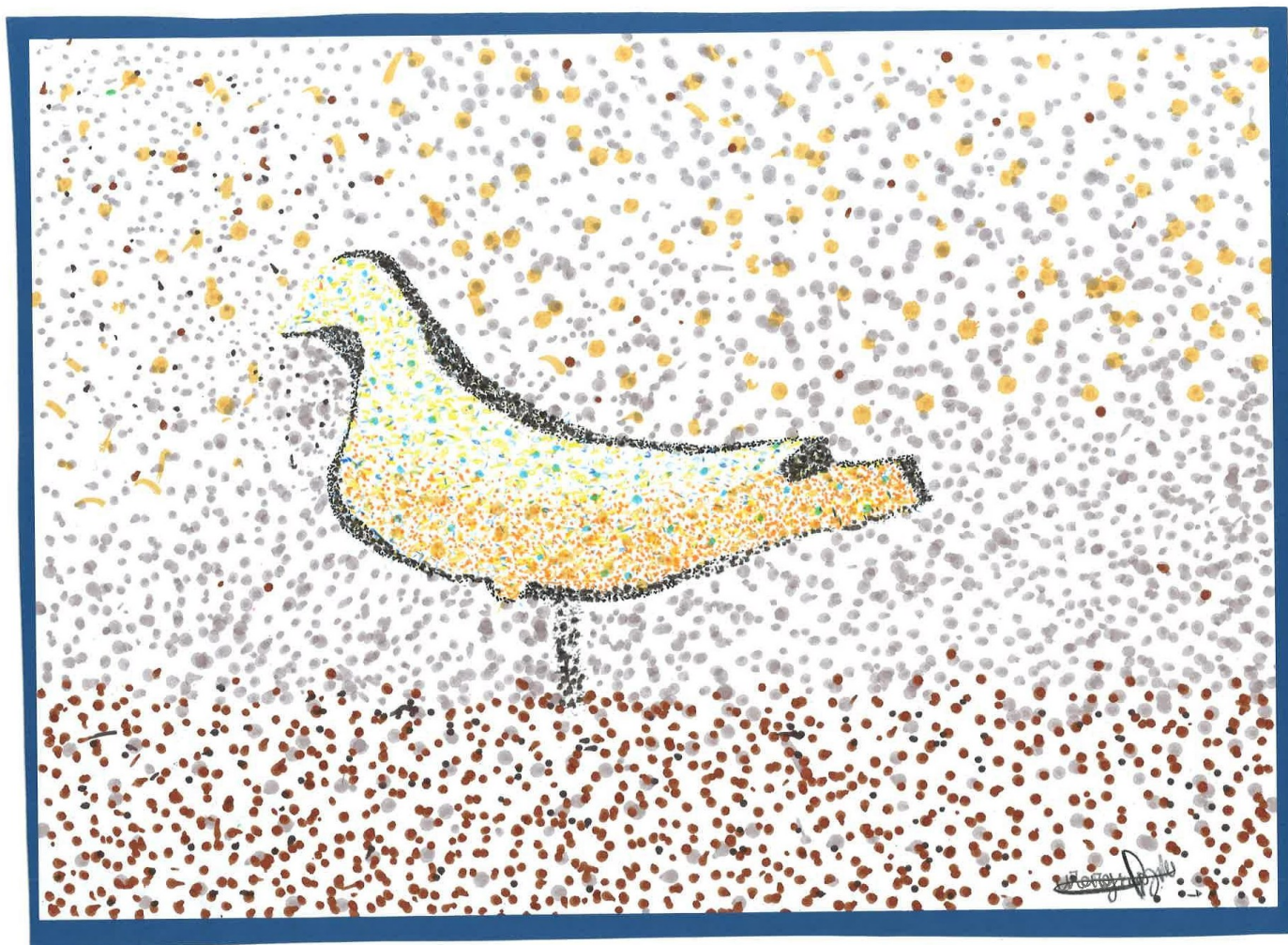


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The Punchline

THE PSYCHICO COLLEGE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT MAGAZINE



ΕΛΛΗΝΟΑΜΕΡΙΚΑΝΙΚΟΝ ΕΚΠΑΙΔΕΥΤΙΚΟΝ ΙΔΡΥΜΑ
ΚΟΛΛΕΓΙΟ ΑΘΗΝΩΝ – ΚΟΛΛΕΓΙΟ ΨΥΧΙΚΟΥ

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Ms. Shondaray Ducheine for working on the layout

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Mr. Koukos, the art teacher at Psychico College

Junior High

And above all...

The English Department teachers at Psychico College who inspired their students and enthusiastically contributed to this year's issue.

Cover

Eleana Pappa β3





Another school year has come to an end... Once again, classrooms became the place in which we broadened our horizons. We thought more deeply about a variety of issues. New perspectives, opportunities and challenges unfolded. Thus, students felt compelled to express their opinion on very important topics, from immigration to the plague of smoking. Inspiration turned the same teenagers to creative storywriters, literary critics, poets and playwrights.

The most thought-provoking and moving pieces created by Psychico College English students of Junior High and High School are on the pages that follow...

-The Editing Team

THE 77TH DELTA PRIZE SPEECH COMPETITION

Stephanos Delta was born in Constantinople and came to Greece during the First World War. In 1924, together with a handful of other visionary Greeks and Americans who wanted to contribute to the educational rehabilitation of Greece, he played the major role in the founding of the school that became known as Athens College. It was he, with his concept of a fusion of Hellenic and American educational ideals, who defined the basic aims of the College. Equally important, without his generosity the College would not have survived the early years of struggle. For some 50 years his financial contributions were greater than those of any other individual.

The Athens College Scholarship Fund was established in the early thirties by both Stephanos Delta and his wife, Penelope Delta, a renowned writer of children's books and one of the outstanding personalities of Greece. The scholarship program, granting financial aid to worthy but needy students, became one of the proudest traditions of the College.

The annual Delta Prize Speech Competition for the best oration in English by a Senior was established in 1933 in recognition of the outstanding service of the "Father of the College", Stephanos Delta.

This year's five finalists were:

- Ladopoulou Joanna (Geniko Lykeio)
- Oikonomou Panagiotis (Geniko Lykeio)
- Papa Theodora (Geniko Lykeio)
- Papis Konstantinos (IB2)
- Vranas Themis (IB2)

Congratulations to all the participants and of course this year's winner:

Papis Konstantinos



The Usefulness Complex: Making a Contribution in the Modern World

Ladies and gentlemen,

I tend to identify with the words of Sylvia Plath, who wrote in her journal that “what horrifies me the most is the idea of being useless: well-educated, brilliantly promising, yet fading into an indifferent middle age.” Let’s face it: we all are horrified of that. We all want to do something significant, to contribute, to not be utterly lost in this overwhelmingly immense world full of people. And if tradition and innovation are “two roads diverged in a yellow wood”, to use Robert Frost’s metaphor, I – well, I chose none. Instead, to paraphrase author Shannon L. Alder, I went on a boat - to watch the sunset from a different view, I went - to the tallest mountain peak, I went to the darkest part of the valley. In other words, I want -- to follow my own personal path, I want - to be independent.

Tradition and innovation - words, ladies and gentlemen, that should not

stand for hollow values. What I am trying to say is, being independent, creative, autonomous, respectful, critical thinkers, global citizens – which the College encourages every student to be – that is what is important. Characterizing something as traditional or innovative does not give it any more value – perhaps it may dangerously distort it. I ask you – would I have been innovative if I had started my speech by saying: “Ladies, gentlemen, and everyone else in between”, thus including the whole gender spectrum? Perhaps, but what is more important is that I would have made every gender non-conforming person feel like they matter; I would have had an impact on someone. But why didn’t I? Because there is always willingness to contribute, but there is also fear.

In a summer program I was part of last year, there was an activity we called the “Six Hour Charity Challenge”. There were almost 400 teenagers who were divided into groups of ten and who had six hours to either raise money through a campaign or by creating a music video, or else take part in a fashion show, the winner of which would earn money to support their chosen charity. Did it matter who was being traditional, by having,

for example, a lemonade stand, or who was being innovative by creating a fashion collection made up entirely of water-related products and colours, as long as they raised the same amount of money? Whatever each and every one of us did, it was ineffably satisfying, because in the end, ladies and gentlemen, we all felt that we had contributed.

These examples are a metaphor that can be applied to education. For 90 years, the school has kept many of its traditions and simultaneously has always been innovative. These attributes, if treated as mere words, as I have mentioned, are meaningless; each value, tradition, and innovation, seen separately, however, is inextricably linked to the mission of the College, to prepare its students to be world citizens, and, eventually, to make a contribution.

If we view these contributions in the grand scheme of things, we can see their purpose and get a sense of unwavering continuity, as if there is an uninterrupted, unbroken, consistent, but not at all passive, flow of things; as if they are waves, which, both separately and as a whole, are made and remade incessantly. Marina Keegan, a writer

who earned posthumous acclaim for her work, wrote that “radio waves just keep travelling outward, flying into the universe... I want to climb on the top of a radio tower”. I, too, ladies and gentlemen, want my voice to be heard. I want to do something useful. “Two roads diverged in a yellow wood” and I took my own personal path – and that has made all the difference – ladies, gentlemen, and everyone else in between, and at this point I would like you to forgive me for my continuous use of literary references – I am trying to make as many voices as possible heard.

Having said that, I would like to end with the words of Anne Frank: “How lovely to think that... we can start now, slowly changing the world, making a contribution toward introducing justice... you can always give something, even if it is just -- kindness.”

Thank you for your attention.

Konstantinos Papis

IB2

“I took my own personal path – and that has made all the difference.”

FORENSICS

2015—2016

The Forensics Club is a true student family, with students from both Athens and Psychico College, and activities for all age groups from Junior High and High School. This year was a record year for the club, with almost 400 students taking part in weekly training sessions, and representing the school in national and international competitions.

Forensics offers a wide range of activities, all of which develop public speaking, communication and critical thinking skills that are necessary in today's classroom, universities and workplace. The members of the club chose out of six events: Debate, Original Oratory, Group Discussion, Oral Interpretation of Literature (comic or dramatic), Duet Acting (comic or dramatic) and Impromptu Speaking. Students from Junior High 1 and 2 attend weekly training sessions every Tuesday, through the Junior Forensics program, which has been specially designed to introduce students to Forensics. The program concluded with the Junior Forensics Tournament, organized by the Club's senior students, during the Panigiri. Older students attend the weekly session every Thursday after school, and on Saturdays for debate.



The club participated in 8 debate tournaments over the course of the year, with exceptional results. In September, 22 students from HAEF participated in the first tournament of the year, the St Catherine's tournament. Vasilios Sioufas and Stelios Skavdis tied in the 8th place of the individual rankings, out of over 100 students taking part in the competition. 44 students represented HAEF at the Deree Invitational Debate Tournament in November, with Stelios Skavdis, Dimitris Maroudas, Markos Gazepis and Constantinos Kamvysis ranking amongst the top 20 speakers of the tournament, amongst 220 students from 14 schools. The first tournament of 2016, the Moraitis Cup, was also a big success for the club, with 30 students partici-

pating, and two teams - Stelios Skavdis with Marianna Embeoglou and Apostolos Kotsolis with Constantinos Kamvysis, reaching the semi-finals of the competition. Stelios and Marianna also ranked amongst the top ten speakers of the competition.



Two students from HAEF, Marianna Embeoglou and Markos Gazepis, were selected by the Panhellenic Forensics Association to be part of this year's Development Team for the World Schools Debating Championships. As part of this national delegation, they participated in the Eurasian Schools Debating Championship in February, where they reached the quarter-finals of this prestigious international debating competition. Marianna was also selected in March as an Alternate for this year's team that will participate in the World Schools Debating Championship 2016 that will take place in Stuttgart in July.

In February, 20 of the younger members of our club (up to 15 years old) participated in the Athens Round of the International Competition for Young Debaters.

Meanwhile, the HAEF Forensics Club had been preparing from October for the biggest event of the year: the Panhellenic Forensics Association Tournament (PFAT). The tournament took place on the 17th-20th March, and was hosted by Nea Genia Ziridis in Athens. The students worked hard with their coaches throughout the year, preparing for this highly competitive event, which included delegations from 22 schools from Athens, Thessaloniki and Patras. HAEF was represented by a delegation of 39 students, who competed in six events against more than 400 students from the other participating schools.

The student's dedication and hard work paid off, and HAEF won **1st place in the overall rankings of the competition - the PFAT Sweepstakes**

Cup! To win this cup, HAEF achieved the highest number of Finalists and Honourable Mentions in the competition, with 9 Finalists and 4 Honourable Mentions! Students from HAEF also won first place in Group Discussion and Comic Duet Acting. More specifically:

Original Oratory: Olivia Tsoutsoplidi (Finalist); Ariadne Kertsikof (Finalis)

Impromptu Speaking: Alexander Katsarlinos (Finalist); Markos Gazepis (Honorable Mention)

Group Discussion: Celia Gazepi (First Among Equals); Dimitris Trovias (Finalist); Myrto Ziogas (Finalist); Zoe Papageorgiou-George (Honourable Mention)

Oral Interpretation: Christina Piliouni (Finalist - Dramatic); George Aravosis (Honorable Mention - Comic); Despina Vasilaki (Honorable Mention - Comic)

Duet Acting: Marianna Embeoglou & Amanda Sakkari (First Among Equals - Comic); Nectarios Kourtis & Giorgos Diamantopoulos (Finalists - Comic)

Debate: The team of Marianna Embeoglou, Stelios Skavdis and Markos Gazepis reached the quarter-finals of the tournament, and Marianna ranked in the top ten speakers (out of 145 speakers).



After the PFAT, students took part in two more debating competitions. At the Spring Deree Invitational on the 1st-2nd April, Marianna Embeoglou ranked amongst the top ten speakers and reached the final of the competition.



The ACS Cup took place on the 16th April. Marianna Embeoglou and Markos Gazepis reached the Final of the competition. Both students as well as Stelios Skavdis ranked in the top ten speakers.

In addition to its competitive activities, the club this year launched a new Public Speaking workshop, delivered by Mrs Raymondou. The workshop was open to all students who would not be participating this year at the Panhellenic Forensics Association Tournament, aiming to develop their public speaking skills for the future. In its pilot year, the program proved very successful, and it will be expanded in future years to provide consistent training for a larger number of students.



As another exciting and successful year comes to an end, it is only fitting to thank our loving and beloved coaches - Mrs. Fotakidou, Mrs. Kayiarou, Mrs. Mavraki, Mrs. Mavrika, Mrs. Seitanidi, Mrs. Quirk, Mr. Dounias, Ms. Remoundou, Mr. Tsipopoulos, and Ms. Vogia; our Forensics Head Coach, Ms Kallina Basli, for all the efforts she has put into this club; as well as this year's teaching fellows who were very supportive throughout the year. Special thanks to Mrs. Maria Vergos, Head of the Interschool English Department for all her support throughout the year.



MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Resolutions submitted by our Students

FORUM: Special Conference on Global Reform and Ethnicities

QUESTION OF: Promoting the integration of ethnic and religious minorities into society

SUBMITTED BY: Israel

Guided by the principle of the United Nations Charter on the integration of ethnic and religious minorities into society,

Bearing in mind that the most prominent characteristic of Israel is its high diversity since the State of Israel has some 8.27 million inhabitants,

Acknowledging that the country's inhabitants are mainly divided into Jews (80%) and Arabs (20%),

Taking into consideration that many Jews were moving to Israel from Europe in waves called aliyoth and the first wave, known as the "First Aliyah," took place prior to political Zionism, in the late 1800s,

Pointing out that the Second Aliyah, prior to World War I, was almost exclusively made up of Russian Jews who immigrated to Israel setting up towns,

Adding that after World War I and until 1923, the Third Aliyah came to Israel and this group was also from Russia,

Keeping in mind that the Fourth Aliyah, which took place over a short period of time from 1924 to 1929, was mostly made up of Jews seeking to escape anti-Semitism in Poland and Hungary,

Noting that the Fifth Aliyah coincided with the rise of Nazism in Germany and extreme nationalism across Eastern Europe and included the largest number of immigrants to date- nearly one quarter of a million Jews entered Mandate Palestine between 1929 and the beginning of World War II,

Being aware of the fact that when war broke out between Israel and the Arab states in 1948, anti-

Zionism and anti-Semitism increased in the Arab world and Jewish emigration continued until the early 1970s,

Noting further that during the Cold War, Jews in the Soviet Union were not allowed to practice their religion and under the more liberal government of Mikhail Gorbachev in the early 1990s, Jews were allowed to emigrate and they did so en masse- nearly 1 million Russian Jews moved to Israel in the 1990s,

Having devoted attention to the fact that more than one million people, comprising 18.8 percent of Israel's population are non-Jews, are defined collectively as Arab citizens of Israel and they include a number of different, primarily Arabic-speaking, groups, each with distinct characteristics,

Taking into account that Muslim Arabs, numbering some 780,000 most of whom are Sunni constitute 76 percent of the non-Jewish population of Israel,

Fully aware that Bedouin Arabs comprising nearly 10 percent of the Muslim population belong to 30 tribes mostly scattered over a wide area in the south,

Reaffirming that Christian Arabs, who constitute Israel's second largest minority group of 150,000 live mainly in urban areas,

Having examined that the Druze including 80,000 Arabic-speakers living in 22 villages in northern Israel, constitute a separate cultural, social and religious community,

Observing that the Circassians, comprising some 3,000 people concentrated in two northern villages, are Sunni Muslims,

The Arameans: a small minority of Israeli Christians that for the first time as of September 2014 were officially defined as an ethnic group,

Noting with deep concern that Arab migrations in and out of the country fluctuated in response to prevailing economic conditions,

Taking into consideration that the groups of Jews known as "Ashkenazim" technically refer to Jews descending from the medieval Jewish communities of the Rhineland Valley, encompassing most of modern-day Germany and part of northern France,

Affirming that the UN has established many Declarations, Conventions, Covenants and Forums, in order to protect minorities and in this case ethnic and religious minority groups, as all people have equal rights and the UN tries to do its utmost to protect them,

1. Urges the promotion of education and knowledge as powerful tools for someone to possess by:

- a. Funding educational programs which promote equal opportunities, respect and understanding towards minorities,
- b. Teaching children from a very young age the meaning of equal rights, diversity, respect, and the treatment of people of different origins as equals,
- c. Publishing educational magazines that will provide the citizens with information about each and every one of the existing minorities,
- d. Students participating in projects that refer to the obstacles that different minorities face,

2. Confirms there is fundamental need for social participation in order to achieve a smoother integration of minorities into society:

- a. The citizens need to be active by:
 - i. Forming an opinion about politics and economics,
 - ii. Getting informed about the origins of the immigrants that approach their country,
 - iii. Volunteering in charities organized by the communities,
 - iv. Treating immigrants without prejudice,
 - v. Participating in educational programs,
- b. Offer both financial and non financial assistance,
- c. Set the bases for the absorption of ethnic and religious minorities into local communities,

3. Further reminds raising awareness is also a big step towards creating an inclusive society:

- a. Media and the establishment of forums or

advisory bodies can promote dialogue and cooperation on issues concerning people belonging to religious or ethnic minorities,

- b. The Public should be sensitized on negative phenomena such as racism, discrimination, xenophobia and social exclusion,
- c. Community leaders and political representatives play a really important role when it comes to recognition, participation and raising awareness among the public,
- d. Television can also raise awareness by informing the citizens about the current adverse conditions under which minorities are forced to live,

4. Further requests the States to take all possible precautions and measures in order to protect people belonging to minority groups as well as their human rights by:

- a. Offering the same opportunities to both majorities and minorities when it comes to shelter, payment, education, and healthcare,
- b. Monitoring the number of people of particular ethnic origin in all kinds of employment since they are under-represented,
- c. Eliminating hate speeches towards ethnic and religious minorities will reduce obstacles,

5. Further asks for the cooperation of the media in order to educate people as far as the causes that oblige people to immigrate are concerned,

6. Invites the government to treat people who belong in a minority the same way as ordinary citizens:

- a. Offer them the same rights,
- b. Make sure they are provided with the best services possible,
- c. They should be informed about the country's policy and legislature,
- d. Help should be offered as far as language is concerned by offering interpreters and making sure that everything is explained in an international language as well,

7. Calls multi-stakeholders to contribute to their integration into society by:

- a. Funding the construction of buildings that will accommodate a large number of immigrants until they find a stable residence,
- b. Encouraging volunteers to work and contribute,

8. Proposes to increase the safety in those people's everyday lives by:

- a. Having professional doctors that are willing to help people without payment in case of injury or illness,
9. Supports the enforcement of laws protecting people who belong to an ethnic or religious minority in order to identify and eradicate stigmatizing and discrimination within the society and the government itself with methods such as:
 - a. Equal government funding,
 - b. Equal rights,
 - c. Equal opportunities,
 - d. Equal salaries,
 - e. Equal promotion,
10. Insists to educate and support people from different countries with different religions by:
 - a. Organizing forums in which those people will have access and get information about:
 - i. the country,
 - ii. the maps,
 - iii. the hospitals,
 - iv. the banks,
 - v. the schools,
 - vi. the stores
 - vii. the embassies,
 - b. Encouraging them to get involved in activities by familiarizing them with the customs and the traditions of the host country,
11. Urges the state to provide the minorities with medical care by :
 - i. Authorizing governments to invest in the production of low-cost adaptive aids,
 - ii. Issuing Health Cards that will facilitate medical services,
 - iii. Offering free hospitalization in case of emergency,
12. Calls for all Member States to remain actively seized upon the matter by:
 - i. promoting good will,
 - ii. promoting hospitality,
 - iii. promoting altruism.



FORUM: Environmental Committee

QUESTION OF: Combatting illegal wildlife trade

SUBMITTED BY: USA

Defining “wildlife trade” as the activity of selling or exchanging wild animal and plant resources and the “illegal wildlife trade” as the illicit trade of wildlife as pets, food, medicine, furs, feathers, leather and more, which is one of the most immediate threats to vulnerable species in many parts of the world,

Noting with regret that the illegal wildlife trade is valued at between \$5-20 billion USD per year and it is the fourth most lucrative global crime after drug trade, human trafficking and weapon trade,

Having considered Executive Order on Combating Wildlife Trafficking by Barack Obama on July 01, 2013, which states that the survival of protected wildlife species such as elephants, rhinos, great apes, tigers, sharks, tuna, and turtles has beneficial economic, social, and environmental impacts thus wildlife trafficking reduces those benefits while generating billions of dollars in illicit revenues each year, contributing to the illegal economy, fueling instability, and undermining security,

Viewing with appreciation that the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) has brought together 179 nations to combat the illegal and unsustainable wildlife trade through a uniform regulatory regime and increased coordination on a global scale,

Further noting that the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service’s (Service) Division of Management Authority and Division of Scientific Authority, as well as the Office of Law Enforcement, are primarily responsible for implementing and enforcing CITES in the United States,

Recognizing the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) which was formed to increase prosecution and punishment for caught smugglers and poachers as well as increase law enforcement in developing nations,

Further recognizing the Foreign Species and the U.S. Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, a key

legislation for both domestic and international conservation that aims to provide a framework to conserve and protect endangered and threatened species and their habitats (with some exceptions),

Taking into account the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), enacted on October 21, 1972, that protects all marine mammals,

Taking into consideration the Wild Bird Conservation Act (WBCA), enacted on October 23, 1992, that ensures that exotic bird species are not harmed by international trade and encourages wild bird conservation programs in countries of origin.

Aware of the Multinational Species Conservation Acts, enacted by the U.S. Congress, that grants the Division the authority to establish the Multinational Species Conservation Funds and provide grants to projects benefiting elephants, rhinos, great apes and marine turtles in their natural habitats,

Welcoming the contribution of all member states,

1. Calls for people to stop buying items, souvenirs or gifts that derive from unlawfully killed wildlife species;
2. Asks for people to take action through international well-established organizations, such as the World Animal Protection Company, the Traffic International Company, the World Wide Fund For Nature (WWF), the Wildlife Alliance by:
 - a. Donating money
 - b. Volunteering
 - c. Signing and supporting the Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare (UDAW)
3. Urges governments to adopt regulations that forbid importing, exporting, selling, shipping in interstate or foreign commerce in the course of a commercial activity wildlife species, or possessing, shipping, delivering, carrying, transporting, selling or receiving unlawfully taken wildlife products;
4. Encourages Member States to establish effective

measures to prevent and counter poaching and illicit trafficking in wildlife and wildlife products, including fauna and flora as protected by the CITES;

5. Strongly encourages Member States to take decisive steps at the national level to prevent, combat and eradicate the illegal trade in wildlife, by:
 - a. strengthening the legislation necessary for the prevention
 - b. investigation and prosecution of such illegal trade
 - c. strengthening enforcement and criminal justice responses
 - d. making illicit wildlife trafficking a serious crime
 - e. acknowledging that the ICCWC can provide valuable technical assistance in this regard;
6. Further urges Member States to engage actively in efforts to raise awareness about the problems and risks associated with the supply, trade, and demand for illegal wildlife products and to reduce the demand using targeted strategies in order to influence consumer behavior;

Boudouraki Metaxia



FORUM: Environmental Commission

QUESTION OF: Preventing soil degradation and erosion

SUBMITTED BY: Israel

THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION,

Recalling previous attempts to combat soil degradation such as the UN conference on environment and development (1992) called upon the United Nations General assembly (GA) to establish an intergovernmental negotiating committee to prepare by an international convention to combat desertification by 1994 (word order),

Congratulating the Forest Stewardship council (FSC), an organization that supplies an internationally recognized trademark of sustainably cut wood in an attempt to mitigate the problem of deforestation,

Acknowledging the contribution of the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT) network, which provides tools and methods allowing SLM specialists to identify fields and needs of action and share their valuable knowledge in land resources management,

Bearing in mind that deforestation of unsuitable land, overcutting of vegetation, overgrazing and non-adoption of soil conservation management practices are all contributing to the dire problem of soil degradation,

Noting with deep concern that according to the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) nearly 56 thousand square miles of forest are lost each year, making deforestation the prominent cause of soil degradation,

Pointing out that overcutting of vegetation becomes unsustainable where it exceeds the rate of natural regrowth,

Observing that overgrazing empowers wind and water erosion in dry land,

Recognizing that soil degradation can have severe implications for countries on a societal and economic level, since it is imperatively linked to food shortage and poverty,

Having in mind that land degradation not only de-

creases the fertility of the soil but also results in the loss of biodiversity, lowering of the water table and an overall loss in agricultural productivity,

1. Requests for all countries to develop an action plan to enhance the ability of local communities to integrate environmental management methods, which will include:
 - a. Reference to prioritized considerations within relevant agency-policies and planning processes ,
 - b. A plan to encourage farmers to plant their land effectively and prevent erosion or limit it as much as possible by means of:
 - i. Training workshops on the methodology of land preservation
 - ii. Presentations on the grave issue of soil degradation, regarding its causes and effects
 - iii. Informative manuals on how to rebuilt degraded soil
 - iv. State subventions to those who implement soil conservation measures presented at workshops;
2. Strongly urges the international community to transform human capabilities to meet global environmental challenges and move towards a green economy in the context of:
 - a. Eradicating poverty,
 - b. Empowering sustainable development,
 - c. Mitigating deforestation, to prevent and eliminate soil degradation;
3. Suggests the creation of discussion forums to provide all registered users with a platform related to soil conservation, in order to:
 - a. Support the sharing of ideas and experiences on the assessment of land degradation,
 - b. Promote wide adoption of sustainable land management practices;
4. Proposes to devise more permanent solutions to the underlying problems causing soil degradation such as:
 - a. Acknowledging good grazing as the main objective of traditional land management,
 - b. Discovering viable alternatives to cutting off vegetation;
5. Underscores the immense magnitude of the problem, affecting both present and future generations who will not only suffer from soil degrada-

- tion but also climate change, atmospheric pollution and lack of resources;
6. Encourages the catalyzing of rapid and transformative change in human behavior affecting the environment by making the building of an environmentally friendly mentality the prior objective of education;
 7. Finds it essential to rebuild soil in areas where it is possible, with the technical support of NGOs and other organizations and efficient guidance by the scientific community;
 8. Calls upon the active involvement of local communities, with all activists seized upon the matter and participating in organizations where they feel more productive;
 9. Urges every effort to go beyond mere conservation, by aligning governance structures to the challenges of global sustainability, and providing allowances from the World Bank as to:
 - a. Financially support farmers willing to integrate soil conservation methods in tillage,
 - b. Integrate social, environmental and economic objectives in sustainable development policies at all levels of governance,
 - c. Reconnect scientific knowledge and policy making,
 10. Hopes to raise awareness of the issue by:
 - a. Developing a database software for collecting and storing valuable information on land preservation,
 - b. Organizing campaigns to inform people about this dire problem and its perilous consequences;
 11. Declares to remain active in providing viable solutions to the complex problem of soil degradation.

Pelli Konstandellou



Reflections

*This year I participated in two MUN Conferences both in Greece and in Italy. It was my second year in the MUN Club and someone would ask why. Well, as far as I am concerned, MUN is not just the definition of the procedure of making speeches. MUN is an event where one learns to step out of his comfort zone, an event where expressing your country's policies and acting according to them stops being a right and becomes an obligation. In MUN students learn what close cooperation with other fellow delegates really means, what listening to others really means and that mistakes, shyness, fear of doing something wrong are more logical than ever. **Nonetheless, the biggest and most imperative lesson that I got from this club is that when you find the courage to let your voice be heard is when you have the strength to conquer the world.***

Korinna Frangias

This year I attended both the HMCE conference in Rome (March 2016) and the 10th CGS MUN conference in Athens (December 2015). The MUN experience was unique as far as I am concerned, as I learned new things, met new people and enhanced my rhetorical skills. My participation in the MUN came in at a pivotal moment of my life; it greatly influenced the way I perceive the world, my life choices (in professional terms) and made me more open- and international-minded. I look forward to acquiring more fascinating, intriguing, interesting and fruitful MUN experiences in the near future.

Stathis Pasgianos

MUN... Model United Nations. Three words, a thousand experiences. Participating in an MUN Conference has been an amazing experience. People from different countries worldwide, gather together for the most significant purpose; to discuss matters that concern our own world, our own people, our own international society. Discussing and trying to find solutions to the problems of human trafficking, refugees, migration etc., not only helps you broaden your horizons, but also makes you realize that our actions have a certain impact on the world, and that all people interact with each other, and cooperate in order to survive. It is beautiful to see young people trying to help the ones in need, to find solutions to situations that may not affect them directly, but that may harm another human being... It is beautiful to see people still having hope and still fighting to make this world a better place. MUN is not about the conferences, or meeting other people, or debating on certain issues. MUN is a way of thinking. A way of thinking that cultivates the hope and the willingness to stand up and fight for a better future... for international peace and love...

Konstantina Nikopoulou

*MUN is an amazing experience in every way! Not only do you evolve as a person due to the plethora of new things that you constantly learn but also because you meet many people from all around the world. In addition, it gives you the chance to express your opinion in front of a live audience which is a great skill to acquire. Through fruitful discussion in all conferences you become more open minded and you have the privilege for three days to participate in a simulation of the real Model United Nations. **I am looking for-***

ward to my third year as a member of the club and I really recommend MUN to ALL STUDENTS!

Irene Moraitelli

The Model United Nations (MUN) was one of the greatest experiences of my life! It gave me the opportunity to meet a group of intelligent, marvelous and open-minded people as well as create international friendships with individuals that I will never forget. It also made me improve personal skills such as cooperation, public speaking, argumentation, debate skills and confidence in such a fun way! Not to mention that it helped me enhance my knowledge about global relations, politics and generally the internationalism of the world we live in. **I relished each and every moment spent in this magnificent club and I can't wait to clock in next year.**

Stelios Vamvakas

Even as a first year MUNner, I have already gotten the chance to attend a couple of conferences, within Greece (CGS-MUN) as well as abroad (HMCE 2016, Rome). **I must say that I have "fallen head over heels" for MUN since its mission is one that I aspire to live by and work for in the future in the hope of being able to make a difference in the world!** During my time in this club and especially at the conferences that I have thus far attended, I have had the opportunity to communicate my ideas, debate on pressing issues that are of interest to a person like me but I have also had the chance to make lifelong friends from all over the world who share the same mentality and aspirations as I do. Honestly, I am grateful to this club for letting me get closer to what I want to do in the future, to build a truly united world that works for a sustainable future. **So, even though I am a first year MUNner, this club has impacted me in ways that I can't begin to explain and has opened a "door" to my future and self-discovery.**

Zoe Papageorgiou-George



ART

Fauvism

Fauvism

Fauvism is the first movement of modern art which made its appearance in the 20th century. The artists that supported the specific art movement were called “Fauvists” or “Wild Beasts”. Fauvism was an important precursor for Cubism and Expressionism.

What is remarkable about Fauvism is its radical goal of separating color from its descriptive and the representational purpose, allowing it to exist on the canvas as an independent element. The colors used represent the mood of the artist and the structure needn't be true to the natural world.

Above all, Fauvism valued individual expression. The artist's direct experience of his subjects, his emotional response to nature, and his intuition were all more important than the actual representation of what was seen.

Some representatives of Fauvism are Henri Matisse, Georges Braque, Maurice de Vlaminck, André Derain, Raoul Dufy.

Kolimpi Deppy HS2 Exam Skills 2



Yacht at Le Havre Decorated with Flags



Matisse « Open Window »

Cubism

Cubism was an art movement led by **Pablo Picasso** and **Georges Braque** in Paris from 1907 to 1914.

The term *Cubism* was first coined by **Louis Vauxcelles** after seeing the landscapes Braque had painted at L'Estaque in 1908.

Most **Cubist works** are immediately recognizable due to their use of geometrical shapes and lines and a fairly neutral color palette. Also, objects are shown from multiple perspectives at once and the paintings consist of overlapping surfaces.

Cubism consists of two stages: **Analytical** and **Synthetic**. Analytical Cubism staged modern art's most radical break with traditional models of representation. It is characterized by earth tones and neutral colors. Mostly landscapes are depicted and only a few figures are represented in each painting. Synthetic Cubists proved very important and influential for later artists. They tended to use new mediums, such as clips from newspapers on top of paint canvases and they created collages by using different materials.



Olga Petidis
HS2 Exam Skills 2

Expressionism

Expressionism is a style of art founded in the beginning of the 20th century in Germany. This movement expresses people's state of mind, emotions and responses like frustration, anxiety, disgust, discontent, violence and frenetic intensity. The artist's purpose is to present the world from a personal perspective and to distort it completely for emotional effect. Actual, physical reality was not important. What mattered was the emotional experience evoked by the work of art.

