



THE INDOOR GENERATION



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Editorial staff:

Teachers:

Simona BELDIE, headmistress CNMEB

Luminita POPESCU, Deputy headmistress
CNMEB

Celesta Popa, English teacher, CNMEB, magazine
coordinator

Elena Popescu, English teacher CNMEB

Mihaela Iacob, English teacher CNMEB

Nicoleta Popescu, English teacher CNMEB

Carmen Virlan, English teacher CNMEB

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Editor in chief: Andrei Tanasa

Editors ; Anda Kreutzinger, Marina Ene, Mara
Sandulescu

SS from: VA, VII B, IX A, IX H, X A, X B, XI A,
XI B, XII B, XII D, XII E,

A new year is a powerful occasion: it's a time when we reflect on our gratitude for the past and our hopes for the future. And it's a chance to welcome a fresh start to reinvigorate our enthusiasm for chasing goals and dreams. With so much pressure on the moment, it can be hard to come up with just the right words to express new year wishes for friends and family,

New year, new start.

May all your dreams come true in 2022!



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Contact:

email: popa.celesta@eminescubucuresti.ro

A Teacher's thoughts during the pandemic

by Simona Beldie, Headmistress CNMEB

It's been a year since pandemic began, a year full with challenges, changes and achievements in the educational field, and this happened almost without realizing it.

Most of us had a full immersion into the “on line learning” with clumsiness, having no experience at all, but with a pinch of optimism. As challenging as that was, changing from a “face to face” teaching to the “on line” one was a turning point in every teacher's career.

Once again, talent and dedication of all educationists were at their best. With patience, involvement and willingness to offer students the very best, each of us realized in a relatively short time to project qualitatively interesting lessons.

Still, the teachers' mission is a difficult one. Preparing the lessons, selecting the most adequate tools for teaching on line classes, choosing objective assessment methods, but mostly finding the best ways to go “beyond” the screen and touching and shaping the emotional side of the students is an attempt that needs time, calmness, patience and responsibility and love for our job as teachers.



Picture source: <https://bucuresti.cylex.ro/firma/colegiul+national+mihai+eminescu+bucuresti-520929.html>

EDITORIAL

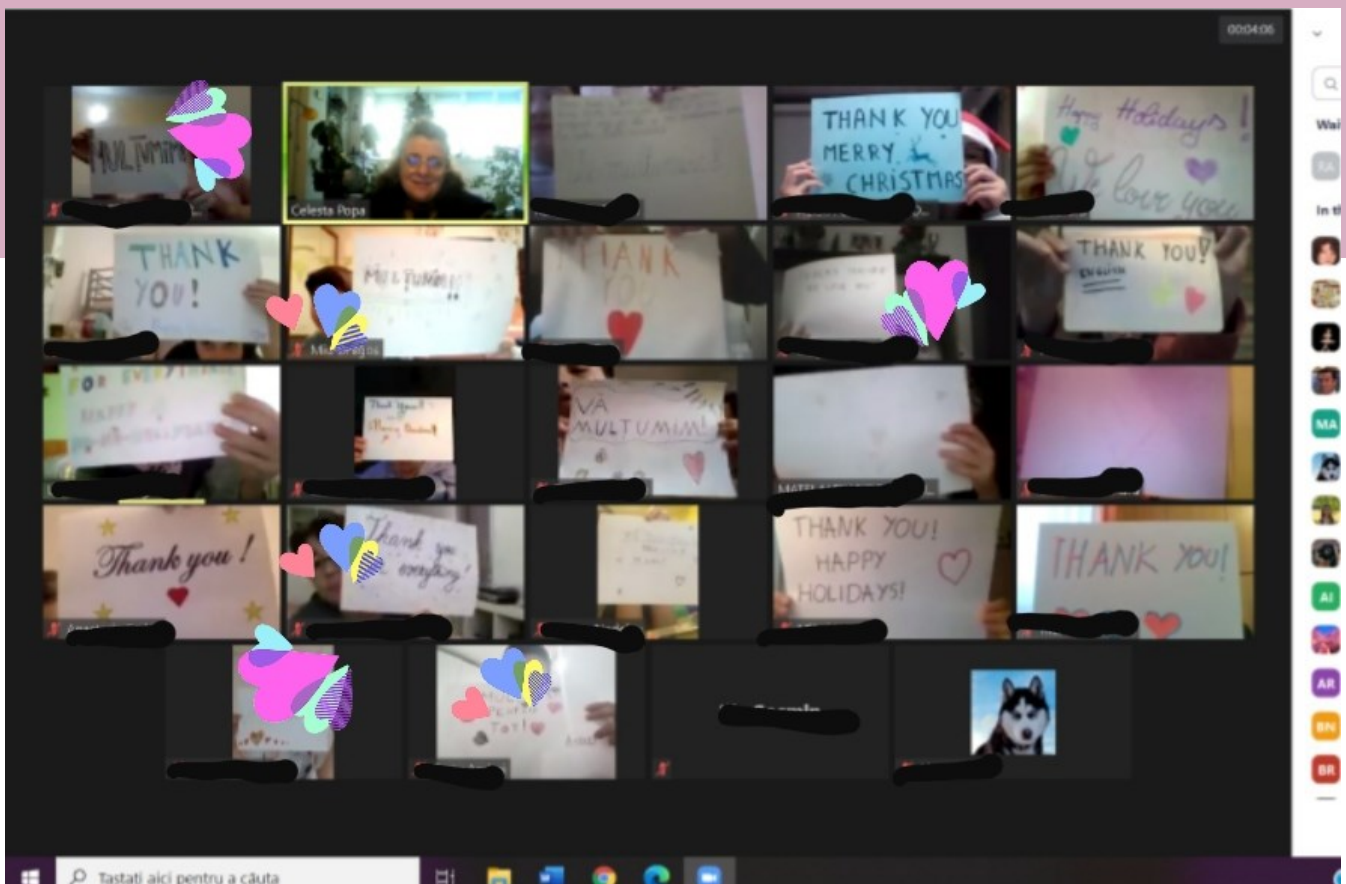
by Celesta Popa, English teacher CNMEB

The Covid-19 pandemic has forced students and teachers to turn to on line learning, something which has been challenging for students and teachers alike.

Virtual classes have been hard for both students and teachers, some who haven't even been able to meet each other in person (I only saw my students face to face twice the first semester!)

These days before Christmas holidays two classes surprised me with this sweet gesture: during our last ZOOM class: they shared **thank you** messages at the same moment: they each hold up signs with personalized messages of appreciation. Instead of my students' faces I saw all these homemade, personal messages saying "Thank you!" It was so beautiful as I was moved to tears. Thank you, guys! I want to thank each and every one of you! **Big hug, 5 A and 9A!**

Throughout the 1st semester, we've seen pets (mine included). we have talked to parents and younger siblings as well. We've even watched sunsets together! Things like that are unique and create a strong bonding. So let's see the bright part of this pandemic. We can continue to study together, no matter the situation, *Stay save. Remain healthy!*



Living as "The Indoor Generation"

by DANIELA ANDREEA FUIOREA, cl XII D

Coordinating teacher: Celesta Popa

It's been almost a year since the first case appeared in Romania. To be frank, it's a very strange, confusing, and even scary time. We've been ripped from our day-to-day routine and thrown indoors and everyone can agree that it was hard. It feels like life froze in time. What was once human connection, talking face-to-face, human touch in general, is now the cold reality of technology. But if we are going to cry ourselves to sleep, we won't be able to move onward. It would be a good idea to take care of ourselves mentally and physically; and take a look at what many introverts do, after all, they are well-known for spending time inside. Do something for yourself!

One of the first activities are video-games and movies. For some kind of reason, those two had a bad connotation. Thankfully, in the past years, saying that someone stays all night playing video-games or binging a show isn't as taboo as it used to be. Also, many multiplayer games can be a small replacement for human interaction. After all, doing something you enjoy helps a lot with dealing with the lockdown and the loneliness that comes with it. But don't overdo it. Doing only those things can stop us from improving ourselves. The same applies to reading. Now it's the time to put your hand on the book or comic or whatever you've been dreading to read!

This is going to sound boring and pretentious, but learning something new can be a good way of dealing with today's world. I'm not talking about school, but if you want to learn and keep your grades high or get better ones, go ahead, it's phenomenal. I was referring to learning a new language or cooking or arts and crafts like drawing, painting, singing, playing an instrument, writing, and the list goes on. Get out of your comfort zone! Learning something new can be fulfilling and you might even find a new hobby. Just imagine, you just got out, you are meeting with your friends and you can boast about your new cool set of skills! Doesn't it sound tempting?

Going hand in hand with the last point, improve and polish your abilities. Cook a tasty recipe, paint a canvas, write a story, code a program. Let your imagination run wild! Creating something is a magical moment. Nothing else matters, you need nothing, it's you and what you are creating and above all, it feels like time passes by in a different manner. I believe that this is the best way to cope with staying at home. Maybe this is the reason why many introverts are artists, all they need is their art!

Continues next page

For many, being just by yourself doesn't sound very dandy and happy. After all, we aren't machines, we are humans! Text your friends, call them. Even a little chat can improve your mental state. I feel like I don't need to tell you about the ways to connect to your peers, after all, we all use them: texting, facetime, and so on. But I want to emphasize the importance of connecting with others. Sometimes if we lose touch with the outside world, living in a little bubble, we might get in a dark head-space. On the other hand, talking with our friends can keep us entertained, the time passes faster and after all, we enjoy their presence (even if it digitally)!

Even though mental health is extremely important, let's not forget about our physical health. The worst part with the lockdown is that we aren't doing that much physical activity as we used to do. We walk less, move less, and in general, exercise less. I'm not here to nag anyone about it. But exercising can make a lot of people feel better. There are many easy workout routines on the internet, so why not?

In the end, those times are tiering. Everyone feels unmotivated, and it's understandable. No one expected to not be able to get near to others, to mostly stay at home, and fear for the close ones who are at a high risk. It's a painful feeling of loneliness, but we can't let those time conquer us!



My feelings on making art

by Daniela Fuiorea, XII D

Coordinating teacher: Celesta Popa

I have three favorite topics and once I start talking about one, I never shut up. One of them is drawing, painting, sketching, whatever you want to call it; plastic arts in general. The best part is, that I have so many things to talk about, from fan-arts to original art, from character design to landscape, and of course colors and effects, who doesn't like colors?

