



WINTER WONDERLAND

ediția a XI-a

Secondary School



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Winter Wonderland

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Bursuc Alexia-Maria

clasa a V-a, Școala Gimnazială
„Aron-Vodă”, Aroneanu



The snowflake with no name

Every winter, it snows. And, of course, everybody, from toddlers to grandparents, are really joyful about it. And every snowflake seems to be the same, but the truth might be different... You see, in this story, you will see that not everything can be the same. Not even a snowflake. Not even the clouds. Not even, ...anything. And that's because we are all different and unique in our own way.

Believe it or not, Santa Claus sent the snowflakes to bring joy to everyone, like a gift. And they all have their own personality, their own name! And they all shine in their own way, they all "dance" in their own way. But the snowflake I will tell you about, is... the snowflake with no name. Yes, this snowflake had no name, because the elves were in a rush and they gave the snowflakes quickly to Santa Claus. He was late, it was already the second week of December and there was not even one snowflake sent. Everyone in Rovaniemi (Santa's city) was working hard, making toys or either decorating their houses. As a result, they completely forgot about the snowflakes. But his adventure was amazing. And that's what matters!

The elf: 'Quick! Line up in front of the tunnel!'

The snowflakes: 'Yes, sir!'

The elf: 'I will call you by your name to see if all snowflakes are here. There are supposed to be a thousand... Let's start. Snow?'

Snow: 'Here!' And then the elf started calling every snowflake. Pretty tiring, isn't it? Calling a thousand snowflakes... And when he stopped, he realised that one snowflake is missing...

The elf: 'One snowflake is missing!'


'999, one is missing. Why is that bad? At least there aren't 30 missing', Mrs. Claus sighed.

'Ah, yes, you are always right, Miss. And I am sure nobody can be against you here' said the elf.

'Actually, you didn't call me or named m-', said the snowflake.

'SILENCE! EVERY SNOWFLAKE SHOULD GO THROUGH THE TUNNEL, SO THEY CAN





LAND IN THE HUMAN WORLD. WE ARE LEAVING IN A MINUTE.' Santa interrupted the snowflake with no name.

'Let's go, Mr. Claus. We will be late.' said the elf.

'Then, I will tell the snowflakes to leave..' and then Santa coughed. 'NOWW, EVERY SNOWFLAAKE SHOULDD GO THROUUUGH THEEE TUNNEEL NOW.'

And then, every snowflake went through the tunnel in no time. The snowflakes were so amazed by the Human World. It looked so different to them. So special and interesting! They were mostly amazed by the "little people" that were playing. But then the children stopped.

'Why did they stop?' the snowflake with no name asked.

'They are looking at us. I think they missed us!'

And that was true! The "little people" were so happy, running around. One of them opened their mouth and tried catching one. But the snowflakes were too far away.

'Aw, I can't catch it.' the child teared up.

'I think I wanna land there. That "little person" is so clean. The environment there is so nice, with a lot of decorations and a nice house.' said one of the snowflakes.

'Maybe you'll find a better place, like a bigger house with a better yard.' the other snowflake yawned ironically.

They all explored the wonderful nature. Some snowflakes decided to stay at a rich house, some wanted to stay in the gorgeous woods and some wanted to hide the flowers from the field. And only the snowflake with no name hasn't decided yet where he will be staying the rest of the winter, when the Sun would have mercy on them. He saw beautiful trees and beautiful mountains but he didn't want them. The school was also beautiful but he wanted to stay in a much quieter place where he wouldn't be stomped by children's boots. It was almost sunset and the snowflake with no name didn't choose a place to stay, until he saw a poor child with a bad house. There was no other snowflake there, since nobody wanted to stay in a "bad environment". The child was so upset...

'Pssst!'

'Who's there?' the child asked, confused.

'I'm a snowflake, and I'd love to be your friend for the rest of the winter.'

'A snowflake?! That can't be true. No snowflakes ever landed on our yard.'

'Well, here I am! Your first snowflake.'

The child was so happy! The snowflake with no name inspired other snowflakes to go at that house and to other poor children, every year. And that made the children happy, even though they didn't have the best stuff. A tiny gift could be a big gift. What's important is that we should be equal no matter what. Even though we are different, we are each special in our own way!





Duluță Nicolae Rares

clasa a VII-a, Liceul Teoretic
„Dimitrie Cantemir”



Winter Wonderland...

Winter is considered a great time of holiday by some people! By others... a yearly inconvenience, resulting in time and money spent to change their tires or countless hours to get all the snow off their drive through. But the following tale is not about that instead it is about a boy, a tiny little fellow who was part of the rumored Yell Tale Village. A supposed myth that exists only in children's stories and drunken tavern banter, where up is down and the wolf is hunted by the sheep. This village is where our tale begins...

„Joshua, wake up you don't want to miss the great festival, do you?”

„No, grandma, but can you give me just five more minutes?”

„Fine, but you'd better get up or we are going to go without you!”


„Yes, grandma.”

Cold, why is it so cold? I know we live on top of a mountain but this is quite ridiculous. “Somebody must've forgotten the door open or something and I'd better get up and close it”, thought the boy before getting up with a long sigh and putting on some clothes. OH, Lord, I must've overslept ...grandma's going to kill me. Walking the marble halls of his house he noticed something quite peculiar, the usually cackling fire was now just charred cinders and the neat table was now disorganized. Hurrying up towards the door, the boy discovered it closed. Wondering what was going on, he put on the thickest piece of clothing he could find, his grandfather's own handcrafted coat. Joshua's grandfather was a great hero (perhaps the only one) to the village managing to slay a great beast, a one eyed giant Fimbultas. A creature with arms like tree stumps, legs like those of the ice dragons which had supposedly created the very landscape around them and with a piercing gaze that felt like the very breath of Winter itself had come to claim you. No one knew how he truly slayed the beast though many myths were spawned. One thing was for certain however, when the fighting was over and the dust had settled, its body was never recovered.

He opened the door and discovered to his horror the village frozen solid. And upon the ground he saw his grandfather's name spelled bluntly „Rick”. He hurried to see if he could find his grandparents but he found no sign of them as if they had vanished, taken by whatever mysterious force did this. Pushed by a sudden rage he looked upon the castle walls once again noticing that alongside his grandfather's name was also a location, Black Rock mountain, the villages source of the chiseled rock they used to build their houses. A trip from the village to there was a 3 day trip he wasn't guaranteed to survive. But noticing that the smallest horse had not been frozen he grabbed an axe, food and the blade his grandfather supposedly used to slay Fimbultas and headed towards the Mountain. The journey was treacherous hounded constantly by the threat of ravenous wolves and the ever so dangerous trolls. He barely just made it to the mountain. There he saw a very lively Fimbultas holding both his grandparents in captivity. As he listened, he heard the two speak.

„Well, if it isn't Rick, the one who took my arm and left me to die in the snow...”





„Listen Fultas, it isn't like that I had to, to keep my credibility.”

„Yeah well, too ba-”

„Let my grandfather go or else!”

„Well, what do we have here?”

„Joshua? Get out of-”


„QUIET!”

Without another spoken word the giant and the boy engaged in a duel of epic proportions... though the boy eventually came out triumphant, using his piercing gaze against him. The boy managed to make him look into his own reflection before stabbing him in the eye leaving him blind.

The Boy with help from his grandfather managed to unfreeze his village and was hailed as a hero. And that day he learned that perhaps the true holiday spirit lay within our ability to change things even though the odds may seem impossible or that oversleeping is beneficial sometimes, either way on that day a lesson was learned.

Andrieș Iulia-Andreea

clasa a VII-a, Școala Gimnazială
Horlești



Winter Wonderland

Have you ever thought of what a „Winter Wonderland” might be? You were probably thinking that only a child could understand it, that an adult has nothing to do with this magic wonderland that appears and disappears every year... I am here to prove you wrong!

When the cold winter comes, even though you might be thinking that everyone wants to stay inside where is warm, well, you are wrong, the streets are full of people that are singing, dancing or maybe just walking around and admiring the Christmas trees and the beautiful lights that make you want to stay outside all night long. This is the way that our main character, 25-year-old Adam Scott, thought.

Adam wakes up to a phone call, the caller is his older sister, Vanessa. She and her husband want him to come over for Christmas, which was right around the corner. Apparently, their daughter, Bella, was asking if he was coming too:

‘Look, Vanessa, I really don't think there's a point in me coming...’

‘I know that time's been tough for you, but can't you do this one thing for me?’

She surely was right, time was really hard for Adam, he recently lost his job and it was very stressing to look for a new one, especially at this time of the year.

‘Fine, I'll come, but I don't think I have enough money for a gift.’


‘No need to worry about it! I am happy that I at least made you come.’

‘See you then.’

‘Don't forget, you have ten days left before Christmas, I'll wait for you at my house! Goodbye!’

Adam hangs up, then gets out of bed and makes himself a cup of coffee. „Why did I say <<Yes>>?” he wonders, was it for Bella or was he just selfish and trying to see this as an opportunity





to forget about all the bad things that happened through the year? It didn't matter any more, he already said yes, he wasn't going to disappoint his niece, was he?

'Only ten days left you say...'

Our main character gets out of his apartment and goes to a souvenir shop nearby. He saw something that made him really nostalgic. It was a really beautiful doll, dressed with a beautiful red dress. It reminded him of a doll that his sister got when she was young, he accidentally ripped its dress, his sister was really sad and he didn't know how to tell her how sorry he was.

'Good times,' he sighs.

Adam looks at the price tag, it wasn't really that expensive, but he still couldn't afford it.

'Sir, how may I help you? You have been looking at that doll for a while, is there something wrong?'

He turns around and sees a young lady, she seems to be an employee at the shop.

'No, it's nothing, I was just looking for a Christmas present for my niece, but I recently lost my job and I don't think I can afford anything.'

Adam has an embarrassed smile on his face, he knew that the doll wasn't expensive at all, but even the cheapest things started looking expensive after losing his job.

'Well, if you want, I could talk with my boss and ask him to let you work here, an employee has recently quit anyway, so he would be more than happy to hire you!'

'Could you, really? What can I do to pay you back?'

'Don't worry about it, I just like helping people. Anyway, my boss should be arriving any second now, his name is Darius Richer. He's a nice guy, you two will get along just fine, I know that for sure!'

Mr. Richer finally arrives and the employee explains Adam's situation. He looks at him up and down and then says:

'Have you ever worked in a shop like this before?'

'Yes, I actually did. I lost my previous job because the shop closed, the owner was an old man, that has sadly passed away and his children decided to sell the place to somebody who wanted to make a gym.'

'I see... Fine, you're hired, let's go make your papers. You'll start tomorrow!'

After filling in the papers, Adam leaves the office with a smile on his face, he finally sees some light after staying in the dark for so long.

The days are passing so fast, he doesn't even realize that there are only 3 days before Christmas. That meant it was soon time for him to get his paycheck, the shop-owner decided to close the shop for the 24th and the 25th of December because he wanted his employees to enjoy some time with their families.

The next day, the 23rd of December his boss, Mr. Richer walks in, he gives to everybody their paychecks and asks him to stay a little longer after everyone leaves.

'Is there a problem, Mr. Richer?'

'Adam, I noticed you've been checking this one shelf for the past few days, is there anything wrong with it?'

'No, sir, there is nothing wrong with it, I actually wanted to ask you if I could buy this doll,' and he points at the doll in the red dress.

'Sure, you can have it for free, you've done such a great job, take it as a gift from me!'

'Thank you so much sir, I really appreciate it!'

'You are free to go now. Merry Christmas!'

'Merry Christmas to you too, sir!'

Two days later, Christmas finally arrived. Adam goes to his sister's house with a gift box with the doll in it.

Vanessa answers the door and is very surprised to see Adam with a gift.

'How much did you spend on it? I told you that you didn't need to buy anything! I'll give you the





money back immediately!

'No need, Vanessa, I actually found a new job.'


'Wait, really?! I'm so happy for you!'

Vanessa gives Adam a big hug and then they go inside, where Bella was waiting for them. Adam gives her the gift and it seems like she really liked it. For some reason, Adam feels like the smile Bella gave him was the best Christmas gift he could ever get.