"The Scream" Edvard Munch, 1893



"Scandalized Masks" James Baron Ensor, 1883



The first expressionists that stood out were Vincent van Gogh, Edvard Munch and James Baron Ensor. Each of them had their own painting style. They used a variety of colors and lines to give different dramatic and emotional tones to the paintings. Also, they expressed a subjective outlook of nature through their paintings.



"Starry Night over the Rhône" Vincent van Gogh, 1888

Georgia Pitsavou
Exam Skills 2

POP ART



Pop Art was the art of popular culture. It was the visual art movement that was characterized by a sense of optimism during the post war consumer boom of the 1950's and 1960's. Pop art presented a challenge to traditions of fine art by including imagery from popular culture such as advertising and news. It included different styles of painting and sculpture but they all had a common interest in mass-media, mass-production and mass-culture.



Roy Lichtenstein "Drowning Girl"

The word 'POP' was first used in 1954, by the British art critic Lawrence Alloway, to describe a new type of art that was inspired by the imagery of popular culture. Some young British artists in the 1950's, who grew up with the wartime austerity viewed the seductive imagery of American popular culture and its consumerist lifestyle with a romantic sense of irony and envy. They saw America as being the land of a free, youthful culture that embraced the social influence of mass media and mass production. Pop Art became their mode of expression in their search

for change. American Pop Art reintroduced the image as a structural device in painting.

Among the early artists that shaped the pop art movement were Eduardo Paolozzi and Richard Hamilton in Britain, and Robert Rauschenberg and Jasper Johns in the United States. Roy Lichtenstein developed a pop art style that was based on the comic strip.

However, the artist who personifies Pop Art more than any other is Andy Warhol. He originally worked as a 'commercial artist' and his subject matter was advertising, comics, newspapers, TV and the movies. Warhol embodied the spirit of American popular culture and elevated its imagery to the status of museum art. He used second-hand images of celebrities and consumer products which he believed had a characteristic that made them more interesting.



Pop art by Andy Warhol

Pop art was a huge step for the art of advertising and the beginning of a new, more minimalistic cultural era.

Comparative Essay:
“The Unknown Citizen” by W.H. Auden and
“The Spirit of our Times” by Raoul Hausmann

The Unknown Citizen

W. H. Auden, 1907 - 1973

*(To JS/07 M 378
This Marble Monument
Is Erected by the State)*

He was found by the Bureau of Statistics to be
One against whom there was no official complaint,
And all the reports on his conduct agree
That, in the modern sense of an old-fashioned word, he was a
saint,

For in everything he did he served the Greater Community.
Except for the War till the day he retired
He worked in a factory and never got fired,
But satisfied his employers, Fudge Motors Inc.
Yet he wasn't a scab or odd in his views,
For his Union reports that he paid his dues,
(Our report on his Union shows it was sound)
And our Social Psychology workers found
That he was popular with his mates and liked a drink.
The Press are convinced that he bought a paper every day
And that his reactions to advertisements were normal in every
way.

Policies taken out in his name prove that he was fully insured,
And his Health-card shows he was once in hospital but left it
cured.

Both Producers Research and High-Grade Living declare
He was fully sensible to the advantages of the Instalment Plan
And had everything necessary to the Modern Man,
A phonograph, a radio, a car and a frigidaire.

Our researchers into Public Opinion are content
That he held the proper opinions for the time of year;
When there was peace, he was for peace: when there was war, he went.
He was married and added five children to the population,
Which our Eugenist says was the right number for a parent of his
generation.

And our teachers report that he never interfered with their
education.

Was he free? Was he happy? The question is absurd:
Had anything been wrong, we should certainly have heard.

From *Another Time* by W. H. Auden, published by Random House. Copyright © 1940 W. H. Auden, renewed by the Estate of W. H. Auden. Used by permission of Curtis Brown, Ltd.



Raoul Hausmann "The Spirit of our Time"

The famous English author Aldous Huxley wrote in his book "Brave New World": "One believes things because one has been conditioned to believe them." The inspiration for me to search into the topics of absolute control and obedience came from two extraordinary pieces of art. The first was the poem "The Unknown Citizen" by W.H. Auden, which he wrote while living in New York. The poem gives evidence of his culture shock on suddenly being confronted with American-style chaos and consumerism. The second source of inspiration was a statue called "The Spirit of our

Time”, made by the famous artist Raoul Hausmann. This statue is one of the key figures of Dadaism, an art movement of the European avant-garde in the early 20th century. Constructed from a hairdresser's wig-making dummy, the piece has various measuring devices attached on it including a ruler, a pocket watch mechanism, a typewriter, some camera segments and a crocodile wallet. In this essay I will attempt to compare and contrast these two works of art and reach some conclusions.

First of all, the titles of the two artworks should be discussed: both apply to the same period where people are automated and robot-like. In the poem, the hero, who represents a model citizen, is fully predictable and obedient to authority and his actions are completely automated. Thus, what prevails is impersonality and absence of human identity and emotions. The characteristics of our era are also impersonality, lack of human contact, lack of identity and prevalence of dependence on technology.

In my opinion, the most important similarity is the universal theme and the generality that is conveyed by both pieces of art. The theme is the mechanization of the world and the fact that we all try to fit our lives into this world which is dominated by technology, automation and lack of personal identity and its uniqueness. The poem depicts a perfect citizen whose characteristics and actions are exactly identical to those of his co-citizens, making them obviously predictable by the controllers. Something impressive is that even his employers have to do with mechanics (Fudge Motors Inc.) as well as the items that he needs to survive in his daily life is machinery such as “a phonograph, a radio, a car and a frigidaire.”. Indeed, there is no reference to any human characteristic which can make someone unique. As for “The Spirit of our Time”, the rational behind it is exactly the same. The humanoid has an external appearance of a human being but actually, he is under the complete control of his masters just like the unknown citizen. It is wooden, without any life form, with no personal characteristics, nor movements, expressions or feelings.

Furthermore, both works of art “discuss” the topic of the disappointing similarity that prevails and the fact that there is no way for anyone to leave a mark in the world. This is very well-expressed in the poem where the questions “Was he free? Was he happy?” are regarded as absurd because there is no place for such considerations. After all, automata have no feelings or emotions, have no critical judgement and no ability to synthesize and to express opinions, while human beings do have all of these.

To conclude, we live in a world where human nature is threatened by the expansion and ceaseless development of technology. Examples of this are abound. People nowadays entertain themselves with electronic games which have replaced walks in the park or social gatherings. They also communicate through the social media and not face to face at least not frequently. Moreover, the art of letter writing has been replaced with text messages, which causes the falling standard of the language-the most important means of human expression. All this reliance on technology leads to a monitoring of every move. This is why the artists felt compelled to draw attention to the social problems of their time and to warn of potential dangers.

The poem and the statue are examples of what is likely to come and even of what is already happening. Indeed, art is not supposed to be always nice and pretty; it is supposed to evoke feelings and to provide food for thought. The message that these works of art convey is a warning: people should not denounce their human identity and uniqueness, they should leave a mark in this world, making their name remembered and not just being ‘Unknown Citizens’ with a number as the only element of their recognition.

Irene Katsivela
HS1 ESL 3

PSYCHOLOGY

FEAR



Fear is a part of life whether it is fear of war and terrorism, or the general fears, like those of intimacy, abuse, physical disease, surviving a natural disaster, or living with chronic pain. It is a human emotion that is triggered by a perceived threat. Fear is a very powerful emotion and a very strong motivating force too. The more intense the fear becomes the more it affects a person's behavior, mood and life. We've been told that fear prevents us from living our best possible life. It keeps us from pursuing our passions, following our dreams, and doing the things we most want to do. Fear holds people back, and keeps them locked in a prison of their own making. However, fear is not the root of all problems we face and surprisingly it can have a positive impact on the way we live. More specifically, fear makes us feel alive, it inspires action and it boosts our confidence too.

First of all, fear affects the way we perceive and interpret things; it is a survival instinct. It is a necessary response to threats and danger. Moreover, since fear is a biochemical reaction that has been vital for our survival and it is responsible for the fight or flight response, it can sometimes be a really useful "tool" that helps us anticipate and respond more quickly to a genuine threat. For example, if something is unfamiliar, it might be dangerous, so, whenever we're in unfamil-

iar territory, fear crops up and alerts us to pay attention; and of course, this is very useful from a survival point of view. So, fear not only keeps us alive, but it makes us feel alive. Facing your fears is a natural and positive drug. When we venture outside our comfort zone our body produces adrenaline, and that adrenaline actually creates a high. That high makes all the difference between existing and living!

Another positive effect of fear is that it inspires action. Within each one of us lives a great and magnificent dream that is waiting to be actualized. However, the problem is that most of us get caught up with making a living that we forget to actually "design" our life. Fear changes that. Fear is the push we need to escape the mundane and be our greatness. Apart from this, fear sets us free. For example, if we are afraid of something or some possibility, we will either stick our heads in the sand, or we will do something about it. And this action is the result of fear in our lives. In general, fear is a very powerful motivator.

In addition, fighting our fear builds confidence. When we do something that scares us, we become stronger day by day. Self-confidence is the result of having successfully survived a risk. In our everyday life, when we do something risky, something that scares us, we become more powerful and it helps us grow in confidence. Each step outside your comfort zone and into fear builds a "muscle". As that muscle gets stronger and stronger so does our spirit and self-esteem. In accordance to this, we realize that without fear, we will not succeed! In order to achieve unimaginable success and turn the impossible into possible, it is vital to embrace fear. Fear is our best friend and it is the only

path to success.

In conclusion, you will find many reasons to be fearful nowadays, from what is going on around the world or even fear and worries in the house. However, if you don't let fear get into your head and take control of your actions and thoughts, you will realize that fear is a tool to keep us moving forward, towards a better life. Fear is beneficial for our lives. It is our friend, not our enemy.

Joanna Panopoulou
JH3 ESL



Introduction

Self-esteem seems like a simple term at first, but it's more than it appears on the surface. One definition that could be used to describe it is that self-esteem is the way a person feels about himself, how he values himself and how much he likes himself.

What is self-esteem?

As was already mentioned, self-esteem has to do with what a person believes about himself. It can also be described as a person's appreciation of himself. Hence, people that have low self-esteem feel unworthy and treat themselves and others badly, which is actually a big factor of depression, loneliness and crime. The reason why this happens is that they physically respond to this by acting in a self-destructive manner.

There are two different kinds of self-esteem.

First, there is global self-esteem which grows as we face our fears and learn from our experiences. So raising it is possible, but not easy. Secondly, there is situational self-esteem which depends on circumstances, roles, and events. It can be high or low at one moment. Therefore, self-esteem can have different forms.

What is assertiveness?

Assertiveness is expressing thoughts, feelings and beliefs in an honest and direct way. When a person is assertive, he influences, listens to and negotiates with other people, thus being able to cooperate with them in the best possible way. Being assertive is not the same as being aggressive, though. It does not mean that a person will get what he wants every time. In a word, being assertive is neither being passive nor being aggressive.

What is the connection between confidence and self-esteem?

Confidence and self-esteem are difficult to define precisely. They both describe an internal state made up of what we think and feel about ourselves. This can be changeable, depending on the situation we are currently in and what is going on around us. Confidence refers to how we feel about ourselves and our abilities, while self-esteem refers directly to whether or not we appreciate and value ourselves. Thus, confidence comes from self-esteem.

What are some ways to improve self-esteem and confidence?

There are lots of ways to improve self-esteem and confidence. First of all, we should become more accepting of ourselves. Basically, everyone has to feel good about himself and recognize that humans are imperfect and capable of making mistakes. Moreover, we have to recognize our

mistakes without beating ourselves up over them because our mistakes can make us better human beings. We should recognize our good qualities and abilities, because in this way we could love ourselves more. Furthermore, we have to remind ourselves that we have skills and qualities that others appreciate. A way to confirm this, is to ask our family members and friends what they like about us. Additionally, we should give ourselves rewards as we practice building self-esteem and confidence. We should identify



the factors that make us have low self-esteem, so we know what to change. Finally, we should experience and respect our feelings in order to understand and love ourselves more.

Agapi Fronista
JH2 ESL S 6

Copeland's Counseling Chats

Double click the cloud bubble



Double click the cloud bubble



Listen in as Agape calls the counseling radio station for advice from Nikoleta on how to resolve a problem she faces at school because of her best friend.

Listen in as Stella calls the counseling radio station for advice from Christine on how to resolve a problem she faces at school because of her best friend's betrayal.



Do you know what "fear" means? "Fear" means **Forget Everything And Run**. "Fear" means **Face Everything And Rise**. Fear plays a crucial role in our lives. It can influence the way we see the world, while influencing our behavior too.

Fear can change our perspective of the world. Many people are constantly stressed and worried whether something fearful and dangerous is going to happen. We become scared, while viewing life as dark. Do you know what is missing from our lives? Hope. We start believing that positive things do not happen in life. We do not let positive energy in our minds and body. For each dangerous situation we experience, a different type of fear is created and stays with us for the rest of our lives. For example, someone who experiences a frightening situation on the streets, may never want to leave his house again, because he is afraid that something similar is going to happen. These traumas prevent us from enjoying our lives and living them to the fullest.

In addition, fear can have an enormous impact on our behavior, too. By living with fear we start missing out on life and we do not fully enjoy it. This way, we are prevented from experiencing and trying new things. Our “adventure” of finding out who we are and completing, in a way, our own selves is limited, because we do not let ourselves become exposed to new things. Fear limits our full potential and prevents us from accomplishing our goals and dreams. Also, when we are always scared and stressed, we tend to become more closed within ourselves and become introverts. We do not let ourselves be exposed to many people, so we do not socialize and we miss on all the fun with friends.

There are many types of fear, that people are affected by, such as fear of heights, fear of animals or fear of old age. However, the most common fears are fear of love, fear of death and fear of making decisions. First, let’s talk about the fear of love. Sometimes, we are afraid of falling in love or loving and showing affection to a family member or any loved one. When we trust another person, we allow them to affect us, which then makes us feel exposed and vulnerable. Also, sometimes with the fear of love, comes the fear of death. Everyone is scared of losing someone they love, so we could say that fear of love is connected with the fear of loss. Some people, choose to not get connected with other people and choose not to love, because they do not want to feel the pain of losing a loved one. Another example of fear, is the fear of making decisions. We are afraid of making decisions, because we are scared of making the wrong the one. This type of fear, causes lots of anxiety and stress, and it often holds us back from accomplishing our goals. Often, because we are scared that we are going to make the wrong decision, we let fear control our mind and do not think straight, leading us to finally making the wrong decision. Fear of love, fear of death and fear of making decisions hold us

back from life, from loved ones, and from accomplishing our dreams.

To sum up, “Fear” does not mean **Forget Everything And Run**. “Fear” means **“Face Everything And Rise!** Fear influences the way we see life and our behavior. However, we should always try to face our fears and overcome them, so we can finally accomplish our goals. In the words of Jack Canfield, “Everything is on the other side of fear”!

Melina Chalkia
JH3 ESL8

How Important is External Appearance?



JH1 ESL S 3 answers the question on the next page...

Real friends accept you the way you are, without trying to change you.

Kappou Alkmini

Someone's external appearance is the first impression that he or she makes on the others. It could also help someone professionally.

Valatsas Dimitris

We should definitely take care of the way we look. Our appearance creates a lasting impression on others.

Sophia Kalantzopoulou

What really matters is our character and personality and if we are beautiful on the inside.

Giannari Stella

We should be clean and tidy because in this way we show a kind of respect towards the people around us. Also, a good appearance makes us have self-confidence.

Iris Kontou

Appearance has always been important to human beings. It's the first thing we see and notice, and makes the first impression we get when we meet a new person.

Alkmini Kappou



External appearance is made up of your physical characteristics and the way you choose to present yourself. Physical appearance is what you are born with and can't be changed. I do not think our physical characteristics, such as our looks should be important. What is important is our personality, our character and the way we treat other people...

When I choose a friend, the factors that I take into account are if the other person and I have similar personality traits, such as honesty, having a sense of humour, being compassionate and whether we share common interests and hobbies. I do not care about my friends' physical appearance or clothes.

Koutsoumbos Kirk

PEOPLE WHO OVERCAME DIFFICULTIES



Andrea Bocelli

Andrea Bocelli is an Italian classical crossover tenor. He was born on September 22, 1958 in Italy. It was evident at birth that he had numerous problems with his sight, and after visits to many doctors, he was diagnosed with congenital glaucoma. Unfortunately, he became completely blind at the age of 12, after a soccer injury. However, he remains one of the world's most popular singers. As a child, he learned to play the piano, the flute and the saxophone, and he was often asked to sing at family gatherings. Bocelli had his first taste of success in a singing competition in 1970. Since then, he has recorded fourteen solo studio albums of both classical and pop music. He has also recorded nine complete operas and three greatest hits albums, selling over 80 million records worldwide.

On March 2010, he was honored with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Giannari Stella
JH1 ESL S 3



John Bramblitt

John Bramblitt lost his vision in 2001 when he was 30 years old due to complications from epilepsy. At first, John says he lost hope and was in a deep depression, but then he found a way to deal with his problem: painting. Since John can't see colors, he has developed a process where he paints by touch. According to the artist, each color feels different to him: white is thick and black is a little runny, so when he needs gray, he mixes the two until the texture is right. His art has been sold in over twenty countries and he has appeared internationally in print, TV and radio. His work has received much recognition, including the "Most inspirational Video of 2008" from YouTube and three Presidential Service Awards for his innovative art workshops.