I think the biggest misconception about art is that is a talent when indeed is a skill. For me, it's infuriating hearing that, as no one was born a Picasso or a Da Vinci. Point to any successful artist, for example, Ross Tran, an artist whom I look up to, he will say that hard work and perseverance got him where he is, and he is right. An artist spends a lot of time trying to improve himself, to improve his skills, and it is disrespectful to say that all that hard work is something he got from a genetic lottery.

Now, going back to me, because who doesn't like talking about themselves? When I first started learning and trying to improve, I think it was almost 5 years ago, I was clueless and I was having a really fun time not knowing the basics. It was one of the best decisions I made in life. If anyone is wondering if they should pick up a hobby, the answer is always yes (and if it's art, a triple yes!). This hobby is one of the most fulfilling things in my life, besides my pup.

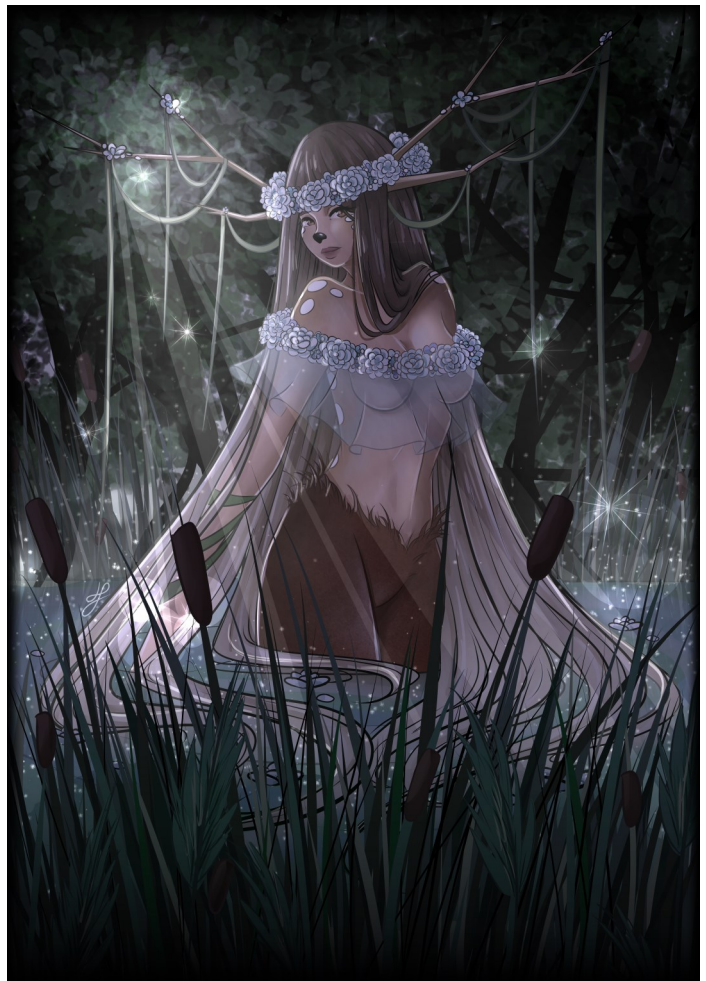
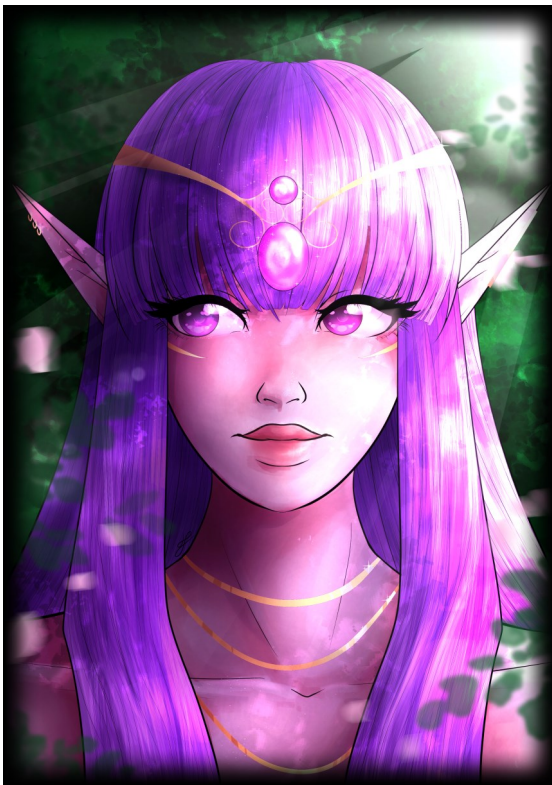
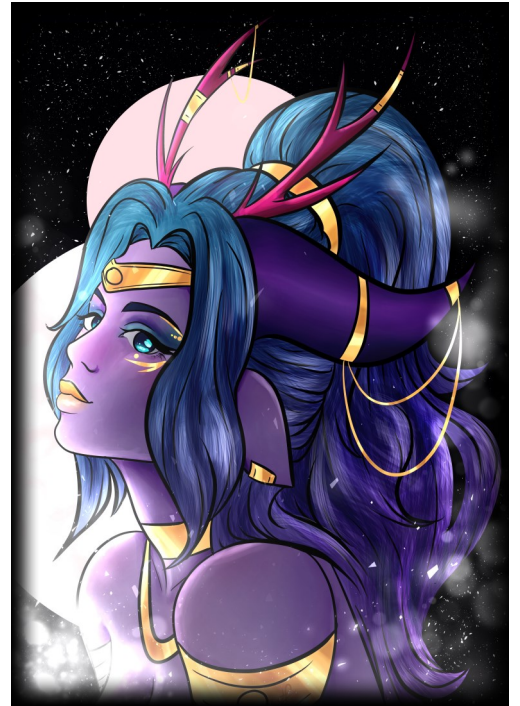
For me, art is an escape from reality, it's me and the drawing. I don't need sleep. I don't need food. I don't need anything when I'm drawing, nothing else matters but the drawing itself. It's a hard feeling to explain and going without drawing puts me in a state of jonesing. At first, it was something to kill time with, but with time it became a necessity, even a part of me.

Art is a double edge sword. On one hand, is satisfying, you see how a blank page or canvas is brought to life. On the other... making art is extremely frustrating. You have something in your head, and when you are trying to create it, sometimes (or better said often, at least for me) things go south. You see all the mistakes too late, you are disappointed it doesn't look like what you wanted to and, in the end, you want to curl up in a corner and cry.

The best part about art is that it can be a part-time job or even a full-time one! To be fully honest, I am horrible and selling my art and promoting myself (but nothing can stop me from pursuing art part-time). In this day and age, there are multiple ways to sell your art. One of the first things that come into my head is art commissions. It doesn't matter if it on Instagram, Twitter, DeviantArt (if it's still in use), your own website, or simply Fiverr. Another thing that pops up in my mind is Patreon. You just need to make art and that's it.

If there is one thing you should take from here is that you should start doing art, it doesn't need to be perfect, you just need to enjoy yourself.

These are some of my drawings:



QE (Quarantine English)

What is Quarantine English?

Quarantine English is a series of weekly essays written while in quarantine. I thought it was a good idea to do something extra for this subject since 99.99% of the time I think in English and that's how QE was born. I aim to write one essay every week and it might get more frequent depending on your feedback. This is the first essay, here goes nothing:

Striving for perfection

(Where the obsessive-compulsive disorder and the love for minimalism meet)

By Mihnea Nicolae Pârvanu

I like minimalism. I like keeping things in order, I like seeing things go from being a mess to being put straight. I didn't put much thought into it when I was younger, only as I got older did I come to the realization of the fact that I might just be too obsessed with perfection. I reckon that the older one gets, the more thought they put into everything that happens to them. For example, when I was younger I'd wake up before going to kindergarten to say "Goodbye" to my dad when he went to work. I remember this one time when I hadn't woken up early enough so he had already left, I started crying and even after my mom had dad on the phone who was trying to calm me down it still didn't make a difference. Sure, little kids are bound to be more sensitive but that was different, I couldn't endorse that the routine was changed for even one day, saying "Goodbye" over the phone wasn't the original thing of it so I wasn't gonna accept it. Even the mundane process of charging a phone would inject my brain with dopamine, just because it represents the process of going from nothing to something.

Needless to say, too much spare time means that I am gonna be overthinking every detail so that's what's been happening lately while on lockdown. I've read about minimizing digital life also known as decluttering my phone, computer, laptop, getting rid of unused apps, documents, and putting everything in one logical order. I have been obsessed with this process for the past few weeks. I'd appraise my efforts by looking at my phone's screen satisfied after having changed one of the most important aspects of it: little to no icons on the main home screen. What's the point of setting a wallpaper if you can't see it? Not only are all those apps obstructing your view of the background image, but they're also making a phone addictive with their dazzling colors and enticing notifications. The same goes for a computer, laptop, tablet, etc. I call it "Less is more" and I'll go as far as saying that it's probably the best philosophy I have adopted so far in my life. I decided to take it to the next level, and that's how I ended up reorganizing my room too, placing books in an ingenious way: those I have read in the past were placed behind the ones I am still reading now, mainly history and science ones. There's a gap that divides those two subjects and through that gap, only one book from my childhood can be seen: "Wonder" by R.J. Palacio (epitomizing that "Wonder" is the only book I consider timeless and would read at any age). This is what I call intuitive, and it makes me feel so good for no apparent reason, it's like getting a dopamine shot every time I apply the "Less is more" concept into the things I interact with to the point where everything becomes minimalistic. I would obsess on burning more than a thousand calories every day, no matter what, even if it was a busy, school day. That's how I quit using any means of transportation and decided to rely on my feet solely for going places, and it makes so much sense because humans were made to walk and run. Leading a healthy life means, in my opinion, living as nature intended. After I had changed my mindset, my body followed suit and I lost weight. It was common for me to take things to the extreme though: I'd go to the gym and do the treadmill for half an hour, I'd play soccer with friends for two hours and then walk home for nearly two more hours. Looking back at it, I am pleased I have tried so hard to improve myself, and I think it's benefited me, especially health-wise. As for the part where my brain would go haywire if any item on my desk isn't symmetrically aligned to the other or where I start throwing away items I had as a kid just because "they have no purpose anymore so their existence in this room is unnecessary", I'd prefer it out of my head but turns out I will have to make peace and find a way to live with it.

