribly psychologically. Only one thing could help her find her warm spirit once again and that was love! Indeed Patricia fell in love with one of her classmates, Morris. Morris accepted Patricia the way she was, and she became the cheerful girl she once was. But not for long!

At the age of eighteen, Patricia and Morris decided to marry. On their wedding day,

something terrible and unforeseen happened once again! Patricia chose to get married in a small chapel on the mountain where her parents got married decades ago.



As the couple and some friends were driving towards the chapel, the driver lost control of the vehicle. The accident led this time to Morris' tragic death. Patricia was now sure that it was her fault for both her brother's and Morris' death.

Now, her madness grew bigger and made her lose her senses. She didn't wish to love any more, and she was prepared to make others suffer. She decided to destroy other people's happiness. More specifically, she trained intensively for almost five constant years and at the age of 30 she had become the number one serial killer in Pennsylvania. She was a talented killer. She murdered with no mercy all the newlywed couples and caused grief to hundreds of families. A few years later, Pennsylvania became one of the cities with the highest rate of murders in America and the FBI went after her. However, she had become one of the best in her profession and the clash was going to be gory. Patricia found out the FBI's plans and secured her house. On February the 2nd, the FBI raided Patricia's house. Little did they know, Patricia had turned her house into a fortress killing everyone who tried to breach her security measures.

Patricia was now satisfied and stopped murdering people. She decided to start living a normal life. Then something terrible and unforeseen happened again. Patricia's body was found dead after a terrible car crash that took her life.

Overall, it is evident that Patricia didn't have a normal life at all. She lived a life full of sadness, terrible accidents and depression. This misfortune followed her till the last moment of her life. There is no doubt that this girl was truly cursed!

**Lambros Athanasiou CS+8** 



**An Unexpected Visitor from the Past** 

It was an ordinary Tuesday night. My piano lesson had just ended. I was alone in the house studying. My parents and siblings had gone on a trip to France, but I couldn't go with them because of school, so I was going to spend the night by myself. The weather was cold and rainy.

As I was studying, I heard an eerie, monotonous, and repetitive sound. I thought it would stop, but it didn't. It got louder, and louder, and louder. It was a combination of the sound of a clock and a church organ. I immediately ran downstairs and activated the house alarm.

After making sure that nobody could enter the house, I went to my sister's room and started crying. I believed that there was a thief in the house trying to steal our belongings. The sound that I had heard before kept on getting louder, and louder, and louder. I finally found the courage to open the door and face the thief. But

what I saw was even worse....

I opened the door and I saw myself playing the piano. I couldn't believe my eyes! A girl that looked exactly like me was playing music, but the piano sounded completely different. She was dressed like a medieval noblewoman. I looked at her and froze. Suddenly, her eyes turned green and her skin became transparent, as her bones were showing clearly. I started screaming, but she wouldn't hear my ear-piercing voice. I couldn't see her anymore so I got closer, and I tried to grab her. But as soon as I touched her, she disappeared.

The piano began to deteriorate. But, immediately, another piano took its place. It was an ornate, medieval piano with a discord sound. There was a note attached. It read: "My gift to you my twin soul. We shall meet once again."

**Erato Androulaki CS+8** 

# GREAT GRANDMA VS. PAW PAW

After having read the stories 'The Three-Century Woman" and "Ribbons" from their anthology, the students were asked to write essays, in which they would compare and contrast the grandmothers in the two stories.

#### **Compare- and- Contrast Essay**

In the two stories, "The Three-Century Woman" and "Ribbons", there are two old ladies who are alike. They both have many similarities and differences. However, in my opinion, Great grandmother Breckenridge is a more humorous and likeable character than "Paw-Paw', the Chinese grandmother in "Ribbons".

To begin with, both grandmothers have many similarities. First and foremost, they both have a conflict with their grandchildren that is resolved at the end of the stories. In addition, Great grandmother Breckenridge and "Paw-Paw"

both care a lot about their grandchildren as we see in the really emotional dialogues at the end of the stories. Last but not least, they are both old, which makes them really wise, venerable and respected.

On the other hand, the two old ladies have many differences between them, too. Firstly, "Paw-Paw" has experienced a lot of pain and torture in the past from the Chinese foot-binding tradition that Great grandmother



Breckenridge hasn't during her life. In addition, "Paw-Paw" is old-fashioned, conservative and is not used to modern life. Unlike her, Great grandmother Breckenridge is up-to-date with the latest trends and technology and that

makes her an exceptional character. Finally, Great grandmother Breckenridge has a lot of humor and is really smart, as she lies about her past to impress the reporters. In contrast, "Paw-Paw" isn't humorous at all, is really stiff and a tough person that doesn't express her feelings.

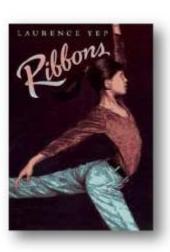
Overall, both characters have many similarities and differences, but Great grandmother Breckenridge is a more fascinating character and definitely stands out compared to "Paw-Paw" in many ways.

Philip Patsis BS+10

#### **Compare- and- Contrast Essay**

Despite the big generation gap, in both stories, "Ribbons" and "The Three-Century Woman", the grandmothers have a significant impact on their granddaughters' lives. Even though both of them have unique personalities, I personally prefer Great-grandmother Breckenridge.

Mrs. Breckenridge and "Paw-Paw" are very similar to each other. First of all, they are both strong and powerful women, as they do not allow anyone to take advantage of them. Secondly, at the end of both stories, their conflicts with their granddaughters are finally resolved through communication. Last but not least, they both love and care about their grandchildren, more than they actually seem to.



Despite all their similarities, these two women differ in many ways. To begin with, the grandmother in "Ribbons" is very serious and stiff, while Great-grandmother has a great sense of humor and is more lively. In addition to this, she's also up-to-date with technology, whereas "Paw-Paw" is more old-fashioned and conservative. Finally, Stacy's grandmother lives at home with her family, while the grandmother in "The Three-Century Woman" is staying in an elder-care facility

To sum up, I believe that Great-grandmother and "Paw-Paw" have as many similarities as differences. In general, I think that each of them has her own way of showing her love, but I personally prefer Mrs. Breckenridge, as she is more humorous and amusing.

Hara Papara BS+10

#### **Compare- and- Contrast Essay**

In both stories "The Three-Century Woman" and "Ribbons", each grandmother appears wise and venerable. They have many similarities as well as several differences. In my view, Mrs. Breckenridge is a better character because she has a unique personality.

Both grandmothers are similar to each other. Firstly, they have a conflict with their granddaughters. They don't express their feelings and are uncomfortable showing affection. In addition, they have both been through a lot of experiences, such as the foot binding custom and the San Francisco's earthquake. Lastly, the Great grandmother and "Paw-Paw" have powerful personalities. That's why they don't allow people to take advantage of them.

Despite their important similarities, the two grandmothers differ in many ways. To begin with, Stacy's grandmother is serious and stiff, whereas Mrs. Breckenridge has a great sense of humor. Moreover, "Paw-Paw" is old fashioned and conservative, while Great grandmother is up-to-date with technology and even cares for her appearance. Lastly, the old lady in "Ribbons" stays with her family and more specifically in Stacy's room, unlike the character in "The Three-Century Woman", who lives in an elder care facility.

All in all, both grandmothers have similarities and differences in their daily lives, as well as in their personalities. Personally, I prefer Great grandmother, as she is more humorous and lively. She is unique and has her own way of making people happy.

Alexandra Boboti BS+10

#### **Compare- and- Contrast Essay**

Great-Grandmother Breckenridge in "The Three Century Woman" and Stacy's grandmother in the story "Ribbons" are very different characters, but are a little bit alike. In my opinion, Great-Grandmother Breckenridge is a more fascinating person.

"Paw-Paw", which means grandmother in Chinese, and Mrs. Breckenridge have many similarities. Firstly, at the beginning of the story, they both have a conflict with their granddaughters. Furthermore, they both care about their grandchildren, but they show their affection in their own way. Last but not least, in both stories the conflicts between the grandmother and the grandchildren are resolved.

However, these two grandmothers also have many differences. To begin with, Stacy's grandmother hides her past because she is ashamed of it, whereas Great-Grandmother Breckenridge lies about her past to impress the reporters. Moreover, "Paw-Paw" is very stiff and serious all the time, while Mrs. Breckenridge is humorous and makes jokes. Lastly, the grandmother in "Ribbons" is old-fashioned and conservative, whereas Great-grandmother Breckenridge is up-to-date with technology.

To sum up, both grandmothers have as many things in common as they have in contrast. Still, I think that Great-grandmother Breckenridge is a more interesting and fun character than the grandmother in the story "Ribbons".

Eleni Bersi BS+10

#### **Compare- and- Contrast Essay**

In both stories, "The Three-Century Woman" and "Ribbons", the two grandmothers have an important impact on their granddaughter's lives. Even though they have different personalities, I personally prefer Great grandmother Breckenridge.

Mrs. Breckenridge and "Paw-Paw", the Chinese grandmother ,have many similarities. To begin with, they both have a conflict with their granddaughters which they eventually resolve at the end of the story through communication. In addition, they both have powerful personalities, as they don't allow anyone to take advantage of them. Finally, they are old and have difficulty in moving. Great grandmother Breckenridge's disability is due to old age and she lives in an elder care facility, while "Paw-Paw" is disabled as a result of an old Chinese tradition.