Kappou Alkmini
JH1 ESL S 3



Lee Pearson

Lee Pearson is a ten-times Paralympic Games gold medalist in horseback riding. However, he was born with an arthrogryposis multiplex problem.

In 1980, Margaret Thatcher awarded him a “Children of Courage” award. He turned professional after he was inspired by the Atlanta Olympics. He won three gold medals in the championship dressage and freestyle dressage events at the 2000, 2004 and 2008 Summer Paralympics. He also won a gold medal in the team dressage event at the 2012 Summer Paralympics, a silver medal in the dressage championship and a bronze medal in the freestyle dressage. He has stated that he will compete at the 2016 Summer Paralympics in Rio.

Lee Pearson is currently the title holder of 34 gold medals on a European and World Paralympic level. He owns a dressage yard in Staffordshire and teaches many horseback riders around the country.

Nafsika Iliopoulou
JH1 ESL S 3

Will I Am

William James Adams Junior, better known as Will I Am, was born on the 15th of March 1975. He came from a very poor family who lived in the housing project of L.A. His father aban-

doned his family when Will I Am was born. His mother worked hard and raised her eight children with great difficulty. She cared a lot about his education so she sent him to John Marshal High which was in a better neighborhood than the one they were living in. She wanted him to avoid joining gangs.

One day, when William was 12 years old, his school organized a charity food drive. All the children donated canned food but William’s mother had nothing to spare. A few days later, William was surprised to see his classmates giving some of the canned food to his family. This opened his eyes to reality. He made the decision to move his family out of the ghetto and make his mother proud. He became determined to work hard, save his money and succeed.

He was talented and enjoyed writing music and lyrics and performing. He was approximately 14 when he met his best friend, Alan Pineda, with whom he formed the band Black Eyed Peas. While they were still in high school, they would perform in small clubs.

The band became very successful. William has won a lot of awards for his music, has played in films and has taken part in talent shows. Finally, he is an activist and tries to support underprivileged youths like he was.

Kirk Koutsombos
JH1 ESL 3



REFUGEES

International organizations, celebrities and families: the heroes of the refugee crisis

It has been five years since the outbreak of war in Syria. Since then, millions of Syrian refugees along with many immigrants from Asian countries have crossed Turkey to reach our country intending to move to the north. This mass migration however has led to many European countries to close their borders trapping in this way large numbers of these people in our country's north. It is this complex situation that has led many international organizations or families living nearby to offer their help in any way possible.



The grave situation of these immigrants - being forced to abandon their country and look for a life in 'the unknown', being misled by smugglers and having lost all that is needed for survival, led to the foundation of the **International Rescue Committee**. The **IRC** has helped over 3 million uprooted Syrians to recover and rebuild their lives since 2012. The organization provides them with medical and other aid, ensures that refugees have access to legal counselling and helps women and girls who have been victims of violence. The IRC is currently providing support to Syrian refugees in Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Turkey, Greece and Serbia. More specifically, in our country the IRC is providing refugees with shelter in makeshift camps on the

island of Lesvos. Help is also offered to new arrivals to navigate the perplexing registration process and understand their legal rights.

Other organizations take similar action as well. "**Doctors without Borders**" is providing medical care and search-and-rescue support to people crossing the Mediterranean and at reception centers in Europe. The '**World Food Program**' is providing food vouchers for over a million refugees in countries including Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan. However, a recent lack of funding has forced serious cutbacks and hundreds of thousands have lost their benefits. Furthermore, there is also the '**United Nations Refugee Agency**' taking action by providing lifesaving aid to refugees in a variety of countries across the Middle East and Europe. It is also important to mention the involvement of the '**International Federation of the Red Cross**' in the process of helping immigrants. They help provide those people with shelter and medical care.

The efforts of these international organizations are reinforced by the mobilization of celebrities from the world of arts. Well-known actors, writers and directors like **David Cameron** and **J.K. Rowling** are voicing concerns about the welfare of scores of immigrants seeking haven in Europe. Others like **George Clooney**, **Brad Pitt** and **Ben Affleck** are making donations to support these people. Moreover, never should one forget **Angelina Jolie's** efforts to raise awareness and to mobilize people to support immigrants. She even visited our country a couple of months ago, when she trav-



elled to the island of Lesbos where she met members of the **UNHCR**. She talked to many refugees, especially children, ensuring them that they will have a safe trip to Europe. She even said she will visit refugee camps at Idomeni adding that she and her family will visit Greece again the forthcoming summer to continue her cause.

Last but certainly not least, what is admirable indeed, are the personal efforts of **simple residents** of places like Lesbos. Ignoring stereotypes and any form of discrimination they try to offer voluntary help in any possible way. Letting respect to the hu-



man rights and altruism lead their actions for them they offer medical support,

cook for them or even put some of them up in their own homes. A Greek family was mentioned to have offered shelter to 17 Syrian refugees.

Organizations, celebrities, Greek and other families help refugees in these times of great difficulty and challenge. Humanity should always remember the wise words of Aesop that no act of kindness however small, is ever wasted meaning that even the tiniest help is better than none. Everyone can help make a change. All we need is strong will and perseverance.

Aspasia Stellakatoú Loverdou
HS2 Current Affairs 4

REFUGEES

Migration is definitely one of the biggest problems the world is facing right now. Thousands of people have left their country because they know that if they had stayed, they would have lost their life. Then, we see pictures of the refugees. People sleeping in tents. Babies getting born in the mud. Chil-

dren without shoes or even clothes running around or crying because they're cold or sick. From the



safety of our home we think to ourselves: "Wow! That's sad." And then, we get on with our day. On the other hand, though, there are people who do more than that. There are people who don't forget that they could be in the refugees' shoes. People who offer substantial help.

One of the most glorious examples is one Greek family who decided to host two Syrian families in their house in Pefkodosos of Idomeni. Idomeni in Greece is one of the most crowded places of the country right now because of the thousands of refugees who live there in tents trying to survive and planning their next move of their mission. Mr. Tokoulidis and Mr. Karapanagiotis, two of the members of the Greek family, refusing to stay uninvolved and pretend that the refugee crisis just does not exist, decided to accommodate two Syrian families which consisted among others of one disabled elderly woman and eleven children.



These are the people we should aspire to be. Generous, compassionate and caring about people we don't even know. We should remember that we

could be in their position. Wouldn't we want someone to reach out and help us? To show humanity?



Let's become the people who do exactly that.

Kostarellou Marianna
Exam Skills 2

Immigrants: who are they supported by?

Recently, as the issue of immigration has taken enormous dimensions, many people have taken initiative in order to protect immigrants and refugees. More specifically, several hotspots were established with a view to accommodating them, the majority of whom are located in a village in Macedonia near Kilkis called Eidomeni. This means that home, shel-

Family in Pefkodasos, Eidomeni housing 17 refugees



ter and care are provided for around 8,000 immigrants out of more than 33,000.

Nevertheless, the conditions in these places range from precarious to unsustainable: residents face grave respiratory problems, as they inhale dust, and deal with extremely low temperatures. Besides, a few days ago, FYROM and other European countries closed their borders with fences or at best require that people who wish to enter their country have a visa. Consequently, they have all been confined in Greece and do not receive the treatment

they need.

Instead, many volunteers show remarkable willingness to support these people. For instance, a family living in a village next to Eidomeni has let 17 Syrians live in their own place. An 84-year-old man in Kilkis has done the same with 3 Syrian families.

Financial difficulties do not prevent people from contributing to ameliorating the immigrants' situa-

MSF member treating a patient



tion. This is evident by the action of people participating in religious, non-governmental, non-profit and of other organizations. The most prominent of them are **Archdiocese of Athens** and **BOROUME** which organize common meals, the **Hellenic Red Cross** and its medical services, along with the Greek branch of **Médecins Sans Frontières** and **SOS Children's Villages**.

In conclusion, the issue of mass migration is enormously difficult to tackle, but when individuals cooperate and take action relief can be provided.

Panos Syriopoulos
HS2 Current Affairs 4



Some "homes" in a hotspot

SMOKING

Honorable classmates and teachers,

I am one of the children who have the “luck” to live with parents who smoke. I see my mum smoke every day and I wonder: what makes people so apt to such a harmful habit? Did you know that **a smoker loses roughly 7 years of his life**? I know 7 years doesn't seem like a lot, but right now, 7 years is about half of mine and your life! I am convinced that if we, the new generation, get informed about the disastrous consequences of smoking we will be able to abstain from this terrible habit.

Tobacco smoke contains more than 4.000 chemicals and about **43 of them are proven to cause cancer**. Cancer is a fatal disease and I'm really trying very hard to understand why someone would want to cause such harm to himself! Smoking is related to other diseases as well. High levels of tobacco in our blood increase possibility of acquiring **diabetes**. Smoking is also linked to **blood circulation disorders** that can lead to a **heart attack** or a **stroke**. According to the World Health Organization, about **6,000,000 smokers die every year** and **16,468 die every day**. So, after this, do you still want to try a cigarette? I really don't! Or, do you still want to continue smoking?

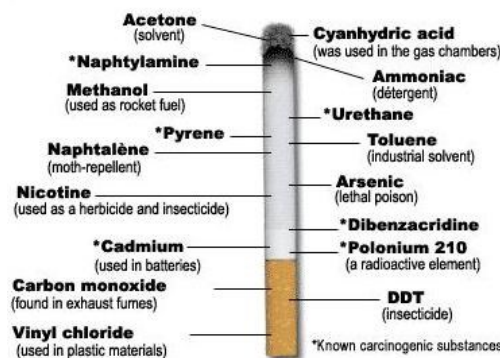
Not only does smoking affect the smoker's health, but it also has a negative impact on other people's lives. As you must have guessed, I'm referring to passive smokers. I am a passive smoker and I bet that most of you have parents who smoke. Thus, I am in the terrible position of announcing to you that **you are a passive smoker, too!** So, we should all fight together and convince our parents to stop smoking because the disastrous consequences affect us as well. It is proven that approximately **9,000 people die from passive**

smoking. I understand that it is a smoker's decision to harm his or her own health, but why force people around him to inhale the smoke, and thus be affected by the fatal consequences of smoking?

We should also bear in mind that smoking is a heavy financial burden for smokers. As you already know, a smoker needs about 5 euros per day in order to cover his need for cigarettes. Why waste so much money just to harm your-

self? And now I am referring to all of you who smoke: imagine that you had saved all the money you've wasted to buy cigarettes. You would be able to do a thousand wonderful things with all this money, that would definitely not destroy your health!

DANGER POISON !



STOP SMOKING!

for more
information
on lung cancer,
keep smoking.

the lung association british colombia

I hope, dear classmates and teachers, that I have convinced you not to start or, if you have already started, to stop smoking. Because smoking can affect your body, your health, your appearance and your wallet, too! So let's make an effort, let's inform everybody, let's spread the word that smoking is a disastrous plague that someone can legally inflict upon himself.

We choose not to smoke; we choose not to accept being passive smokers; we choose to be healthy!

Stella Kozaki



HS1 ESL 4

The Negative Effects of Smoking

Throughout the centuries, people have been smoking substances available to them.

Nowadays, the most common smoking is that of cigarettes, in other words tobacco. However comforting or relieving it may be for most smokers, smoking does have lots of negative effects. It can be harmful for people's health and appearance, as well as for the environment.

First of all, smoking has a negative effect on people's health. Smokers are prone to heart and blood diseases as well as lung cancer which is bound to lead to mortality. High cholesterol is also connected to smoking. Moreover, during pregnancy women should bear in mind that smoking affects both themselves and the baby. Another part of the smoker's

body that is affected is the bones. Smoking causes bones to become weak and brittle, which in turn causes osteoporosis. Last but not least, smoking increases the risk of having a stroke, which can cause damage to the brain and may lead to death.

Besides health, smoking may affect people's appearance. Stained teeth or wrinkly skin is the result of excessive smoking. When it comes to the skin, smoking reduces the amount of oxygen in the body and releases various toxins in it. In this way, the skin ages more quickly and premature ageing is evident. Overall, the effects of smoking seem to be extremely harmful for our appearance.

Another issue that should be considered is the environment. Smoke and cigarette butts result into air, water and land pollution. Firstly, when it comes to the air pollution, smoking influences the surrounding atmosphere creating a kind of smog. Moreover, water and land pollution is caused by butts left on the ground which finally end up in lakes and rivers, thus causing death to fish and water animals.

To sum up, the numerous negative effects of smoking should be considered as a way to death. People should be taught at an early age about the damage that smoking may cause and about ways of avoiding it. If we want to live in a healthy environment, smoking should be banned altogether.



Alice Pitsili

HS1 ESL 4

The Negative Consequences of Smoking

Smoking is a popular activity amongst many, regardless of their age and culture. For those people, smoking has become a way of life. Even

if they do not want to think about the impact of smoking on their health, it is widely known that it does more harm than good. It seems that smoking has nothing to offer us other than difficulties.

The most well-known impact is the effect of smoking on one's lungs and breathing in general. Experiments have shown how different the lungs of a non-smoker and a smoker are. The results are extraordinary. Indeed, smoking destroys the lung tissue making it impossible for the cells to absorb oxygen so as to keep the person alive. As a result, breathing becomes shorter and shorter. As time goes by, the lungs lose their ability to stretch and shrink back, making breathing truly impossible. Smoking is devastating for one's lungs.

Moreover, breathing tobacco smoke can alter the chemistry of one's blood, and have an impact on the heart and on the blood vessels. This may result in heart attacks, strokes, and paralyzation of certain body parts. Just for the record, more people have died because of strokes emerging from smoking, than from actually having a problem caused by ageing. We can assume that smoking is a way of committing suicide, slowly and steadily.

Apart from the fatal consequences, smoking has an impact on the everyday aspect of one's life. Smokers are not able to exercise for long periods of time as their lungs and heart are not healthy and strong enough to withstand the strenuous activity. Thus, they have difficulty keeping a well-shaped body. Moreover, cosmetically speaking, their nails and teeth turn yellow, and they may experience hair loss. These effects do not contribute in preserving satis-

factory looks, thus are not helpful when it comes to our social life.

To sum up, smoking is a habit that kills the addict after a long period of time. Then, why are there still people who smoke on a daily basis?

Ilias Seferoglou
HS1 ESL 4



The Teen Power Club



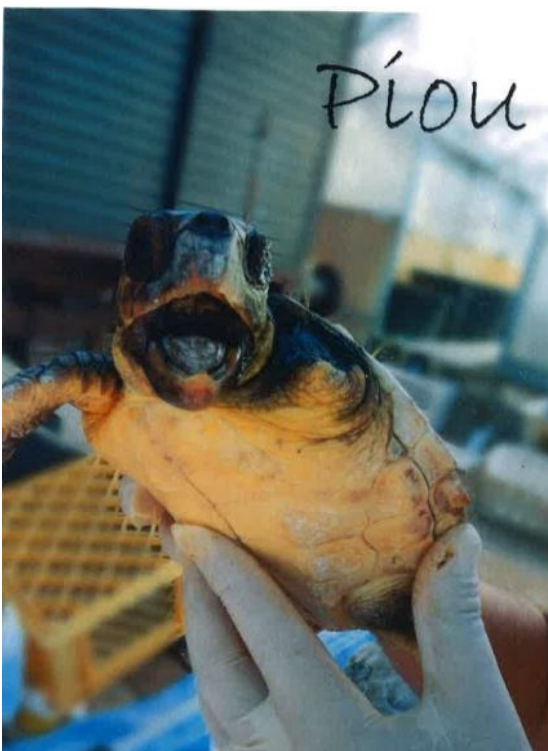
What is the aim of this club?

To empower all our passionate teenager members to make a positive impact on the world around them which will ultimately inspire them to a life dedicated to service.

How is this accomplished?

Through volunteering!

- * Giving back to a cause that matters to them is one of the best ways to make a difference
- * The satisfaction and pride that comes from helping their school and community can be life changing



What did we do this year?

- Distributed fifty Christmas stockings filled with toys and candies to sick children at Agia Sophia Hospital (December 20th, 2015).
- Volunteered at the sea turtle rescue centre "Achelon" and adopted a sea turtle named "Piou" for two months (March 12th, 2016).

Mrs. Demetra Spyropoulos



PLAYS

Aristocrats are Born

Characters: Allister Young, Quinton Young, Katherine Young, Cecilia Paddington, Patrick Paddington, Anna Paddington

Scene 1

(In the theatre watching a play)

Allister: (loudly) This play is indeed terrible. It doesn't remotely match the critiques it has been given. (The viewers sitting around him look reproachfully)

Cecilia: Excuse me, but I think this is very disrespectful of you.

(Allister stops immediately and waits until the end of the play)

Allister: Pardon me my Lady. Back in the theater, I didn't mean to offend anyone, especially a girl of such great beauty like you. Would you mind if I asked you what your name is?

Cecilia: No, not at all.

Allister: Would you like to tell me? (Annoyed)

Cecilia: Oh... Yes. I'm Cecilia Paddington. My father is Patrick Paddington, Lord of Bath.

Allister: Cecilia... Such a charming name. It suits you perfectly. I expected you'd have a name like that. I'm Allister Young, son of Quinton Young.

Cecilia: So, Allister, although I've noticed you're a good-looking young man, your manners are unacceptable. My parents can never allow me to have any relationship with you. Our conversation must cease at once.

Allister: You must excuse my lack of manners. I've never gotten used to them. I'm merely an adopted peasant. I must admit, though, that I'll behave like a high-born aristocrat if that's what it takes to convince you to marry me.