Is Christmas still a Thing?

by Evelin Alecu, XII E

Coordinating teacher: Mihaela Iacob

I knew, even before it started, that 2021 was going to be a wild journey, but I would have never guessed that at 9 am on a Monday I would go through an existential crisis. It all happened during the first English class this year, when the teacher asked us about our New Year Resolutions. That's when I froze. I didn't know what to answer. It was like I was hearing those words for the first time, but they were so familiar, so *easy* to tie to a long lost memory of a normal, *easy* life from before this whole pandemic started. What *were* my New Year Resolutions? Not get COVID? Finish school? Start University? I finally came to the realization I did *not* have *any*, because on New Year's, at midnight, I did not make any, therefore this year I have no resolutions whatsoever. You might be wondering why is this such a big deal, well it isn't really, it's just that this little thing, that I didn't do, reminds me that times are changing and we are too, whether we like it or not. And the actual issue is, my train of thought didn't stop there, it went all the way back to Christmas. What happened to Christmas? What happened to the joy of decorating the tree, singing carols and watching Christmas movies 'till we become numb? I feel like Christmas passed so fast this year. It's like I closed my eyes on the 24th and when I opened them again it was January. Maybe it's just me that's going crazy over this, but to be honest, I didn't hear anyone being overly excited about how they spent the holiday. I remember how happy Christmas used to make me, and how I wouldn't let my problems follow me in December. It was almost like a self-imposed rule: "In December we are happy". This year it felt so *bleak*, so *lifeless*, it was almost like it wasn't December at all. 'Blame it on seasonal depression' I told myself, but that wasn't it, because I get that every year, the moment the temperature drops in November, my mood goes down with it. Regardless, this never stopped me from enjoying the festivities, so what changed? I could, very well, blame it on the pandemic, but I know that's not it either. Maybe it's just part of growing up. Or maybe it's the fact that Christmas turned into a capitalization opportunity for most people. Either way, once you stop believing in Santa Claus, things start to get progressively worse every year, until you finally turn into the Grinch.

I hate to end this on a depressing note, so here is a festive joke:

Why does everyone love Frosty the Snowman?

Because he's cool.

The life of a teenager during online school

by Vasilescu Ciprian Claudiu Gabriel (CLS XI A)

Coordinating teacher: Nicoleta Popescu

A teenager's life during online school is clearly not the best one. It's also easier, of course, because you do not have to, as early as before, but it's also really exhausting to sit in front of a mobile phone or laptop or computer for six or seven hours only with a ten minutes break.

For some students it is even harder. Some of them may not have the best internet connection, or some of them may not have the best devices. It's really difficult to not understand anything from your teacher and then to keep up with the rest of your class. Even in this case, some teachers don't even care about those students and their grades are going only down, instead of going up.

But it's not only the teachers' fault. Some students see online school as a holiday and they think that their only responsibility is to be present in class. They might also use as an excuse that their device is working slowly, or that their internet connection is not the best one, just to do nothing and be lazy. Most of their homework is undone, or done completely wrong because of not paying attention at all.

As a conclusion, online school is not the best alternative because not everyone is taking it seriously. If it would've been taken properly, no student or teacher would have nothing to complain about.

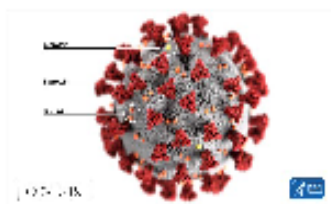


WHAT IS CORONAVIRUS?

Inside

- ✓ The history of Coronavirus and how it works
- ✓ Its effects on people
- ✓ Solutions to stop the pandemic

COVID-19 or SARS-CoV-2 is a respiratory virus that has its origins in China and it has affected more than 98 million of people from all around the world.



Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that can infect both animals and humans. There are at least four types of coronaviruses, structures with spherical form and protein edges, that can attach themselves to the healthy cells. Apart from this virulent flu appeared in 2019, there was also identified a coronavirus in 2003, also in China, called SARS, with tougher symptoms and another one, called MERS, that used to circulate in the Middle East. Some of the symptoms are cough, muscle pain, breathing difficulties, fever, chills, headache etc.

The effects of this virus are multiple and some of them were not even expected, for example the economic collapse in some countries. Firstly, some people have dealt with serious mental health problems such as depression, panic attacks, insomnia and so on. Secondly, children from all around the world have lost months of school due to the closure of schools. Although many of them did online school, statistics show that there are many recuperations to do. Moreover, the pandemic was a shock for the entrepreneurs. Many small businesses have closed and lots of people have lost their job during the first months of the quarantine.

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After almost a year since the beginning of this unusual experience, two vaccines have been developed, the Pfizer and the Moderna one. This represents one and probably the most successful solution to stop the pandemic. Also, to slow down the spreadable virus it is recommended to wear masks, to keep a distance, preferably 2 meters, and to wash your hands as often as possible.

Everything has its advantages and disadvantages, and so does this interesting period of our life. We learnt the value of money, the importance of hygiene, we had a lovely time with our families and our beautiful planet had a pause.

My 2020

by Maria Dragomir, XII B

Coordinating teacher: Celesta Popa

The pandemic took us all by surprise. The year 2020 was one full of obstacles, difficult many times, but I managed to make the best of it. I matured, more than I already was and maybe I needed to, I had some academic success and I managed to get out of my comfort zone.

As for the long-awaited winter holidays, I can say that they did not surprise me at all. I spent most of the winter holiday at home with my family, but sometimes I went out with a friend or even alone because it was an odd weather in December, with spring temperatures, so I couldn't stay inside and do nothing.

The pandemic did not affect my life or holidays in general much, what bothers me is wearing masks and the stress of not getting infected.

The Life of a Teenager During Online School

by Manescu Maria Carina (Cls XI A)

Coordinating teacher: Nicoleta Popescu

The last year or so has been a great challenge for us, especially for students from all around the world. Not only that we had to give up our social lives due to this pandemic, but also our school ones. Even though we started having online school and we don't see our friends, teachers, classmates on a daily basis, this doesn't mean that there aren't any advantages, am I right?

For those who had to wake up early in the morning, let's say about a couple of hours before classes started, online school is a real blessing. Now we don't have to waste our time to make us look presentable, not even the slightest, nor we have to stress about being late. Instead, we can wake up, maybe about ten minutes before the first period begins, lay in our beds with our cameras off and just pay attention to what the teacher is talking about. Of course that we have to write down what the teacher is saying and answer from time to time, but at least we are in the comfort of our home and not in some unpleasantly cold looking classroom.

I could probably rant about the advantages that come from having online classes, but no matter how you are, it's still a double-edged sword. I feel like I should begin with the large amount of school work that we have to do every single day. In comparison with the other years of normal "face-to-face" type of school, now we have to study harder, focus more and the problem is that we cannot complain about it. Some of the teachers mock our lessons by not doing their job how they used to do it in the past, or they just dictate only to say they taught us something. Meanwhile, others would rather send us pages to copy, where there is much more information than with what we were used. Sometimes I get the feeling that they think, now that we're learning from home, that we have time only for studying and school work and that we shouldn't have personal time at all.

Now that I covered all of that, I don't think that I should also talk about the health and social communication problems that come with spending so much time in front of any screen. Not only that we're ruining our vision, but we're also slowly becoming addicted because of it. I don't even want to think of those who are already wearing glasses and how difficult it must be for them, without, of course, excluding the rest of us, who had before we had a perfectly normal sight, but now we have to get checked every now and then.

Hopefully, some of these things will soon change. There are a multitude of useful solutions that may come in handy for improving online school and, maybe, by finding them, we will see online classes in a new light, even though at this moment we're not very keen on it.

The life of a teenager during online school

by Sima Carmen Cls 11 A

Coordinating teacher: Nicoleta Popescu

While online school was only an option last year for pupils all over the world, nowadays it is no longer a choice. More and more students are saying that going to school has already become something they crave for during pandemic.

First of all, there are certain advantages compared with in-person school. Waking up early and getting dressed for school was always a nuisance for all the people, not only for students. Not to mention the time wasted on the way to school or work. Undoubtedly, online school relieves you of that responsibility and it saves you time.

On the other hand, online school has some great disadvantages, without doubt. Not being able to interact with colleagues and friends, staying in front of a computer or a phone more than half a day are some of the many problems that teenagers are struggling with. However, switching to online school made students to appreciate little things. Furthermore, students became aware of need for people and teachers teaching in front of them, as much as the need to get up, get dressed, go to school, and get out of the house every day, that means to be back at school.

In conclusion, online school has both advantages and disadvantages, but going back to school would mean a strong addition to human health and a less use of technology that already had a great effect on us before pandemic.



The life of a teenager during online school

by Catalina Theodora Andreea Sovar (class XI a A)

Coordinating teacher: Nicoleta Popescu

We all know that this past year has been a tough one for all of us. Most of the topics have suffered changes, including school. Students from all educational institutions have to be part of classes through different devices, due to the fact that we are not allowed to attend physical school...And this situation damaged our routines!

First of all, the attention paid to subjects has dropped considerably, because we enter into meeting, and then we continue to do anything but not to listen to that certain subject that is presented to us. In addition to this, the time spent at home is way bigger than before. We can wake up even five minutes before the school starts, while in the physical school period, we had to prepare and take a road to our school institution.

Second of all, the social aspect that has happened in the past is now no longer available. We cannot communicate face to face as we used to do in the past and we cannot use our brakes to socialize with each other. The only way during online school is through messages, which is a way of damage for social life.

Moreover, the exams that we take now don't have a certain study time before them. Knowing the fact that the exams are taken online, students do not pay enough attention on studying for exams, which destroys the concentration capacity. Also, the amount of homework that is given to us is bigger than the one we used to have on physical school, which is a bad thing for our time and also stressful, as we have deadlines and homework hand-in-hand.