Now, you might be wondering, where is this „Winter Wonderland” I was talking about in the beginning. Well, you see, in this case, we find it in people's hearts, who are willing to help each other. That is one of the wonderlands which not so many people get to see, but the people who get to wander in it are the happiest.

Pintilie Teresa-Natalia

clasa a VIII-a, Școala Gimnazială
„Ion Simionescu” Iași



Winter Wonderland Tour

Hello, one and all! Welcome to Winter Wonderland! The place where time remains a tool that you put on the wall or wear on your wrist. It's time to let the past far behind you and create the future as you dance among the snowflakes.

Take a step forward and look around you. What do you see? Is it elves or, perhaps, are there snow globes? What do you see in the crystal clear spheres? Are those your dreams swirling around in the mist or are those your nightmares? Hoho, let's keep it merry! Are you wishing for big grades this year? But dear, it remains to see if you were naughty or not. Maybe you'll get the newest phone on the market. Oh! I have a better idea. I believe you wish to stay healthy!

But now I ask you, why not wish to have power?


Let's take another step to the right, fellas! You can now see a big castle with a dusty path leading to it. There you will find your life laid in front of your eyes. Now, will you please turn your head to the left? Do you see that snowy field? You can meet the snowmen there. Cheery ones they are. You're gonna hear the most exciting stories from them. Perhaps you want to know about how the world works! Choose your way!

I see you've chosen left. Let's see what we can find out from the icy ones. I can already hear what they're saying! It's something along the lines that every narrative taught in every history class is demonstrably inaccurate- But we want to hear none of it, right?

Now, if you follow me to that nice, little forest ahead, I will tell you a little bit about the origins of this place. Take a seat on the freshly fallen snow and don't turn your back on your friends. It's not nice. Where shall I begin... Ah, right!

Maybe you're wondering how these places have gotten so frosty? Well, the simple explanation is that Santa found out something that upset him and then he sent a blizzard over everything and everyone! I hear you'd like to know what made the old man so mad? Mmm, I don't think I'm allowed to say this, but I will anyway. So basically, an elf asked for a raise because he felt like he wasn't appreci-





ated enough. He told his closest friends before you know...he died, that he realized that he was working to live and not living to work as he should have. What nonsense, right kids? You will be good and overwork and drain yourself for money, okay? Good.

I think it's time to move along, I'm getting kind of cold. Take a look at the snow-coated nature around you. You won't see it again, most likely. Why did you get sad all of a sudden? What good's this energy? Be jolly! Ignore all of your problems! We shall go ahead from where we started and end this blast of a tour I just so kindly offered you all.

When you leave the gates of this amazing realm, I would like you to put on a happy face, and tell everyone to come around! Remember, apathy's a tragedy and boredom is a crime! Goodbye boys and girls! I hope you enjoyed your experience in the Winter Wonderland. See you next year! Maybe...

Dragoș Bulbuc

clasa a V-a, Colegiul Național
„Mihai Eminescu” Iași



Winter Wonderland's seasons

It was a normal Summer day in Romania... or not. There was a strange thing feeling in the air, it was so weird that you could taste it. Few people were on the streets, and they were looking tired. The clouds were, somehow... light green and look full of snow. Ninja Yoyo, the hero, and his friend, the bird Blue, were interested in finding out what's going on as fast as they could. I'm sure you've already entered the story and you can feel what I have described.

Ninja Yoyo realized it was a problem in Winter Wonderland. (If you don't understand, this magic place was saved by him in my previous story.) In my story, there was a giant toy factory and in that building, there was a season switch. Literally!

But it was Summer. It didn't have to be cold. So, it was a problem in Winter Wonderland! Ninja Yoyo and Blue went to the magic world and to the factory, where they found Santa.

-Hello, dear Ninja Yoyo and Blue, he said.

-Santa, said the kid, in my town, the air is very cold. Here, in Winter Wonderland, it is always Winter, but in my town, even if it's Summer, outside it's cold, the clouds are heavy, full of snow and all the people look cold.

-What? What? What? the elves panicked...

-We must check, said Santa. This mustn't happen. The switch is magic, it can't break. It can only be used...

-Let's go! said Ninja Yoyo.

A few minutes later, Santa, the ninja, his bird and the engineer staff were checking the season switch. It was giant and it was white with golden stars on it. If you think it can't be so big, I say the opposite – it was so huge, that Santa put a giant, Rudinn, to protect it and switch it in the beginning of every season.

-It's all right, it has no failures, it's just stuck in the middle, but we can't find Rudinn, said one of the engineers.



-That's the problem: today is his birthday, said Santa. We must wait...

-I want to try to pull it with a yoyo, said Ninja.

-That's an idea! Try it!

And so, the hero kid took out many special and colourful yoyo from his pocket and threw them to the switch. He worked hard and fortunately, he did it! The switch turned the weather as it had to be.

The hero talked to Santa who decided 'to call' Rudinn and tell him to come back, because the giant was missing! Later, Santa found the giant, but he was in Romania, for his birthday, at the Muddy Volcanoes, with other giants, having fun. As long as no one from Winter Wonderland except the reindeer and Claus were able to leave the magic place, Ninja Yoyo had to go take back the giant.

The hero and his bird went to Romania and they searched for Rudinn and, finally, found him.

-I am Ninja Yoyo. Santa sent me to ask you to come back to Winter Wonderland. We need you because the switch was mysteriously turned to Winter.

-Oh, no! said the big guy.

-What?

-I... I... I have turned the switch... Because I love Winter and I want to feel the emotion of this season for my birthday.

-But how did you get out of Winter Wonderland?

-Before Santa asked me to protect the switch, I was taking care of the reindeer and they gave me some of their magic powder.

-Ok, it's all right... I guess. Santa will decide.

The next day, the two were back in Winter Wonderland and Santa Claus had to decide: forgive Rudinn, or punish him? And, as I think you have already figured out, he forgived him. The switch was turned to winter for one day, and then it came back to normal.

And, because the problem was solved, Ninja Yoyo and Blue went back to their home and whatever happened after that is another story. Goodbye, friends! See you next year!

The End

Bulei Lorena

clasa a VII-a, Colegiul
Național „Garabet Ibrăileanu” Iași




Winter Wonderland's seasons

The shining globes,
Those knitted gloves,
Children caroling,
Snow flakes glistening.
This reminds me of winter.

Hot tea and warm socks,
Frosting roads and snowed blocks,





Family reunited, the cold uninited,
This reminds me of winter.

A slow orchestral song,
And nothing could be wrong
In an evening with smell of tangerine,
And children playing with a tambourine.
This reminds me of winter.

A good-looking snowman
Who's smiling and waving,
Winding roads full of snow,
The skies stars aglow.
This reminds me of winter.

The wonderful time of the year
Who lets us tear
The negative thoughts...
And the old boots.
What can I say?
Maybe I'll remember about this poem... one day
And it will remind me of winter.

Damian Mara Elena


clasa a VI-a, Liceul Teoretic de
Informatică „Grigore Moisil” Iași



Santa's Claus Story

Once upon a time there was a boy named Nickolas who didn't have parents. He lived with his grandfather in a hut in a poor village. Nick had wavy blond hair, blue eyes like the sky, pink lips like a rose petal and white skin like snow. The boy's favorite season was winter because he thought that magical things happening during that season could come true.

On a cold winter's day, someone knocked on Nick's window. When the boy opened the window a weird creature threw dust on him and he disappeared. Nick woke up in a strange place, and next to him there were a lot of elves, dressed in green and red clothes. The elves told him he was at the North Pole in their village, named Lollipops Village, and they could create anything, but not true animals. This gave an idea to Nick, elves could create gifts for all the children around the world every winter, and the chosen night was the night before the day of the Birth of Jesus Christ. Instead, the problem was how could Nick travel around the world in one night? The elves had the solution again! They told him that in the Frost Forest, near to their village, there was a herd of reindeer, Nick had to



take eight lollipops and the first eight reindeer that would come to eat were the chosen ones. But in the Frost Forest there were a lot of dangerous creatures. That was why the elves gave Nick a sword, a necklace and a star. He had to use the sword to kill the creatures he would meet, the necklace would keep the creatures away from him and the star would blind the animals so that he could kill them more easily.

As soon as he entered the forest, a weird creature attacked him, it looked like a combination of a lion and a lizard, but the necklace given by the elves created a shield and Nick wasn't injured. After that, he used the star and the creature was blinded by its light. The second creature looked like a combination of horse with an eagle that had the claws of a lion. It also tried to attack him, but the necklace, the star and the sword did their job. The latest creature was a giant with an elephant head and on his back there was a huge shell. In order to kill this giant he had to throw the sword into his heart. After killing the last creature, he found the herd and did what the elves told him. Nick waited a long time until the first reindeer approached. Nick came back to the village with eight weak reindeer but he just couldn't understand how the reindeer could help him travel around the world so fast. He saved the elves but they didn't answer his questions. They made a liquid with a weird smell for the reindeer. After the reindeer drank that, they turned into the most beautiful reindeer Nick had ever seen. Then the elves put some bells around the reindeer neck with which they would be able to fly. That's how Nickolas, known as Santa Claus or as Saint Nicholas, travels around the world in one special night to bring parents and their kids the Christmas joy and magic.

„And that's the end of the story”, said grandma.

„Cool! I want to be like Nick”, exclaimed the grandson. „I want to make other people feel happy.”

„Now you can help them with small things. When you are older you can do bigger things for them”, reassured his grandma, with a tender smile on her face.





Andone Alexandra

clasa a VIII-a, Colegiul
Național „Garabet Ibrăileanu” Iași




A Christmas Adventure

It was a cozy and quiet winter morning in a small village of Canada. Outside, the first snow had begun. The little snowflakes were slowly covering up the enormous forest near the cottage in which Alwyn, her parents and her brother were living in. Around the first days of December, people of Holmfirth were starting the preparations for Christmas. Alwyn, a seventeen-year-old girl, was born on the first day of Christmas and she was looking forward to her birthday and the Christmas celebration.

As she was alone, searching for Christmas decorations in the attic, among the numerous globes, bows and wreath, Alwyn found an envelope that looked very old. She was mesmerized by the mysterious air that the envelope had. Eloise, her friend, already knew what it was about as Alwyn was opening it. They carefully read the letter. Alwyn was very confused. It said that the 25th descendant of the Oak family was meant to see the letter before turning eighteen and unravel the curse upon the forest that has been on for generations and no one could unravel it. It also said that on the night before the 25th of December, there would be a lunar eclipse that would open a portal deep in the Silver Lake forest, between the oldest two oak trees by the Silver Lake. Alwyn had to enter the portal between twelve and one o'clock in the morning to unravel the curse on the first day of Christmas, as she was born at exactly 1 a.m. If she didn't unravel the curse, the whole forest and village would freeze and never come back to life. Alwyn put down the letter and thought for a moment. She had so many questions. She hadn't ever heard of any curse or who did it or why was she chosen to unravel it. She didn't even know who wrote the letter and how did he or she knew all of that. Eloise told Alwyn that they needed to prepare for a long trip, deep into the forest to find the portal.

A few weeks passed by and they decided to enter the Silver Lake forest. As they took their first step into the forest, they had shivers down their spines, but, as they advanced, it started to snow. The snow was such a beautiful reminder that Christmas was coming and that they should be happy. Finally, after a whole day of walking, the sun set and the lake appeared before them. And there they were the two biggest and oldest oak trees they had ever seen. The letter contained a spell to open the





portal. During the lunar eclipse, Alwyn read the spell out loud and the portal opened. Eloise tried to go after Alwyn, but she couldn't, so she waited by the lake. On the other side of the portal, Alwyn had entered into an enormous library in which she had to find how to break the curse. She had searched for almost an hour and she had only 3 minutes left. She was desperate, she realized how big the responsibility was and she didn't know what to do anymore. Suddenly, a book fell down from a tall shelf and in it, on the front page, it was written the spell for breaking the curse. Alwyn felt that it was a Christmas miracle. She quickly read the spell out loud and suddenly a miraculous snow started. The curse had been unraveled forever. Alwyn ran back into the portal to Eloise. They were crying tears of happiness as they had saved their lives and everybody else's.