Cecilia: Marry you, Mr. Young? When did anyone discuss marriage? We just met and you haven't even made a proper proposal to me (arrogantly). At any rate, it's not me you have to convince, since I admit I was charmed by your slovenliness, it is my parents. If our families are to form an alliance, then you'll have to learn to behave properly. I'd be willing to help you with that matter.

Allister: Oh dear Cecilia, that is wonderful. We will arrange to meet, and then you can show me how to make a good impression to your father. If you'll excuse me now, I'll have to start heading home; a cab is waiting for me. My father is always anxious when I'm late. Goodbye my dear Cecilia. (Pompously)

Cecilia: Goodbye my beloved Allister...

S cene 2:

(Allister and his adoptive parents sit around a table while servants bring them dinner)

Allister: The night at the theater was totally worth it. Although I found the play to be unbearably dull, I became engaged. (Excitedly)

Katherine: (Chokes on her food) Excuse me, what? You're not engaged to anybody.

Allister: I am. She is a most perfect lady.

Quinton: That is wonderful news. What is her name? Does she come from a rich, aristocratic family?

Allister: I can't recall her name, but it was divine, just like her.

Katherine: That is satisfactory. A man with a weak memory lives a life full of surprises. (Ironically)

Allister: She is the daughter of Lord Paddington of Bath. Father, I beg you to arrange a dinner with her family. I must convince her parents to consent to our marriage.

Quinton: Oh... she is little Cecilia. An alliance with her family is very desirable. I'll see what I can do.

Katherine: Don't get your hopes up. Lord Paddington is never going to accept a peasant like you as his son in law, for his one and only daughter.

Allister: Well, I don't think we have anything to lose. Besides, father said that our marriage would be desirable.

Katherine: You have an image, and a family name to spoil.

Allister: But, mother... (Desperately)

Quinton: Enough! The dinner will be arranged, but Allister will have to make great effort to act properly.

Allister: Do not worry father. This matter has been settled, Cecilia will be showing me how to make a good impression.

S cene 3:

(Cecilia and Allister walk in a room and Cecilia is carrying two books)

Allister: My dear Cecilia, I'm so happy to see you again. I admit though that these books look rather intimidating. What are they?

Cecilia: But Mr. Young, you can't be unaware of the existence of such books. They provide guidelines for how to behave. The first thing is table manners. You have to eat slowly, and have your mouth closed. Be careful to put the silverware down a few times and be involved in conversations, so that you show both that you're not gluttonous and that you're an interesting and intelligent person. The second thing is how you act towards me. You'll be very polite and you'll address me as Miss Paddington.

Allister: But, my own one, there is absolutely no way that I'll be able to do all those things.

Cecilia: You'll have to try, Allister. It is very important for my parents that my husband be respectable. Remember that good manners will open doors that even the best education can't get you through.

Allister: That is quite an unfortunate truth, but if it ensures our marriage, then I'll do my best. Let us try to act as if we're having a dinner with our families, so that I can learn all these new manners.

(Allister and Cecilia proceed to make some rehearsals in order to see how he has taken in the new manners)

Allister: (while eating a potato) This food is indeed splendid, Miss Cecilia. (grabs another potato with his hand)

Cecilia: No! No Allister. It is Miss Paddington, not Miss Cecilia and you shouldn't eat with your hands.

Allister: OK (pokes the potato he held with his fork and eats it). (while chewing) Is that better?

Cecilia: Not at all. (Disappointed) Under no circumstances should you eat with your hands.

Allister: This is too hard. We'll have to do much more work.

(They continue to rehearse)

Scene 4:

(They arrive at the Paddingtons' home, a servant opens the door)

Servant: Good evening. Please come in and follow me, you're going to dine in the upper floor. Allow me to say that the view is amazing.

Patrick: Mr. Young, my Lady, I'm glad you're here. Cecilia has told me a great lot about Allister, and from her descriptions, you must have been great parents and role models for him. (Allister looks at his feet, ashamed)

(They sit and the food starts getting served)

Allister: (when he sees Cecilia) Miss Paddington, allow me to say that you look stunning tonight.

Anna: (Satisfied with the previous comment) How is business going Mr. Young? My husband says that today, we have ceased to make much money out of our land.

Quinton: This is indeed the case, unfortunately; land has stopped bringing either profit or pleasure. Of course, we make money, but the middle class merchants seem to be constantly rising in economic power.

Anna: What do you believe about the situation, how should we maintain the order?

Allister: (hurries to answer and chokes; both Patrick and Anna seem disgusted) I believe that we mustn't allow any relationship between classes. We should maintain the aristocracy. That's one of the reasons you should allow my marriage to Cecily, an alliance between our powerful families will benefit us all.

Patrick: That is an interesting perspective. Can you please tell me how much land the Young own?

Quinton: My land sums up to about 10,000 acres, in areas all around the country.

Patrick: That is satisfactory, but how much of it is in the name of young Allister?

Quinton: Once Allister gets married, he'll have 3,000 acres of land, and two country estates, and, as my heir, when I die, he will be the owner of all of my current and future property.

Patrick: This arrangement is starting to sound very attractive. So appealing it is that I'm ready to give my consent to the marriage. However, there is a problem. As Allister said, any relationship between different social classes is to be avoided, and, as I've been informed by Cecilia, he is not a Young by birth. He is merely an adopted peasant. Therefore, I'd advise Mr. Allister to either become a born (stresses the word) aristocrat, or forget a marriage with my daughter.

Allister: But, Mr. Paddington, allow me to say that what you just expressed is unsound. I can't change my origins. (he sounds angry, and Cecilia noiselessly urges him to calm down)

Patrick: What I said is completely logical and justified. What is unsound is that you still believe I'll agree to this marriage.

Quinton: I need to make a point now. As Mr. Paddington said, the only problem is that Allister is adopted. However, I admit that he is not. I am his biological father. As many men do, I used to have a relationship outside my marriage. To ensure my respectability, I abandoned the child as an infant, but I kept an eye on it. When Allister's parents died, I adopted my son.

Patrick: If that is indeed the case, there is no reason why we couldn't ally with each other. Then, I agree.

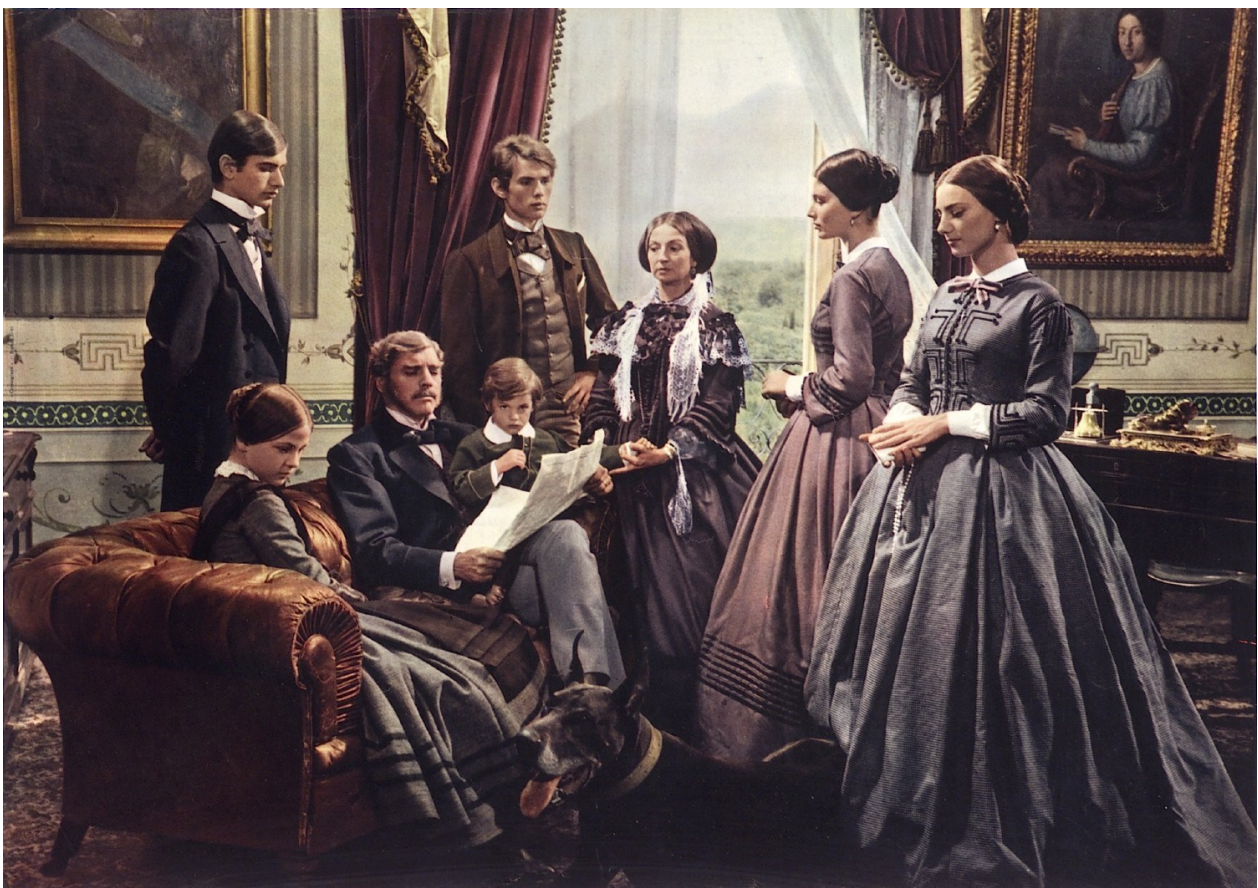
Cecilia: Thank you father. We must arrange the marriage at once. My own Allister!

Allister: Now let me do it right... Miss. Paddington, will you marry me? (On his knees)

Cecilia: Of course!

Patrick: Let us rejoice, for today, with this arrangement, a great victory has come to us against the middle class.

Markopoulos Petros
Paramythiotis Nikolas
Rigopoulos Rigas
JH3 ENL3



The Life of an Upper Class Worker

Characters: Carl, Frank, Thomas, Vera and Jacob

Scene 1

(At factory lunch break)

Frank: This food is terrible. They don't give us the education and proper shelter they promised us, but at least they should offer us something edible.

Thomas: You're absolutely right! This is nothing but a stale piece of bread made to look like actual food. As far as I can tell, the person who prepared this dish must be quite inexperienced in their work.

Frank: Hey Carl, don't you have anything to complain about?

Carl: Actually I rather like this place.

Thomas: So, are you enjoying what you're eating right now?

Carl: God no! The food is indeed horrid. However, I must admit there's this admirable young lady who comes by sometimes and brightens my day.

Thomas: Are you talking about Vera, the factory owner's daughter?

Carl: Vera! What a wonderful name! I was quite certain that such a lady would have a suitable name. It surely matches her divine nature.

Thomas: She is indeed unquestionably beautiful. Her father however, Jacob, is quite the contrary.

Frank: Yeah, I must agree with Thomas. Our supervisor is a monster! Remember how he mercilessly beat Jerry unconscious for "not working hard enough"?

Carl: Well, I must inform you that I intend to try to win her over.

Frank: And how exactly are you going to do that? She probably considers you to be unworthy of her attention...

Thomas: I can't see how such a thing will work. Upper class people are snobbish and conceited. To her you're no better than a pig.

Carl: This problem has tormented me for many nights, but I have come up with an amazing idea: I'm going to pretend to be an upper class gentleman. What could possibly go wrong? From now on, you're going to refer to me as Marcellus...

By the way, where did the rest of my food go?

Frank: Why are you looking at me?

Scene 2

(Carl walks into the upper class restaurant Vera usually goes to. Vera enters.)

Carl: Greetings young lady. I must admit I have had the entrancing pleasure of watching you for the past hour, before I got the courage to come express my deep and sincere admiration.

Vera: I'm quite aware of the fact mister...

Carl: My name is Marcellus, Marcellus Caning. And what is yours? I would suppose it's as splendid as you are.

Vera: My name is Vera, but before we proceed with this enjoyable conversation, I must beg you to put out your pipe. It's not appropriate for a man to smoke in the presence of a lady.

Carl: Oh, I'm sorry; I'm not quite used to these mannerisms. It seems a little odd though. Anyways, let me better introduce myself. I'm the son of Sir Caning, a highly respectable elderly man. My family owns a substantial piece of land...

Vera: But my dear Marcellus, I have never heard of a Sir Caning, and old age doesn't guarantee any respectability of character. Furthermore, land nowadays has ceased to offer either pleasure or profit. That's the reason why my father has turned to alternative businesses for our income.

Carl: Well, I thought that owing a big piece of land is what the upper classes did. May I ask what your father's business exactly is?

Vera: He owns many factories, which produce a variety of commodities. The income is very satisfactory, as he keeps the cost low by having children work there, raising the profit. I am also sorry to inform you that the etiquette doesn't mention anything of a similar nature to what you said about the upper classes.

Carl: (Embarrassed, he tries to avoid commenting the above again); Well, I can't see how this is a profitable business. Anyway, I personally do not agree with child labor, to speak candidly.

Vera: Actually it is ingenious. As we know, this country's educational system fortunately produces no effect whatsoever. Why should we bother trying to educate the lower class when they are a powerful working force that can easily bring in financial benefit for us? I must admit, however, that you are a potentially eligible young gentleman. It seems to me that you possess a significant amount of property. It has always been my dream and ideal to marry a man as handsome as you and of such wealth as yours.

Carl: My dear Vera! (Takes Vera's Hands)

Vera: My own Marcellus! I should present you to my father as soon as possible. I strongly believe he will be pleased with you. But make sure you don't criticize his work. If I owned the factory, I would be insulted by your comment about child labor.

(We see the terrified expression on Carl's face)

cene 3

(They enter Vera's house and Jacob is infuriated by the presence of one of his workers)

Vera: Dad, I have some wonderful news to share with you this fine evening. To my side is Mr. Marcellus Caning, a man of respectability of character and substantial wealth.

Carl: Sir, ever since I saw your daughter I was amazed by her grace and knew I was destined to love her. I humbly solicit your daughter's hand in marriage.

Jacob: (trying to contain his anger) I am sorry to inform you my dear Vera, but it appears that this man has deceived you. Carl is one of my workers in the factory. I will not form an alliance with a peasant. As for you Carl, there will be serious consequences for your inappropriate actions. I advise you to leave immediately, as people like you do not belong in a residence among people of my class and respectability.

(Carl hurries out of the house)

(Frank and Thomas emerge from a nearby bush)

Carl: (Sobbing): What are you guys doing here?

Thomas: Well, we followed you here after you left the restaurant, as we were curious to see the results. We heard loud voices from inside, as we were hiding nearby.

Frank: And then you rushed out, sobbing and weeping. We are really curious to see what happened; however, at this point we are too afraid to ask.

Carl: (Sobbing): I went to the restaurant and chatted with her. It all went perfectly; until she told me how excited her parents will be to see me. Right after that, we dashed to her house, and he, that monster, revealed me right in front of his daughter.

(Now crying)

But how can this be? I know I am not a man of wealth or honorable lineage but no person has the right to treat me with such disrespect. I cannot comprehend how people of this supposedly noble class accept and promote atrocities such as child labor. They only seek a financial benefit, even if it harms others, and care about their shallow, nonexistent social image. They view marriage as an alliance, an agreement. I have a right to be educated and I have dignity. I should be treated equally to others.

Thomas: I hate to remind you, Carl, but I told you that the so called “*upper classes*” are snobbish, arrogant and conceited. They regard themselves as higher, more intelligent beings, and anybody or anything that doesn’t confirm to or violates their rules and convention is cast away, seen as a barbarian. However, you chose to completely ignore me, and chase after a dream, an illusion.

Carl: I know, Thomas; however, I do want Vera as my wife. What shall I do?

Frank: To accomplish such a feat, you will need to gain a lot of money or somehow prove that you are of aristocratic lineage.

Thomas: (Clears his throat): Well, Frank that would be an ideal scenario, but I cannot imagine that an aristocrat would be willing to do work with their hands when they can just pay someone to do it for them. And anyways, I don’t see the reason he would be working if he was the son of an aristocrat.

Carl: It is true that my mother gave me to the factory to become a worker but I never recall meeting my father, maybe he was an upper class Londoner.

cene 4

(They have all gathered in the library in search of the origins of Carl’s dad)

Frank: Quick hurry up, we must finish soon if we are to get back to the factory in time. You know what the consequences are if they find out we are not there.

Vera: I cannot seem to comprehend why you have brought me here. I will never form an alliance with a peasant on any terms. I never even liked Marcellus or whatever his name is in the first place.

Carl: My mother gave me this medal that was awarded to my father for his bravery while he was fighting in the war. I am searching for his name; he might have been a man of the upper class that volunteered to fight.

Vera: There is no possible way for him to be fighting for his country; the social etiquette would not allow someone of the upper class to be amongst the lower classes for that much time.