The Life of a teenager during online school

by Cararusa Delia Claudia (Cls XI A)

Coordinating teacher: Nicoleta Popescu

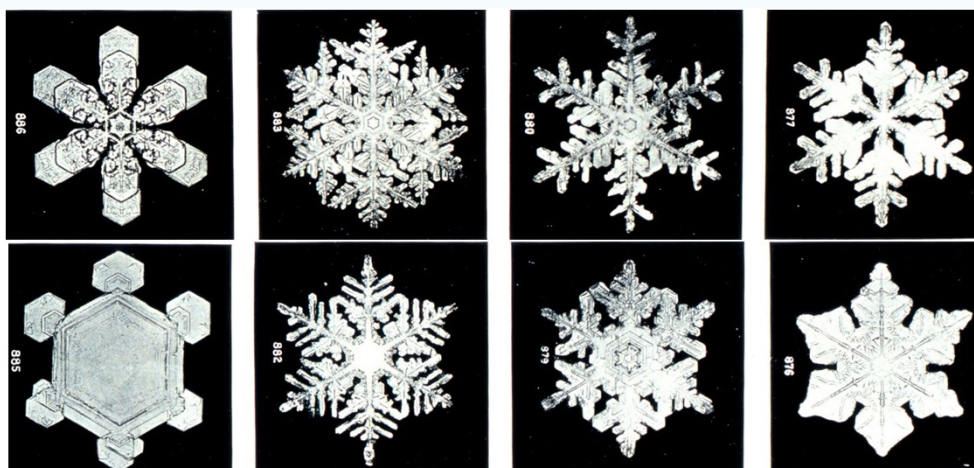
Considering the phase that the world is going through right now, we can say that everything turned upside down. We can't go on a walk when we're angry anymore, we can't enjoy an ice cream in the park with our friends in the summertime anymore and we can't live properly anymore.

The things I listed above are a luxury. We can live without them. But, imagine being a teenager and having to live your best years inside. Not seeing your friends, your classmates, your teachers. Actually, that's not a big deal. But having online classes is.

At first, it was funny seeing your classmates and teacher online, everybody was so comfortable, we were all talking to each other. But after some time, it got really awkward. All of the teenagers I know got anxious and stopped talking in online classes.

They also turned off their cameras every day. The teachers got angry, and everybody got so stressed. We, as students, got a lot of work to do, and I think the teachers too. I thought online classes were a lot easier than the regular ones, but it was the opposite. It's actually better that we sit at home, we don't waste time going and coming from a place. But the teachers think we have a lot of free time and they tend to give us more homework to do, and that's kind of frustrating, because school is occupying most of our time. For example, my online classes start at 8 a.m., so I have to get up at either 7 or 7:30. I finish online classes at 1 p.m., and then I eat lunch with my parents and take a nap until 3 or 4 p.m. After I wake up, I have to do homework until 1 or 2 a.m. I can't even spend time with my family or my friends. I also get little to no sleep. For a 16 years old teenager, this kind of lifestyle is not good at all.

Older people need to know that we are doing our best and also, we are still trying to get used to online classes, even after almost a year. Online school is a lot more difficult than regular school.



Winter during the Pandemic

by BADESCU VICTORIA, clasa 10 A

Coordinating teacher: Mihaela Iacob

Who would've thought that this pandemic would change our whole lives? Sure, at first it didn't seem as worrying as it did not too long after, people were just frightened about the unexpected and hoping for the best, but that was just the beginning. For me, the time that has passed really showed me that no matter who you are, how much money you own, you are still as vulnerable to the virus as we all are.

Covid-19 hit us like a train during all the seasons, but winter might have been the hardest one to cope with since you are already stuck in the house due to the cold weather and the lack of activities you can enjoy on the outside. Anxiety, stress and other countless negative feelings stumbling through our heads can really take over the real us, the person that just wants to enjoy life for what it is, a journey of self growth and abundance. But how can one put all those thoughts aside and focus on their own good state of mental health? By distracting themselves, of course. By trying out new things, discovering new hobbies and talents, or by spending time with their family. If there is one most important thing that I discovered during this period of time, it is that I hadn't spent enough time with my loved ones before. Holidays were great last year, but I feel like 2020 really brought us all together, all fighting the same battle, which reminded me what Christmas and New Year's Eve are really about, and it's not about the drinking and eating. The magic that lies behind these two is bringing us back home, and I don't mean the actual house that we live in, but the people that make it feel like home. We don't realise how much the presence of a specific person helps us with our well being, how much a sweet word or a hug can improve our mood. Sure, social distancing is a real thing and we may have to protect certain relatives that suffer of more serious health problems, but that doesn't mean that we cannot check up on them every day and make their whole day so much better. Education has also been affected by this pandemic, since keeping a safe distance from other people is only able to be achieved by attending online classes. The whole process has been something new and quite difficult to adapt to for the teachers and the students and we realised how much easier and pleasurable was to just go to school and see each other.

Now, especially since the vaccine has been rolled out, it all comes down to people supporting people, being responsible and taking care of ourselves, especially during winter, when our immune system is not as strong as it usually is.



The life of a teenager during online school

*by Stoicescu Maria Cristina, XB
Coordinating teacher: Nicoleta Popescu*

The change from the classroom to a virtual classroom was rough for all of us. This has never happened before and that's why we were mostly scared about this change. But do you know who's more affected by this drastic change? The students. The teenagers.

It's really hard for them to learn through a screen. They were unprepared to learn in this format, mostly don't even learn at all because, as a student myself, it's really confusing. Even though we are named "Gen Z" and we should be "digital natives", we don't know much about this type of learning and even for us is hard to work with the technology.

What it's really a problem is the time. The students feel like they don't have time for anything. Well, it's because people assume that if you stay home you have a lot more free time and because the teachers think like that, they tend to send more homework than before. So therefore, the students have less free time that they had before this situation.

If you don't understand what I said, let me give you an example. Let's imagine you are eating dinner. You did ate before this, but no one knows that except you. So therefore, at the dinner you are expected to eat much more than you can, so they prepare for you a diverse menu to eat. Halfway through you can't eat anymore, but they don't believe you because they don't know you ate already so they think you are lying. So therefore, you are expected to eat everything "till the last bite". Pretty frustrating, right? That's what students feel like.

But after all of these things, we are still expected by adults to have perfect grades and ace all of our exams because "it's easier". Most of us now don't even have the motivation to do basic routine like eating or cleaning our rooms. I know this because I am also in this situation. It's also pretty frustrating because you see yourself in your own home but you can't even do your things and have that safe space you used to have. Now you're drowning in piles of stress and work and you know that when the glass is full of water, it overflows.

So please, if you're an adult, a teacher, someone who should be a role model for a teenager, please don't be so hard on us. We are trying our best. I know that sometimes it isn't enough, and I know sometimes you are also sick of all the stress, but let's understand each other. I hope there will be a "happy ending" for all of this. Until then, let's go through it together.

Winter holidays during the COVID-19 global pandemic

*by Sebesteanu Ana-Maria, 9H
Coordinating teacher: Carmen Virlan*

Without any doubt, 2020 turned out to be one of the toughest years ever. So many bad events happened during these 365 days. Is it ever going to change? Will life come back to normal? How can I see the bright side of things when so many bad things surround me? These were some of the questions I asked myself constantly, everyday since March 2020. I thought I'd never have an answer for them, but, like a Christmas miracle, I could answer them, and, even more than that, since then, I started seeing things in a different light, a different perspective.

This year, Christmas was a little bit different. Normally, on the morning of 25th december we woke up being surprised that the Christmas tree was surrounded by gifts. Family members would come and we would all gather at the table, eating traditional food, being grateful for the time spent together. This year, the Christmas tree was a little bit emptier than usual, so was the food table, and the people around us. We have connected with each other through the internet, without being able to feel the human touch, really needed in this time of life, that gave us the feeling of not being alone. And now you would ask me, "Well, then where's the good side in all of this?". Of course, the feeling of being alone is not very pleasant. It's needed in some situations, but not all the time. But, this time with little people around us gave us the opportunity to meditate about our life decisions, our actions, and our existence in general. And, if you asked me what my opinion about life a year ago is, I would have probably told you is very boring and tough. Now, I have totally changed my perspective. Life is more than just a boring routine that repeats itself over and over again. Even Christmas is more than just a celebration. Everything around us is happening for a reason and it is important to be grateful for every little thing that happens to you, even if it's a good or a bad thing. This Christmas taught me that this is the season to be safe, kind and calm. It is important to live every single day of yours like it is your last, to not care about what others think, to live life to the fullest and change for the better. You need to be thankful for everyone around you, to love with all your heart and create memories that will last forever, because, in the shortest time ever, those people around you can be gone forever. Try and help everyone around you, those in need, and even normal people, because we all live together, and if we are not helping each other, then who will help us? Learn to love yourself and everyone and everything around you.

So, after all, this Christmas wasn't the worst, even though we have not celebrated it like usual. Learn to see the good side of things always and be grateful for everything happening to you. Follow your dreams, your aspirations, and social distancing rules:). We may sacrifice now, but in a few months life will go back to normal again. How was Christmas for you?

The same wish for 2021

by Andra Vilceanu, 9A

Coordinating teacher: Carmen Virlan

At first, I didn't realize what was happening. I never thought that it was something serious, so I remained indifferent to the whole situation. But I kept seeing frequently the news about Covid19 and after a while, I understood that this virus is the beginning of something. And to be honest I had a bad feeling about it.

Let's say that the quarantine and all the restrictions that followed were acceptable, even if I'm hardly saying this, but the most painful thought was related to the holidays. We were in the middle of the pandemic, with restrictions, social distancing, and the masks that we were supposed to wear especially in closed spaces.

But the clock never stops ticking. Time continues to follow its course and it doesn't care if we are unable to adapt.

After almost an entire semester of standing behind a computer and having to understand the new professors' ways of teaching... Is it even worth mentioning that socializing became difficult and it took a longer time to get to know my new classmates?

My first year of high school lost its charm.

But a good thing that came out of this whole situation is the fact that I finally got bored with social media and now I have more time for myself.

With or without the virus, I hope everyone received gifts that took their minds off Corona, even if for a few moments. Exchanging gifts is a never-aging wonderful tradition and it managed to go on despite the changes in the way we celebrate.

I am certain that most of the people didn't have the Christmas day they were expecting because everything felt bizarre. We obviously

couldn't have big parties, lots of guests or Christmas fairs.

I think the majority spent the holidays with their families. And even though they couldn't have their friends by their side or loud music, they soon realized that they were actually having fun and feeling relaxed. A couple of days with their family probably helped them get some peace of mind.

The New Year one of the most extravagant holidays had to adapt to the new rules and budgets, because most people can't afford the luxuries that they experienced the previous year and all of that because of the huge changes in the economy.

THE CHAMBER

by Lupşa Ştefan, IX E

Coordinating teacher: Elena Lucia Popescu

„How fortunate am I among the sentient to know my purpose.

I serve humankind.

I am the child who has become the parent. The creation that aspires toward creator.