Despite their similarities, the two grandmothers differ in many ways. Firstly, they have different nationalities and cultures. As a result, they have different personalities. On one hand, Great Grandmother is humorous, extroverted and has great imagination. She also lies about her past to impress reporters. "Paw-Paw", on the other hand, is introverted and she has no sense of humor. She is very stiff and secretive about her past. Lastly, Great grandmother is up-to date with technology, unlike "Paw-Paw" who is old fashioned and conservative.

To sum up, both women have similarities and differences in their personalities and their daily lives. I would say that Great Grandmother is by far a more pleasant character because of her adventurous spirit, as well as her sense of humor.

#### Vally Paparrigopoulou BS+10

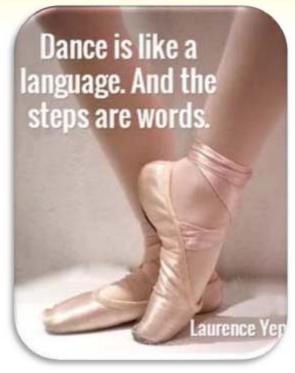
#### **Compare- and- Contrast Essay**

Is Great grandmother Breckenridge in the story "The Three-Century Woman" better than "Paw-Paw", the Chinese grandmother in the story "Ribbons"? This essay will explore the differences and similarities between the two grandmothers. Despite the fact that they are both old, wise and respectful, my favorite one is Great grandmother Breckenridge!

On one hand, both characters have some similarities. First of all, an important similarity that shows how smart they are, is that they don't allow

anyone to take advantage of them. Secondly, they both care a lot about their grandchildren and they show it in every way. Lastly, both old ladies have gone through a lot of experiences and they are both capable of telling stories about their lives.

Despite their similarities, they also have some important differences. grandmother Firstly, Great Breckenridge has lived through three while "Paw-Paw" centuries. younger. As а result. Great grandmother Breckenridge is more experienced and has lived during many major events, such as the San



Francisco earthquake and the Hindenburg disaster. Secondly, "Paw-Paw" is an old-fashioned lady, unlike Great grandmother who is a person who is upto-date with technology. That makes her a very "cool" great grandmother. Finally, Great grandmother Breckenridge has a sense of humor. On the contrary, "Paw-Paw" is strict and not used to physical affection.

To sum up, both grandmothers are old and wise and have many similarities and differences, but my personal favorite will always be the main character in the "Three-Century Woman".

Philip Xenakis BS+10

#### **Compare- and- Contrast Essay**

Did you know that over two sixths of the people on this planet are over the age of 75? The purpose of this essay is to compare and contrast the two grandmothers in the stories "The Three-Century Woman" and "Ribbons". Anyone who has read them knows why the grandmother in the first story is way better.

One the one hand, the two grandmothers have a lot of similarities. To begin with, they both love and care about their granddaughters. Also, they are both very dynamic and don't let anyone take advantage of them. Finally, as they are old, they have difficulty moving around.

On the other hand, they have a lot of differences, too. To start with, they have very unlike characters. The Chinese grandmother, "Paw Paw", is very serious, old fashioned and sometimes stiff towards others, whereas Mrs. Breckenridge in "The Three–Century Woman" is very kind, humorous and sweet. In addition, Mrs. Breckenridge is up-to-date with technology and knows how to use it, unlike the Chinese grandmother "Paw Paw". Finally, the grandmother in "The Three–Century Woman" lives in an elder care facility, in contrast with "Paw Paw", who lives with her family at home.

To sum up, both old ladies have many things in common, but also many differences. In my opinion, Great grandmother is a much better character than the Chinese grandmother in "Ribbons".

Vassiliki Bakola BS+10



Vassiliki Bakola BS+10



#### The Interplanetary Zoo and Professor Hugo Are Here!

Tuesday, 20th December, 2016

**Hong-Kong**-The interplanetary zoo of Professor Hugo is here in Hong-Kong. This time after 3 years Professor Hugo announced that he will stay for 3 days. The shows are 3 and very exciting.

The whole city is waiting for these shows. People from schools, work, old and young will be outside the Victoria Park tomorrow to watch the second show! The first has already been presented today and it was amazing! I went to the first show and people were filling the streets waiting for the next show. Today, 10.000 people came to see Professor Hugo's zoo!

The idea of the interplanetary zoo is very clever. This zoo is very different from the others. Each year professor Hugo discovers different creatures and brings them to us. This year the creatures are the following: polar bears-bees, lions-elephants and fox-dolphins which are a combination of a fox's face and a dolphin's body.



These animals were inside barred cages for our protection. At the beginning, Professor Hugo appeared in the middle of the crowd and talked to us. He was wearing his tall hat and his rainbow cape as always. Then he revealed the cages and the show started.

During the show, I watched with wonderment. When it finished, we started waving our hands to the animals until they left. After that, a lady that was next to me turned around and said that this was the most incredible moment of her life and I nodded.

The show is worth it. You should go and watch it!

Leoni Sideri BS6

#### **Professor Hugo and his Spaceship Come for Their Annual Visit!**

Sam Fenton

Tuesday, 20th December 2016

**AMITY PARK**-Professor Hugo landed last Friday 16th December, in the Amity Park's park in the center of our town. He came with his spaceship to show the people of Earth the new creatures that he had found.

All the citizens of our town were there, nobody went to work and no children went to school that day. Everybody wants to visit Professor Hugo's interplanetary zoo, as he surprises us every year with the strange and unique creatures he brings. It was the third time I've visited the zoo and it was as amazing as the others. The low cost fee attracts a lot of people with their families and friends, making this special zoo famous all around the world.

Professor Hugo came out of the spaceship, wearing a rainbow cape and a top hat, wanting to introduce to the crowd the creatures that he had brought. When he finally revealed the creatures, the crowd stared in awe and I heard a young man near me say "It's amazing! We paid only \$1 and we are able to see creatures from the outer space!" I nodded, totally agreeing with his words.

This is a show you don't want to miss or you'll regret it!

Georgia Papadopoulou BS6

#### The Interplanetary Zoo Has Returned!

Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2016

**NEW YORK-** The interplanetary zoo is back with an amazing show near the statue of Liberty for one day. This time is more amazing than the other times.

All the people who live in New York know about the zoo. When the spaceship comes around January, people form queues and they wait in awe to see that remarkable invention revealing from the dark and cloudy sky. I thought that I did not have time because I had a lot of work to do, but I decided to find time because I knew it was worth it.

The interplanetary zoo has an exploring element combined with entertainment. When the show started, I was amazed. The atmosphere was electric. A strange man told me: "This was definitely worth the money that I paid and I will also come next year." I agreed with him.

When the show was over, everybody applauded wildly!

It was an amazing show, worth of your time and money! Do not miss it! It is a once in a lifetime experience!

**Manos Kantidakis BS6** 

#### Interplanetary Zoo

By Irene Rapti

Tuesday 20 December 2016

**NEW YORK-** The interplanetary zoo is coming to New York once again, but will only last 6 hours. This year it is more impressive and has more creatures.

Everybody in New York waits for the interplanetary zoo to come and especially me! When I learned that professor Hugo is bringing it back to Earth, I booked tickets immediately for me



and my whole family. Everyone can go since it isn't expensive at all! The ticket is only 1\$!

In the interplanetary zoo, I could see weird creatures, such as combinations of animals like horses and spiders. I went to this impressive event last year and believe me, it was AMAZING!!! If you are afraid of weird creatures, don't worry, because all these creatures will be in barred cages! You can also bring your offspring!!!

Book tickets now! They are almost sold out!!! There is space FOR ONLY 10,000 PEOPLE!!! Hurry!!!! And remember... next year it may not come again.

Irene Rapti BS6

#### The Interplanetary Zoo Visits Us Again!

Anna Matsiota

Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> December 2016

NEW YORK-Interplanetary zoo is back for another fascinating six-hour

experience in Times Square. Make sure to be there to witness the new creatures of Kaan!

It is an event that everyone, both children and adults, look forward to every December in Times Square. Its popularity has increased greatly over the years, so don't waste time to get your ticket. Book online to get a one-dollar ticket that will guarantee you a place in Times Square to watch this extraordinary show.

The Interplanetary zoo gives the crowd the chance to admire the little-known horse-spider people of Kaan.



Professor Hugo uses barred cages in order to prevent any unpleasant incidents. "I have never seen something like this before because every time I am surprised by its originality. I have been attending this show for years and I have always been amazed by it," said a guy next to me. The horse-spider people of Kaan can move around quickly like horses or climb up the walls of the cages like spiders do. This sight can only cause awe and wonderment to someone. When the show finished, everyone clapped enthusiastically! The little boy standing next to me asked his mother "Can we come back next year to see this exciting show?"

This is certainly for people who are seeking new experiences! Don't miss out on this unique opportunity!

**Anna Matsiota BS6** 

#### "The Eye That Vexed Me"

Helen Konstantinidou, crime reporter

Fri Mar 25, 1825

RICHMOND- A psychopath was caught by the police after murdering the well-

known wealthy old man, because of his "vexing eye."