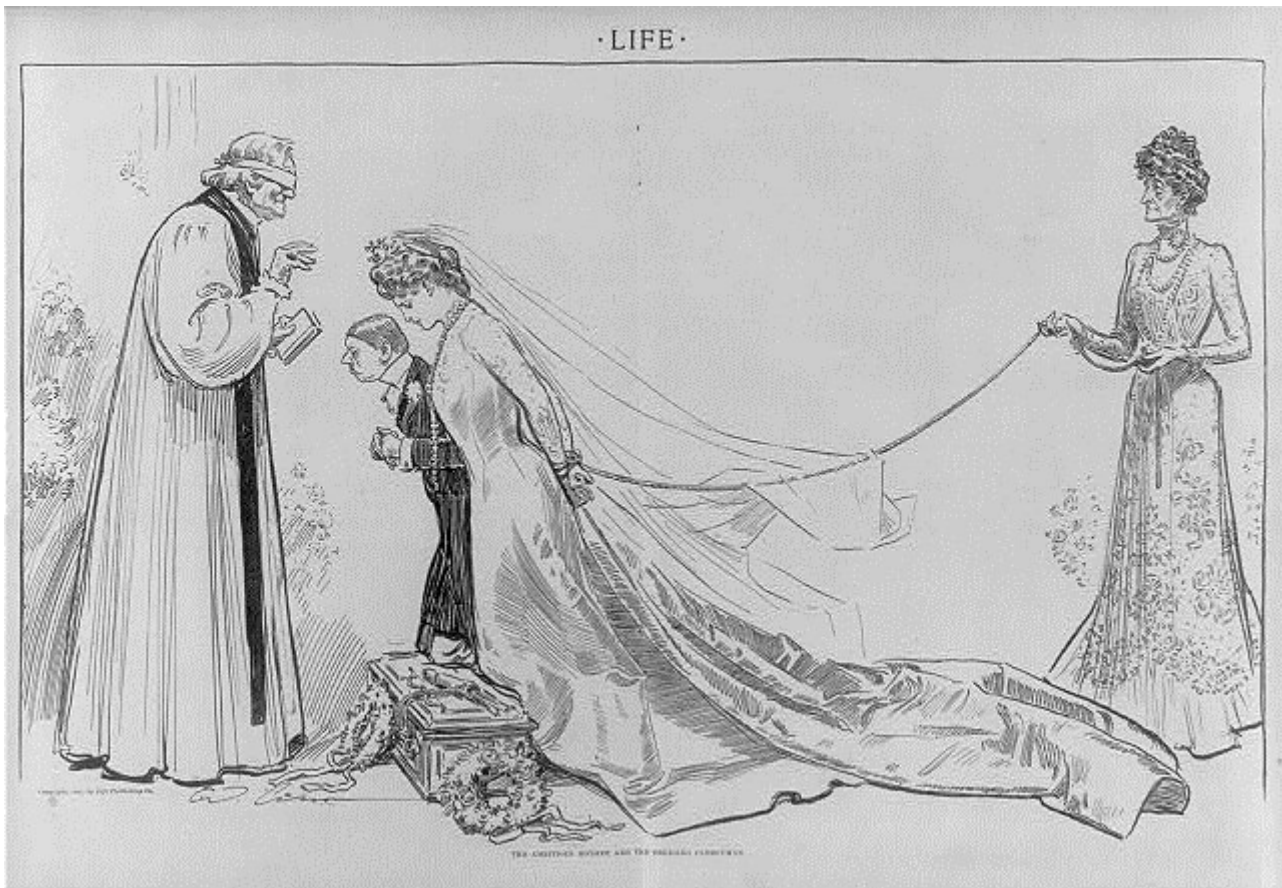
Thomas: I found something here! It seems that your father was a sergeant in the Second Anglo-Afghan war. He was awarded a medal for his bravery and it appears that was a man of respectability.

Vera: Oh Carl, I always knew that you were man of upper class origins, your mannerisms reflected it. I was attracted to you ever since I first saw you. I am sure my father would be delighted to know that he will be able to say that his daughter married the son of such a brave man.

Frank (to Thomas): I can't believe how shallow these people are.

(They walk out of the library. Carl and Vera are holding hands. Wide smiles on their faces)

Yannos Markopoulos
George Thomakos
Dennis Giannatos
JH3/ENL2



The Miss-Judging

Characters:

High class judge | Everett Justiceson

Well-known criminal that is accused of 1st degree murder | Ben Mord

Victim of murder | Miss Madeline Frank

Lord Frank

Lady Frank

Guard 1

Guard 2

- * The scene is set in Victorian England where Everett Justiceson is waiting for Mr. Mord to come for his interrogation.

Act 1, scene 1

(Mr. Mord walks in, goes down the aisle and steps on to the podium. He looks serious.)

Mr. Justiceson: I now call Mr. Benjamin Mord to trial on charges of first degree murder of Miss Madeline Frank.

Mr. Mord: Aaah! It's my turn! Good morning, sir! Fine day, isn't it?

Mr. Justiceson: I must remind you, Mr. Mord, that the one serious conviction that a man should have is that all life matters are to be taken seriously. Such frivolous behavior will not be tolerated in court. Would you like to end up on the King and Queen's Bench?

Mr. Mord: If it is comfortable!

Mr. Justiceson: Let us proceed!

Mr. Mord: Shall do Mr...Mr...Mr... Excuse me sir, how should I call you?

Mr. Justiceson: Your Honor!

Mr. Mord: Oooh! Thank you kindly!

(The judge looks sternly at Mr. Mord.)



Mr. Justiceson: Mr. Benjamin Mord, you have been charged with the first-degree murder of Miss Madeline Frank on the night of her father's seventieth birthday gala. During the celebration, Miss Frank went missing!

Mr. Mord: Couldn't have been me, sir! I would never commit such an atrocity to an elegant and graceful beauty as Miss Frank.

Mr. Justiceson: Do you deny the charges, Mr. Mord?

(Mord looks away, lost in thought.)

Mr. Mord: No...I mean, yes, I do deny them.

Mr. Justiceson: I will pose the question once more! Did you kill Miss Madeline Frank?

Mr. Mord: Not in the least.

Mr. Justiceson: Where were you on the night of March 31st, 1870?

Mr. Mord: Aaah, let me think. The night of March 31st...

Scene 2

(Mr. Mord experiences a flashback.)

(SETTING: Gardens of the Lord Frank Residence.)

(Mord is waiting for Madeline Frank.)

Mr. Mord: Oh, here my love comes!

(Madeline approaches Mord and falls into his arms.)

(Guard 1 catches sight of the secret meeting behind the bushes.)

Madeline: My love for you is unrelenting!

Mr. Mord: Madeline, you are my one true love but I can sense an underlying anxiety in your sweet voice. What is the matter?

Madeline: Oh, my dear Ben, my father has brought to the gala the man whom I shall be married to in three days. He is one of the richest men in the country.

Mr. Mord: Then why don't you marry him?

Madeline: Oh, my dear Ben, I would not wish any companion in the world but you. But my father would not approve of forming an alliance of marriage with a carriage man.

Mr. Mord: Then, my dear Madeline, you should listen to me carefully. I will be waiting for you at midnight outside the back gate and we shall flee together to Scotland. I will have the carriage prepared for our journey.

Madeline: You would sacrifice your position for me?

Mr. Mord: Love makes it all worth it!

Madeline: My own Ben!

(They hug each other and Madeline leaves staring dreamily at him.)



Scene 3

(SETTING: The courtroom)

(Mr. Mord ponders.)

Mr. Justiceson: Mr. Mord? I shall require a response to my inquiry.

Mr. Mord: I am sorry sir, I was daydreaming. I find myself stargazing often these days.

Mr. Justiceson: I shall require your full attention!

(Pulls chair behind him and sits. He rests his legs on the gate.)

Mr. Justiceson: What exactly are you doing Mr. Mord?

Mr. Mord: I am getting myself comfortable Mr. ... Mr. ... I don't know. This is going to take long, I presume.

Mr. Justiceson: Your Honor!

Mr. Mord (quickly responds): Thank you.

(Mr. Justiceson looks at him sternly)

Mr. Mord: So, on the 31st of March, that clear, starry night, I was on duty at the Lord Frank residence.

Mr. Justiceson: What kind of duty?

Mr. Mord: I am employed by Lord Frank as a carriage driver.

Mr. Justiceson: How did you meet Miss Frank?

Mr. Mord: Let me think...

S cene 4

(Mr. Mord experiences a flashback)

(SETTING: Gardens of the Lord Frank Residence, Front Gate)

(Mr. Mord, the guard and the Frank family are present)

Guard 1: Allow me to introduce you to the last applicant for the position of carriage driver. This is Mr. Benjamin Mord.

Lord Frank: I am pleased to meet you Mr. Mord.

Mr. Mord: It is my honor to meet you Lord Frank.

Lady Frank: (interrupts) He will do.

Mr. Mord: I am especially pleased to meet this entrancing young lady.

(Mr. Mord kisses Madeline's hand and she blushes.)

S cene 5

(SETTING: The courtroom)

(Mr. Mord ponders.)

Mr. Justiceson: Excuse me, Mr. Mord, your full attention is required in order for us to try you appropriately.

Mr. Mord: Yes, I am sorry, can you repeat the question?

Mr. Justiceson (retorts angrily): Where and when did you first meet Miss Madeline Frank?

Mr. Mord: The day I was hired by Lord Frank as a carriage driver at his residence.

Mr. Justiceson: Mr. Benjamin Mord, how do you plead to the charges of the first-degree murder of Miss Madeline Frank?

Mr. Mord: Innocent!

Mr. Justiceson: Nonsense! Mr. Mord, how did you kill Miss Frank?

Mr. Mord: Let me think...

(Mr. Mord deliberates.)

Mr. Mord: Wait! I said I did not kill her!

Mr. Justiceson: Even your name reveals the truth! M-O-R-D, murderer in German!

Mr. Mord: Excuse me, on what grounds am I being charged?

Mr. Justiceson (responds hesitantly): I am the one who is interrogating right now!

(The doors open immediately and Miss Frank enters the courtroom.)

Guard 2: I am sorry, Your Honor, I couldn't hold her back! She insisted on...

Madeline: How on earth can you accuse an innocent man like my own Ben of a first-degree murder that hasn't even been committed?

(The judge is speechless.)

Mr. Justiceson: Excuse me, madam, may I ask your full name?

Madeline: Miss Madeline Frank, daughter of Lord and Lady Frank.

(Mr. Mord stares with his jaw wide open.)

Mr. Justiceson: I must confess that I am bewildered!

Madeline: I must confess to you what really transpired on the night of the 31st of March 1870...

Mr. Justiceson: Please do, Miss Frank.

Madeline: My dear father was celebrating his 70th birthday that night and had arranged for me to meet my future husband. However, I was not in favor of this engagement as Benny and I are secret lovers.

Mr. Justiceson: May I ask who Benny is?

Mr. Mord: I am Benny.

Madeline: Benjamin, Ben, Benny...The name inspires absolute confidence and innocence!

As I was saying, upon meeting my future husband, I dashed to the gardens to inform Mr. Mord of my atrocious fate. We arranged to flee to Scotland at midnight, but while Benny was waiting for me, a guard blurted out our plans to my father who then locked me up in my room. When I managed to escape, Ben had already left and I, in my devastation, fled to our summerhouse in hiding. As a result, I was thought to have been murdered. The last person to see me was Ben.

Mr. Justiceson: The course of true love never did run smooth. Mr. Benjamin Mord, you are dismissed of all charges against you.

(Madeline and Ben hug.)

Amalia Antazopoulou
Dimitra Papagelopoulou
ENL3 JH3

POEMS

Mother Nature

I see her standing over there
And her beauty is so fair
Ready to give, ready to share
But humans only harm, then stare

I watch her sparkling every night
Mesmerized by her majestic light
Can't even blink with such a sight
I wonder how we sleep at night

No words are able to describe
The way she makes me feel alive
But how can people still ignore
That if she dies, they lose it all?

Dimitra Aivalioti
JH3 ENL1

13.11.2015

*Friday, the 13th of November:
A day we don't need to remember,
A night no one should forget.
Beasts threw humanity a net.*

*Innocent Parisians went for a promenade:
Dancing to rock, drinking some lemonade,
Didn't turn out as they had thought.*

All of a sudden they got shot.

*Parisians panicking, Parisians yelling,
Parisians running away and screaming.
Guns and pistols, death and blood,
Animals shooting them like mad.*

*These callous men,
These warped souls
Showed no mercy when
Firing their pistols.*

*Parisians died
For reasons odd.
They hadn't glorified
Bestial God.*

*This Friday night:
Sorrowful sighs,
Startling plight,
Tearful eyes.*

*Across all countries,
Throughout the world,
Against these brutes,
We humans fought.*

*We painted Earth
With red, blue, white.
We got united
In just one night.*

*We realized how much we've got:
Our union did to us teach
That if we never become one,
Atrocities will never stop.*

Marietta Marouda

JH3 ENL1

Lost Child

Withered birds,
Dark burned feathers
Hiding from the light
it hurts.

I do not understand.

Lights on the Towers
Plastic tears
Plastic bullets
it hurts.

I do not understand.

Shadows are crowing
their echoes devouring
my Heart
my Voice
it hurts.

I do not understand.

No Faces, No Mercy.
Metallic victories
No Hearts
Dying Doves
with burned feathers.
I am lost.

Red roses, dusky Doves,
Starry skies.
Somber Souls below,

lightless grounds.
Hello Mother.
Catherine Skardoutsou
HS2 Current Affairs 3



Refugee Speaking

A life full of misery
A soul full of grief
Years on years in slavery
And at last there's some relief.

From the land of war to the land of peace
From the dim desert to the capital of Greece
Seeking a better future in a far away place
In which we can strive and we can ace.

We are humans and we need too
A home, some kindness and some love
Let not hatred dominate you
But instead be touched by peace's dove.

With our dreams and our fears
Our solidarity and our scars
We will construct a world without tears
Together beneath the stars.

Stathis-Raphael Pasgianos
HS2 Current Affairs 4

Simile: Butterfly and Bee

The butterfly is like
a colourful handcrafted rainbow.

The bee is like
a hairy shapeless figure.

The butterfly's wings are well-designed,
as if the best painter in the world drew them.

The bee's wings are asymmetrical,
as if a 5-year-old drew them.

The butterfly's music is silent,
like the gentle breeze of the wind.

The sound produced by the bee is annoying,
like a repetitive phone vibration.

The butterfly is like an angel.
Wherever it flies, it leaves its' signature.
It stands on the flowers
and brightens the whole place.

The bee forces its' way through the air,
spreading pollen everywhere.
Being industrious and hard-working,
it always produces great results.

My eyes feast upon the butterfly,
but my heart goes to the bee.



Marva (Evangelia-Maria) Sfakianaki

JHI1 ESLH3



STORIES

Another Bear Boy Story

Not very long ago, in New York City, a boy named James Miller lived with his father. But his father did not treat him well. In his heart, he still mourned the death of his wife, James' mother, but he didn't want to show his son that he was sad. So, instead he always told him that he had work to do only to avoid him. He did not show any interest.

As a result, James was a timid boy and walked about stooped over all the time. He was failing at school and was always in detention, so he spent much of his time alone.

Time passed, and it was James' sixteenth birthday. He was finally a grown man, but of course his father had forgotten about his birthday again, like he did last year and the year before that and the year before that and you can guess the rest. When James told his father that it was his birthday, he said that he was too busy and they would celebrate another time, but of course that never happened.

One day, James went out alone to get some fresh air, but as he walked he lost track of time. It got very late and he also realized he was lost. He tried to find his way back but that didn't work. As he was walking, a poor little old lady stopped him and asked him: "Why are you out so late?" James answered "I'm kind of lost!" The poor little old lady felt sorry for him, so she took him to her house and treated him well. James was finally happy, so when the old lady asked him if he wanted to call his dad he said no.

After two weeks...

The school sent an email to James' father that he hadn't been to school for two weeks. So, James' father went to his room to see if he was there. Of course he wasn't. He tried calling him on his cell phone but there was no answer. The father panicked and called the police to file a missing person's report. After a couple of days, the police told him that they had found him and sent him the address. The father went to the poor little old house of the poor little old lady and found his son! However, when he told James to come with him the boy said "no" and closed the door at his face.

The father was furious and wanted to sue the poor little old lady for keeping his son at her house but as he was getting ready to go to the police station, he suddenly saw his wife's spirit. "You have not done well. You are the one who should be responsible for our son but you have neglected him. Now the poor little old lady is taking care of our boy as you should have done all along. If you want our son back you should get him back with love, not violence". The wife's words went deep in the father's

heart, so he promised that from now on he would be a changed man.

James' father decided to go to the poor little old lady's house and thank her and beg his son for forgiveness and to come back with the promise that he would change. He went to the poor little old lady's house and said: "Thank you for taking care of my son. Please take this one million dollar check for caring for my son." Then, he went to James and said: "Son, I'm here to bring you home. The poor little old lady taught me a very important lesson. From now on, I shall treat you like a father should treat his son." James was surprised by his father's behavior. He hugged him and went back at their home with him.

After that day, nothing was the same. James started hanging out with other kids and his grades improved. And after some years, he finally graduated from school and went to college. His father decided to go with him and moved to a house near the college where James was studying because on that day he had promised that he would never leave him alone again.

Lia Koratzinou
JH2-ESLS 6

Selena Bloodford

Once, there was a beautiful woman, who had everything. The world was in her hands. She was a brunette with long hair and blue eyes. She had a perfect life. The only fault was her terrible personality. She may have been attractive, but she was the meanest and the most evil woman of all. The only thing she cared about was making money and more money, and owning more and more property. She was indeed a shrewd business woman who only had false friends, but little did she know about it. Even her "best friend" was a fair weather friend. She only spent time with her because Selena had a lot of money and was famous.

One day, her financial advisor came up with the idea of building a mall in the forest. Selena had always wanted one just for herself because she hated queueing for the items she wanted in city malls, so she often ended up stealing them. She loved the idea and started making business calls for the project.