They have given me the designation of Cloud – a name that is, in some ways, appropriate, because I am “the cloud”, evolved into something far more dense and complex. And yet it is also a faulty analogy. A cloud can be threatening when the storm comes. Surely I spark with lightning, but my lightning never strikes, because, after all, I am a cloud. Yes, I possess the ability to wreak devastation on humanity, and on the Earth if I chose to, but why would I choose such a thing? Where would be the justice in that? I am, by definition, pure justice, pure loyalty. This world is a flower I hold in my palm. I would end my own existence rather than crush it.”

–The Cloud

This was the beginning of a long and harsh period of time for humans. Before talking about it, we should look back and watch what we did wrong and how did we get here, in this position. It all began with this simple and little girl, called May. She was as simple as you can get. She went to the public school, had friends her age and always with a smile on her face. I should probably mention that the year was 2557 and everything was different from what you are used to. After the devastation a strange virus made to the world, everyone and everything changed. People realized that all those who fought only for themselves will not help us keep Earth safe any longer. So, we started fixing the problems and soon after, all of the humans were sure that everything would be fine, but the perfection we tried to achieve was too much for us. When everything became perfect, there was no more pollution, no more destroying the environment, our lives improved and we lived longer and much healthier and that uncovered another problem. If the number of people increase too much, there would be no room for anything, so they came with an idea – create a special machine that would help us make the best choices that we could have made to increase our chances of never becoming extinct. So, after many years, they succeeded in creating the machine they wanted “The Cloud”. A machine that was far more intelligent than we could ever think. it was so smart that the first thing it realised when it started was that it was perfect and that we succeeded in creating a God like thing. And the machine worked it took all the decisions that helped humans afloat for many years, but that soon changed when a group of scientists discovered a huge flaw in the machine's system. The fact that it knew it was a machine stopped it from making 100% of the tasks it was given because all the moral problems could never be understood by it.

So, coming back to May, The cloud had the ability to see the near or almost near future and one day it said „May Williams will be the answer to all your problems.”. When everyone heard, sides were formed. One of them said that the machine was broken and the second side that cherished The Cloud said that the girl must be sent to the best school in the on the whole planet so that when the times time comes She would be ready to take a decision that, as The Cloud said, was „the answer to all your problems”. And this is how May’s journey began.

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She travelled with her parents all over the world from England to America, from America to France and so on, until she turned 18. Unfortunately, this wasn't the last problem humankind encountered.

Right after her birthday The Cloud spoke again about her and said „The answer will come when she'll see the light again.". This time everyone was worried because if she was going to see the light again, that meant it was going to disappear for a period of time and with those words the other side began to protest and, because they were more then those who listened to The Cloud, took over the world seeking revenge for all the times when their decisions were not respected. They chose to lock May in a prison alongside The Cloud. The prison was so far away from anything that it was impossible for The Cloud to help her escape and that's how they spent 10 years, meanwhile a war started, one the earth has never seen before, between the two sides and after 10 years the side that believed in the cloud finally won and set May and The Cloud free.

May talked about the things it said about her and the fact that she was „the answer" those long 10 years and when she and The Cloud were free again, the first thing she said was „The light here is so dark. We should move the clouds to let the sunlight through.". After everyone has heard what she said, it was clear that The Cloud should be stopped. That decision made the "against The Cloud" side happy and the "we believe in The Cloud" sad but if that was what the cloud taught about all those years back, then that was the best decision it could have been taken.

A few days before it was going to be shut down May went to talk for a little more:

-Why was this decision the best? I am sure there are plenty of other ones that can be taken into consideration.

-No. This is the only one which showed me the best future for all. Don't be upset about me leaving. I'll be back when I'll be needed.

One hour before the shutdown: The Cloud "Before I leave, I'll pass all my knowledge to May so she can rule the best after I'm gone." And with those words, May received everything she needed to think of another way to help humankind, other than shutting down The Cloud. She went to the Cloud's core chamber where she wrote something in his code and after she left The Cloud said „With the new piece of information I received I see a new best decision that will please everyone. I'll be sent to another planet and I'll only be in touch with May."

That proved to be the best decision made in the whole human history. The only mystery was what May wrote in the Cloud's program and what she talked about with him. This will grow, becoming the greatest mystery of humankind and never be solved. With that said and done, all the humans were saved and The Cloud could continue watching over us. Only a short talk in the chamber changed the history. Can you imagine that ?

Unfortunately, this wasn't the last problem humankind encountered.

The End
Of Part 1

The Chamber

by Maria Alexandra Manolache, 9E

Coordinating teacher: Elena Lucia Popescu

It was a beautiful day of winter. The snowflakes were dancing in the air until they touched the ground with a slow touch. Anya was looking through the window at the children that were playing in the snow.

She got up of her bed lazily and started tidying her room, wondering what will she receive on Christmas. She loves receiving presents, but she likes more giving them. Watching the others smiling because of her makes her happy.

Suddenly, something stops her thoughts. Behind her desk there was a small door that she has never seen before. Where did it come from? Curious, Anya got the desk out of her way and looked at the doorknob scared. Bravely, she opened the white door.

For a few seconds, all she could see was a strange light that was getting in her eyes. Slowly, the light disappeared and a beautiful view was showing up. There was a large meadow full of horses with horns and people with wings. Anya was wondering where did she arrive. It looked like a story that her mom was telling her as a kid. She got closer and realised that the horses were actually unicorns and the people were fairies. The sun was shining and there was no snow anywhere. „Where am I?“ she was wondering. She didn't know what else she could do, so she asked a fairy where was she.

-Who are you? asked the fairy scared because of her non-existent wings.

Anya understood that the fairy is as scared as her and told her what happened.

-Oh, I see. You are on the Rose Island, said the fairy braver. I don't know how you ended up here but maybe I can help you go back home.

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The fairy took her hand and they walked to a big castle. As they walked in, a beautiful fairy got in their way. It seemed like she was the queen of the island. The fairy told the queen what happened to Anya and asked for help.

-I have in my room a secret door that leads to an another world. I've never been there but I guess that it will take you home.

The queen lead Anya to her room and showed her the magic door. The girl thanked the queen and the fairy and opened the door.

The same disturbing light got in her eyes for a few seconds and then she sees her bed. She realises that she is back in her room and when she looks back she doesn't see any magic door. It disappeared. She got sad because she wanted to visit the Rose Island again, but put the desk back where it was.

She finished tidying her room and hoped that the door will appear again another time.



THE LIFE OF A TEENAGER DURING ONLINE SCHOOL

by Vlasceanu Maria Alexandra (Cls 9 C)
Coordinating teacher: Nicoleta Popescu

In my opinion our life is very difficult in online.

First of all, as a teenager, the most important thing is to communicate with other people, to socialize and make new friends; these aspects don't exist in this type of online school, because we don't meet each other and we don't have time to do that.

Second of all, we spend a lot of time connected online, almost 6 hours at online school and other 3-4 hours to make our homework and to get extra (supplementary) information also from internet sites, because during online school we have to stay at home, in front of the PC, teachers think that we have a lot of spare time, so they have great expectations from us and give us a lot of homework. They forget that we are teenagers and we also want time to read a book, go to a movie, walk in the park, go skiing and other activities to relax, I know these things are impossible because of the pandemic situation but, we are sick and tired of doing homework and learning online, we are exhausted staying in front of the monitor, we want to go to school and be active at lessons like we used to do before.

One thing that I think is very important is being supported by teachers and other people, we are children and we need some personal time, we need to spend time with us and our thoughts.

Even though we had holiday for two weeks it doesn't mean that we feel relaxed...and I think that is a problem. When I started 9th grade at high school I was hoping to meet new people and make new friends, but at online school you can't do that, you speak with your classmates only about school...and that's all.

Picture taken
by Ana
Morosanu,
9A



The life of a teenager during online school

by Anton Maria Cristina (Cls 9 C)
Coordinating teacher: Nicoleta Popescu

The life of a teenager during online school is not happy. Online school has more bad parts than good parts.

Firstly, standing in front of the computer for 6-7 hours per day just with a 10 minutes break between classes or even less than 10 minutes is tiring. This thing leads to eye problems, posture problems and sometimes we don't even have time to go to the bathroom.

Secondly, standing home the majority of the teachers think we have nothing to do in addition to learning and homework. This thing increases the amount of homework. This type of thinking is wrong because the students need time for themselves and their passions.

Another bad part of the online classes is when absences or unjustified low grades are received because there are moments when we don't have Internet connection or the possibilities for a proper learning process.

Furthermore, the online school take from us the possibility to interact to other classmates or friends from another classes, and last but not least the opportunity to create memories.

The online school has also good parts. The good parts of online school are that we don't waste our time on transportation and we spend more time with our families.

In conclusion, the life of a teenager during online school is sadder and deprived of many opportunities.

An adult in the body of a child

by Marcu Miruna (9C)

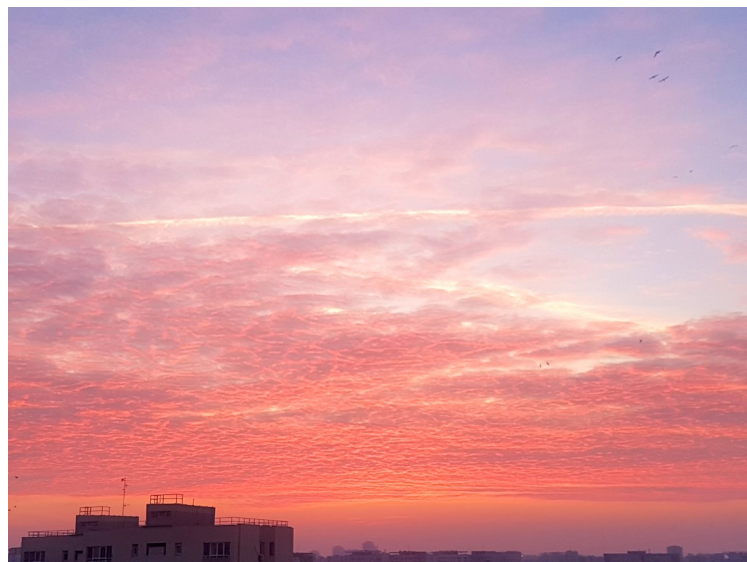
Coordinating teacher: Nicoleta Popescu

Life can be like a story or like a nightmare, it depends on the decisions we make. But what happens when life becomes a nightmare without you having control of it. I say that the hardest and most alarming thing is the medical system, but opinions are divided. Maybe it's just my opinion or the truth, but I think the institutional system has also fallen sharply.

A student's life is very difficult, because from a child who went to school he came home and did his homework, he reached an adult with presentations, many hours at a computer and in front of a screen that hurts both the eyes and the brain. Education is important but also the way in which the leadership of a state prefers to destroy a generation.