As they arrived home with an enormous weight lifted off their shoulders, the sun had risen and the presents were waiting for them under the Christmas tree. When their parents saw them, they were very worried, but Alwyn and Eloise told them the whole story. The Christmas Celebrations had begun and Alwyn was now eighteen years old. In the end, everything fell in place and Alwyn, Eloise and their families were standing outside, admiring the magical snow covering the Silver Lake forest.

Iftode Ioana Denisa

clasa a VIII-a, Colegiul
Național „Garabet Ibrăileanu” Iași



Dear Santa Claus,


I'm sorry I haven't written to you in a while. I've been busy, you know, growing up but that shouldn't be an excuse. It's quite hard. You pass from one year to another, you don't realize it and then you find yourself eighteen in no time. But I'm not writing this letter to talk about my teen life. I want to tell you, as everyone, what I want for Christmas. I know it's pretty early but, to quote a great singer, „It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas”, at least for me.

As the month of December is approaching, I get that feeling of warmth and peace inside, more and more. I didn't see this holiday that way when I was little. I have always thought about it as a method to get presents and receive money from my relatives. But I've come to see that there's more to Christmas than the material things. It's about family and spending time together as much as you can because you certainly don't know what the next year will bring to us. It's about giving more than you received, about making other people than yourself happy. Well, I guess growing up did have a big impact on my mentality, not only on my looks. But the most I've grown was this year. It's been tough, with this virus, with not being able to see my friends face to face that much and laugh as in the old times. But as they say we are an inventive generation, who loves the unexpected, so we came up with solutions to this problem, too.

This new year that comes fast our way, I want to make some changes in my life. And that's why for Christmas I want to ask you some unusual requests, or at least unusual coming from a kid.

Firstly, I want you to give me a bit of patience or actually a lot of it. I need to stop demanding everything immediately, as fast as possible. This flaw of mine has brought me some bad things. For example, some fights with my friends, so I need you to help me fix that.





Secondly, I want more confidence. I don't trust myself in the most important situations. Even though I have showed my own persona that I can do things and quite well, too. My mother says it's my biggest flaw out of them all and she always tries to encourage me and give me some of the trust she has in me. But my brain doesn't seem to get all this confidence thing and why it's important. It's just way too preoccupied worrying all the time.

Last but not least, give me some time to spend with my family. AS MUCH AS YOU CAN! Every night I try to watch movies with them, laugh with them, play board game or do any other activity. But I can't. I'm all buried in homework and studying for tests that I sometimes just forget about everything. But this winter I want that to change, I need it to change. I want to stay around the table with them, sing carols, cook together and make the best out of it. Because as I started telling you that's what this season should be about, sharing and caring. So give me the opportunity to show how much I care about my family and share some time with them, give them everything I have left to give.

Maybe I shouldn't be asking you to do this but if you do decide to help me, give me a sign. Let the bells ring on the night of Christmas, let the carolers broke our doorbell as they come to gladden our hearts and fill them with love. Let the snow fall out of the sky and burden us with its beauty. Let our house's warmth get into our hearts and the brightness of the Christmas tree break the darkness within them, darkness that was put there by these past years. In conclusion, let this winter and Christmas be different, in a good way.

I eternally remain grateful to you for everything.

All the love in the world,

Ioana.

P.S. Please give my family whatever they want, especially my brother!!! I wanted to let you know what they want in this letter but my sibling insists on writing a different one.

Teodora Enachescu

clasa a VII-a, Colegiul

Național „Garabet Ibrăileanu” Iași



Winter's paradise


Winter is a paradise
Which imparadises
The whole nature,
And always thrives.

Even if nature might not seem alive,
When the winter arrives
It somehow survives,
And in spring it revives.

Winter is all around
With icicles from above
With snow on the ground
Winds from all sides

The sky?
It cries
Every suave snowflake,
Which flies.





In winter, the hot air
Is rare
And you need to bear
The pretty cold air.

In winter, you stay by the fire,
In a warm attire,
Winter is not dire
Neither a liar.

Winter's not dry,
The white is its dye,
With snow from the sky
Winter says Hi.

In winter you try to stay warm
In your home again
Like bears in their den
Protect yourself from the snowflakes swarm.

Winter is cold
With stories untold
The snow is fold
Winter is bold!

Calin Anna Alexandra

clasa a VIII-a, Colegiul
Național „Garabet Ibrăileanu” Iași




The Christmas spirit

It was the 20th of December and there were only five days left until Christmas. Sophia and Maria were very excited, they were best friends and were always together. As a fact, they planned to spend this Christmas together. Maria's parents were leaving to spend Christmas alone in another country so she decided to invite Sophia to stay until after Christmas.

On the night of the 20th of December, the girls ordered some pizza and were planning to watch a movie together when the power went out. They got scared but Sophia told Maria that it was probably just a short circuit and she would go and check it out to see if there is anything that they could fix, but Maria was scared so she went with Sophia outside and checked the electricity panel. The girls looked and it saw that the light switch was turned off so they flipped it back on and the lights were back, they laughed it off and thought it was just a prank, so they went back inside and continued to watch the movie and eventually they fall asleep but they did not know what was about to come

The next day 21st of December the girls decided to go to the mall but when they went outside they saw that there were no Christmas decorations and everyone was sad. Marai looked at Sophia and said "What is going on here?" Sophia took a few seconds to reply "I don't know but it does not look good". Together they decided to ask a few people what is going on but no one was talking to them it was almost like they were invisible. Then a black fog started forming around them and a black figure started talking „I took Christmas away so no one is going to be happy or celebrate it but you two...are different" the girls looked at each other and Sophia started yelling „Let us go" but the figure laughed and said „Because you girls aren't affected by my spell you are going to disappear until Christmas" the shadow laughed and disappeared, Maria started crying but Sophia took her hand and





told her that everything is going to be okay and that they are going to bring Christmas back „We can't give up, we have to save everyone” Maria looked at Sophia that slowly touched her face wiping her tears. They got up and Maria took Sophia's hand and started running towards her house where they had to come up with a plan to save Christmas.

„Hear me out” said Sophia with a soft voice. „We are going to start putting on Christmas decorations and sing carols and if that doesn't work we will have to defeat that monster that took away Christmas” Maria was looking into Sophia's eyes and she started gaining hope. Maria didn't say anything she was just looking at Sophia smiling and thinking what would she do without her best friend. Sophia asked Maria „is everything okay?” because she wasn't saying anything and then Maria replied „Yes sorry I think you have a very good idea but it's already night. Sophia looked at the clock and it was already eleven pm so they decided to go to sleep. The girls cuddled and fell asleep.

They woke up the next day 23rd of December and dressed up very quickly and headed outside to sing and decorate their town but it was all for nothing, no one was reacting and everyone stayed the same after all their hard work. Sophia was sad and almost started crying because her plan didn't work at all. She sat down on a bench and was so close to losing hope when she heard Maria scream „SANTA IT'S SANTA” Sophia looked in the direction where Maria was pointing and saw an old man on a sleigh coming towards them. Santa jumped out and said „I am here to help you girls, one of my elves informed me of what was going on here and I came as fast as I can to give you this” he handed them a glass globe and „You will have to capture The evil spirit that did this to your town to stop this madness” the girls were so happy they hugged him” Come in my sleigh I will drop you home. And that's what he did, Sophia and Maria looked at him as he was going „And remember girls don't ever lose hope” they went to sleep with a last drop of hope

The next morning on 24th December they woke up and saw that the whole town was covered in black smoke, they started running outside where they saw the evil spirit. „There you are girls I was waiting for you” then the shadow destroyed their decorations „At least you tried” then the girls stepped in, and Maria said „No, at least you tried” they got the glass globe and trapped the spirit in there they looked up at their town again it was all filled up with Christmas decorations and kids laughing and playing. They hugged and started crying. Sophia looked at Maria and kissed her forehead: “You were so brave today but I think that it's time to decorate the house, don't you think” Maria started laughing and said „Yes you're right” .

That night they had the most perfect Christmas and got so many gifts from Santa for their bravery.





Atudori Maia

clasa a VIII-a, Școala Gimnazială
„Titu Maiorescu” Iași



Winter Wonderland

Everyone knows that typical story about a girl who loves Christmas and snow and who meets the most charming boy and then falls in love. But this is the story of a girl called Mary, an actress who had a very hard and sad life and which changed finally. What was unusual at her? She didn't like Christmas.

Being in a desperate situation, one day, she saw that a new project film was going to take place. She was delighted because she loved being an actress but the story didn't please her anymore. When she went at the interview for the role she said yes, even if she hated the idea. She said to herself that being an actress is more important than the theme of the story. She couldn't believe it when she was accepted as the main character.

„My life is going to change forever”, she said to herself.

The first person who was going to hear the news about her success was her only best friend who congratulated her but also saw her sadness in her eyes. She didn't know why Mary didn't like Christmas. She has never told her the reason; the pain was too hard to be told to somebody.

The next day she had to meet the main character of the film... Liam. Their meeting was to take place in a very natural way, as if they had known each other for ages. Nobody knew that their story of life was to be influenced by sadness and sorrow. After two weeks of filming, Mary and Liam became good friends and confessed themselves everything. He became the first person to whom she trusted fully...so she decided to tell him her sad story.

The 1st of December was the date when something very painful happened to Mary. She had never the courage to confess herself to somebody. She started crying and was very sad. Liam saw her and got worried.

„What's the matter? „What happened? Are you all right?”

„I'm fine! Don't worry about me!” But she wasn't all right.

Liam tried to change her sensitive moment and invited her somewhere.


„Please, come with me! I want to show you something!” Mary accepted his invitation.

Liam took Mary to the most special place for him. It was a place from another world... somewhere on a top of a hill out of the town. From there they could see the whole city covered in snow. It was magic!

„I always used to come here as a child when mom and dad were fighting or when they were mad at me. I felt safe here! Here is my secret place. And here is the place where we could confess each other. Trust me!”

She looked at him and said „I was crying earlier because I remembered that ten years ago my mom died. She was my best friend! We used to celebrate Christmas together but now it's so hard to pretend to be happy without her. My dad left us when I was four... I don't even remember how he looks like. So, I had to stay with my aunt.”





„I'm so sorry for you! Now I understand why you don't like Christmas! But, believe me, your mum will always be with you no matter what happens”. I have never gotten along with my parents. They wanted to become a doctor and having a career, but I hated it. When I turned eighteen, I turned against my parents' decision and I became an actor.

„But, how did you become an actress?”


„Well, when I was eighteen my aunt kicked me out of the house and I didn't have any money or a place to stay. While I was walking on street, I saw an announcement. They were searching for an actress for a role. I knew my wish of becoming an actress and I tried. I took the role. That was the most beautiful day of my life.”

„Oh, your story is an amazing one.” And they continued to confess themselves.

Christmas became a special moment for both, the sadness and sorrow of their lives disappeared instantly. Peace and happiness were everywhere.

Mătășaru Alexandru

clasa a VI-a, Colegiul Național
„Mihail Sadoveanu” Iași



X-Mas's Dragon

This is Ani: a thirteen years old girl with light brown hair, green eyes like forest and a golden heart. She loves to read books, always dreaming to go in one day into a wonderful adventure. And that day was coming soon. She was going right now to the store to buy some groceries for lunch, but a blizzard covers her city, Treemore.


Ani found easily a safe place to hide by the blizzard, but a suspicious man was coming towards her holding a bat. She started to cry until an explosion of light enter her hide spot. Ani opened her eyes and saw a boy like her, with light brown eyes and black hair, that has knocked out that man. The boy was her new classmate, Alex.

They both became very good friends, and some days later, they hanged out. On their road to park, Alex's necklace started to glow, wich made him get really concerned about this. He runned behind a wall, where a portal formed with Alex that was going through it, with Ani behind him.

After that, Ani waked up into a wonderful snowy forest. She tried to find Alex, and after some time, she found him, but different. His eyes became neon blue, and he was flying, with a lot of glowing sparkles around him. Alex got inside an energy sphere, and after that the sphere made an explosion of light.