Police were called at the old man's mansion after getting a call from a neighbor who had heard a shriek the night before. "When I heard the shriek from the old man's mansion I became so scared and shocked that I couldn't sleep all night! I knew that something was wrong so I immediately called the police", said the terrified and frightened neighbor after

being interrogated by the officers. When the policemen got into the house, they saw nothing but a friendly, sane and very calm person who was very happy to show them around the house. They even sat and chatted with him about what had happened and the man explained to them that he was the one who had shrieked at night because of a nightmare he had had. But then suddenly, the man began talking more loudly and more vehemently to the policemen. He even started swearing! The police men were shocked but kept calm in order to see what the mad man would do or say next. The mad man was starting to lose his mind and after one minute of screaming and yelling, confessed his crime he finally to the "The man must have been so mad that in the end, his own madness overpowered him and confessed his crime to us!", said the policeman after arresting the psychopath. "I am so happy now that I can live my life without fearing the old man's evil and vexing eye!", said the insane murderer to the people and the policemen.

The man is now held in prison, while the policemen are trying to find more clues. The man will be tried once enough clues are gathered.

**Helen Konstantinidou CS+9** 

"Most Brutal Murder of the Year"

#### Kristianne Kornelou, Crime Reporter Tuesday 23 March 1836

RICHMOND- A Canadian house-assistant goes mad and kills his landlord around midnight today in his own house, for no obvious reason.



Police-officers arrived in the residence of the two men earlier today as a neighbor had reported that he heard a shriek. The 54-year-old housekeeper answered the door, and informed the police officers that the old man was vacationing in the countryside and would be back in two weeks or more. He then proceeded to show them around and asked them if they'd like a drink. As the officers didn't see anything suspicious and the old man's wealth remained intact, they accepted the offer.

A few minutes later, the murderer couldn't endure the burden of his guilt, so he showed the policemen the old-man's dismembered body, which he'd hidden underneath the floors wooden planks. When asked what his motive was, the man said "I loved the old man, but it was his eye that vexed me." "The man was extremely calm at first and then he went mad. We're going to run some tests to check if he is suffering from any mental disorders. This will determine how he will be treated in court", the police officers reported. What makes this murder more tragic is that when asked what they thought about the murderer, the neighbors said: "He was a very polite and calm guy. He has never hurt or insulted anyone although he has never had friends either. The only person with whom he had conversations with, was the old man. He had been his assistant for 12 years and they trusted each other. None of them had a family, so they felt sympathy for one another. He also was the only person who got the old man to go out for a short walk." According to the police, tests will take place in two weeks. Until then, the man will be held in a high security prison and the police will continue their investigation, seeking for justice.

Kristianne Kornelou CS+3

#### "Vultures over Virginia"

#### George Lyras, Crime Reporter

Mon Mar 27, 1829

**RICHMOND, VIRGINIA**: Dismembered, dead old man discovered under the floor of his bedroom, just outside of Richmond. The suspect that confessed to the officer was the tenant of the 92 year-old man for over 20 years.

Last night, the police department got a call from the old man's neighbors.

The neighbors that suspected the crime said "It was midnight and we were about to go to bed when a short, eerie noise was heard. We got really scared, thus, we phoned the officers to take a look at the place because something bad was going on." The officers entered the house and found



the 42 year-old man. They stated: "Before admitting the crime, the 42 year-old suspect had been talking nervously." Moments after confessing, the 42 year-old tenant started crying and asking God for forgiveness. He then got arrested. He is locked at the police department and in a few days' time, he will be sent to trial. The strange fact is that the old man's treasures remained intact and the suspect didn't attempt to loot them. Finally, the murderer stated "I got rid of the eye that vexed me."

George Lyras CS+9

#### "Mad Murderer in Maryland"

Rupert Thomson, Crime reporter

Wed May 5, 1839

**MARYLAND-** A 40-year-old man who was a tenant of a 85-year-old rich man, killed and dismembered him.

Yesterday, the police was called at 4 o'clock in the morning to a very big house after a report from a neighbor. "I heard a shriek in the middle of the night coming from the big house and because I thought that something bad had happened, I called the police," said the neighbor. When the police officers entered the house, there was a 40-year-old man who told them that his

landlord was absent in the country for business. But after a while, his guilt overpowered him and he confessed that he had killed the old man and he had dismembered his corpse. "I have to admit that I didn't expect that young guy to be the perpetrator of such a horrible crime. Poor old man!" said the police officer who found the dead body concealed beneath the floor.



While interrogating him, the 40-year-old man explained the reason why he had killed the old man. "His vulture eye that vexed me day and night was the reason that I killed him." The 40-year-old man is currently under arrest at Maryland's police department waiting for his trial next week.

#### Stavros Markoulakis CS+9

"Gruesome Murder: The Body Found Dismembered"

Barbra Heart - crime reporter

Sun Jan 10, 1827

**RICHMOND-"**An 85-year- old man found disturbing death yesterday somewhere between 4 and 5 in the morning. Offender is yet to be tried.

"Leave me alone! I loved the old man! It was his evil eye..." stated the 30-year-old perpetrator, who's been accused of violently murdering his tenant. On Friday night a neighbor informed the police that a concerning sound



had been heard. Without wasting any time, the officers went ahead and searched the premises. When knocking on the 30-year- old's door, they came across a rather friendly man. According to a police officer: "He seemed innocent at first. We would never have thought he had been the murderer."

After a while, however, things started getting off. "He started shaking and his behavior changed completely. It was like talking to a different man," continued the policeman. At last, the offender admitted the deed. He confessed to the policeman by showing them the body. The sight was disturbing. "He was friendly, never gave us any right to believe that he was a psychopath," stated a neighbor. "He loved him, took care of him, especially the last couple of weeks." The strangest part is that the old man's possessions were intact. The trial, taking place next week, will show the result.

Roula Mathiopoulou CS+9

"Psychopath Murderer Kills Old Man and Dismembers Him for No Reason"

By Eric Cire (crime reporter)

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 1825

**RICHMOND**-A psychopath murderer was arrested in the night for killing and dismembering an old man. According to the police, he was a tenant. He has

been put into jail for now, but no one knows the real reason for his murder.

It was about two o' clock at night, when a neighbor ran at the nearby police station. "I heard a strange shriek, during the night" he said. "My neighbors are quiet so I got worried". He seemed really



anxious, so the police sent three police officers to investigate and find out what had happened. When the three men knocked at the door of the house the neighbor had indicated, a young man opened the door and welcomed them. According to the officers, he was very polite and calm, at the beginning. He told them that an old man who lived there, had gone on a trip. He told them that he had been a tenant for ten years. He walked them around and then offered them tea. According to the police, he was very confident at the beginning. But when they were about to leave, he confessed to the crime. He tore up the planks, underneath of which the dismembered body of an old man was found.

He was arrested immediately. When the trial took place and the judge asked him why he had committed such a hideous crime, he answered: "I loved him a

lot, but his vulture eye vexed me. I couldn't take it no more. I'm not mad." Indeed, some people had seen him walking together with the old man. They looked like they had some kind of special relationship. The police are still trying to find the reason for this crime. In a few days, the court will decide whether he will be sent to a mental hospital or be executed.

#### Nikitas Skayannis-Lamprakis CS+3

#### "Man Arrested for Violent Murder"

Thanasis Taprantzis, crime reporter

Fri Jan 22, 1825

**RICHMOND** – An insane young man was arrested last night for murder, after confessing to his own well-planned crime.

The police were called to investigate a house in the outskirts of Richmond, Virginia after a scream was heard by the neighbors last night. "We were terrified. We were sleeping when we heard a loud scream interrupted by a loud – BANG! " said the neighbors full of fear after finding out what had happened. The police officers entered the house and after searching, the murderer didn't let them leave, but insisted on treating them with some tea. Everything seemed to be fine when the murderer started shouting, while he

was taking off the planks of the wooden floor to reveal the body of the old man. The man was the boss of the murderer, as he had been working for him in this house for quite some time. We can suppose there was trust between them as the door of the old man's bedroom, where he was killed, was unlocked. According to the murderer, he strangled the old



man, dismembered him and hid the body under the floor. However, the police wonder how a man who suffers from insanity could have planned so well such a crime. It is believed that there is an accomplice behind the scene who prepared the whole murder. "It was just me and the eye! This vulture eye is the reason for this murder! Just keep it away from me!" the murderer shouted at the police. The man has been sent to the mental hospital without further details. "The case is still under investigation and many clues are still to be found," the police said pointing out that the real motive will be looked into next week when the murderer's interrogation will take place.

#### Thanassis Taprantzis CS+3

#### "Without Suspicion"

Georgia Simatou, Crime Reporter

Wed Dec 15, 1825

**RICHMOND -** A week ago, a servant killed his master, during the night, in his house.

The servant was a young man aged 25, who had been working for the old man for five years. The neighbors were very pleased with his manners and said "He was an excellent young man. He has never caused any type of problem and he has always been very quiet and dedicated to his work". The young man, according to the so far investigations, killed his master during the night by putting his bed over him. He then dismembered the corpse and placed it under the floor. When the police arrived, everything seemed fine. The three police officers stated: "He did a very cautious and well executed work." What is strange about this case is that the young man finally confessed that he was the one who killed his master.

After seeing the dead body, the police arrested the young man and started a

research. As it was revealed, the young man hadn't stolen any money had never had a and discord with the old man. When the court asked him to give the reason for his crime, he simply replied "It wasn't him. It was his evil eve! It vexed me!" This case still remains mystery and it will be until



next week when the judge will reach his decision.