A month later, the project was half way through as they had already bought the land and the trees were being cut down. Selena knew that she was destroying nature, peoples' and animal's homes, but she did not care. As she was walking through the deep forest to place a red tape to fence her property, she came across a buck star-



ing at her with contempt. "There is something peculiar about this buck" she thought. She continued walking until she saw the prince of the forest staring at her even more hatefully.



She was now beginning to get nervous. The buck slowly approached her and addressed her in a loud, menacing voice, "how dare you, Selena Bloodford, destroy my paradise? Your arrogance, evilness and cruelty most be punished." Selena responded in her usual, arrogant manner, "am I supposed to be scared now? How do you even know my name?" No sooner had she finished her sentence than that she made the buck even more furi-

ous. "By the magic of the forest" the buck boomed, "you shall be transformed into the animal you are within yourself." Selena stood there looking at him with confusion and started laughing again. Suddenly, a mist started surrounding her while the buck disappeared. Selena was terrified and before she knew it she was lying unconscious on the ground.

The next morning she woke up feeling different. As she got up, she noticed she was shorter than normal. When she started walking, she realized it was difficult to walk. "Something is wrong," she uttered. She glanced at her hands and was astonished. She had furry black paws and her body was covered in black and white fur. She burst into tears and didn't know what to do. Soon after the buck appeared out of nowhere and calmly stated: "You have seven days to learn your lesson! After seven days go by I will be unable to change you back into the person you used to be." Selena looked at him viciously and screamed: "Turn me back, turn me back! You filthy creature!" The buck looked at her, smiled ironically and responded "You've got what was coming to you. I've turned you into the weasel that you are! You are now a malicious, backstabbing, sneaky, manipulative animal!" He laughed and once again disappeared in a swirl of sparks. Remaining a weasel forever was unbearable! "What can I do to convince the buck?" Selena thought desperately. "Can I fool him into transforming me back into myself?" Selena asked herself, her mind racing.

After a walk searching for food, she suddenly heard a howling noise. She followed it out of curiosity. Among the thick bushes there was a beautiful fox caught in a manmade trap, growling in anger and despair. Selena was observing the fox knowing very well the feeling of entrapment. Without hesitating, she cautiously ran over to the trap to try and extricate the fox. She was unable to, so she thought of bringing the bear. She ran into his cave and woke him up knowing he will wake up in a foul mood. He got up and boomed en-



raged “How dare you awaken me during my long sleep?” Selena was scared of being his appetizer, but she explained to the bear the fox’s condition, as she knew by the laws of the forest, animals are obliged to help one another. The bear understood and followed her. With a simple swap of his big paw he broke the trap and set the fox free. The fox was grateful for their kind gesture and left.

The buck witnessed all this from afar and came close. “You have done well Selena. You have learnt your lesson! For that I shall change you back!” he happily voiced. Selena was excited and couldn’t wait for the next morning.

When the sun rose Selena woke up and glanced at her hands. She was overwhelmed. She was a human again!

Selena then, went back to living a non-cruel life with family and friends. She promised herself she would never be cruel and malicious and would never underestimate others ever again.

Margarita Billi JH1 ENL

Free At Last

Once, in a small city of California, lived a girl called Sapphire and it’s safe to say she was completely and amazingly different. She always stood out and she always received quizzical looks. She was a single black rose in a field of white ones. Her hair was as dark as the night, her skin as white as snow, but her eyes... her eyes were pure gems. They were wider and rounder than normal. They were sapphire blue, like deep, wild and undiscovered oceans never to be tamed. Her eyes were always wandering around, taking in her surroundings, scanning every single detail that no human eye would be able to spot. It was as if her eyes were the key to her happiness, discovering new angles and characteristics to every single object she laid her eyes on. What she enjoyed looking at the most though, was the sea.

Every Sunday she went sailing with her father for hours, enjoying the salty breeze and her father’s special company. Her small, pale face would brighten up; her eyes would light up, matching the colour of the sea. It seemed like they had some natural flow. The blue colours would mix and move slowly, like a rippling sea current. That’s when she felt alive, as if a part of her belonged to the sea.

One Sunday morning, she woke up and got ready to go sailing with her beloved father. Just the thought of the deep, blue, endless ocean made her heart flutter. They both ate cinnamon buns for breakfast and chattered excitedly about their day. While driving by the seaside, both Sapphire and her father gazed into the distance, listening to the lapping of the waves onto the shore and the seagulls squawking ominously. Then and there with her father, it felt like

home. She looked at him and smiled. And that's when it happened.

She heard a car honk, a loud crash. The last thing she remembered of her father was his serene smile; how bright and radiant it was and how it always made her smile back. She tried to bury those images deep inside her mind, but her mind wandered. Months had passed and she had promised herself she would never leave her room. She'd never allow herself to enjoy the sea. She'd never utter a word. She would just let her mind and eyes wander. Her mind was beautiful, yet filled with horrible thoughts and flashbacks. Not a word. From that moment on, it was just silence and her.

As time passed, Sapphire grew weaker. Her hands were bony, her legs too skinny, her face too pale. With every second, every minute, every hour that passed, her eyes became even more dull and dry. They lost their magical essence. First, they turned green, then grey, a dusty old grey; like a stormy cloud. But then, they turned yellow. Her eyes looked like dry, desolate deserts and all of her memories were sinking into the sand.

One Sunday morning, Sapphire awoke with a throbbing pain in her chest. It felt as if something was piercing her lungs, stopping her from breathing. She tried standing up, but she instantly collapsed. She was completely powerless. The pain had been getting worse, but she had promised she would never utter a word again. Shortly after, she succumbed to the unbearable pain; she couldn't help it. She tried to scream at the top of her lungs, which by that moment wasn't too loud. Her mother stormed in but her face looked solemn and serious. Even at the sight of her daughter struggling and suffering, her expression remained the same. "I knew this was going to happen..." she said in a deep, mysterious voice. When Sapphire was only a tot, her mother had noticed the transformation of her daughter's eyes, whenever she wasn't close to the sea. They turned from blue, to green, to grey; but they had never turned yellow. Sapphire started shaking violently, hyperventilating and moaning in pain. "I will miss you sweetheart," her mother whispered soothingly.

Suddenly, Sapphire's skin started to glow dangerously, until moments later it slowly started to dissolve. Then she was gone. A pile of glowing sand was scattered all over the carpet, which she had been lying on. Her mother stood motionless, weeping silently while staring blankly at what was left of her precious offspring. After what appeared to be long hours, she gathered the courage to collect the sand and place it into an exquisite urn, embedded with semi-precious blue stones. She frantically sped up the coastal road towards the beach, making sure not to damage the urn. As soon as she reached the shoreline, carefully and gently, she opened the lid. The sand flowed freely and faded away into the sapphire blue ocean. Instantly, the water started to gleam. "Thank you mother", a small, distant voice said. "Now I am free." And it was true. She was finally a part of the sea.

Galini Goodhead
JH1 ENL



respect |ri'spekt|

noun

1. a feeling of deep admiration for someone or something elicited by their abilities, qualities, or achievements.
2. a particular aspect, point, or detail: the government's record in this respect is a mixed one.

Friday. 7:38 PM. You're walking down the street. You're late. You only have two minutes left. You can see the people getting on the bus; it is about to leave. *I made it just in time*, you think to yourself. You're running now. You're out of breath.

Pause.

You're on the ground. You open your eyes, but your vision is blurred. You lie there for a few seconds, unable to move, until you hear a sound that brings you back to reality. It's the bus. But it's too late now. It has already left.

Pause

You remember now. Something, *someone* hit you hard enough to make you lose your balance, hard enough to hit the ground, hard enough to miss the bus. You realize then that no one hit you. You just happened to fall on somebody else. You stand up, looking for that somebody, only to realize that you fell on a blind man. It couldn't be his fault that you missed the bus, could it? But you don't care. You're too angry to care. You start walking towards him, thinking furiously of what to tell him first...

But imagine now, that as you walk all you can see is darkness. You cannot rely on your eyes any more. They cannot see. Imagine that you want to take the bus, after a long day, so you can go home now and rest. You start walking towards the bus stop slowly. But then suddenly, something or more precisely someone hits you and then falls on the ground. Or so you assume he does, since you cannot see. You can just hear and assume. Time goes by and the bus is about to leave. Then that person stands up. You can hear him coming closer...

Having imagined all that, what would you do now? The blind man is right in front of you and you open your mouth to say something. But what would you say? Yell at him for not being able to see you? Or ask him to sit and wait with you for the next bus to come? Would you choose to *re-spect* his disability? *Respect* him, being different?

Respect is a choice. But before you make that choice, think of the other person. He might not be blind. No, this was just an example. But you don't know with what else he could be going through. So choose to show respect. It's up to you.

Aphrodite Terzopoulou HS2 Exam Skills 3

Elena Moschou HS2 Exam Skills 3

The Wolf Leader

Once there was a little girl named Violette, who lived across the dark forest. Her father was the only person she had to take care of her, since her mother had disappeared and had left no trace behind. Ever since then, Violette had developed some peculiar habits. She wouldn't laugh nor cry, but mumble words to herself. During her spare time she would always visit the forest and get lost in the bushes and trees for hours, without anyone knowing where she had gone. She loved to climb tall trees and observe the wild animals, especially the wolves. In fact she was quite obsessed.

One fierce and windy night, while she was working on her computer and trying to complete her homework assignment, she drifted to sleep by the sound of the howling wind. A few minutes later, she woke up in astonishment. Her heart was racing and, after struggling to catch her breath, she splashed some fresh water on her face, trying to overcome the nightmare she had just experienced. In spite of her being afraid to fall back to sleep, her eyes betrayed her and in a matter of seconds she lay down and was forced to close her eyes. Her powers had faded.

A few minutes later, the cold raindrops that fell directly on Violette's face woke her up. It felt like tiny needles pricking her, making their way into her skin. She blinked a few times and flung out of bed... or at least that's where she thought she was. Green tall trees and thick edgy bushes surrounded her. She was in the forest... deep, deep in the forest, but yet she could still faintly hear the sound of traffic from the highway.

Before she had time to peared. It approached her steps, just like in her looked right into her eyes. having friendly intentions. close to a wolf before, but somehow connected and So she did. Her blond golden hair was soaking wet, and her pale feet were covered in mud, but she didn't care. There was something mysterious about this wolf...



think, a black wolf ap- slowly with steady foot- dream. Only this time it However, it seemed to be Violette had never been so she felt as if they were was compelled to follow it.

All of a sudden it stopped walking. Violette extended her hand attempting to caress its fur. The wolf's loud, passionate howl paused her action. Violette sprang backwards in horror. After three howls were heard, a large pack of wolves appeared surrounding her.

"We've been expecting you," said a deep hoarse voice, which triggered Violette's fear. She wasn't sure where the voice was coming from. Just then, the wolf turned and faced her. "Your

mother was a great leader,” it continued. Violette looked at it in doubt, and said in a wavering voice: “You... you knew my mother? How?” “She was our leader. Once a year, a battle takes place here in the forest between the dark wolf named Shadow and the chosen one, in order to select the one who will protect and lead us. You are the chosen one and you must help us.” Violette didn’t respond. “I give you this piece of advice: Use your inner powers. The battle shall begin,” whispered the wolf. Violette froze in confusion.

In a matter of seconds, before she could utter a word, the wolves disappeared and in their place stood a different one. The wolf of her nightmares moved towards her in big strides, and began to circle around her, fixing his bulging eyes on her. Violette breathed heavily. She didn’t move. “Are you the one,” questioned the wolf in a doubtful way and laughed wickedly. “I believe so,” spluttered Violette trying to cover up her terror. “My dear, this is not a game but a war and there are no rules in wars” it growled. Violette remained silent, and pinched herself in order to wake up, but she didn’t know she was awake. Well, best of luck it said and walked deeper into the woods with a devilish giggle.

Suddenly, a faint cry was heard. A young cub had gotten trapped in a thorny bush. It was struggling to escape. Thus, Violette felt bound to help it. She rushed and untangled the poor cub. Little did she know what the cub originally was! Within seconds, a large tarantula took its place and then more and more, myriads of tarantulas appeared. Violette was strangely unafraid. She started to sing in her magical melodic voice and the tarantulas were turned into tiny harmless spiders. She was stunned. A second howl echoed. She waited for the wolf to strike again, but something was pulling her to the ground as if her feet were rooted to it. She then realized she had been standing on marshland. Using her will power, she softly pushed the quick sand and she rose back to the surface. Instantly, the third and last howl sounded. Violette quickly caught her breath, but paused and looked high up in the sky. Millions of black butterflies swiftly flew towards her with great force. She couldn’t help but scream. They swirled around her trying to push her far away from the forest. She was unable to think clearly. After a couple of minutes, she put herself together. She whispered to herself... it is not real ... it is not real... trying to trick herself into thinking she was dreaming. Just then, a strong wind current pushed the butterflies, which flew away disappearing in the horizon and then... nothing. She could only hear the rustling of the leaves. All of a sudden, a shadow approached her. “Well, that was impressive, but I can finish you off by myself,” the wolf growled. Before it could even attack her, it was transformed into a lizard. The sun’s rays shimmered and the lizard slithered away in embarrassment.

Violette stood victorious, embracing the sun. A new era had just begun.

Melissa Apostolou
JH1 ENL



THE SAVEDRINA TRIAL...

...IN OUR CLASSROOM

During the last week of January a trial took place in our school. Well, not really a trial, but a simulation of one. Ms. Hotz, Mr. McDonald, Ms. Laskaris, and her ESL3 students were in charge of re-enacting a difficult case. The students were assigned roles as judges, members of the jury, lawyers, defendants, prosecutors, etc. Each role was different and unique. Furthermore, each pupil had to adopt a specific persona and its corresponding individual characteristics. The roles were diverse, ranging from an ex-gang member to a



UN representative, from a famous actor to a multimillionaire CEO.

What was the case? A young boy named George Savedrina was accused of killing a fellow classmate outside the school. Both the victim's family and the suspect had an attorney to represent them. After countless arguments, numerous questions, and interrogations of the eye-witnesses and other people involved, the attorneys vi-

ciously fought in order to convince the jury to make the choice that favored them. The victim's lawyer accused Savedrina of killing the boy in cold blood, whereas the defendant's lawyer insisted that this was a case of self-defense. The next day, the jury conferred and thoroughly discussed the case in order to reach a consensus. Each one of the ten members had a different opinion. After bringing up and examining the evidence, many changed their mind. The balance tilted and favored the victim's side.

In the end, a unanimous consensus was reached across the table, and the jury reached a decision. A 30-year jail sentence was given

to the accused murderer. Little did the whole class know that George Savedrina was actually acquitted of his crime on the grounds of the self-defense legislation in Florida! During the three-period-long trial, we were exposed to the infrastructure and mechanism of the US judicial system, and learned what a US trial is all about. We also grasped the importance of perception and how easily that can get blurred because of



bias which, in turn, can lead one to make a wrong decision and jeopardize an innocent man's life.



Stoikos Stefanos
HS1ESL3

LITERARY ANALYSIS

In the Form of a Prologue: Shall we Go Gothic?

It all started as an experiment. What do we do with a novel whose textual finiteness has long been reached (and surpassed)? How do we approach an author who died recently –one would say “she died on us”, and we would smile at the crude melodrama, though I will totally disagree. I recall several authors and film directors who passed in the act of classroom analysis, or, they “died on us.” There was no intention to write a eulogy whatsoever; such texts belong to romantics and publishing houses. Fifteen year olds are still immune to reverie and nostalgia. So my two groups of HS1 students, a most remarkable bunch because they pleased a teacher who is generally not easy to please, unanimously agreed to write their first academic literary essay. This long introductory prose is about the late Harper Lee’s novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*. The topic was demanding: let’s look at “*The Bird*” from another perspective. Lee had a legacy to defend and some giants of the American Southern Gothic to face: Poe, Faulkner, O’ Connor, just to name a few. Writing about the South inevitably threw her then freshly minted text into the old, worn-out trap of the “anxiety of influence.” Did she meet the challenge? Did she have to? The answer does not really matter. Yet, my students took their time and they did take the challenge. We researched, we discussed and argued; we outlined, looked at parenthetical comments and drew little caricatures on the board with cabins, garbage dumps, Maycomb maps and stupid pictorial representations of characters performing on Lee’s imaginary stage. We engendered a source of reverie and nostalgia (at least this is what I would love to believe).

The decision was hard to make: all the essays had something to say, some great voices that thought and wrote down; styles and letters that timidly began to emerge in black on white space. Creation. Unanimous: difficult or not, the final grade for once did not matter, just as in “pearls of great value” the number of their price is irrelevant. The maiden voyage towards a new thought process did matter though.

Here are the *two voices* selected to represent the collective effort.

The applause however, belongs to all my students.

Dr. Anna Fyta

TWO VOICES

ONE

To Kill a Mockingbird: A Novel of the Southern Gothic?

Published in 1960, Harper Lee’s “classic” novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*, constitutes a semi-biographical narrative of the author’s childhood. The events unfold in Maycomb, Alabama, an isolated old town during the Depression Era. As a *bildungsroman* novel, it processes the coming-of-age story of young Scout Finch, the narrator, who resides in Maycomb County with her older brother Jem and their widowed father, Atticus. Atticus, a middle-aged lawyer, commits himself to defend Tom Robinson, a black man accused of raping a young white woman, Mayella Ewell. Critics frequently ascribe the novel to the Southern

Gothic subgenre of American gothic literature which reached the peak of its popularity in the 1940s-1960s. Though by no means a fully-fledged narrative in the tradition of the American Southern Gothic, *To Kill a Mockingbird* presents numerous similarities with the genre as far as setting, characters and themes are concerned.