One minute later, Ani saw Alex becoming a real dragon, with wings and a tail, covered with neon scales with a varity of blue and green. The dragon saw started to talk, saying that he was a X-Mas dragon, wich can morph into his human form for emergencies. Ani started to study the dragon, named Thunder, but a lot of noises were heard by them coming from the sky.

They saw a dark matter, coming in their way, with a lot of speed. Thunder told Ani to ride him fast, crawling down for her to get on his back. He told her to stay calm and to hold some of his spikes to not fall down. The dragon opened his wings and flew into the sky, with the dark matter behind them.



He told her to take one of his scales and put it on her hand. After she did it, that scale became a necklace, with a dragon crystal on it.

Thunder told her to concentrate about a place and think at any thing that flew in that place. Ani concentrated, and she created a big energy circle, with an X-Mas tree, made out with the electricity of the dragon's power. The X-Mas tree flew towards the dark matter, making it to stop. The dark matter started to shrink, and a dark man appeared, with red eyes and a long cape on his back. The man threw his sword towards the dragon and Ani.

With a quick action, Ani made a light sword, that started to rotate, transforming into a shield which saved them from the knives. That didn't make the man scared not even a bit. He became more psychotic, and the dark matter started to cover him, morphing the man into a shadow dragon. He attacked Thunder, and bite his left wing, making him crash on land like a meteorite. To protect Ani, the dragon used his right wing to cover her to save her from the impact reaction.


After the impact, Thunder layed down in pain. With tears on eyes, Ani started to fly, and created a little star that took the dark matter and eliminated it from everywhere. Everything got back, with the shadow dragon defeated.

When the star eliminated the dark matter, Santa Claus came to the place where Thunder was laying down. He saw then Ani and the necklace she's wearing and told her to put the necklace on Thunder's left wing. In a big surprise, Thunder regenerated very quick, and hug Ani, giving her a globe with a X-Mas tree inside it. Santa asked the dragon if he's sure about what he wanted to do, and he said yes. Thunder told Ani to use the globe to go back to her house and coming back there when she wanted.

Thunder became back to Alex, and he went with Ani back to her world, living after that a long life, and...who knows? Maybe the globe and necklace still here.

Păltinel Patricia- Sânziana


clasa a VIII-a, Școala Gimnazială
„Aron-Vodă”, Aroneanu



A winter rhapsody

Along with the shortening of the day, teenager Alex knew that the cold season was approaching. Even the moon seemed like a majestic glow ball that would try to hypnotize any individual wandering under the deep sky at night. However, only a few knew that the moon is not an enormous ball of space rocks, Alex being one of them. His loneliness was real. His presence was felt anywhere and his energy would construct an aura of a dutiful ambience. The others would perceive it as a weird feeling, leaving him with a vague state of mind. But he enjoyed winter. Not because of the vacation or Santa Claus, but only because during winter he could experience all of the phantasms snow could offer him: from snow covering the tiny homes and hills to revisiting the devastating nostalgia of his early childhood. Memories took him back to that time on the hill. Kids would go sledding and there was the purest joy between them.

The branches of the trees were already frozen and full of snow. Overnight the mysterious whis-



ties of the wind did not give him peace to close his eyes. He was afraid of those sounds, believing that they were the last cries of lost souls unable to take the step to cross into the next realm. Alex forgot about the insomnia that did not give him peace and went straight outside. It was 5 o'clock in the morning. The luminaries were still lit, it was time for Alexander to imagine some of the manifestations he worked at that very day. Suddenly an explosion was heard in the nearby field, near Alex's backyard. He did not panic and walked towards the area of the explosion. As he arrived, he was shocked to see a 15-meter pit out of nowhere. He yelled because he thought that there was an unconscious body deep inside that hole. At that very moment his mind received a telepathic message and he instantly calmed down. The body that could've hardly been recognized transformed into a round glowy azure shape and moved towards Alex, blocking his sight view. That light put him in a trance and he was redirected to an Astral Plane.

Over there were all sorts of colors and fast pacing forms of hexagonal shapes making the atmosphere looking like a fairy tale. For Alex everything seemed real like never before. A feminine body figure showed up to him but her face was blurry and couldn't be recognized. The entity told Alex to undress himself and grab her hand. Without hesitating, Alex did as the entity said and they travelled together through a lot of eternal truths that no human was allowed permission to, starting with the beginning of time till the end. As the entity progressed with Alex throughout the end, everything was vanished. In a matter of seconds, Alex flinched hard and he was re-established near that pit, completely naked and covered in snow. He felt like a newborn despite the condition his body was in. Alex was pure love and happiness. He managed to control all of the human emotions by that time and he was equipped with the keys of living an astonishing human life once and forever.





Argeșanu Alexandra

clasa a VIII-a, Școala Gimnazială
„Titu Maiorescu” Iași



Wish for a Family

A cold and icy evening, a harsh frost, a little girl in a big house and a fireplace with the fire in it almost extinguished... It was Christmas, but Christa watched sadly as the flame went out and the room was sinking into darkness. There was nothing that could have suggested the festive atmosphere in that house, but then some footsteps were approaching the fireplace in the dark room.

„They didn't come, did they?” Christa asked her maid.

„Something has happened; they can't get home tonight, my dear.”

„They can never get home! There's always something going on... something that deserves more attention from them than I do!” The girl burst out, unable to control her emotions and tears.

„Sweetheart, please understand them.”

„No, I don't want to understand them anymore, in the last three letters I asked them for an evening of their time to spend together and they didn't even offer me that for Christmas. When will they understand that the time spent with them cannot be replaced by anything else? How much longer do I have to understand that their business is more important than I am? All my life I had to understand that!”

That being said, the girl ran to her room, slamming the door behind her and sliding on it to the floor. She was crying. She thought about the few memories she had with her parents. She wanted to spend more time with them, but they always had to work hard and, because of their high social status, were rarely at home.


„I wish we could spend the holidays as a family at least once, do I really ask for so much?” „No, you little, sweet girl.”

Christa winced as she looked up and saw a creature with a warm smile, surrounded by a bright aura that outlined a pair of almost invisible wings.

„Don't be afraid, my dear child, I don't hurt you and don't cry, you are not alone.”

The girl was speechless, she did not know what to say or do. The creature reached out to help





Christa to get on her feet. As soon as the girl touched that being's hand, it began to shine; everything around her began to be surrounded by a special light until in front of Christa everything turned white.

„What just happened?” Christa said, waking up in her bed. „How did I get here in the first place? I was on the floor in front of the door... Never mind.”

Still a little puzzled, the girl had decided not to let her parents' absence ruin the spirit of the winter holidays. She rummaged through the huge closet and chose a red silk dress lined with fur. She hurriedly dressed and headed for the room with the fireplace. But once she got to that room, she wouldn't recognize it. The fire was lit, the room was lit by hundreds of candles, garlands hung around it, and by the fireplace a large, voluminous fir tree adorned with the most beautiful decorations filled the room with a festive spirit.

„Did you sleep well my dear?” her maid's warm voice was heard.

„Did you do all this?”


„Yes, at least that's what I can do for you.”

The girl looked at her maid. She was smiling. Christa had never seen her maid smile like that before, but that smile ... seemed to have seen it somewhere else that evening. Christa winced... there was a horse trot. The girl looked out of the window and saw her parents getting out of a carriage. The girl couldn't believe it. She looked at her maid again, but she was gone... only a few flakes of light were left behind.



Zlávog Teodora- Mihaela


clasa a VIII-a, Școala Gimnazială
„Aron-Vodă”, Aroneanu



The spirit of the winter holidays

In my opinion, December is the most generous month of the year. Saint Nicholas is on December 6th. The night before, me, my brother and my sister are preparing our boots to receive sweets and money. We clean and brush our boots well. Even though I'm older and I know that Saint Nicholas and Santa Claus don't exist, I still believe in them. I'm looking forward to see what I get from Saint Nicholas. Next day I woke up first and went downstairs to see what I had received. I had seen the wand before and wasn't impressed that I got one every year. This year I saw a lot of sweets and money in my boots.

My birthday is on December 21st and I celebrate it with my family and friends. I get many gifts but I never open them until Christmas eve. This way I get more presents. On December 24th, me, my brother and my sister can't wait to go around caroling. My mother is getting ready for Christmas and my father embellishes the house with all kinds of colorful decorations and garlands. There was an enticing smell of orange cake from the kitchen. I was in the living room with my brother and sister. I decorated the Christmas tree with globes, the light equipment and garlands. After I finished decorating I went to the kitchen to taste what my mother cooked. I'm a little greedy. My mother had cooked many dishes: stuffed eggs, chicken and cheese rolls, fried chicken, meat balls, fruit salad, as well as traditional dishes(sarmale with polenta and cream, orange cake, julfă).



In the evening we got ready and dressed warmly to go around caroling. Some gates were closed, other were open and the families were eager to listen to us. After a few hours of wandering, we got back home. We sat down to eat, talk and laugh. I couldn't help myself and tried each dish. After we had filled our stomachs we went to bed and waited for the next day. I was really looking forward to meet Santa Claus. The night went by and in the morning I heard my brother's and sister's shouts of joy. I saw snow outside for the very first time this year. There were about two layers of snow. It was very cold. I came to see how many presents I had got but I didn't open them. Instead, I went to Church and listened to the service. At the end I shared gifts and sweets to children and adults. When I go home, I saw that I got the most gifts. New Year happens mostly the same as Christmas. The differences are we carry out the traditional New Year's greetings. Also, people dress up in goats and bears and carry out traditional dances („Capra” and „Ursul”). We have to stay up until midnight because only then we can wish each other „Have a happy new year!” What I like most is the colorful sky as a result of the many fireworks launched everywhere. We wait for the evening to end and then we got to bed and get ready for the next day.

In the morning we go around and carry out a traditional greeting on New Year's Day („Sorcova”). Every year everything is great because I have my parents and siblings by my side. I am part of a big family and am glad about it! They make the holidays even greater!

Cantea Andrei-Lucian

clasa a VIII-a, Școala Gimnazială
„Dorobanț”, Aroneanu




Cursed

It was another day, hard as the others. You may be wondering why I find the idea of a winter day so bad. Well, first of all I will tell you a short story that I would like to forget. It all started a few weeks ago, I met a girl. She was beautiful, smart and a big liar. I let myself be swept away and look what happened. I have become a nobody who now sits and cries for pity. It was a horrible experience which someone like me didn't deserve. Well, at first, I thought she was a good girl, but she turned out to be a horrible monster. Her name was Monika and, yes, there was nothing wrong with her until now. She was a witch who cursed me with a haunting monster.

I made a big mistake which I deeply regret. Now only one man can forgive me. Or so I thought. I found something very interesting in a book of spells I stole from someone (sorry...). It's a spell that can bring me to the man I was. But something was wrong, I needed a sacrifice. And seriously, where on earth can I find that? Especially until midnight. So, at that moment I went to look for someone or something as a sacrifice. Surely, you are wondering about the spell's name. Its name is the Miracle of the Winter Holiday. It can be done only during a winter holiday, like Christmas. So this is my opportunity, I can't waste it. But I had an even better idea: using the one that cursed me. I'm going to need a few things before that. Something related to Christmas, such as decorations. I set up the decorations around the house and now I should wait until midnight. Mustn't forget to call her. Anyway, I think I'll play some videogames or something.





After about five hours of being idle, I invited Monika over. She reacted positively, saying she will be there in a few minutes. Perfect, just perfect. After she arrived, I offered her a cup of cocoa with milk and we talked. She certainly didn't know my true intent but I didn't really care. And oh, boy, she talked and talked. After a while, we fell asleep. I woke up after a quarter of an hour and didn't know exactly where I was. It was cold, dark and deserted. I was scared, not knowing what's going on. But all I knew was that Monika was beside me and I started asking questions.