Georgia Simatou CS+3



#### Liberty

Free at last.
I'm so happy.
I've reached the finish line.
The sound of the sea,
so calming.
The blue color of the sea,
so hopeful.
The taste in my mouth,
of a club sandwich.
THAT'S WHAT LIBERTY FEELS
LIKE!!!

#### Agapi Sakellariadi Efraimoglou CN1

#### **Immigration Poem**

Setting my hopes high Afraid to fall from the sky Keeping my head up I see everything lighting up

Got a long journey ahead
Feeling like I am breathing my last
breath
Still trying to figure out which way to
go
But I am not going to let this go

Searching for that something new Something bigger and better than what I had before Cause life is worth living So I am living for another day.

#### **Dorothy Kaltsa CN 1**

#### The Reason

She'll do it all
Everything
On her own
To do what's best
For her dream to come true

Walking alone
Not knowing a person at all
Crowded somewhere
Not taking a single breath
Terrified and anxious
About what the future may suggest

Considering how
She made this journey through
Reminisces her loved ones
And happy days at home

But suddenly remembers That she made it through She finally found a reason A reason to start over new

#### **Emily Kechagias CN1**





#### **Immigration Poem**

The walls are closing in
As they stand on the crowded ship
Left everything behind
They are searching for a new life
Fear is now washed of
By the idea of hope
They hope to make it through
Until their dreams come true
The lady with the fire in her hand
Sets fire in their hearts.

#### Eni Kotsanopoulou CN1

#### Hope

Hope is gold
Just like the bright stars showing the
way to Ellis Island
As I hear the waves
I think of a new life
That will be sweet enough
To conceal the bitterness of my
previous one

#### Irina Kotsoli CN1



#### Ellis Island

Far away from European land off the coast but out at sea lies a peaceful island that people reached with glee after a long-long journey. Full of hope of being free full of dreams of starting new from Ellis Island they could see the American shore.

#### **Dimitri Kriezis CN1**

#### **One Journey**

One journey for the wave's pride
One journey for the times we walk
One journey gotta stay alive... I will
survive
One journey for the city streets
One journey for the hip hop beats
One journey oh, I do believe
One journey is all we need
The Salty summer is over
The sweet journey of a new school
year begins
Waves of blues and reds
Opportunity anxiety
Pure joy

#### John Papaspyridis CN1

#### **Immigration Poem**

War, Poverty, and frustration
Trying to escape the bad situation.
Going through a lot
Going through pain, anxiety and
roughness
Just to find one thing
Peace.
Beautiful relieving peace.

#### Marina Yorke CN1



#### **Immigrant's Sorrow**

All I ever wanted, was to live a happy life Never did I imagine, I'll one day face this plight I never wanted a life filled with sorrow so rife All I hoped for in my life, only a little light

Home was the best, not west nor south
Up until, the war broke out
I can't even relate all I've seen
So many war crimes, it has become a routine

Now, I leave for another man's land Where I'll be tramped upon like I'm sand I'll cross oceans, take great risk What can I do? I have to act very brisk

#### Markella Papandreou CN1



#### Courage

The sun is burning hot Humidity makes food rot Though I am grinding my teeth My taste is bitter-sweet

Cause I have to keep going The sun never dawning Courage gives me strength To pass the ultimate test

Paul Samloglou CN1

#### The Island

We see the Island,
A tiny spot of land
Drowned in a blue horizon.
Where waves crash on the rocks
And sprinkle rainbows of drops
Where salty wind hits our face
And carries away our fears,
Dampens our agony.
It's hope, it's freedom,
It's a home

Philippa Samella CN1

#### **American Dreams**

When the dream comes to mind they heavily exhale, for to have a future hours they will have to sail.

The dream feeds on their hope, and they feed on its sweetness, they know they will have to cope, else they will be less.

The dream is white and bright, thought vividly on their heads, so they know which way is right, when it is time to leave their beds.

#### Thanassis Kyriakopoulos CN1





#### The New Life of an Immigrant

Days we travel with this bitter taste
We hear screams, we can fell the sad and
stressful screams
But yet we finally arrive in the land of dreams
Our green new life begins
We are sad we lost everything
However we are happy we were saved by the
mother of all exiles
Now hope is what we feel and what we have
This is the only thing we have, but love and
passion conquer us
Although we are lost

#### **Nick Pollalis CN1**

#### **New Beginning**

The taste of the new beginning, is sweet and nice.

All the immigrants, are hoping for a new life.

A life full of happiness, a life full of laughter.

It's a new start, it's a new chapter.

#### **Aphrodite Moissis CN7**

#### Hope

I'm feeling lonely and insecure, but I'm visioning the future, and yes, I'm tired and exhausted, but I can't sense the pain.
I'm dreaming endlessly of warmth though you might say it's all ironic, how have I found myself so lonely? I'm falling down, yet a sweet grasp holds me up; the green victory is powerful and keeps me moving, the splashes I hear are quite approving.

#### **Anastasia Panteli CN7**



#### **An Endless Nightmare**

A cry in the middle of the night
She sighs as she hears and feels the
madness
The black night brings a muddy taste
on her lips
She sighs although her eyes are shut
Her mind drifting away as the ice cold
air catches it
She doesn't want to move
The fear of the unknown suffocates
her
There is no escape
There is no hope
She hugs her cape
She cuts the rope

#### Andriana Boukaouri-Giannouli CN7



#### **New World**

After traveling through the blue sea, When the feeling of anxiety was burning your lungs, When you were hearing the sound of guns Which echoed in the air years ago, In order for you to be there now. With the taste of bitter ice cream in your mouth, Which is bitter, but still remains ice cream, You arrive for the first time in your life in this New World.

#### Julio Tsimbos CN7

#### The Endurance

All I could see was endless blue. That never-ending trip was making me feel exhausted and bored. Sweet like the sound of a harp in the beginning but in the end the absence of a loud noise

was noticeable.

The same routine every single day, tasteless like the flavor of dried oat flakes. I felt as if I had been on this boat my whole life.

as all my memories were passing by. The only moment of joy was when I arrived

and finally escaped from this dull way of life

#### Maira Nicoli CN7

#### Liberty

I can feel the sweet and refreshing taste of it It comes and takes me away It gives me hope whenever there is none left Its name is Liberty I can hear the smooth melody echoing in the air The children are smiling, the adults are happy Time is frozen and let's enjoy the moment For Liberty is here to bring happiness back. The flowers are blooming, the clouds disappear The sun is shining and everyone is happy For Liberty is here to bring happiness back.

#### Fanis Michalakis CN7

#### Refugees

When I think of the word peace, What comes in mind is the refugees Who 've experienced the black feeling of the war And now are closing their country 's door Trying to forget the shooting weapon in the enemy 's hand To find love, a piece of bread And a safe place the night to spend

#### Meropi Mylonogianni CN7



#### The Unknown

I'm living in a grey city. I wake up, a lump in my throat. What will happen today? I don't know. I stand up, a bitter taste in my mouth. I'm feeling stressed. Why? I don't know. During class, I'm drowning in my thoughts. I stay still, in silence. I feel lost. In my house my parents keep asking: What will you study? Will you find a job? My answer, the same: I don't know. There is something that I'm sure of though, And it is my fear of the unknown. I'm afraid; I'm scared of what will come, Just the thought makes my body feel numb. I'm panting. Why am I scared of things like that? I don't know. Maybe that's just who I am.

#### Electra Nikolopoulou CN7



#### What On Earth Will I Do?

I wake up to the sound of commotion
A constant buzz piercing my ears
I feel a dagger being driven into my stomach
only to realize it's the hunger I feel
Even bad airplane food would suffice
To stop the hunger, oh that would be nice
As I am served a brown goo
I wonder "What on earth will I do?"

#### Thaleia Fourli CN7



#### Ocean

Salty waves of ocean
Water crash against
The boat against their
Dreams of paradise and
Freedom

Blue waves of ocean Water try to bring them In crashing into the Rocks

Enormous waves of ocean Water try and end their Search for happiness in This world

Xenofon Psyllidis CN7

#### **CINQUAIN POEMS**

A cinquain poem is a verse of five lines that do not rhyme. It was created by Adelaide Crapsey. Here are some cinquain poems our students came up with:

#### **Space**

Space
Unexplored
Is where we belong
It is bigger than huge
Big Bang

#### Maria Podaropoulou BS+4



#### Ice-cream

Ice Cream
A frozen treat
Cold, soft, creamy, melting
Makes me feel happy and free
So sweet

#### Hara Papara BS+10



#### **Football**

Football
Beautiful game
Passing, Shooting, Scoring
It is the best sport
Soccer

#### Philip Xenakis BS+10



#### **Love in War Time**

Two souls,
Dead yet alive,
Mourned in a world of war
Full of tears, hatred,
vengeance, but
In love

#### **Konstantinos Grintzias CS+2**



#### **Best Friend**

Best friend
Trustworthy, helpful
Understands, loves, cares
Always there for me
Soul mate

#### Vivian Gioxa CS+2



#### Relationships

My relationships
Complex, unmeaningful
Not lasting for long
Thus, I'm single on
Valentine's day
Failure

#### Philip Hatzis BS+4



#### **Flowers**

Flowers
Aromatic
Scented and colorful
Delicate and enchanting
Vibrant

#### Olina Paspati BS+4



#### My House

My house
Shiny, white, great
Small, nice and beautiful
Family, friends come day
and night
My home.