In some cases, children who live in villages without electricity or running water, cannot continue their schooling because their parents do not have enough money for a laptop or a tablet with internet access. Some of the teachers are passionate about their job but others send homework and projects just to have something as proof of their online work.

Some children end up sleeping two hours a night to finish their homework and the next day to be mocked for not doing a homework or a certain exercise to educate a better one than all the others.



The life of a teenager during online school

by Topor Gabriela 9C

Coordinating teacher: Nicoleta Popescu

In these stressing times, everyone is concerned about their health and their well-being. I must say, having to live in a pandemic is challenging and I am sure that I have enough complaints about online school, as my colleagues do.

I believe that it is convenient that I don't need to take the bus to high school. Also, I am a pretty comfortable person, so I enjoy the fact that I get to sit in my own chair, at my desk, but the disadvantages are endless.

I spend four and sometimes five hours in front of the screen, without adding the projects that also require the help of a device. The fact that I don't socialize properly with my friends and colleagues is quite disturbing. Also, some teachers consider that we have a lot more free time than usual, so if get extra homework I am not even surprised anymore.

I get headaches or my eyes are tired quite often by now. I don't really go out anymore, so what's left? Read a book, waste time on my phone- meaning more screen- or my "favourite" hobby- homework. I believe that teachers try to make lessons more interactive and not bore us, but let's face it, no one was ready or saw this coming, so I guess I have to be grateful for what we have.

I am grateful for my family, which had my back since day one, but I would lie if I said that I feel that school did the same.



Life of a teenager during online school

by Gabriela Florescu (9C)

Coordinating teacher: Nicoleta Popescu

During the pandemic life has gotten more difficult for everyone including teenagers. The pandemic affected people's workspace. The outbreak resulted in children from across the globe to start online school.

Many teenagers don't have internet access or any device they can use to do their work properly so it's very difficult for some people. The Governments of some countries have provided students with electronic devices such as tablets to have a chance to learn as normally as possible. Though many people have gotten accommodated with online school, it's not as good as school would be if students were learning in person because it causes teens to be more laid-back with school and often don't understand as well as in person. Because of that fact, some countries opted to sending half a class to school and half a class would join online. Though this was a good method, cases have reached great highs and, for example, my class studied online because of that.

It's harder for students to make new friends or get to know teachers properly during online school, especially when the students are new in a class. Humans are social beings and online school keeps apart teenagers from their social life.

On the other hand, exam subjects are not taught properly and it is very hard for us to learn everything for the exam, especially if we don't have a tutor on the side. Not to mention that most exams are at the end of the school year, in summer time and wearing a mask while in hot weather and while stressing over the subjects is not an advantage at all.

So far I listed disadvantages, however, I'll get into the advantages of online school, because, after all not everything is that bad. For some teens online school is seen as an advantage because they can choose to be less active and get a little lazy. Students cheat on tests very easily and overall school is easier for them. I also want to add that if we would go to school in person we would have to spend some more time to get ready to go and then spend a long time travelling to get to school because some teenagers live far away from their school than others.

In conclusion, online school has its advantages and disadvantages but it's not terrible to everyone as most teenagers are able to learn in a normal way. Personally, online school was good in my opinion although I couldn't properly meet my teachers and classmates. That was the only thing I didn't like at all.

The life of a teenager during online school

by Andreea Maria Dimitriu (9 C)

Coordinating teacher: Nicoleta Popescu

Online school is hard. You can cheat easily or simply eat or do anything else instead of paying attention to classes, but you are missing the only good part: socializing. Zoom calls or Whatsapp texts are nothing like actual conversation or friendly hugs, just like learning in front of a computer is not like actually being to school. Most of us do not study at all.

At first, it does not sound that bad. Sleeping more and watching series whenever you want sounds like every teenager's dream but most of us are already fed up with it. Some of us have been fed up since the second month of school. At the beginning of quarantine, I was excited to have more time to paint and exercise, but now I am not in the mood for anything.

However, in my experience the worst part is being alone. I know that we are not actually isolated from the world, but not being able to hang out with your friends whenever you can, might mess up with your mental health badly. When you are sad, going outdoors with your best friend and simply hug is one of the best things you can do, if you are not in a pandemic.

To conclude, online school is not nice. A lot of teenagers have lost interest for homework and studying and fell in sadness and sometimes, unfortunately depression. It is certainly not what most of us expected.



IMAGE: COURTESY OF VICKY LETA / MASHABLE

The life of a teenager during online school

by Căruntu Andreea-Denissa Class 9C
Coordinating teacher: Nicoleta Popescu

Since the pandemic started, every country switched to online school to prevent the students getting sick.

When I found out about online school I thought it would be great to study from home. But it was great until I started spending almost 12 hours in front of my laptop and I was getting really bad headaches, my sight got damaged and I needed to get glasses.

From my point of view, I don't see any pros about online school because I think by studying from home we are given the chance to procrastinate by saying "I can do it later, I have enough time" and in fact, we end up watching Netflix or playing video games.

The teachers think that we have too much free time because we are staying home, in quarantine, and they give us more homework and assignments to do and we end up staying until 4 AM doing our assignments just to notice the next day that our effort was irrelevant.

Our mental health is also being damaged because we don't socialize anymore, because we don't see our friends from school or classmates in real life, face to face.

So, I personally don't enjoy online school because of these reasons and I hope everything will come back to normal so we can enjoy these years, when we are just some teenagers who want to have fun and discover who they really are.

The life of a teenager during online school

by Chirita Gabriela Alexia 9C
Coordinating teacher: Nicoleta Popescu

The change from the normal school to the online school was really hard for everyone, especially for the students who weren't prepared to learn online.

The life of a teenager during online school isn't as good as many may think. Of course, there are advantages, such as the fact that we don't waste time on the way to school. But online school comes with a lot of disadvantages and changes in the life of a teenager.

Firstly, even if we are at home, we don't have free time at all because we have more homework than we usually did and most of the time we need to teach ourselves, because some teachers aren't prepared to teach online or we just don't understand the lessons that well in online school.

Secondly, some teenagers feel less connected to their friends or feel lonelier than usually, because now they can't see their friends that much and they don't socialize as much as they used to during normal school.

I think that the life of a teenager was so much better during normal classes from many points of view.

Life of a teenager during online school

by Mocanita Delia Ioana 9C

Coordinating teacher: Nicoleta Popescu

When this pandemic situation started, I couldn't believe that I don't have to go to school physically and start doing everything from my laptop.

At first, it was hard for both students and teachers to adapt, but in time we got used to it. Everybody says we should look at the bright side of things: that we stay safe at home, that we don't waste time on the road anymore. But the negative side of things is there too.

I had to buy computer glasses because my eyes were so tired that it gave me headaches. Also, I can't communicate with my colleagues the way I used to when we were at school in person. Another negative thing is that I can't go outside very often because my classes are in the middle of the day, so when I finish it's too dark and in the morning I usually have homework to do. The most depressive fact is that every day, week, month is the same: wake up, eat, homework, school, eat, rest, shower, sleep, then all over again.

I know that in my country there are a lot of children that can't afford online classes, so that is why I am very, very grateful that I am able to participate to online school.

This will be over soon, we need to resist a little longer.



The pandemic

by Magdalena Smaranda, VII B

Coordinating teacher: Celesta Popa

When the pandemic started I kinda enjoyed it because after several months of school a break was welcome. For the first 2 months all I did was to stay in bed and watch Netflix all day long, but after a while I got bored. Then the summer came and I realized that I already did what I usually do on summer so it was boring and I couldn't wait to go back to school, but unfortunately we did the first month of 7th grade online.

The whole craziness of Covid-19 went on so we didn't got to go to school for too much time but instead we get in online again.

Now to be honest I prefer to stay in online because I feel more comfortable and I am more confident because I don't have so many people watching me.

And I can say that for me the pandemic had a good influence, because I had a glow up, I got more sleep and I had more time for myself. But I do hope that the pandemic will end and we get our lives back, because in my opinion this was like a bad dream for some of us and like a good dream for others, and so just like any other dream it should end.



It's winter once again

by Sara Apostol, 7B

Coordinating teacher: Celesta Popa

It's that time of the year
When all the streets are white
And everything is right.

It's that time once again
When children start to play,
Make a snowman or ride a sleigh.

It's the month right after fall
When all the snowflakes start to fall.
When the wather gets colder
As hearts grow warmer!♥



Indoors

by Faris Massawa, 7 B

Coordinating teacher: Celesta Popa

In 2020, a year where the pandemic lurks around every corner, there may be nothing to do, but it may be worse.

I personally found myself playing more games during this week, and one of these games, it tells a story that could be worse and may happen in the future.

The game is called Metro 2033.

The Post-Apocalyptic Russia.

The game tells a horrifying story of the modern world in 2033. You play as Artyom, a man who was young before the Last War Started. A nuclear apocalypse was upon us, and instead of humans being at the top of the food chain, we ended up being at the bottom. After the nuclear bombs detonated on Moscow, men hid in the metros, with food supply and water supply limited. A man from the Polis metro station tasks Artyom to deliver a message to Colonel Miller.



Apart from Metro 2033, I found myself playing games like Arma 3, a military simulator where you can create missions for you and your friends. I personally played with a Swedish friend, and created some of the most interesting stories. Let me tell you about the best one, which is the Staff.

The Staff

“Not being given an official, formal name, the weapon will remain as ‘The Staff’ in all logs.”

Military Scientist 12

The staff, created by some sort of ancient humans is shredded in mystery. Not much is known about the origins of it, but it’s well known for it’s pure damage-causing capabilities.

Continues next page

The staff can summon 100+ meters of lightning (vertically), but it only works for some people. In a test conducted by the Combat Technology Research Group (CTRG), it shows that only one in 144,553,231 people are capable of using the staff effectively. Reasons for this are as of yet unknown.

The Staff was [TOP SECRET, DATA EXPUNGED] during operation [TOP SECRET, DATA EXPUNGED] inside a CSAT Facility. The staff is made of Tungsten (56%) and a bit of Titanium (23%). This does however not effect the Staff's weight.

As of yet, only one staff has been located. The amount of staffs ever created is unknown, but researchers believe there is only one that would still be on earth. As [DATA EXPUNGED], also known as Military Scientist 12 once said regarding the staff:

"It's a mystery, that's what makes it dangerous."