Andrew: „Do you know how we got here?“

Monika: „That's what I wanted to ask you.“

What could we do, then? After thinking for a while, we started exploring the place. As we walked, the place became darker and darker. After a long time we found a light source. It was a candle bearing a message: „Use the light to create more light“. It was obvious what we had to do so we looked for more candles. Then the monster inside me woke up. I kept going, ignoring its annoying distraction. What else could I do? After a while I turned on all the lights in the room and something particular lit up. I didn't know what. Then I saw a book of carols! I hope I won't have to sing, will I? I couldn't help myself and sang along Monika. All of a sudden a wide door opened in front of us. We were both scared, so we easily moved away from the door. Someone pushed us through it. When I checked the door, it was locked. I felt dead with fear. After I feinally mustered up the courage, I took Monika by the hand and advanced down the hall. At the end of the hall there was a pen and a list. The sheet was divided into two lists: „The evil ones“ and „The good ones“. And guess on which list I was? I was with the bad guys but I don't know why. After Monika and I looked at the list, a tall figure appears from behind.

Mysterious figure: „What are you doing here? You should not be here!“ I almost died out of fear and mumbled a few sentences.

Andrew: „S-s-sir, I got here by mistake.“

Mysterious figure: „Nice joke, kid! But tell me the truth!“

Andrew: „Is it necessary?“

Mysterious figure: „Yes!“

Andrew: „Ok... Monika, I have to tell you something.“

Monika: „What is it?“

Andrew: „Remember when I invited you at my place?“

Monika: „Yeah...“

Andrew: „I wanted to use you as a sacrifice in order to get the monster out of me.“

Monika: „How could you do that!“

Andrew: „I know this sounds bad but I'm really sorry. I just want to go home and rest peacefully.“ As soon as I ended my sentence I fell asleep. I woke up at home with Monika on the living room couch. I don't know what that was but I'm glad I came back. It was Christmas day, it was snowing outside and the Christmas tree was full of presents. Was I forgiven? Then Monika woke up.

Monika: „Good morning, Andrew. Did you sleep well?“

Andrew: „Yeah, I did.“

Monika: „Merry Christmas, Andrew!“


Andrew: „Merry Christmas, Monika!“





Ștefanache Denis-Luca

clasa a VIII-a, Colegiul Național
„Garabet Ibrăileanu” Iași



Mr. Thompson – The Bell-ringer

In the small town of St. Anne lived a man by the name Edward Thompson. He wasn't a very sociable man and, since the loss of his wife, 10 Christmases ago, he became a very unfriendly person, full of sorrow.

His job was to ring the bell of the local church every day at 12 p.m. and, of course, when a religious service was held inside. Christmas was no longer a happy day for him: from the most wonderful time of the year, it became the saddest time of the year. But things were about to change this year.

With two more weeks left until Christmas, the town was already preparing to celebrate the Nativity of Christ. The streets were decorated with multicolored lights, children prepared to hold the Christmas concert while their mothers cleaned the houses that were also decorated for the holiday. The Christmas spirit came all over the town of St. Anne, except for Mr. Thompson's house. No one could remember the last time when they saw his house decorated for Christmas.

„We should help him get over the loss he suffered, he can't live the rest of his life being sad!” said someone.

„You're right! What if we decorate his house and prepare him a good meal?” another replied.

The next day, Mr. Thompson climbed up in the bell tower to announce lunch time as usual. He was surprised to find the children gathered up there.

„Dear Mr. Thompson, would you like to accompany us with the bells during the Christmas concert that will take place on the 25th of December?”

„I'm sorry but I can't accept the invitation. How am I supposed to ring all 6 bells in order to recreate a song, without any help?”

„We can help if you want”, offered Richard Harrison and his brother Peter.

„Being a bell-ringer is an art! You don't just pull the rope and make the bell sound! You have to listen carefully to the sound so it doesn't hurt your ears and also pull the rope at the exact time!”

„I never knew it's so complicated to be a bell-ringer, but I'm sure you are going to help us! Isn't it true, Mr. Thompson?” asked Richard.

„Well, of course I'm going to teach you! Sooner or later someone, will have to take this job and you two are perfect for this!”, replied Edward Thompson with a feeling he thought he would never feel again – joy. When he came out of the church he couldn't believe his eyes! His small house was all decorated, just like in the good old days. When he entered the house, he found a roast turkey along with a toffee pudding.


„It's a miracle! A miracle!” he thought to himself. For the first time in 10 years, Edward Thompson felt the magic of Christmas once again.

In the two remaining weeks, Richard and Peter learned pretty well how to sing the carols by using the bells so, on Christmas Day, the children's voice and the bell sounds could be heard across the town, warming everyone's hearts. And, so, for Mr. Thompson, Christmas became a celebration of joy once again.



Pascariu Maria- Ruxandra

clasa a VIII-a, Colegiul Național
„Garabet Ibrăileanu” Iași



An unknown city, in who knows what country... In which people tend to believe in all sort of sayings that their ancestors came up with, rather than believing in their own ideas. But I've got to admit, some are genuinely beautiful, by having such a captivating meaning.

Although most of them are rather abstract, one of the sayings catches everyone's attention. It also is the oldest of them all; as old as time, some could say. But who could even assent to this, as no human-being knows its precise age?


Being too difficult to express its meaning into words, it would be better if I gave you an example, to illustrate its significance.

Winter. Such a delightful season, full of joy and spirit. Adley always goes for it, since she simply adores snow, Christmas...everything about it.

With her recent loss, a loved one, she started reading a lot more. Why? Because that certain person used to love glancing through a great book's pages. Doing so, she came across a beautiful paragraph. A book about the 2010's Haiti Earthquake, presenting survivors' words... one of them really overwhelmed Adley, as one would never expect something like this. 'Winter's snowflakes... Have you ever wondered what secret are they carrying? By smoothly finding their way in the boundless sky... My family and I love to take it this way: as we mention the thoughts we wished our loved ones could've heard from us, if it hadn't been for this natural disaster, the gentle snowflakes secretly take their messages they wanted us to know... to us. As we think about them, they also think about us. And our thoughts are carried away, right back where the messages came from, thanks to nature's circuit. Such a lovely way to take it, isn't it?

Thinking about it for a bit, Adley slowly approached the curtains, parting them so she could take a look outside. Snowflakes smoothly falling down from the sky, embracing the world with a deep layer of snow. Perfect weather to truly feel it... the message.

Slowly walking in the powdery snow, she reached The Lake. The Lake she's always loved, ever since she was just a kid. As she was glancing at the lake, thinking about all of her loved ones, Adley could hear other children's voices. She hadn't visited that place in a while. It seemed that it didn't go to waste: now others were enjoying it. By watching them, she could feel warmth, instead of cold, although the snowflakes were now everywhere. Tears came down her red cheeks from her eyes, which became 'soaking wet' in no time. The view in front of her was... breathtaking. The sounds of bliss from afar made it even better. Gazing at the lake, which was, by all means, frozen, she suddenly felt something different: a "shiver down her spine". The girl finally saw the image of her grandparents, reaching for her, as if they were trying to tell her something. All she could 'hear' were comforting words. The image of them soon vanished, as if it was just a dream. It was, indeed, a dream, yet it felt so real... The tears that were welling up in her eyes just moments before were gone by now, a gentle smile gradually forming on her face. It was entirely how she imagined when she was reading the proverb. It was



fascinating how important it was to feel a certain something, even though it could never be real.

Isn't this a true 'Winter Wonderland'? Where Adley's wish finally became true, as she wanted to see her grandparents one last time. Those moments of daydreaming, filled up with warmth, hearing them... All of this being possible as a result of... winter's magic.

Tiron Maria

Colegiul Național
„Vasile Alecsandri” Iași



Snowflakes of joy and sorrow

At first, he could feel the pain slowly increasing, stealing pieces of life from him, until he couldn't feel anything at all. He felt very sleepy and a sudden peace invaded his body. As he felt warmer and warmer, he thought he could hear Anastasia's voice calling him. As death was smiling at him, preparing her scythe and looking straight into his emerald eyes, he thought one last time about the love of his life, whispering „I love you” as if she was there.

It was the day before their wedding. No human being could have ever experienced the joy he felt just at the thought that he was going to marry the love of his life, Anastasia, a gorgeous nymph, the well-known beauty of the kingdom. While he was getting his wedding outfit ready, he could relive the moments of happiness when he proposed to her, he could hear again her crystal clear enthusiastic voice: „Oh, Dmitry! Yes, a thousand times yes! You're the only one I'd like to spend forever with! ”.


He quickly looked at the clock: it was time to go see her one last time before their wedding. He felt a shiver down his spine as he realised it would already be dark by the time he'd arrive at her house, in the middle of the silver forest, but his affection for Anastasia and the need to see her won against his fear.

As soon as he stepped into the silver forest, the cold attacked him. He continued walking undisturbed by the freezing bites of the cold, warmed by the thought of Anastasia. Dmitry could only hear the noise of his footsteps and his breath, as the forest remained silent, somehow intrigued that a human being dared to disrupt her. As he was walking farther and farther into the woods, it got dark and the moon, his silent friend, joined him. He started to worry a little. „It's true, I've never been here all by myself and certainly not so late, but I feel like I should've already found Anastasia's home.” As time went by, he seriously started to worry. He panicked as he realized no one was there to help him. After walking for more hours, he was exhausted. He lay on the ground, even though it was extremely cold and he looked at the stars, knowing it would be the last time he would see them.

It was the day of their wedding. Anastasia should've felt on top of the world. She was happy, but she had a strange feeling, like something bad had happened, since she woke up in the middle of the night, screaming „Dmitry!” as she had a nightmare in which he died. She chased away the evil thoughts as she got dressed with the wedding dress they chose together: sewed up from stars, clouds, dreams, and hopes.

She was sitting in front of her house, in the swing that he had made for her, waiting for him as the strange feeling increased. „He should've been here two hours ago. He's never late!”. The wind, her






best friend, told her as he was playing with her black, beautiful curls: "He is dead". The three words reverberated in her heart, almost making it crush: „he's dead, he's dead, he's dead".

Without even thinking, she ran into the forest in the thin wedding dress, that scattered as she was frenetically searching for Dmitry. Later, she found him, frozen to death. She fell to the ground, hugging him. As tears were rolling down her cheeks, they froze, turning into beautiful little ice stars.

They are called snowflakes and they appear in winter, when Anastasia lost her loved one and started crying.

lordache Elena- Nastasia

clasa a V-a, Colegiul Național „Mihail
Sadoveanu" Iași



Winter Wonderland


Once upon a time, in a wonderful winter, in a beautiful little city from Romania, there was a girl named Isabella. She was 11 years old. She had short gleaming brown hair, green eyes and long lashes. She lived in a modest family. Her mother was a stewardess and her father was an airplane pilot. They were working together, but one day they died in an airplane accident so Isabella remained with her grandmother.

Her grandma was 76 years old and she couldn't even stand, so Isabella had to take care of her. They lived in a little house, in a village. Isabella knew that village so good because that's the place where she spent her childhood. She has so many friends there, but she couldn't play with them because she had to take care of her grandma. She loved her so much and she couldn't see her dead. Isabella leaved the house only to buy food or other important things.

Time has passed and winter had come. I forgot to tell you that the winter was the most spectacular season of the year in that village. Even if it was very cold, the landscape and the atmosphere made the village warmer. The milky snow, the silver icicles, the bare trees, the playful children, the sleights and the happy snowmen were just some of the wonderful things in the landscape. The atmosphere was pleasant and cheerful.

Isabella loved this season just because of these wonderful things. She always went to play in the fluffy snow. Her grandma remembers how happy her granddaughter played with her friends in the snow, so she decided to persuade her to meet her friends again. Isabella didn't accept at first, but in the end, she was convinced. When they saw Isabella, they were so happy and they had a big party. That party made Isabella forget about her grandma.

After 2 unforgettable hours she decided to went back home. On her way home, she remembered that she needs to buy some bread, so she went to the shop. When she got there something was different. The store was empty, there wasn't even a shop assistant. Isabella decided to enter, anyway. In the shop there were some smells that made you think of Christmas. In a dark corner of the room, Isabella noticed something twinkling. She walked closer to the twinkling object and she realized that the twinkling thing was a crystal. Isabella noticed that the crystal has a weird smell. She brought it closer to her nose and fell asleep.



She woke up in another world, a world that only the imagination could create. There were Christmas trees, clouds of whipped cream, hot chocolate puddles and some elves that were walking around. They were all walking in the same direction, on an alley that seemed to lead to a giant palace. Isabella can't explain any of these events. She got lost in a dream? This looks too real to be a dream.