#### John Christodoulou



#### Nutella

Nutella
Tasty, delicious
Loves, completes, satisfies
Best sweet ever made
Chocolate

Nadina Youni CS+2

#### Grandpa

Grandpa
Funny, unpredictable
Caring, loving, inspiring
Makes me feel safe
family

Elena Abakoumkin CS+2





#### Friends

Friends
Forgiving, protective
Smart, amazing, caring
Always by your side
Company

Alexandra Boboti BS+10



### THE POTATO EATERS

After having analyzed the story *Angela's Ashes* which describes Frank Mc Court's difficult Irish childhood and after having discussed the potato famine in Ireland, the students were exposed to Van Gogh's painting, *The Potato Eaters*. They studied the painting in class and then wrote stories inspired by the painting. These are some of the stories they came up with.



#### If this painting was the beginning of a story, what would happen next?

It was late and the Wright family was exhausted. They had all been working all day nonstop, so that they could yield potato seeds. They weren't so happy with the production they had made, but it was enough to feed the family for six months.

"The potatoes seem more rotten than usual," pointed out Mum as she was serving the other family members. "What if it's a fungal spore and it spreads across our crops?"

Dad interrupted her, waving his hand and said: "The only thing we should worry about right now is our family's health and our daughter's education! She has missed so many lessons due to her work in the farm!"

"But, you know we can't do otherwise," Grandpa explained. "She needs to help us with the farm, so that we have something to eat!"

Grandma's face lightened for a second, as she had a brilliant idea.

"What if we emigrate? A lot of families do these days. Why don't we leave the country too?"

Everyone in the room turned their faces towards Dad, scared for his reaction. Dad got furious and started yelling:

"I will not leave my house and my country just like that, without helping a bit!"

Everyone went silent. They knew that Dad was patriotic and wouldn't leave to go to America for no reason, but emigration seemed like the only solution at this point.

The family's dinner continued silently. No one dared to speak, or even look into dad's eyes. As the time passed slowly, the Wright family went to sleep.

Only Angela, the little girl, was awake. She couldn't sleep these past few days because of the thoughts she had in her mind. Why do people need to suffer? What if that was her only future? What if emigration really was the only chance to start a new life? All these questions made her upset and





sad and she burst into tears. She couldn't accept the unfair truth. Sometimes, she had even thought of leaving the house in the night and emigrating by herself! But what would her family think of her? Would they be scared and try to find her? Would they just forget about her?

All these thoughts were giving her a migraine. She couldn't accept that any longer. She stood up, packed a few things, and finally left the house. As Angela was walking away, she looked back at the farm and felt her heart breaking into pieces. She ignored the fact that she was heartbroken, leaving the house and her family without any notice!

She started running towards the nearest town. After hours of wondering, she finally found the port. As she was nervously walking, someone grabbed her by the shoulder and hugged her tightly. She tried to understand who it was, and it was nobody else, but her loving Grandma, holding her tightly and crying. Grandma looked into Angela's beautiful green eyes and gave her a bag, which had some money inside. She asked her to write a letter to her each day, so that she knew she was fine. They both switched hugs and lots of kisses and wished each other good luck.

As Angela was boarding the ship, she looked back at her grandma, who was crying. She read her wrinkled lips, whispering: "Take care there! And always know that I will be by your side."

Anastasia Stavropoulou BS+4



# If this painting was the beginning of a story, what would happen next?

It was a lovely morning in Ireland but the five family members couldn't enjoy it, since they were closed in their small, dark house. A lamp in the center of the room was the only source of light, but it wasn't enough to illuminate the darkness of the room. They were having their breakfast, the same breakfast they had been eating every day. The family lived entirely on the potato, since it was highly nutritious and kept them healthy.

During breakfast nobody talked, everyone was in a hurry. The two women had to stay home and take care of the other four kids of the family. The little girl, Stacy had to walk a long distance to get to school. The two men had to go early to work as farmers, in order to finish working before sunset. In the spring most Irish farmers had planted their potato crops and now in the middle of winter it was time to dig them up. The two men were excited, since they lived on the potato, but never expected the terrible outcome. When they dug them up, they were black from the rot and destroyed. Nobody knew the cause of the blight, but most importantly nobody knew that the potato crops would go bad for the next four years.

Eventually, the men returned

home to their unaware family. It was the beginning of a very difficult period. The family realized that something ordinary can become something very valuable from one day to another.

#### Irene Retsou BS+4

# If this painting was the beginning of a story, what would happen next?

After an honest day's work in the fields tilling the earth with their bare hands, the Linden family gathers at home for their well-earned dinner of potatoes. Tonight, they will first boil them and then serve them with some salt and butter. Sophie, the lovely young daughter of Lucas and Emma, is the only ray of hope in the dim light of their home. Tonight, she is excited because her grandfather, Jacob brought the good news to the family. Uncle Theo and Aunt Julia have arrived from Suriname for their holidays and have offered to take little Sophie back with them to Suriname. She will have the excellent opportunity to attend school and learn how to read and write. Also, she will experience life in a warm and sunny place in more comfortable surroundings. What's more, she will get to taste more than just potatoes!

#### Vally Paparrigopoulou BS+10



# If this painting was the beginning of a story, what would happen next?

When spring of 1845 came, all of the potatoes were destroyed. They came out black and rotten. The family had to sell their mansion at a very low price and even worse, nobody would buy the enormous farm. They had to move to a tiny cottage and it was really hard for them to adjust in there. They all got skinny and weak due to the lack of food. Grandfather and Grandmother died and Mother got sick. The father got a job with a really low pay and couldn't afford to buy medicine. That's why his wife passed away. At the end, the father and his daughter decided that it would be best if they

emigrated to New York, so they packed their bags and left. On the ship, the little girl became really good friends with the daughter of a bank owner. When they arrived in America, the banker's daughter introduced her new best friend and the father. The banker invited them over and heard all about their past in Ireland. With tears in his eyes the banker gave a job with a really good pay to the father. He gladly accepted and bought a flat on the Upper East Side. In the end, he sent his daughter to study to Harvard and always thanked God for what he had given to him.

#### Phoebe Moustaka BS+10

# If this painting was the beginning of a story, what would happen next?

The family is facing problems. They have hardly anything to eat and they can only eat potatoes. Besides this, the little girl, Johanna, is suffering from typhoid, a very dangerous and painful disease, many people were forced to face due to the bad living conditions at that time. All of them are full of sorrow and having a discussion around the table, before going to sleep.

"What are we going to do?" Mum asked with disappointment in her face.

"I don't know", Dad answered discouraged.

"Wait! Don't panic! There's always a solution!" Grandma twitched and her face brightened up with joy. "We can go to America!" she added.

"Oh, that's a good idea!" everyone said.

"I'll think about it," Dad answered. "Oh! It's time we went to bed, guys! It's 11 o' clock!"

Everyone stood up and then went to bed.

#### Martha Xipnitou BS+10



# If this painting was the beginning of a story, what would happen next?

Once upon a time, a family sat down to eat their supper. That family was one of the poorest families in Ireland and couldn't afford their own food. What they ate was potatoes, for breakfast, for dinner and for lunch. Mrs. Goodman was a typical Irish mother. She cooked, cleaned the house and washed the dishes every day. Mr. Goodman, however, was addicted to alcohol and spent almost all the money he had on drinks. The rest of the money was invested in lottery tickets.

It was one of these nights when Mrs. Goodman tried to convince her husband not to go buy some lottery tickets, as he did every day. She struggled to make him understand that this money could be used in a better way. Mr Goodman stood up and hit his wife.

"Don't you dare tell me what to do!" he shouted.

He grabbed his coat and ran outside to buy a lottery ticket. He saw a poor kid on the road begging for food or money. He didn't even look at it as he was running to the store. When he arrived, he shouted angrily:

"Mark the usual!"

He was given his ticket and a small coin of one penny to scratch it. He was surprised to see three strawberries and the word "BIG WINNER" behind the scratch. He was so happy that ran outside the store and kissed the ticket.

It was that moment that Mr. Goodman realized that the poor kid on the road needed that ticket more than he and his alcohol addiction did. He wanted to give the ticket to the child, but the same moment a taxi ran over him and made him never see that lottery ticket again.

The next thing he remembered was himself laying on a hospital bed and his family surrounding him. He then found a handwritten note in his pocket that said "Thanks for the lottery ticket! Usually people don't even look at me. You're so generous!"

#### **Kriton Mylonogiannis BS+10**

# If the painting was the end of the story, what would have happened before?

This has been a very bad year for the Harrison's. The crops have been destroyed and there's nothing to eat, but small potatoes for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. They are now gathered around the table, sharing the few boiled potatoes that were left over from the previous day. They are exhausted and desperate. They see no future for them and most of all for their beloved daughter. They don't want her to end up like them. For the past few weeks, the only topic of discussion is how they are going to migrate to New York, the city of lights. They have to find the courage and not give up!