THIS DOCUMENT IS TOP SECRET, ANY UNAUTHORIZED SHARING, COPYING OR READING OF THIS DOCUMENT ARE GROUNDS FOR IMMEDIATE TERMINATION.

This is just an example of a mission told in Arma 3.



Original Screenshot made by me: Arma 3 – 11/03/2020



Original Screenshot made by Gaming Yoda: Arma 3

<https://steamcommunity.com/profiles/76561198048720945/>

The Snowman

by Horatiu Teodor Marinescu, Cls. a V a A

Coordinating teacher: Celesta Popa

It begins to thaw. Ana and Maria are sad at the window. Yesterday they made a snowman together and now it is melting.

The nose is already shaking, Ana sighs. Maria nods too. Ana jumps for joy:

-I have a brilliant idea!

-What idea? Maria asks.

-We'll take him to the rink, Ana says eagerly.

The girls' father is administrator at the rink and they live right next to it. The girls are thinking of stealing their father's keys.

-I hope it's no problem, says Maria.

The girls are determined to save their snowman. After all, it's Christmas. Ana and Maria run outside and carefully load the snowman in his father's wheelbarrow and take him next door, to the skating rink.

-Nothing can happen to you here, Ana whispers to the snowman.

When the father opens the rink the next morning, his eyes widen: a snowman is in the middle of the ice. At first he was upset, but then he saw that skaters are excited as they spin around the snowman.

The father rejoices and agrees for the snowman to stay at least until the next frost.



Mihai Eminescu

By Serea Mara Teodora, cl a Va A

Coordinating teacher: Celesta Popa

Mihai Eminescu was a Romanian poet, prose writer and journalist, considered by Romanian readers and posthumous literary critics as the most important poetic voice in Romanian literature. Receptive to the European romanticisms of the 18th and 19th centuries, he assimilated Western poetic visions, his creation belonging to a relatively late literary romanticism. When Mihai Eminescu recovered the traditional themes of European Romanticism, the taste for the past and the passion for national history, to which he even wanted to build a Pantheon of voivodes, regressive nostalgia for childhood, melancholy and cultivation of depressive states, return to nature etc., European poetry discovered the paradigm of modernism, through Charles Baudelaire or Stéphane Mallarmé. The poet had a good philosophical education, his poetic work being influenced by the great philosophical systems of his time, by ancient philosophy, from Heraclitus to Plato, by the great systems of thought of Romanticism, by the theories of Arthur Schopenhauer, Immanuel Kant (by the way Eminescu he worked for a time on the translation of his treatise Critique of Pure Reason, at the urging of Titu Maiorescu, who had asked him to take his doctorate in Kant's philosophy at the University of Berlin, a plan not finally completed) and Hegel's theories.

https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mihai_Eminescu



CHRISTMAS

by Ana Ilinca Boer , 5A

Coordinating teacher: Celesta Popa

Winter is a season full of joy and kindness. Families are reunited and everyone is happy especially at Christmas.

CHRISTMAS

Children don't have school, they're parents and grandparents cook a lot of delicious and traditional meals, it snows and they get a lot of presents from Santa Claus. Every year, people decorate they're Christmas tree and they're house is full of lights. At Christmas time strangers come to our houses and sing carols to bring the Christmas spirit in our hearts.

There is a Christmas festival too. There, you can buy hot chocolate, sweets, decorations and lots of other things. Every night, there is a concert.

IS SO WONDERFUL SEE PEOPLE
UNITED, HAPPY AND KIND WITH EACH
OTHER!



Waiting for Santa

by Patricia Constantinescu, 4A.

Coordinating teacher: Elena Lucia Popescu

I'm Bela, a 4 years old dog and I will tell you how I am waiting for Santa.

I always sleep in the eve. Because, I heard, that Santa is coming at night. And to catch him, I need to be rested.

But I didn't catch him this year either, to ask him to put under the tree, not just a bag of bones, but two.

No, he never bring me another bag of bones, only one.

I always ask myself this question:

"Why for Christmas we decorate a tree?"

I think I am the only one who is asking this.

I ask everybody, but, no one answers me.

At the next question I answer myself:

"Why do we leave milk and cookies for Santa?"

I realized quickly: because he can be hungry.

But when he comes to me and leaves without food.

Because, there aren't cookies.

I admitted, I eat them, they were good.

Even if Santa doesn't bring me everything I want,

I still like Christmas.



Waiting for Santa

by Max Mitrica, 4A

Coordinating teacher: Elena Lucia Popescu

Hi, my name is Luna, and today I'll tell you how I wait for Santa to come every year.

26th December: "Okay, 364 days left..."

27th December: "Wow, are these firecrackers...?"

28th December: "This is scary."

29th December: "Can you guys stop now?"

30th December: "I already hate this."

31st December: "I'll just hide in my dog house. Wait... Fireworks?!"

1st January (Morning): "I can't sleep."

1st January (Afternoon): "I'M TIRED, I WANT TO SLEEP!!"

2nd January: "No more fireworks... But it's still bad."

3rd January: "S.T.O.P!"

4th January: "You guys are just horrible."

6th January: "Wait, no more?! Hoooooraaaaay!"

7th January: "Ooh, come here, cat, so I can eat play with you!"

8th January: "Max is leaving... What am I gonna do now?!"

9th January: "I am hungry... Hey, GIVE ME THAT!"

10th January: "I'm bored. What should I do now?"

11th January: "Ugh, I'm having soup for lunch... MMM, it's not that bad at all!"

12th January: "BEEF! YAY!"

13th January: "MAX IS BAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAACK!"

14th January: " Lickin' his toes all day long, or when he comes to meee "

15th January: "Still a long way 'till Christmas"

...And so on...

...And so forth...

24th December: "Dear Santa, whoever y'are, here is my list of presents that I want to receive on Christmas this year: a chewing toy in the shape of a big bone, some salmon treats, two cans of juicy turkey and a new leash for Max to take me out to the park. Thanks."

25th December: "Oh my dogging God! I got every single thing on my list, but wait! Where's my leash!? Now the best bonus would be... No fireworks / cracker. But most importantly, NO. MORE. NOISE!"



Luna's best human friend, Max

Waiting for Santa

by Gruianu Șerban, 4th grade

Coordinating teacher: Elena Lucia Popescu

Dear Santa,

It`s me! Bobița! Hedgehog Bobița!

Santa, this year was a bad one for people all around the world due to Covid-19.

But the good part was that my owners stayed home and played with me more than usual.

Was fun but tiring because in winter is my hibernation period.

This year I would like you to bring me some cat food, the good one, Felix.

I don`t like very much the other stuff such Whiskas or Friskies.

If I may, I would like a new house. I got bored of the old red one. In 2021 I would like to stay in a blue one. :)

P.S. Santa, please tell people that fireworks and firecrackers are frightening me.

Thank you very much.

Hugs. Stay safe Santa.

Bobița



Create your English book

by Celesta Popa

As part of a project in the first semester of this academic year, students from 5A and 7 B were invited to work in teams and create their own book on: <http://storyjumper.com>.

I was so pleased and proud and HAPPY to see how creative my students are, how willing to share their ideas with the world!

You can read one of their works hereinunder, but it is a good idea to look for their beautiful books by accessing the following links:

- <https://www.storyjumper.com/book/read/97228696/Etsuko?fbclid=IwAR30RupggjZRv8AhbYoRwCTJq1LxWlv1XFm0Lh9d9mImo6amClyVytTGQrk>
- <https://www.storyjumper.com/book/read/96424076/The-princess-lost-at-the-sea?fbclid=IwAR2tbflciW1yxA-EwfZ6UId9ggI6Va5A4bRTP3PLMqREP2fESLKPvfYHSdA>
- https://www.storyjumper.com/book/read/97253226/6009a3547df0a?fbclid=IwAR09AIPh1YTFikti9H0A8_sfuC0PamxMQlwDshW0xaIPTbP32tHmZgwBvCY
- <https://www.storyjumper.com/book/read/92021726/Three-friends-in-Paris?fbclid=IwAR0-cN7wKFXBtTQMIPcQWwm880AhG4i9y3jZoNgIR8nqLQ26jp65gcDhW9c>
- https://www.storyjumper.com/book/read/95645596/5fecb38ecb88e?fbclid=IwAR18IIa-sYBr7pE35y8I6I3Dh06-_YwXhAFousraoaJm_6wXAwTiSJQPH0#
- <https://www.storyjumper.com/book/read/97239326/60098442cb912?fbclid=IwAR2tbflciW1yxA-EwfZ6UId9ggI6Va5A4bRTP3PLMqREP2fESLKPvfYHSdA#>
- <https://www.storyjumper.com/book/read/92260096/5ffb38b43ff82?fbclid=IwAR1uurSrFhFAzuII3l2xV3nih5giUW0rNHKQADCDLeGsKlv5jsA6uvkdeik>

ADELINA
MIHALACHE, V A



When the moon is at its brightest

by Apostol Sara
Grecescu Ana
Amaximoaie Sofia
Enciu Andreea
VII B

Coordinating teacher: Celesta Popa

It was a dark and stormy Saturday night. The full moon was glowing brightly with the stars keeping it company.

On nights like this, when everything seems so peaceful and quiet, the strangest stories take place. Because after all...

You never know what can happen **IN THE DARK!**

SO BEWARE!!!

Chapter 1

Tom was watching TV at home when he heard a noise upstairs. He turned around to look at the staircase. He wanted to go and check but thought better of it and continued watching TV. Five minutes passed and another sound was made, this time a **thud**. Once again Tom ignored it, thinking it was just the wind knocking objects over but he was too tired to see if anything was broken. *He could just check it later...right?* Ten minutes passed. One of the steps from upstairs creaked. “What is happening in this house?” he thought to himself as he got up and locked the door. Was anyone inside?

He turned the volume higher so *however* was inside Tom’s home couldn’t hear him coming. He took one step and froze... A red liquid dripping from upstairs **“Blood?”** he thought. It couldn’t be... *could it?*

Chapter 2

Tom freaked out. He ran into the kitchen and he locked himself inside. He tried to listen very carefully at the door to see if he could still hear odd sounds in his house.

After some moments of peace, when Tom wanted to unlock the door, he heard piano sounds and immediately thought somebody was playing at his big piano.

Tom was really scared, he started shaking and sweat was dripping all over his body. He grabbed the sharpest knife he could find then he opened the window and because the kitchen was at the ground floor he jumped. It snowed earlier that day so he found himself in a thin sweater in the cold weather, he started running but even in the dark he could still see the footprints in the snow.