After a few moments of silence, Isabella decided to ask an elf.

-Hello! Can you tell me, where am I?

-You're in Glacier, in the Winter Wonderland, said the elf.

-And...who are you?

-My name is Elrond and I'm an elf. I take the Christmas presents to the palace.

-What palace?

-Santa's palace.

-Wow!

-Now is my turn to ask you questions. Who are you and where are you coming from?

-I'm Isabela and I'm a human.

-How did you get here?!

-I...don't know.

-Anyways, do you want to see Santa Claus, do you want to make a wish?

Isabella didn't know what to say. She had so many wishes, but only one could make her happy forever.

-Yes, I have a wish, but how do I get to Santa.

-Come with me on the path of the elves. But we've got a problem. No elf should see you. Not all elves are friendly.

-And...how are we going to do that?

-Hmm...I have an idea! You can stay here.

-In the bag?!

-Yes, you fit perfectly there.

Isabella was so confused. That bag was really small.

-How could I enter in the bag?

-This is a magical bag. Just get in the bag and you'll see.

-Okay...I will get in.

Isabella got in the bag and she really had space.

The elf went to the palace. It was a long way, but it worth.

After long hours Isabella finally could get out of the bag.

-I will take you to Santa's office.

-Okay. But isn't him busy?

-Of course, he is...but he always has time for good children.

Isabella smiled.

-Santa's office is right here, on the right.

-Thank you so much, Elrond! I think I can handle it now.

-Okay then. Bye Isabella!

-Bye!

She was left alone in front of Santa Claus office. She thought again and decided to enter.

-Hi Santa! Excuse me for bothering you. I'm...

-Isabella and you came here to make a wish, said Santa.

-How did you know?


-I know everything. I know you are a very good child and I know your wish.

-I know it's a complicated wish but...

-I will fulfill it for you!

-Really?! Thank you so much, Santa!



- 
- No problem, Isabella. I know how much you and your grandmother want to live forever. Then Santa made a few hand movements, after which he grabbed a small gift.
 - This is your Christmas gift. That means you're not allowed to open it until Christmas morning.
 - Okay, I will wait until then. But I still have a question...How do I get back to my house?
 - Ho, ho, ho! I will take you there in some seconds.
 - Thank you so much Santa! I will never forgive those beautiful moments.
 - I'm so happy to hear that, but don't tell anyone about our world.
 - Okay, I promise that.
 - Bye, Isabella!

In the blink of an eye, Isabela got back to her grandmother's house. She ran to her grandma and hugged her.

- Look grandma, I've got a small gift!
- Where did you get it from?
- That's a secret. What day is it?
- Is 20th of December.
- I've got to decorate the house!
- I will help you, too! said her grandma.
- Are you sure you can do it?
- Yes, sweetie, I can do it!

Grandma got out of bed and finally could stand up. Isabella was really happy to see her doing this.

Until the evening they managed to decorate the whole house. Time passed quickly and the Christmas morning came.

- Let's see if we've got any presents under the Christmas tree! said grandma.
- But there weren't any presents under the tree.
- This is the only present we've got, said Isabella.
- Let's see what's in it!

Isabella opened the gift and there was only white smoke in it. The smoke quickly spread throughout the house. Suddenly the house was cleaned and Isabella's grandmother rejuvenated by 56 years. The smoke transmitted them a message. The message was „Know you will always be happy!“ then the smoke disappeared.

Since then, Isabella and her grandmother are living together in the same house and in the same harmony.





Cioca Albert

clasa a VIII-a, Colegiul Național
„Vasile Alecsandri” Iași



Battle of Valhalla

On a cold winter morning when you could see the Aurora Borealis, The Raven Clan that was led by Eivor „Wolf-Kissed” went to a field to battle with King Bjorn. There were a lot of soldiers and Vikings who were ready to destroy each other.


When Eivor blew the horn, the battle started. All of the Vikings started to slay the soldiers, but after some time, Dag who was a friend of Eivor was stabbed in the back by a soldier in front of him, he started to lose his conscience and ran to Dag, and, with his last breath, he said: „Eivor, win this battle for me!”. Eivor knew what he needed to do and said to all Vikings: „All of you friends, come and aid me in this battle!”.

That moment, The King sent a powerful knight to end the lives of the Vikings and to make Eivor suffer, but the Viking saw the knight and started to run towards him and tried to kill him with his sword. Both approached and the Viking stroke first but the knight wasn't affected, now he started to attack, Eivor tried to block the attack with his sword but the attack was so powerful that his sword broke in half.

The Viking was in shock, he didn't know what to do, but he saw Dag's sword and he started to run and got that sword quickly. He picked the sword and started to target the leg of the knight. They fought for a couple of minutes, but then the knight caught Eivor and The King said: „Kill him!”. The huge man was prepared to give Eivor a powerful strike to end his life, but then Eivor put his arm in the face of the knight, this one magically fell down and when it happened all of the soldiers and The King saw that he had a hidden blade under his cloth. Surprised, the King started to run towards his castle.

On the way to the castle, Eivor killed all of the soldiers who were in his way, he finally entered the castle but he had to go to the King's Hall. On the way there he faced a lot of mercenaries and soldiers. Finally he arrived there, The King was ready for the final battle, in the left arm he had a sword, Eivor saw this and he picked a shield. The fight started, Bjorn attacked but at the same time he






mocked all of the Vikings, Eivor was angry and he started to attack very fast and very powerfully, so that he broke King Bjorn's sword. After this, Bjorn begged Eivor to spare his life but the Viking said: „You want me to spare your life? You killed my friends and my people, I will end this very quickly and I will avenge my family and clan!”. After Eivor's speech, he killed King Bjorn and also ended this war.

When he came back to the hideout of the Raven Clan in Fomburg, Styrbjorn Sigvaldisson who was the king, named Eivor one of the greatest Vikings who lived on the planet.

Condurachi Alexia- Elena

clasa a VII-a, Colegiul Național
„Vasile Alecsandri” Iași



Reunited in Winterland

Chapter 1

Once upon a time there was a beautiful kingdom named Winterland. It was a kingdom made of snow, full of beautiful ice sculptures, frozen trees and little snowmen. The old legends tell us that this kingdom was invincible. Well, not anymore.

When everything was perfect there, the king did a big mistake: he let the guard down. He thought that no one could ever have the bravery to fight them. But what he didn't know was that on the other side of the continent, there was a queen, who had been waiting for a long time to take her revenge.

„What revenge?”, you will ask. Well, we all know that when a king dies, the eldest child takes his place. But what happens when there are a brother and a sister, born on the same day? What happens when they are twins? Well, I'll tell you what happens: the boy becomes the king and the girl is forgotten. In our story, Elisse, the princess of Winterland, decided to disappear and no one cared and some people didn't even notice. But now it's her time to return and everyone will care.

Chapter 2

“Oh! That's so frustrating!” Elisse says. “I can run from a land to another at twelve years old, I can build my own kingdom, I can even find ice dragons, but I'm not able to use my own power!”

“Maybe it's time to relax a little bit” says a man, sitting on an armchair and eating a strawberry.

“Henry, it's been nine years since I've tried to control my power and it doesn't work! Do you understand that?”

“Yes, but I don't understand why you are so stressed. You have all the time in the world to take your revenge.” Henry says.


“Edward is off guard now! It's the best opportunity!”

“Your brother is always off guard.” He replies.

“Maybe I should ask the opinion of another person!” She says, angrily.

“Fine, do it. Wait. You don't have other people to ask. Maybe you should try to ask dragons for their opinion?” Henry says, so amused.

“You're a genius! Really!”



"I knew it. But why?"

"What if I start trying to control ice dragons instead of controlling people?"

"Really? All I can say is that I'm a genius, but you aren't, dear. Why are you wasting your power to control ice dragons?"

"Because I'll control them to fight with me to have my kingdom back! I'll show you that my idea is amazing! See you later!" Elisse says, so excited.

"Good luck!"

Chapter 3

For an hour Elisse tried to make an ice dragon smile, but she couldn't. Instead of it, he was screaming in pain.

"How is it working?" Henry says.

"Shut. Up. I'm. Trying. To. Focus." She says. She is looking deep into the dragon's eyes and trying to use her power. And, finally, after an hour of waiting, the ice dragon smiles. But, to everyone's surprise, he actually starts laughing.

"I did it! I made him laugh!" Elisse says very happy.

"Fantastic! And what are you going to do with it? Are you going to tell me your plan?" Henry says.

"Two words: dragon invasion." She says smiling.

Chapter 4

It is the big day. The day of revenge. The ice dragons are ready, the queen and her friend too. It is all going to work. She will fight with the king and she will take her crown. And there will be a "happily ever after" like in her favourite stories.

Elisse and Henry arrive with their dragons. The only thing that Elisse can see is the castle. It is going to be her castle.

"I'm going to count to three. When I say three, we attack. OK?"

"Understood." Henry says.

"One, two..."

"Who's there?" says a familiar voice.

Elisse looks back. Tall with blonde curly hair and unforgettable blue eyes, her brother, Edward.

"Elisse..." he whispers. "You are here. I thought you died!"

"Hello to you too. Maybe you were very happy when I wasn't around." She replies.

"Are you crazy? When you disappeared I ordered all the guards to look for you everywhere! I really missed you! Why did you go?"

"No one ever loved me.", she says in low voice.

"I did and I do! I love you, Elisse! You are my sister!"

"Yes, but you are the king."

"And you are the queen. Now that you returned we can rule the kingdom together! If you want, of course."

"I can't believe that you truly want it! I'll be so honored!" Elisse says with tears in her eyes.

"What about me?" Henry says.

"We'll find an occupation for you too, don't worry!" Elisse says.

Everyone laughed.

This is what I like to call „Happily Ever After“.





Netcă Ștefan-Bogdan

clasa a VI-a, Școala Gimnazială
„Aron-Vodă”, Aroneanu



The winter holidays have come

The holidays are approaching and I am decorating the Christmas tree with my soul full of patience. The rhythm of the carols in the background seems to make the snowflakes dance. Everyone around me is in a frantic state, each doing something. My mother makes croissants, biscuits, stuffed nuts and many more, while my father arranges decorations all around the house.

Days passed so quickly, I didn't even realize it was Christmas eve. It was evening and the carolers began to fill the village streets. Everything was like a fairy tale and not because it was full of magical creatures but simply because the atmosphere was full of stories. At one point, carolers came to our house and I gave them two rolls and an apple. They sang wonderfully across the clear sky. It was time to go to bed because Santa would be here in a few hours. All the lights in the house were turned off, the curtains were drawn and I lay down in bed and fell asleep.

I woke up with great enthusiasm and ran to the tree. My beautiful gifts were there! I know that the Christmas spirit does not consist mainly in gifts, but this particular moment when I open presents with my family is special. After I set up the Christmas table we sat down and ate dishes my mother made. This is how Christmas went by and the New Year came.


In our village many children and adults dress up in traditional costumes, they gather around in the central area and burst from whips. Many firecrackers could be heard in the background while dogs were barking continuously due to loud noises. Then, people dressed as bears and goats arrived. It was greater than ever! If I didn't go caroling, then I decided to go around and send traditional New Year's greetings. In Romania we call it „urătură”. I rehearsed the traditional greeting „The Plough”(„Plugușorul”) and was ready to go. When I left I remembered I had forgotten the bell but went back after it. I went around the village for 2 kilometres, reciting the traditional greeting to each family. When we got home we looked closely and we saw that we had 2 bags full of sweets, rolls and about 100 lei from our relatives. After reciting the traditional greeting we waited for the New Year. Then, we sat at the table and ate. Before midnight we went outside and watched as the sky got covered with colorful lights from the fireworks. The New Year has come, I even accidentally broke a glass. It's a sign that this year will be great. The most beautiful holidays are the ones spent with family, like Christmas and New Year's Eve. I hope that only good things happen this year.