#### Alexandra Boboti BS+10



# If this painting was the end of a story, what could have happened before?

I was born and grew up in America, I was always a poor child. My father had to clean chimneys in order to make a living, but still it wasn't enough. When I was about 7 or so, my whole family decided to go to Ireland to find a better future since my mother was from there. Unfortunately, we only had the money to buy one-way tickets which meant we were going to live there forever. When we finally arrived in Ireland, we realized something devastating. The situation there was even worse. At least, we managed to survive for a couple of years. Then, something happened that completely ruined us. My brother caught diphtheria and my sister the typhoid fever. They both passed away. After that, my mother wasn't ok. She had a psychologist come over our house to check on her because she always had panic attacks and fell unconscious. The only thing that kept us alive was our small potato crop. And here we are now, eating potatoes from a single plate. We didn't realize that this would be our only meal, though. We didn't realize that we would eventually all die from hunger. We wanted to cry, but there were no more tears left to waste. Nothing left but hope. Hope for a better living, hope for a second chance in life.

Irene Tzanakaki BS+4

# If the painting was the end of the story, what would have happened before?

It was a rainy day, and the whole family wasn't happy because it was the day they would plant the potatoes and they were about to get wet. Clara and her brother took the things they needed and went to their garden where they started working. They worked hard for many hours and then after a hard day, they returned to their house where they lived with their grandmother and her sisters. After all, they understood that the old ladies were about to die. Clara and her brother were very depressed. They had even thought of committing suicide. At dinner time, they all sat around the table and discussed things for the last time. Clara's grandmother said to Clara to leave Ireland with her brother and make a fresh start. At that time, the old lady died. Clara decided that it was her mission to do what her grandma had told her because she knew she had a bright future. After ten vears Clara became one of the ten richest people in the world.

Philip Xenakis BS+10

# THE POWER OF PROVERBS

After having read the story "Thank You Ma'am", the students were asked to think about the underlying meanings of certain proverbs, explain their relevance to the story and analyze them. Here are some of the writings they came up with:

# Proverb: "Trust takes years to build, seconds to break, and forever to repair."

Trust is the greatest asset any of us can have. It can be permanent if you do the right things and do things the right way. It takes time and effort to build trust. And unfortunately, it can be broken in a split second of doing something to let someone down. As the proverb says, *trust takes years to build, seconds to break, and forever to repair*. This is a proverb, which is still used in everyday life, and has a very strong meaning. It means that

once you meet someone, you need some time to start trusting him, and if he gives you away, then it is not sure if you and he could be as close friends as you were in the past. This proverb is directly related to the story "Thank you Ma'am". Roger, one of the main characters, is a teenage boy that tries to steal a woman's purse. Although he does

this, the woman takes the boy to her house and treats him like a mother. She gives him food, she cleans his face and she gives him money. At her house, though the boy is close to the woman's purse and has the opportunity to steal, he doesn't attempt to do so. This shows that the woman trusts the little boy and he, in turn, doesn't want to break that trust. To sum up, we must be trustworthy and we must choose wisely those we trust.

Vivian Gioxa CS+2

#### Proverb: "There is no pillow as soft as a clear conscience."

A proverb is a short saying that is widely used to express an obvious truth. Nowadays the proverb "There is no pillow as soft as a clear conscience" is said by

many people when they feel guilty, about something. This proverb means that a guilty conscience can keep you up at night. People that feel that they have hurt someone in any way have some kind of guilt and this causes them not to be able to sleep at night. Personally, I believe that this proverb is true because when you feel guilty about something, you can't sleep. The metaphor it uses is that a conscience is described as soft as a pillow. This proverb teaches us to have a clear mind before going to bed at night in order to sleep well. Furthermore, it relates to the story "Thank you Ma'am" because Mr s. Jones had done some things in the past that she wasn't proud of and therefore, her reaction was to teach Roger a lesson, so that he would not try to steal again. The way things turned out gave Mrs. Jones a clear conscience. To sum up, one sleeps better without having a guilty conscience.

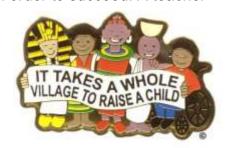


Elena Abakoumkin CS+2

#### Proverb: "It takes a village to raise a child."

Some people say it takes a village to raise a child. It's not only parents who teach you wrong from right, raise you and instill values. The whole community has to take part in your education and growth in order to succeed. A teacher

should teach you how to speak, write and solve problems. Parents ought to teach you some norms and morals. Law has to place you between defined borders. This proverb has a strong relationship with the story "Thank you Ma'am". Why? Roger, one of the main characters is a young boy without any knowledge. In this story, Mrs. Jones tries to



teach him the first steps for improvement. However, it's not possible for her to do it by herself. That's why the whole community should participate and help. To sum up, raising a child isn't easy. You need power, strength and help from others.

#### Anastasia Galerou CS+2



Proverb: "The pen is mightier than the sword."

"The pen is mightier than the sword" is a proverb with a very strong meaning. To begin with, the meaning of this proverb is that you can solve your problems or achieve your goals better and more efficiently through communication with words rather than through

violence or weapons. It is a very effective proverb, especially nowadays, as there are many wars that take place in a lot of countries in the world. The people that start these wars should learn to use the pen more than the sword. This proverb is made to teach people that it is better to communicate with other people instead of fighting. It is related to the story "Thank You Ma'am" because Mrs. Jones, one of the main characters, instead of going to the police and using violence, tries to teach Roger to do the right thing, which is a more effective way of handling this situation. Taking all the above into consideration, this proverb is very useful because up until today, very few people have achieved to use a pen more than a sword.

**Nikiforos Gatsoulis CS+2** 

#### Proverb: "Opportunity makes the thief."

A proverb is a phrase that indirectly teaches us an important lesson. One well known proverb is "Opportunity makes the thief" and it has a connection with the story "Thank You Ma'am". This particular proverb means that if someone

is given the opportunity to do something bad, like stealing, he would do it, whether he thinks it's bad or not. The specific proverb states an idea indirectly, and it can be used in other situations except for stealing. It is related to the story, because we can see a young boy, Roger, stealing a woman's purse. He does it because he has to find a way to get by, and only by robbing the woman, he can achieve his goal. The proverb doesn't attempt to teach a lesson, but it does try to say that if Roger wasn't

given the opportunity, he wouldn't have tried to steal anything. To sum up, the meaning of the proverb relates to the story and it means that opportunities make people do bad things.

Nadina Youni CS+2

Opportunity

makes a thief

#### Proverb: "It takes a village to raise a child."

The proverb 'It takes a village to raise a child" is of ultimate importance. Children's upbringing involves more people than only their parents. To be more specific, children obtain values from life lessons they are taught in their daily life by anyone. This proverb emphasizes the idea that any person as well as relatives and teachers contributes to raising a child. Particularly in this story, a young boy, Roger, is taught a lesson by Mrs. Jones, the woman whose purse he is about to steal. He learns that things that are gained immorally will prove harmful in the future. All in all, children learn from their environment, be it a relative or a stranger.

Mina Karampela CS+2

#### Proverb: "You can lead a horse to water, but you cannot make it drink."

A proverb is a well-known phrase or sentence that gives advice or says something that is generally true. One proverb which has a connection with the



story "Thank you Ma'am" is: "You can lead a horse to water, but you cannot make it drink". It means that you can show people the way to do things, but you cannot force them to act. It is very effective because with a very simple and easy example, it gives an important message. Furthermore, it does not use any metaphors, but it uses striking images. We can imagine a person leading a horse to the

water and forcing it to drink it. Moreover, this proverb attempts to teach something. It wants to teach us that we can help others and show them how to act. However, we cannot force them to do the right thing. They decide whether to follow our advice or not. What is more, this proverb is strongly related to the story. Mrs. Jones teaches Roger that he should not steal and that if he wants something, he can just ask for it in a polite way. She tells him how to act nicely, but he will decide whether to follow her words or not. In conclusion, this proverb teaches us an important message and it is strongly connected to the story.

#### Marianna Carantoni CS+2

#### Proverb: "Keep your friends close and your enemies closer."

One of the most frequently used and famous proverbs is the following: "Keep your friends close and your enemies closer". The camouflaged message behind this particular proverb is not only knowing your enemy, but yourself ,too. Having your enemy close to you can help you get to know the

weaknesses and the strengths of your rival. In addition, you can ask yourself why this person is your enemy. Maybe there is something wrong with you rather than your opponent. For instance, you may have formed a false opinion of him or her and when you actually get to know them, you can begin to like them. As a result, you can built a strong and solid friendship with them. What makes this proverb effective is its deep meaning which makes you think. It attempts to teach you in what way you



should treat your enemies and how you can benefit from conflict. Connecting this proverb to the story, we see that Mrs. Jones "keeps" Roger, who tries to steal her purse, close to her. She gives him food and offers to clean his face. But Roger is supposed to be an enemy as he attempts to steal her purse. However, with her actions, this woman turns the situation around and teaches the young boy a lesson. To sum up, this proverb aims to teach you how to handle your enemies and how you can build friendships with them in the end.

Marilia Vlachou CS+2

#### Proverb: "Fortune favors the bold."

Proverbs are used to teach important lessons or express ideologies. One very well-known proverb is the one that says "Fortune favors the bold." It means that people who encounter difficulties with courage can achieve great success in life. Another way to say the proverb is "Fortune favors the brave." It



basically teaches a person that they should be brave enough to overcome obstacles with courage and to take risks. The proverb is very effective, since in life, people almost always have to be eager to take risks, be brave and believe in their abilities. This proverb obviously states an idea directly and it is related to our story, "Thank You Ma'am", since Mrs. Jones was brave

enough to stand up for herself and fight Roger, who tried to steal her handbag. Consequently, she was lucky enough to meet Roger, talk to him and potentially change his life. In conclusion, this proverb is a very important one, since it teaches a very important lesson, which is to never be hesitant, or afraid of venturing into new tasks, because then you will be able to do no good deed.