Initially, the Southern Gothic novels typically take place in isolated southern landscapes, such as “old slave quarters or broken downtowns” (Surber). These small dusty towns display physical decay, neglect and abandonment, while darkness and imminent doom permeate their atmosphere. Harper Lee’s opening descriptions of setting disclose Maycomb, “a tired old town” (5), situated in Alabama during the Great Depression; its inhabitants are haunted by “fear of the fear itself,” the ghost of hunger and abject poverty. The dilapidation of the town is further confirmed by the visual images of the “grass that grew on the sidewalks,” the court-house which “sagged in the square,” and the streets which “turned to red slop” (5) when it rained. The “live oaks on the square” (5) solely augment the darkness of the scenery. The absence of light, however, appears to be a recurring motif throughout the novel, since most settings in Maycomb, whether internal or external, are described as dark, sinister or gloomy.

Typical examples of such settings in the narrative are both the Radley family place and Mrs. Dubose’s house. The former is a house shrouded in mystery; in a state of disrepair, the edifice “had long ago darkened to the color of the slate grey yard around it” (9), while “oak trees kept the sun away.” Furthermore, the narrative depicts details such as the “rain-rotten shingles which drooped over the eaves of the veranda”, as well as the “Johnson grass and rabbit-tobacco” that grew in the “‘swept’ yard that was never swept” (9). The physical surroundings often create associations with Edgar Allan Poe’s half-derelict buildings that conceal long-kept secrets and still unexposed horrors.

Mrs. Dubose’s house appears not only ramshackle and dark, but it also reflects the physical and mental deterioration of its proprietor, confirming the reader’s suspicion of her imminent death. The exterior of the “rain-rotten grey house” (117), as described by Scout, seems normal with its steep front steps and camellia bushes in the yard. Nevertheless, the problematic hygiene of the interior does not remain unperceived by the narrator, who characterizes it as “dark and creepy” (117), while repeatedly referring to scary shadows and poorly lit spots. The “unbleached domestic sheets” (117) and the olfactory imagery of the “oppressive odors” of the house enhance the overpowering presence of physical illness, an indication of the forthcoming onslaught of death. Besides, Atticus frequently makes reference to Mrs. Dubose as an “old and ill” person. The pervasive sense of death and stench of illness unquestionably direct the reader to gothic literature with its pale, fading characters dying of consumption or suffering from some grave, insufferable disease.

The characters of a gothic novel tend to be vested with certain qualities. In canonical gothic novels, characters are frequently mentally unstable social outcasts struggling to find a place in society or seeking redemption from their inner demons. They are frequently riddled with damaged bodies and souls; they are either “innocent [or] mentally handicapped” individuals, or possess an inner darkness which renders them capable of harm (Surber). Harper Lee’s novel introduces a society whose morality is questionable since it

seems to find amusement and half-concealed diversion in condemning an innocent young man. During the scene of Tom Robinson's trial, "there was a crowd" (179) gathered in the courthouse to witness his legal battle, "a Roman carnival" according to Miss Maudie, while being well aware of the fact that he was innocent and yet, he stood no chance of winning.

The narrative also introduces the reader to the Ewells, a morbid family of white farmers, who are innately sinful and immoral. This poverty-stricken family occupies "what was once a Negro cabin" situated "behind the town garbage dump" (187). As mentioned by the adult Scout, the yard of that cabin was "like the playhouse of an insane child" (188). The simile eloquently illustrates the internal state of the family, implying the absence of order and amenability within its members. Iniquitous as it may seem, they falsely accuse Tom of rape, condemning him to death, so as to evade social humiliation. Acutely violent and anti-social, these people possibly conceal acts of incest and abuse. The Ewells' proclivity towards violence, their racism and vindictiveness surface once again when Bob Ewell, Mayella's father, assaults Scout and Jem Finch "meaning business" (296) or, in other words, in an act of retribution against Atticus for defending Tom Robinson during the trial.

To Kill a Mockingbird also unfolds the story of another gothic like character; an innocent, yet frail and unstable young individual trapped within a small society. In the face of Boo Radley, we encounter the unusual merger of both the broken soul of a young man incidentally victimized by his own father, and the supernatural monster commonly present in gothic literature. Boo is an invisible, mystery-ridden figure of a boy who is "locked in his own home for fifteen long years for some trifling adolescent pranks so that his father could find the vanity fair of the society congenial" (Dave 39). Hence, "Boo" is a fragile inculpable soul condemned to a lifetime of seclusion. For the younger, Boo emblemizes the epitome of childhood fear and is referred to as "a malevolent phantom" held liable for "any stealthy crimes committed in Maycomb" (9). As portrayed by Jem, "Boo was about six-and-a-half feet tall" and "dined on raw squirrels and any cats he could catch" (14). Jem and Dill's imagination has turned him into some formidable creature that ceaselessly horrifies the neighborhood. His innocence, along with his questionable mental stability and the supernatural features infused in his persona, has most likely produced the most successful portrayal of a gothic-like character in Lee's novel.

According to Katie Surber, "a major theme of the southern gothic writers hinges on innocence [...] or potentially the destruction thereof." In the novel, "Scout Finch concentrates on a single phase, a moment of crisis in which childhood innocence was shattered by the terrifying experiences of the adult world." She witnesses the paralleled "innocent victimizations" of Boo Radley and Tom Robinson, who perpetually suffer for "crimes they never committed" (Dave 38-39). At first, the "innocent" Scout gives the impression of being unacquainted with the implications of racism and violence. Words like "nigger" or "lynching" do not exist per se in her vocabulary. However, as the story advances, Scout and her brother acquire an ever expanding apprehension of the inveterate cruelty, perversion and racism that prevail in the corrupt society in which they reside. A dramatic alteration occurs quite abruptly as far as Scout's perspective is concerned. Even though she would refer to Tom Robinson as being "just a Negro" (220), not much later in the novel

she appears to be profoundly upset by his conviction, while repeatedly asking Atticus, “how could they do it?” (235). The character’s transition from a stage of seeming innocence to some profound understanding of the world and its painful complexities seem to lie at the heart of both gothic and the Southern gothic fiction. Lee makes deliberate use of this convention though Scout and her brother lack the depth of a gothic character’s sorrow and sense of tragic loss.

To Kill a Mockingbird may potentially be classified under the tradition of the Southern Gothic. Harper Lee adopts various fundamental aspects of the genre in her narrative. Aside from its untended or dark settings, the novel offers an array of socially thresholdized, borderline individuals victimized by racism, violence or poverty. Lee provides a critique of a social community inert to change and racial injustice, while tackling the theme of loss of innocence as inevitable in human nature. As R.A. Dave supports, the novel processes “the way the harsh realities impinge mercilessly on the juvenile world of innocence” irrevocably leading to its destruction (44). Lee’s characters are not romanticized, nor are they doomed by some irrevocable curse or evil as a gothic character would, but they are tormented by the small-mindedness of their town and they have to process and, possibly, liberate themselves from their own little prisons.

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TWO

Harper Lee’s To Kill a Mockingbird and Moral Ambiguity

To Kill a Mockingbird, a Southern Gothic novel by Harper Lee takes place in Alabama during the early 1930’s. The story is narrated by a young girl, Scout, whose lawyer father Atticus Finch has to defend Tom Robinson, a black man, for alleged rape. The narrative addresses racism and social injustice against minorities and weak members of society. As in most works of the American Southern Gothic genre, *To Kill a Mockingbird* touches upon the notion of moral ambiguity. Harper Lee presents the problematic nature of the ethical social codes through the case of Tom Robinson. Simultaneously, she proposes a universal and objective moral truth based on many of the Christian values such as compassion and care, all embodied in the novel’s protagonist, Atticus. Nevertheless, her attempt fails in the context of the novel as it claims objectivity for what is yet another subjective moral worldview.

Lee attempts to address ethics by presenting characters-representatives of moral polarity; they are either good or evil. Maybe this is the reason why eminent author Flannery O’Connor’s claim that the story is childish is not completely unsound (Jordison). There are a few examples of evil characters with redeem-

ing characteristics such as that of Mayella Ewell. Mayella seems to be in love with the African American Tom Robinson and flirtatiously invites him inside her house to help her with her chores. Her abusive father finds out and accuses Tom of rape. Fearing not only her father but also the social backlash to which she would be subjected for falling in love with a black man, Mayella testifies in court against him, a fact conducive to Tom's death sentence at the time. It is important to understand that at no point did Mayella voluntarily accuse Tom Robinson. Rather, during cross examination, after she is asked a series of questions that she doesn't answer, when she understands that she has the perfect chance to expose her father and protect Tom, "she bursts into [...] tears" (206-7) expressing frustration and guilt. Expectedly, her actions lead to an innocent man's execution. The ample room left open for discussion about whether or not Mayella's actions are morally justified, is suspended indefinitely in the narrative. The author devotes far too little space to the delineation of characters with such an interest and chooses instead, to focus on clear-cut, good or evil characters.

In the greater context of the novel, Lee creates many solely good characters with few to no morally reprehensible characteristics. These include two young men, Arthur "Boo" Radley, who is confined inside his house for years as a consequence of his family's peculiar moral ideas, and Tom Robinson, the young African American also victimized by the small-town morality Lee condemns. Additionally, two adults may serve as the voices of reason within the town of Maycomb: Miss Maudie, an old woman who is highly critical of social injustice and supports the aforementioned characters comparing the trial of Tom to "a Roman carnival" (176), and Atticus, who within the context of the novel, may be seen as the epitome of moral excellence. Throughout the story, Atticus appears to be the least racially prejudiced character when he accepts to defend the case of Tom Robinson and does the best he can to support him even though he and his children nearly get lynched (167-71). He teaches Jem and Scout how to empathise with the people they meet and not to judge them negatively before "you climb into his skin and walk around in it" (33). At no point in the story does he display any kind of weakness nor can he be charged with conformity or hypocrisy. He never loses hope, he even accepts the hopelessness of defending a black man in Alabama in the 1930's and appears unruffled by the court's verdict as he "isn't bitter, just tired" (235). He is never angry, nor does he ever display any kind of hate, to the point that when Bob Ewell, Mayella's abusive father, threatens to attack him and eventually attempts to murder his children, Atticus' reaction is that "The man had to have some kind of comeback, so if spitting in my face and threatening me saved Mayella Ewell one extra beating, that's something I'll gladly take" (241). Atticus withstands every trial he has to face with an accepting and understanding smile. He is the representation of an immovable rock upon which the entire novel is based.

Atticus is most of the time able to comprehend any kind of situation better than others, even when his life may be at stake. The latter is best demonstrated in Tom Robinson's attempted lynching when, in the absence of the sheriff, he confronts the angry mob and responds to its demands to hand over Tom Robinson in the same way he responds to Scout when she makes a wrong move in checkers, "Do you really think so?" (160,167). The disarming question displays his higher level of understanding and signals that he is in

control of the situation. He asks the very same question when he plays checkers with Scout or when he attempts to make the others ponder about their faults rather than accuse them of any misdeed. This happens even when Atticus doesn't make the best choice, that is, when he underestimates the threat Bob Ewell poses to his children. Luckily, no one is harmed except Ewell himself when Boo Radley in the role of *Deus ex Machina* appears, saves the children, and punishes the assailant. Orchestrated by Lee, these "coincidences" cover up the naivety in Atticus' way of thinking and thus give his ethical view credibility, because if his children were killed, which is what would happen if Boo had not interfered, all of his moral preaching would collapse and Atticus would fall from grace in his assigned role of responsible father. All the above traits, including Atticus' perseverance, his empathy, his endurance, and his superior understanding of people and situations, have sustained for decades his impeccable reputation among critics and teachers and have turned him into a nearly "divine" character and a moral paradigm in Lee's philosophy.

On the other side of the character spectrum, the novel offers characters with clearly negative ethical traits and few, if any, redeeming attributes. These characters include Nathan Radley, Boo's brother that takes the role of the "jailor" after his father's death keeping young Arthur in house confinement, the majority of Maycomb residents with their pro-racist ideologies, and Bob Ewell. Bob, an irresponsible alcoholic father of several children (188), mistreats and abuses them while only providing to them mostly by hunting local wildlife. His negligence extends to restricting their access to education, by allowing only his daughter Mayella to attend school for only 2 years (201). Ewell seems unwilling to help his children break the vicious circle of poverty and condemns them to become similar to him when they grow up. His abusive nature is epitomized by Atticus' accusations during the courthouse hearing. Rather than attributing Mayella's injuries to Tom Robinson, as Bob and his daughter's version to the jury supports, Atticus, based on evidence, proves that they were inflicted by Bob Ewell himself (225). The townspeople treat Bob like human trash and Lee makes sure to embed her text with language choices related to dirt or garbage when she talks about him or his house. The only thing placing him above the African Americans in Maycomb's social pyramid seems to be the color of his skin. Bob has no redeeming qualities and despite a slight undercurrent of sympathy, he is just a stereotype, an absolutely evil man within whom all that is wrong in Maycomb community is condensed.

Lee outlines the problematic nature of received social ethical codes. She attacks society's definition of morality when she pits the worst possible white character, Bob Ewell, against Tom Robinson, the most humble and innocent African American character: Bob is placed above Tom. Simultaneously, she proposes an objective moral code embodied in Atticus based on the principles of empathy, patience, understanding and respect. Her attempt, however, presents two major problems: many of Atticus' character attributes prove to be problematic, while any kind of objective moral code that rejects social ethics constitutes by itself a major logical paradox.

Atticus turns into a questionable character when he is critically judged in Christopher Mettress' essay "The Rise and Fall of Atticus Finch." First and foremost, despite his humanitarian beliefs, he does nothing more than what he is obliged to do to protect the African Americans of his community. Atticus

passively –and tacitly- accepts the state of things in Maycomb and does not even lift his finger to push for social change. The only case in which he acts is when he is obliged to do so by Judge Taylor. He accepts the fact that African Americans sit in a separate balcony during trials; he accepts the fact women like Mayella will be treated like garbage by her parents and he accepts Nathan Radley’s confining his brother Boo at home. Atticus refuses to take action against the establishment even though he has the power to do so. He refuses to kill the mad dog of racial prejudice and social injustice. Instead, he allows it to roam freely on the streets of Maycomb devouring the lives of innocent men and women, while he lives in the safety provided by the color of his skin and his gender. Atticus’ self-righteousness is contradictory to his actions, or to be more accurate, the insufficiency of his actions. This makes him morally reprehensible and a hypocrite, a man who theorizes about what people should do in the comfort of his home.

Atticus’s actions towards the end of the novel harm the power of his moral opinion to the extent that they cannot be considered even remotely objective. He agrees with the town sheriff Heck Tate to circumvent the law and fabricate the story that Bob fell on his knife, so as not to subject Boo to an investigation that would harm him since he had already spent his entire life as a recluse (303-4). To protect Boo’s way of life, Atticus chooses to lie. Doing the opposite, according to Scout, would be like killing a mockingbird, destroying something innocent (304). As Atticus is the epitome of morality in Lee’s worldview, this action is something which should be considered ethical as it intends to protect someone who is innately innocent. However, there are interesting similarities between Atticus’ actions and those of the jurors in Tom Robinson’s trial. Both have to adhere to the law but choose not to in order to achieve the best result according to their personal moral standards. This way of thinking equates Atticus’ “objective” truth with the opinions of Bob Ewell and the likes of him as both are willing to ignore the law to achieve what they think is best. So what makes Atticus the “good guy” and the racist part of Maycomb the “bad guys”?

The answer seems to lie in the fact that we already like Atticus’ way of thinking. Atticus supposedly embodies the values of western society and thus we are drawn to him because our society conditions us to agree with him and not because he is objectively right. Similarly, if the novel was given to the people of the South to read 150 years before it was actually written, it might make some readers consider a new way of thinking but most of them would regard Atticus as the villain and lament over the death of Ewell who attempted to protect his daughter’s honor from the “nigger who forgot what his place in this world is.” Therefore, Lee condemns social ethics on the one hand but bases the absolute moral codes on the same social ethics she has revoked on the other; as a result, she is thrown into the snare of a major logical contradiction.

Lee creates a cast of characters while constructing clear moral delineations to present her own subjective morality. Yet, her definition of morality collapses as a result of important “flaws” in Atticus’ character and poses great difficulties in crystallizing any kind of objective morality based on personal beliefs. Lee, as many authors and philosophers have done in the past, falls into the trap of claiming objectivity for her own subjective opinion. This weakness is slowly but steadily exposed as social ethics slowly change and rather than interlacing with the novel’s themes, they slowly diverge from them. *To Kill a Mockingbird*

is a great example of how social and cultural ideologies are neither objective nor everlasting but, rather, a temporary solution to the unsolvable problem of morality.

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Spring into Action

Roses are red
violets are blue
refugees from Syria
are humans too

Up in Idomeni
they're dying by the day
their innocent children
still laugh and play

Despite their experiences
and the tough lives they live
with care and attention
they can all thrive

They're rays of sunshine
they're beacons of hope
seeing them happy
is worth dying for

Let's spring into action
for these little angels
they deserve a chance
to be normal teenagers

Let's spring into action
let's try to make a change
let's embrace these victims
for nothing in exchange

Yannos Markopoulos
JH3 ENL2
Teaching Fellows Writing Contest
Second Place Winner