Clipa Eliza

clasa a VIII-a, Colegiul Național
„Costache Negruzzi” Iași



That warm December night

The harsh wind was scraping against the velvety night sky, like nails on a chalkboard. Frail tree branches were bowing under the weight of sugar-like snow and ice crystals, while the frost was claiming each and every surface its claws could reach.

As the gale bit through the open window, alarmed, Isabelle rushed to slam it shut, meanwhile scolding her grandfather for exposing himself to such cold. The poor man mumbled some elderly nonsense, without resisting when the girl pushed him to lie back down in the small bed after fluffing his pillow and piling another blanket on top of the thick duvet.

„Have I told you just how much I love cold winter nights?” he displayed a smile contrasting in warmth with the weather.

„Yes,” she turned to him after fidgeting with the cups of tea she had brought for the two of them „Yes, you have, Grandpa, but I’d rather you love them from inside.”

The girl couldn’t bring herself to crack a grin, not when he was as pale as the snowman her little brother had clumsily built in the backyard, not when he could not hold a conversation without toppling over to cough his lungs out, not when she knew she would lose him soon enough. The man hummed lowly alongside the gramophone to the lyrics of his favorite Christmas carol, an old song performed in a pub by some underground band who never had its breakthrough, accompanied by the gorgeous vocals of a girl. He had listened to that same melody every year on Christmas Eve, ever since before she was born.

„Ah, have I told you what a beautifully freezing night that was?”

„What night are you talking about?” she nonchalantly asked, being used to his gibberish.

„The one I met your grandmother, of course.”


Isabelle’s eyebrows shot to her hairline, but the man didn’t seem to have noticed just what kind of bomb he had dropped. The granddaughter carefully kneeled next to the bed, as if to not startle a frightened animal.

„You’ve never told me that story.”

„Oh,” he looked at her and his face split into a grin „I suppose I should, then.” he cleared his throat.

„It was back in the day, in London, when I was a handsome young lad, but my family was also poor as rats. I remember I had just escaped from the constant nagging of my folks on a Christmas Eve and I felt so, so alive in that moment.

„And it was cold, so, so extremely cold. My hands were turning red in those useless fingerless gloves, but I stumbled into the warmth of an old pub. I can tell you what drew me in: I just dragged my feet through the narrow streets of East End until I heard her voice. Such a sweet and lovely voice was pooling out of a crammed little shack. I wanted,” he stopped and drew his eyebrows together in thought „no, I needed to find out who was singing so beautifully, because I could swear on my torn



little hat and the broken soles of my shoes that it was an angel who sung. I poked my head inside the pub and I saw her with the glowing light hitting her skin, singing and swaying her hips to the beat of the carol. She was absolutely perfect!

„When she agreed to have a cup of eggnog with me, which was the only thing the two pounds in my pocket could buy, I felt like I could burst from happiness. Her lips were painted red and the corners of her mouth creased into dimples with every laugh I could pull out of her. When I heard her saying my name on that night, and on all of the following nights in all of those thirty blessed years I got to spend beside her, I felt like I could fly. I would have sold the clothes on my back if I knew she had just one more candle burning to keep her warm from that savage cold, because, when I met her, she had warmed me whole.”

His voice had gotten dimmer and his eyes were dropping. Isabelle still had his hand clutched in hers since she had grabbed it during the telling of the story, both of their tears long forgotten. She was now reigning in the tears. Her grandfather let his eyelids fall, with a last whisper of the name that he had hurt too much to utter since its bearer had passed, followed by a smile. A warm and genuine smile.

Isabelle got up, replayed the disc on the gramophone and neared the window, swinging it open. The wind was biting her skin, but she could no longer feel the cold, because, with the voice of her grandmother clinging to every corner of the room, December nights were now warm.



Bartic Matei

clasa a VII-a, Școala Gimnazială
„Ion Simionescu” Iași




A Christmas Story

Chapter 1

It was a beautiful winter in a small village. The snow was falling down onto the frozen grass and the children were playing with the snow. Outside it was freezing cold and the wild animals were hidden again in their homes. Inside the house, there was an amazing Christmas tree with a lot of ornaments as snowflakes and a lot of candies. The star on top of the tree was lighting up the entire room. From outside, you could see another world through the window. Under the tree there were a lot of presents for all the children in the village.

Alina was a 13-year-old girl who had been adopted by a family that used to work all the time but they didn't know how to have fun or sing Christmas songs. The girl was coming from a family from the North Pole. She believed in Christmas magic, and she knew how to sing Christmas songs, but no one was listening to her. She had the best life that she could have, after her parents had left her when she was 5 years old, but she was alone in a big house most of the time.

One night after she fell asleep, a super-loud 'bang' from downstairs, in the living room, was heard. Her parents went down fast but the girl stayed in her room. The hallway was in deep silence... The girl was scared. She hid under the bed and listened carefully. She heard someone coming up the stairs. It sounded like someone heavy and she was very frightened. He went to Alina's room and found



her. He saw how scared she was, and he took her with him. He was tall but fat and the beard was sloppy, the shirt was drilled by some bullets. She was sure he was a thief, but she was too scared to say anything. Downstairs she didn't see her parents, and she went with him to an old car down the street, and they both got in it. The motor wasn't starting, but then some reindeer appeared from nowhere. They attached to the car and started running...fast...faster... then ...up in the sky. The girl figured it out that the mysterious man was Santa Claus. When the car touched the clouds, it turned into a beautiful sleigh and Santa's clothes became bright red and neat. The sleigh was faster and faster until they passed through a green hole and got above a big village, where the houses were small and...But wait! ...There was a big one in the center that had in the middle of an interior garden a huge Christmas tree, with a big star that looked unusual.

The sleigh was going down fast until it touched the ground. On all the way there, she was sleeping and dreaming, she dreamed about her parents. Strange! She did not remember their faces, but she still dreamed them. After a while she woke up, she was in a soft bed and next to her there was small...small...small... she didn't know what it was... She started screaming. She was in a new house, she had new clothes, and she spoke a strange language. After a few seconds, Ms. Christmas entered the room and calmed the girl down. She brought her hot chocolate and said: „Dear, you don't have to be scared, you are safe with us!“ The girl started remembering things, but they didn't make any sense.

„Dear, what happened?“ said Santa, entering the room. „Are you ok?“

„Where am I? What is that thing?“ Alina cried.

Santa knew that the girl didn't understand that she was at the North Pole, and he said:

„Alina, you are at the North Pole, under a spell that has the ability to translate your language in Elfish. You don't have to be afraid! He is Tothle-Blost, the best doctor in the entire North Pole, he is an Elf. Here, all the citizens are Elves.

The girl got down from her bed and went to the window. She could see the Elves preparing for Christmas. All of them were just kids, but happy kids. The sadness and the fear of the girl were gone...she was happy. The smile on the girl's face was bigger than ever! She was really happy! She was at the North Pole... Santa gave her some warm clothes, and she went outside to meet the Elves. They were very friendly. Back inside the house, Santa and Ms. Christmas were preparing a delicious dinner. After dinner, she went to the library to read some Christmas history books, but she saw a picture of her as a little girl, on a wall. She started remembering more and more things, but she was unsure, she remembered her in Santa's arms and the elves...the reindeer... She thought she was imagining things ...so she started reading.

Chapter 2

After a while she finished the book and started exploring the big house. On the left side of the house, there was a big mysterious room, with a huge glass wall in the middle. It was magic glass that allowed one to see the entire world, so you can have an overview of the place you want to see. The girl got closer and closer and imagined the house where she used to live with her family. The glass started shaking and then the living room in that house appeared. Unfortunately, a sofa covered half of the view... What could have happened? Ooo...In the background, there were many books on the floor, the wallpaper was scratched, and the light was blinking. The room looked like a thunderstorm had passed over. Alina got scared and ran to the hallway, but she did not give up and continued to explore the next part of the house. Wait! ...Ms. Christmas and Santa were taking, and she wanted to hear what it was about, so she stopped to listen:

„You need to tell her! She deserves to know“, said Ms. Christmas.

„I know, but she will be shocked, she didn't know about us before...“

„I will tell her if you won't do it!“

Alina entered the kitchen and said:





„Please, tell me what I have to know. I heard that you want to tell me something.”

„Alina, you are part of our family, and you are here now. There are many things you need to know.....You are a Christmas gift for us. You are our daughter!”

„If I am your daughter, why have I been in another family for so many years?”

„There were some things that you will find about later...”

Alina gave a hug to her parents and said: „I want to live with you and the Elves, here at the North Pole, and help you to take presents to all children in the world!”

„Of course, dear! You are here now.”

Ten years later Alina was still 13 years old and she was happy with her life at the North Pole.

Prelipcean Alexandra

clasa a VIII-a, Colegiul Național
„Costache Negruzzi” Iasi



Winter Wonderland

She sits on the bench near the sea, wind blowing through her red curls, as she sketches out some intricate dress design in a leathery black notebook with a thick photo album next to her. Christmas lights shine all around her and a tall and familiar decorated tree looms over it all. The girl is drawing and drawing, not caring about the glittery snowflakes getting stuck in her auburn hair, or the way her cheeks tinge pink from the biting cold of the winter, all she is focused on is the paper in front of her, even her name almost forgotten. She’s had so many, it’s hard to keep track. After all, that’s what happens when you live forever.

You know what everyone says, every good story starts with a little bit of bad decisions sprinkled in. Well, in this case it starts with a little bit of despair.

It was the 90s and the woman felt like her whole life was slowly slipping away from her fingers in front of her very eyes. All she longed for was a family who didn’t treat her like she didn’t matter, a nice Christmas or a fancy Thanksgiving, but no, instead she got a lot of broken promises and empty apologies over the phone.


Then she cracked, and the devil came along, a flurry of sharp smiles and such intriguing deals. She could have it all, a life surrounded by people, everything she’s ever wanted, for the rest of her life. She could be saved, but at what cost? The girl would live forever, but every year, on the 26th of December, since that’s when it all started, she would get a new life, new name, appearance and everything. Nobody would remember her past selves, except for her.

I know what you’re thinking, it sounds insane, not having anybody remember you, having to change your life every year, but the truth is we all make bad decisions when we’re desperate. This was hers.

So it all begins....

She started out as Ophelia, such a pretty girl with such intriguing green eyes who looked like they had seen everything. That was the first Christmas the woman had really participated in, the first where she actually felt like she belonged. She spent it with friends in a rundown college dorm, eating





cheap noodles in front of an even cheaper tree with modest gifts at the bottom. To some it may sound depressing, but for Ophelia it was everything. She felt at home, so she sank into it, the stupid jokes, the the simply decorated room with only a string of lights shining and the feeling of happiness. She finally understood what it was that people were talking about when they talked about the magic of Christmas. The girl would never admit it to the devil, but when she had to let go of that first life, Ophelia felt a part of her heart break.

There were a lot more lives after that, but each Christmas was different. Sometimes it was spent at markets, the smell of food and laughter lighting the place up. Other times, at fancy ballrooms with expensive dresses and champagne glasses. Her favorites were the ones spent at home, with family or friends, with the feeling of belonging in her heart as snow fell outside like a beautiful snowy mozaic. Now she sits on a bench, staring at a photo album of her life, polaroids with messy handwriting and people in them who have either long forgotten her or are gone now. The cheer of Christmas doesn't seem to fit the mood she is in, but she feels a little smile break out on her face looking at the pictures. They all have one simple thing written on them, a note to herself so she never forgets who she was before:

„Merry Christmas Heather, I remember you.”



Teodorescu Ștefan- Cristian

clasa a VII-a, Liceul Teoretic
„Alexandru Ioan Cuza” Iași

A promise that turned into a curse

Hi, my name is Nikolai and together with my sister, Aurora, and with our parents we are living in a small village of elves. Oh I think that I forgot to tell you that I am an elf! You probably already imagine me very small, but in reality we are really tall and most of us have blond hair, but my family comes from a family of royalties so we have grey hair, cool right?

My sister and I are very close, because we spend all day together. We drink hot chocolate, and we look at the snowflakes as the village is covered with snow. I remember from when I was only a child that my sister said:

Hey Nikolai, do you think there are people who are with eachother for life?

Aurora what is this question ? I said puzzled


Just answer to my question ! said Aurora

Ok fine! Yes, I do believe that are people who are with eachother for life.