**Konstantinos Grintzias CS+2** 

Proverb: "When you finally trust a person without any doubt, you finally get one of the two results: a) A person for life, b) A lesson for life."

The "Thank you Ma'am" story theme can be seen in the proverb: "When you finally trust a person without any doubt, you finally get one of the two results:

a) A person for life, b) A lesson for life." The proverb mentioned above means that when you get to trust a person, you either trust them forever, or get a lesson, not to trust them again. The proverb gives a life lesson about trust, a factor that makes it effective and successful. It states this idea indirectly as the lesson mentioned in it, is not clear

regarding what it stands for. The boy from the story "Thank you Ma'am", Roger, wants to earn Mrs. Jones' trust. That way, he wants to be that person Mrs. Jones will have for life. In conclusion, we will either get a person for life, or a lesson for life when we get to trust someone!

and can be given many different meanings

Vangelis Kollias CS+2

## LETTERS TO A FRIEND

The following students wrote an informal letter to a friend as a response to the following prompt:

You are attending a two-week sports camp in England. However, after a few days, you realise that its activities are very disappointing and that you are not pleased at all. Write an informal letter to your English friend who had recommended it to you and tell him all about it.

#### Dear Helen,

Guess what! I am in the sports camp that you had recommended me with my cousin and his friend. We arrived three days ago and we're staying in a small house with 8 other children. I confess my first impression about this place was really exciting. I thought we would have a great time. Everyone seemed to be friendly and the establishment looked organized. However, after a while, I realized that there is a lack of equipment for many activities. For instance, yesterday we decided to go climbing but we had an unpleasant surprise: there weren't enough helmets and ropes for each of us! Moreover, there is a lack of staff and nobody can train us for the volleyball match.



Apart from the activities, it is important to mention that the food is not delicious at all and the meals are meager. They don't even include essential vitamins, which are necessary for the daily program of the camp. Lastly, there is no medical care and the nurse is not old enough to have experience. I am very disappointed, but I hope that next week will be better.

Anyway, please write back as soon as possible and tell me what I have to do.

Love.

Konstantina

Konstantina Dipla BS11

Dear Jessica,

Right now I'm in England in a sports camp that you had recommended me when we last met. I'm very happy about being in England because this time I came with my little brother.

I'm writing this letter to you to let you know that the camp is not as fun as you had said last time. You had told me that they organized matches and they had tournaments with other camps, but they only give us some balls and they tell us to play whatever we want. From what I've heard, they have changed management so perhaps that's why.

After camp, I will have a spare week in England and I will be staying at my dad's aunt's house. I was wondering if you want to meet then. We could go shopping and then we could have a sleepover.

I'm waiting for your answer.

Love, Maria

Maria Theodosiou BS11



# THE LADY OR THE TIGER?

Students read the story "The Lady or the Tiger?" which has no resolution and requires the reader to conclude the story. Then they were asked to come up with their own endings. They had to start their ending with the following sentence:

"She had known she would be asked, she had decided what she would answer, and, without the slightest hesitation, she had moved her hand to the right."

#### "The Lady or the Tiger?"

She had known she would be asked, she had decided what she would answer, and, without the slightest hesitation, she had moved her hand to the right. The man walked towards the right door, slowly. He was standing silently in front of the door, while he was thinking.

After a few seconds, he took the decision to open the right door. Suddenly, an animal s roar was heard. The man was sure that inside the door was the tiger, but he didn t see

anything. He walked inside the door and saw the beautiful girl on a throne. The people started to celebrate, the man was surprised and the princess fell into depression.

The guards took the girl and the man into the church of the palace. Within one hour, the wedding had been done.

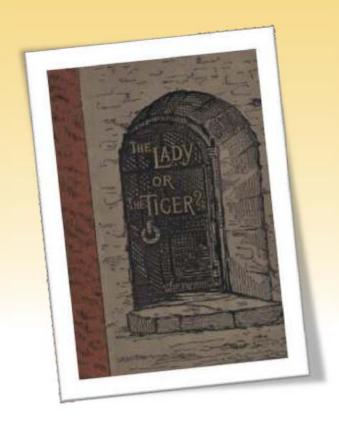
After a while the head of the guards revealed the truth to the



king, that all that time his daughter knew which door had the tiger and which door had the lady. The king realized that his daughter was madly in love with the man. So, he decided to allow her to marry the man.

Valisia Gletsou CS4

#### "The Lady or the Tiger?"



She had known she would be asked, she had decided what she would answer, and, without the slightest hesitation, she had moved her hand to the right. The man walked quickly across the stadium to the right door.

Every heart stopped beating. The spectators were staring. The scene was breathtaking and everybody knew that in a few seconds, the whole atmosphere would change. Would it be a scene with blood and cries of pain, or a scene with a happy wedding? Did the princess forget about her jealousy or not?

Suddenly, the man opened the door. At that moment, the princess went away. From the gate, the beautiful woman appeared and the people's hearts started beating with relief. The man was so disappointed about that because he knew that the only woman that he loved was the princess. At that point, all the people

had left, so the wedding could not take place.

The king decided to change the wedding day for the following week. Then, the man decided to leave and go look for the princess. But at that moment, he saw that the woman was very sad. Firstly, the man asked her what her name was. She replied "My name is Estella." Then, the man continued, "Why are you so disappointed?" Estella answered in a bad mood, "All this is so unfair, I can't do this anymore. They forced me to participate in that process because they find me pretty and smart. But my heart belongs to another man. The man who I love and I want to marry." The man was shocked and quickly said, "I feel the same as you! I love very much the daughter of the king and she loves me too! But when the king discovered our love, he put me in the arena, and now that's all!" Determined, Estella said, "We have to do something about that. Tomorrow morning we will go to the king and we will tell him how we feel. Do you agree?" The man replied, "Of course, I hope he understands."

The sun rose. It was a sunny day. The man and Estella woke up early and went to the king. Afterwards, they explained everything to him. The king was shocked! He became so angry that he stood up and pushed them away. Then, he said, "Tell me now the name of that man you love and where he lives!" Estella didn't speak for a second, but then, she said "I don't want to." The king said, "If you don't do that, I will send both of you to prison!" Estella was frightened, so she said, "His name is Edward!" After that, four soldiers followed her in order for her to show them where Edward lived and



bring him to the castle. After an hour, they returned with the man. Then the king said to Edward, "Tomorrow will be the day of your appearance in the arena". And then he left.

The atmosphere was tense. Everyone was so disappointed. The weather was dark and cloudy. The next day, the princess went to the king. She started crying and she said, "Dad, please I love him, it is so unfair! Don't do that to Edward, don't do that to Estella! You are very mean to them. Let us and them live their love. When mum died, five years ago, you know that this was hard! I know that you loved her and you still love her. But this is how I feel now. Please!" The king didn't speak. The princess took a big breath and left slowly.

Two hours later, thousands of people came to the arena. The king was in his place and he seemed very thoughtful. All was ready. The sign was

given. Edward walked into the arena. The princess was sitting to her father's right. But then, something very strange happened. The king stood up. Everybody looked at him. Suddenly, he said, "I don't know what I am doing. Why am I doing that to my people? From now on, this will never happen again. I know what love means. And I am really sorry for what I did to Edward, to Estella and to you, my love," he said and he looked at his daughter. "Please go," he said to the crowd.

And they all went away. Then, the princess said to him "I really appreciate what you did. I love you so much!" And everything ended. Edward and Estella lived their love. And of course the princess and her lover were together for many years.

Iro Ilia CS11

#### "The Lady or the Tiger?"



She had known she would be asked, she had decided what she would answer, and, without the slightest hesitation, she had moved her hand to the right. The young man smiled and went slowly towards the right door as his beloved princess had shown him.

He opened the door and suddenly an enormous, hungry tiger jumped out. The people in the arena screamed. They were upset. They felt so bad for the good looking young man. The man was so sad; he couldn't believe what had just happened. He had been betrayed by his love! Suddenly the big tiger jumped on the confused man, who tried hard to hurt the big, angry animal. It was the first time that the stadium had ever seen a fighter as good as him. The man tried so hard, he pushed the tiger to the wall. The crowd was screaming. Everyone was so confused; they couldn't understand how a small creature could

fight with something so strong and wild. A shrill voice rocked the arena and at that moment the princess froze. At that moment she realized that her only true love would be lost. She started crying as she understood the mistake that she had made, but as she was crying she heard the crowd cheering. She heard the voices of people, full of happiness.