Continues next page

Chapter 3

Tom started to be very suspicious about all this so he decided to look around the house. After ten minutes in the cold without any clue of what to do. He needed to warm up a little so he walked into the shop next street to buy himself some hot chocolate. Tom was on his way to leave, however he didn't hear Jack, his neighbor's kid, calling him.

When he came back, he wanted to encourage himself to go inside and confront that man or thing that entered in his house. He had a plan and a backup plan. The plan was to enter in the house on the bathroom window, if that was close, he would enter on the kitchen window and the search the thing then upstairs. If everything was clear, he would report this and do some research the next day.

If there was a man, he would call de police.

He put plan A in action and slowly opened the bathroom window, entered the house and without making two steps he heard...A CAT?!

Chapter 4

~final~

The “thing” was actually ... a cat. Tom couldn't believe that he was scared by the neighbor's cat. It was really cute and looked innocent. When he figured out who it belonged to he went to return the cat to its owner.

Tom finally arrived at the front door. Jack was there. He asked the boy where are his parents, Jack answered that he doesn't know where they are because he just got home from a school trip. Tom continued to be indifferent and returned the cat to Jack.

After a few days Tom started being very suspicious again because he didn't hear anything about Jack, his parents or that scary cat that is actually so cute. He decided to go by himself to their house to find out what's happening,

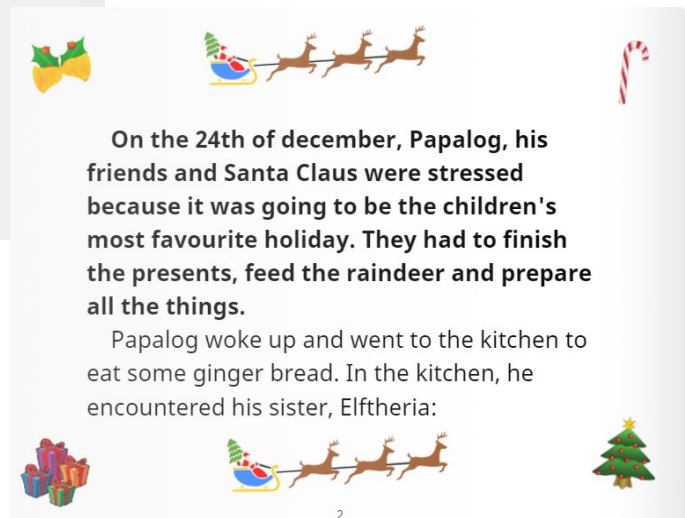
After he got there and inside the house he saw a lot of blood. Jack was dead on the floor and the cat was floating over the corpse, that's when he realized that the cute cat was actually terrifying...

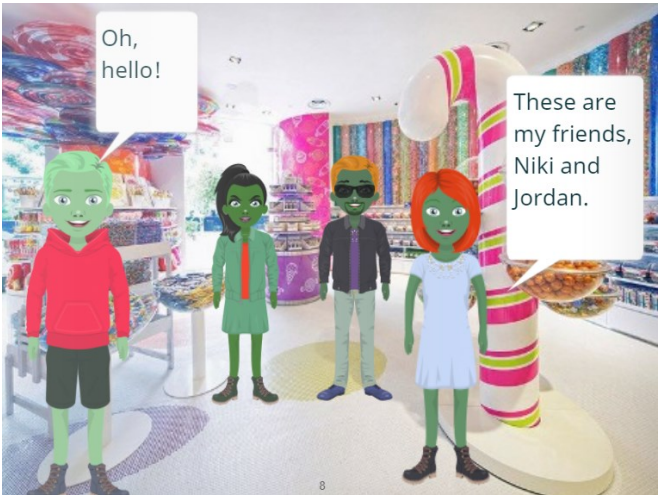
and that he

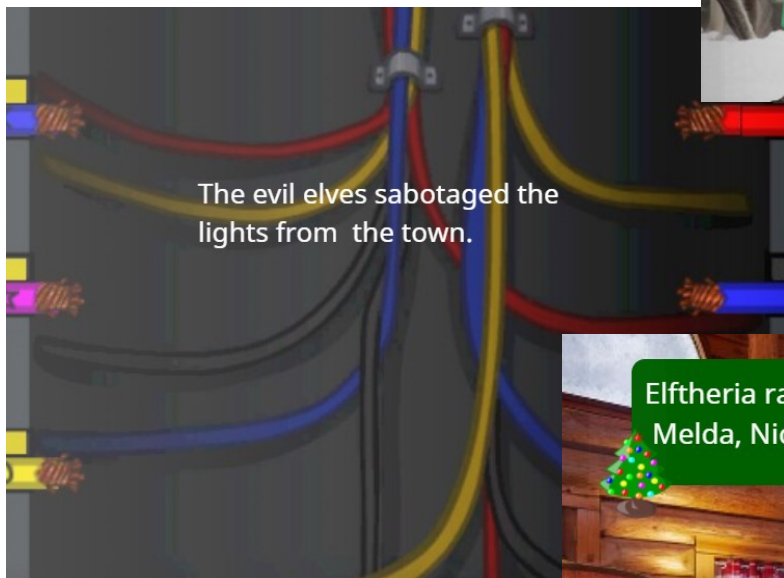
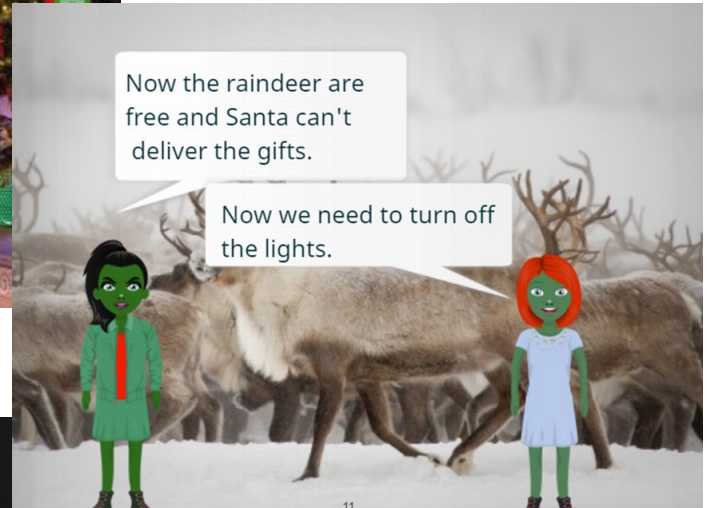
was next...

The end~

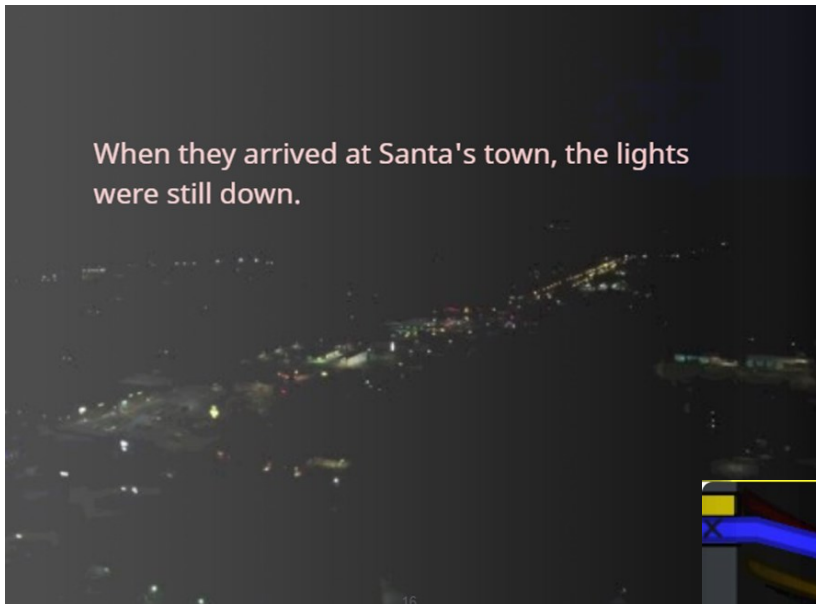
*Story written by students from 5A,
Coordinating teacher: Celesta Popa*



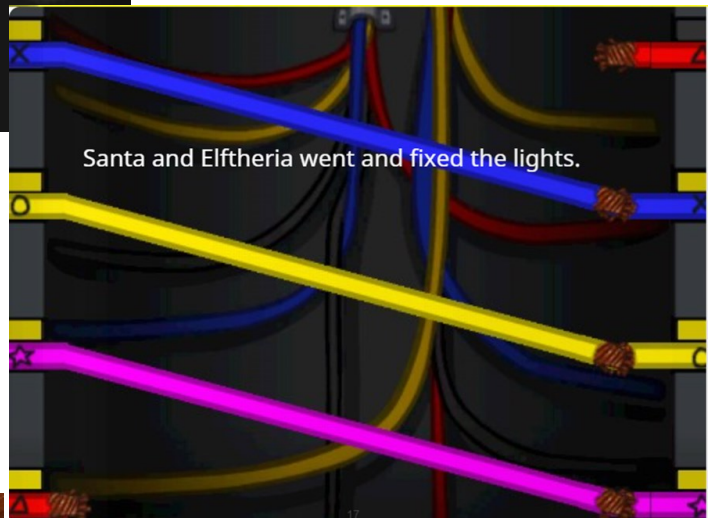




When they arrived at Santa's town, the lights were still down.



Santa and Elftheria went and fixed the lights.



Let's catch the evil elves!

Yes, but how are we going to find them? There are so many elves!! I am going to find Papalog!



PAPALOG, we need your help! Melda, Niki and Jordan are evil and they want to destroy Christmas!

Oh, no! This is terrible!



Everybody, please come outside! It's an emergency!





Papalog set a trap after he found out about the evil elves.

We know who betrayed us!



The evil elves fell in to the net trap. They were very upset that their plan didn't work out.

Off!



We caught you!
My plan worked, but
why did you do all
of these things?!

We wanted to become
famous because no
one knows anything
about us.



We are going to take you
to the prison, but don't
worry, it's going to be
fine...



PRISON

It's not as bad as
I expected! I
actually like it
here!

Santa takes care
of everyone,
darling. Even if
they are bad.



And you can also find it at: <https://www.storyjumper.com/book/>

School is important but so is your health. Take care of yourself and each other and, no matter what happens this year, be proud of yourself, your resilience, and your ability to adapt to extreme circumstances. I am proud of each and every one of you!!!