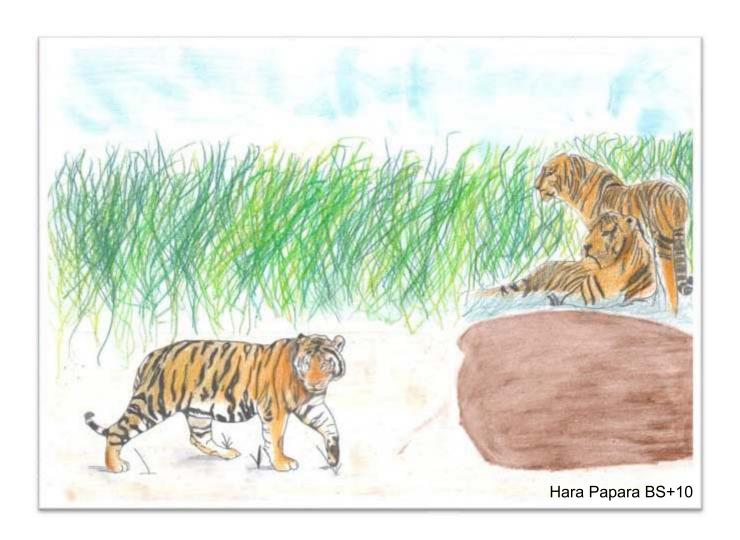
She looked at the arena .The angry creature was lying on the ground while her lover was standing, inside the arena, smiling to the people. He was very tired and he was full of blood. He stood in front of the king who was shocked, he smiled and asked him if he could open the other door and marry the beautiful lady. The king was so surprised, that not only he gave him the lady, but he also gave him money and gold. In addition, he offered him a very good position in the palace. The man thanked him, he took his lady and left the kingdom.

However, before he left, he wrote a letter to his princess.

"My dearest princess, you were the love of my life, you were the reason I lived. But, as I understand, we didn't share the same feelings because my love for you was unconditional, and I would do anything to make you happy, even if that meant that you would be happy with someone else. You should know that I left the palace because I couldn't stand seeing you sad because I was with another woman. My heart and my mind will always belong to you. I want you to be happy. I hope from the bottom of my heart that you will find someone who loves you and makes you smile because you have a beautiful smile. Please, never search for me. This is the only favor I ask of you. And if you ever feel lonely, think about the great times that we had together. Please, move on with your life and don't feel bad. It just wasn't meant to be. Remember, be happy.

From the person whose love was stronger than the tiger."

#### Dimitra Kyriacou CS12



#### SPEECH WRITING

What if the "young man" had a third choice? The choice of delivering a speech that would allow him to marry the princess and "live happily ever after." Your task is to think of a theme for a persuasive speech and convince your audience (king, princess, the people etc.) that any other choice, besides marrying the princess, would be a crime.

#### (to the people)

People of New Castle! If you came here today to see the choice that will determine my future, I can assure you that my fate has already been determined from the moment I was accused. Whatever door I open, I will lose the woman I truly love.



#### (to the King)

So, your Majesty, how can love have boundaries when we can't control it? Is loving a person a crime you have to die for? And yes, your Majesty, I can say from the depth of my heart that I love your daughter like no one else and if there is a

person I want to spend the rest of my life with, it is definitely her. And if your Majesty still believes that I am not worthy to marry the princess, open the door with the tiger to end mine and your daughter's pain. But before you do that, let me talk to her one last time.

#### (to the princess)

Princess... maybe just for a few seconds... will you be my wife?

**Dimitris Kontodinas CS4** 

Dear King, Princess, ladies and gentlemen,

I want to tell you that the princess is my love and I will do everything to marry her. Also, I want to tell you that it doesn't matter that I'm poor; I will find a job to make money if you get me out of the arena. Furthermore, if you let me out of the arena, fate may give me a lot of money so I can marry the princess. In addition, I swear that the princess will never be sad because of me and we will have fun every day and if I do something different, you can get me back in the arena then. But, please, give me one last opportunity to do what I told you. I want to thank you all and especially the king and the princess that gave me this opportunity to express my opinion.

**Dimitris Zafeiropoulos CS11** 



#### Poster Competition Based on the Short Story "Zoo" by Edward Hoch

Upon reading the short story "Zoo" by Edward Hoch Grade 8 ESL students took part in a poster competition. They were instructed to design a poster which would advertise Professor Hugo's Interplanetary Zoo.

Professor Hugo's zoo is different from the zoos known to us as it brings strange creatures from other planets for humans to marvel at! Or could it be the other way round?

Our beloved teaching fellow, Miss Nata'ja Flood was the judge of the posters. The competition was tough as the students proved very creative and artistic!

The winners were Irene Rapti and Georgia Papadopoulou from BS6. Anna Boura, Dimitris Papadimitriou and Dimitris Papastavrou were also given certificates in recognition of their nice work.



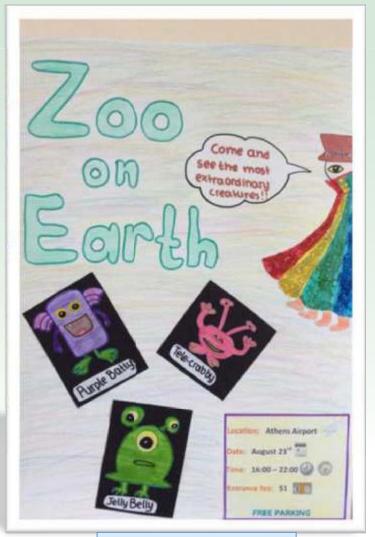




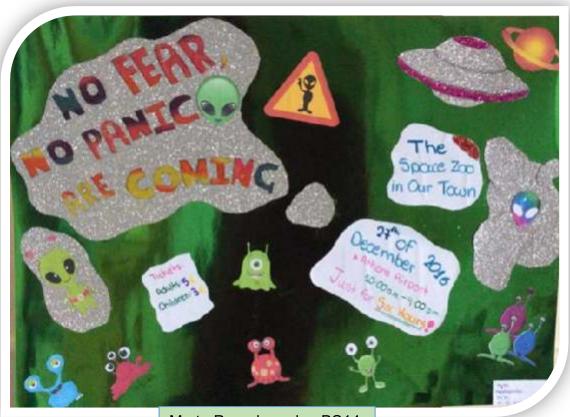






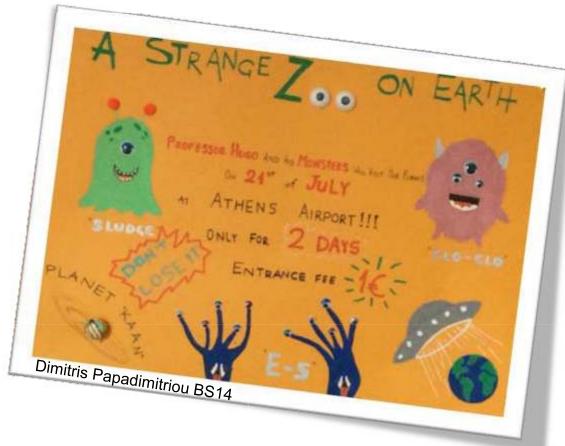


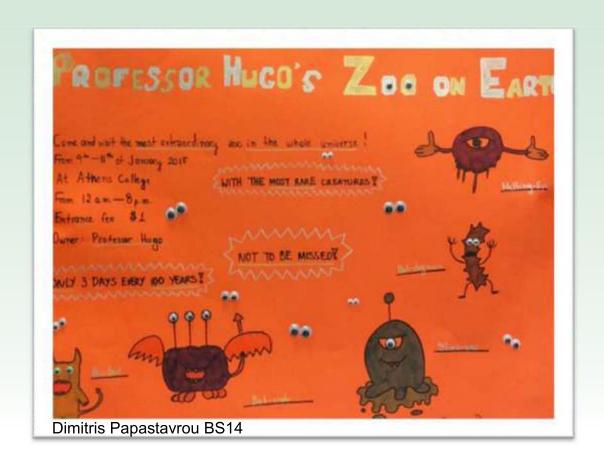
Emilia Tsounaki BS7

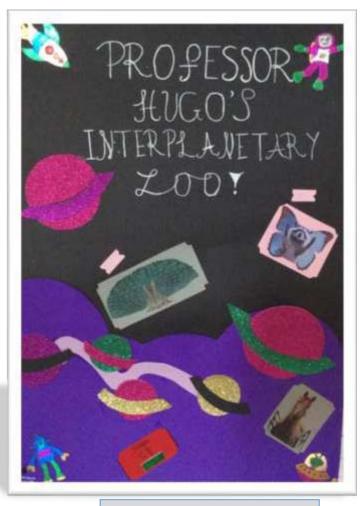


Myrto Papadopoulou BS14

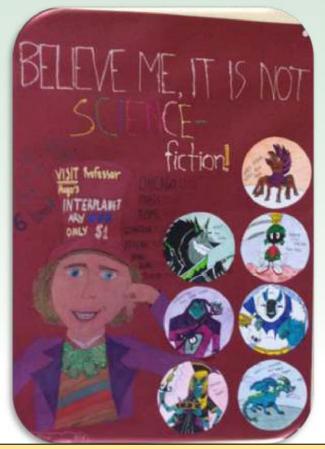








Theodora Krommida BS12





Mina Spania BS7

Irene Rapti and Georgia Papadopoulou BS6



English section BS6

### LIBRARY READING PROJECTS

The students of sections BS+4 and BS+10 created the following posters based on the library books they read.



English sections BS+4 and BS+10



English sections BS+4 and BS+10

#### "FRANKENSTEIN" BOOK COVERS

After reading the classic novel "Frankenstein", BS6 students re-created their book covers using their own words, images and ideas.







#### English section BS6