You want us to be those kind of people?

After saying that Aurora, rose to her feet. Her red silk dress had turned to an immaculate white because the snow was sticking to her back and she said „Nikolai, let's make a promise, do you promise that we will be the same until death do us a part?”, „I promise” I said, and after that we fell to the ground laughing.

After that day Aurora was kidnapped, I never saw my sister again, but I promise to my self that I will not let go of our promise, I will find my sister and I will bring her home.



The years had passed and I was getting taller every day as my muscles became stronger and stronger, but for Santa Claus the times we're quite dark. You see? Santa is in a war against The Queen of Midnight. The queen wants Christmas to end because she never felt happiness and from that she hated the Christmas, but Santa vowed to protect Christmas with his own life, and that's what he did. He fought many battles but the end of the war depends on one last battle in which I will participate.

After the kidnapping of Aurora I joined the Royal Guards who had to protect Christmas with their own lives. The last battle will be in The Mid Time Mountains because that was the point where day and night met. Our camp was not far from the foot of the mountains.

Santa's plan was for the infantry to stand still until their infantry attack us, then our archers would start firing and the reindeer cavalry would attack their flanks. The plan being a good one, I went to bed without any worries. The next day everyone was ready. The battle was coming. We arrived first on the battlefield, the emblem of the sun shone on every knight and every archer. The worst part was the silence, that silence disturbed you until you gave in, but suddenly the battle chimneys were heard. The earth shook as the queen's army passed.

But in that huge army I saw a girl, a girl with grey hair and green eyes exactly like Aurora, but this tough went as fast as it came because the horns were heard once more and that was the sign that the battle had begun.

The clash of sword had broken the silence but in that chaos I saw again that girl with gray hair and green eyes it was Aurora! In that moment I yelled „Aurora!”, she returned and then fled. I followed her and I arrived in a place where no one else could be seen.

„Aurora wait!” I yelled again, but in that moment she attacked me. The sounds of our swords were as if they were dancing. As we dueled, the Elves screamed with joy that they had won, the Christmas was saved but I still had my own fight. In a moment of inattention, the sword slips out of my hand and Aurora stabs me, and I, in turn, stab her with my pocket knife. We were both standing, patting the snow, in front of each other. “I always loved you, brother” she said with a smile on her face and after that, she died. I began to cry, I just killed my own sister, I am a murderer! The Christmas was saved, but at what cost? In that moment I realized, until death do us part wasn't a promise.. It was a curse.

Mantaluta Daria-Maria

clasa a VI-a, Colegiul Național
„Garabet Ibrăileanu” Iași




A Magical Christmas

Christmas is such a beautiful time of the year, isn't it? We take a break from schoolwork and enjoy time with the people we love. It's a time to reflect on ourselves and appreciate the small things from our lives.

I live in London, which is an enormous city! But when it's close to Christmas London becomes a wonderland. There are hundreds of fairy lights everywhere during December and the shops are decorated for this season. We live in quite a big house, on a very busy street. The houses from our





neighborhood are always beautifully decorated when it's Christmas, except ours, as my parents aren't that jolly in that time of the year. They are not used to decorating the Christmas tree or baking sweets. Despite that, they usually let me decorate the interior, especially my room.

It might seem like a childish thing, but I always make a wish on Christmas Eve before I go to bed. This year, however, I decided to wish for something different.

- Santa, I know it will probably not reach you, but this year I have a different kind of wish. I want to visit your house at the North Pole, as I have so many questions for you! This may feel impossible, but it's all I hope for. Have a good night, Santa Claus!

After that, I went to sleep, towards the land of my dreams. In the morning, I woke up having a weird feeling. The air felt so different, as it was not the stagnant air from my room, but rather a fresh and minty breeze. After I opened my eyes and immediately jumped out of bed. I realized something important. I was not in my room! I was in a rustic house, filled with lots of toys, sweets and gift wraps. As I turned my head, I saw an elf staring at me from distance.

- Well, well, look who is awake! said someone in a smooth voice.

As I was taken by surprise, I picked a huge candy cane, ready to defend myself.

- Hold still, my dear. It's me, Santa Claus.

- No, that is impossible! You can't be Santa Claus. Where did you bring me? I want to go home! I said in a scared tone.

- Don't you remember the wish you had last night? I brought you to my house, in the North Pole!

- So, it is true, I am in the North Pole. But how? How did you bring me here? I asked, feeling very confused.

- Well, Dear, I can't say that. Some things have to remain secret, just to keep the magic alive! So, you said you want to talk with me. How can I help?

- You are right. Some things just need to remain a mystery, so I'll keep my questions for myself. But I have another wish.

- Oh, I wasn't expecting that! But sure, tell me your wish.

- Can you make my family enjoy Christmas, even a little bit?

- That is a big wish. I won't completely change your family, because I know you don't truly want that. But I will try my best to do something to make your parents feel the cheerful spirit of Christmas. Now, it's time to go home, darling. Your parents will be awake soon! Said Santa, looking at his wall clock.

- No worries, I said. Thank you for listening to me. It was great to see you!

Then, the next second I was in my room, this time without any elves staring at me. I went downstairs immediately, to see if my parents woke up. But another surprise waited me there. The kitchen was decorated nicely with colorful globes, tinsel and candy canes, while a Christmas tree was standing tall, decorated with fairy lights and shining stars. The Christmas spirit was floating in the air!





Negurici Erik Cristian

clasa a VII-a, Liceul
„Varlaam Mitropolitul”



Christmas Tale

Once upon a time, many years ago, on Christmas Eve, Santa was preparing for his journey around the world. But he had a lot of problems: four of his elves got sick and the toys could not be finished until December 24th. Even if those four elves weren't sick, Santa couldn't get to every house to bring presents for the children, because Rudolf, the reindeer, who had to lead Santa Claus' sleigh, had a wounded leg. The situation was really bad, because not even Santa Claus could make such miracles. On December 18th, Santa was very worried because there were only 5 more days until Christmas, and he didn't manage to have all the presents ready. On December 20th, after two days of health care provided by Mrs. Claus, Rudolf had fully recovered. When Santa heard this wonderful news, he realized that he had all the chances to bring gifts all over the world. Suddenly the doorbell was ringing. Mrs. Claus was very surprised to see a baby polar bear at the door. The baby polar bear told her:

'Good evening! I have lost my mother and I have nowhere to sleep!'

Mrs. Claus called Santa immediately. Santa was happy to provide shelter to the baby bear. The bear, amazed by Santa's kindness, gave him a bracelet. The baby bear played with the reindeers for a while, and he went to bed. The next day, on December 21st, the baby bear woke up at its own home, in the cave, where he was living together with its brothers and parents.

Santa Claus was very worried, because he had no idea how to finish all the toys by December 24 without the help of the elves; the elves needed a cure to heal. Suddenly a thin voice came from the bracelet:

'In order to heal the elves, you have to take the following ingredients: dragon dust, from the top of the Himalayas, the flower of magic, which you will find in the forest of the tigers, and most important of all is Ricky's magic drink, which you will find in the cave of the smurfs.'

Without wasting any second, Santa Claus told Mrs. Claus to prepare him for a two days trip. On the 22nd he left for the Himalayas. When he reached the mountain, he looked around, took his heart to his chest and began climbing the mountain. After good hours, Santa was about halfway, and he got tired, so he fell. Out of nowhere Rudolf appears and catches Santa on his strong back. Santa Claus was scared to death and thanked Rudolf for saving him and gave him a magic cake to fly to the top. Santa got the dragon dust. That evening Santa took shelter in a cave and slept well. That evening Santa thought a lot of all the children, and how to make all the presents he was supposed to bring them. The next morning Santa left towards the tigers' forest. Santa tried to negotiate with the tigers to give him the flower of magic. They proposed to Santa an exchange:

'We give you the flower of magic, only if you give us the reindeer! We are very hungry and we don't have much to eat in this forest. The only creatures that are still living here are the winged rabbits, which are very difficult to catch and the poisonous snakes, which we can not eat. So do we have a deal?'





'I don't even think about it! I've had Rudolf for 123 years . I was the first one that Rudolf saw when he was born!' said Santa angrily.

Noticing that they could not make a deal for the flower of magic, Santa Claus decided to steal the flower. In the middle of the night Santa sneaked into the cave while the tigers were sleeping and stole the flower. He became more and more confident that he would succeed in saving Christmas. He had only one ingredient to collect.

On December 24, early in the morning, Santa together with Rudolf left for the smurf's cave. Two hours later he reached the cave. At the smurf's office, Santa Claus said:

'Hello, I'm Santa Claus! Please help me with a magic drink to heal the elves, so they could finish all the children's toys till tonight.'

'Sure, I am very happy to help!' Immediately, Ricky, the smurf, prepared the magic drink and gave it to Santa who thanked and left in a hurry, to go home, at the North Pole. When he got home, he gave all the ingredients to Mrs. Claus and she made the healing cure. She gave the cure to the elves, and they have entirely recovered.

Fortunately, the elves succeeded in making all the presents, and Santa Claus saved Christmas.

Merry Christmas everyone!

Pintilei Philip Matei

clasa a VII-a, Liceul Teoretic
„Dimitrie Cantemir” Iași



Christmas Magic

Jingle bells, jingle bells,
Jingle all the way!

Oh! What fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh...

What? What's happening? What's that noise?

I am waking up from my sweet sleep and rushing at the alarm clock. But it has not gone off yet . I still hear the song. I hear a choir with bells and sweet voices .I think that Santa is coming soon.

''Oh ,my Lord! SANTA?!But what day is today?''

I am rushing to the agenda. Is it only 1st of December?

But why is the song playing?

I rushed to the window thinking that the song comes from outside.

''Wow, wow! It is incredible! Outside it is snowing just like in stories my grandma used to tell me. And the snow is around 10 cm wide. ''

''But still where is the song coming from? ''I dressed and hopped outside .It was just too beautiful. I wanted to feel the snowflakes tickling me and my cheek. But I still need to see where that song is coming from.

Outside was a beautiful scenery, and the bells kept getting louder.





Somebody whispered in my ear saying "Santa" .I rotated my head, but no one was near me.

When suddenly ,a big red sleigh with Santa`s reindeers appeared before my eyes with Rudolph and his nose was actually red.

I was dreaming about this image every time i was peeking for him on the Christmas night, but nothing happened. Hmm...could this be true? Maybe I am still dreaming.

I wanted to go home, but then I saw that the sleigh was empty. Everyone knows that Santa is the one who is riding the big red sleigh. But Santa wasn't there. I mean that's normal because it is one 1st of December,then how the sleigh appeared?

The voice is whispering me again:

``This year, you will be Santa!``

``Me? HUH? How could I be Santa? I did wish that for soo long but how could I do all Santa`s work?

Then an elf jumped on my shoulder, and in a few seconds a big crowd of elves hopped in the sleigh. They were singing!!!

``Everything is ready to go,Santa !Let's hurry up, we do not have time to waste!`` said the elf that sat on my shoulder. I bet that he was the leader.

I got to say nothing. And suddenly the elves put me in the sleigh .They put the reins in my hands and we started moving. Where are we going?! had no clue.But I enjoyed it soo much!!IT'S ACTUALLY TRUE!!!!

In a matter of seconds we were there,at the North Pole.There everyone looked like they were waiting for me.

``Everyone is waiting their instructions, Santa! What is the plan?``asked the elf leader.

Suddenly I saw myself in a piece of ice. But it was not me. I mean it was me,but I was Santa.I looked like Santa!! had a white beard and a very beautiful red costume and ...uhhh...a big tummy.

"The Christmas Magic did this thing!" said the elf winking at me.

It was clear!! had A LOT of work to do.First of all,I said that in the city I live everyone should be dressed well for Christmas:bells,globes,tinsels,everything well done.In that night I lighted a bunch of little lights that shrouded the city.Then I started the process of creating gifts.The elves used the well coloured foil to dress the gifts.

The days went by and I still worked hard .In the Christmas Eve everything was ready.I hopped in the sleigh, I put the bag that was full of gifts next to me and I started to move.The Magic helped me finish all of the work in one night.I had one more house to visit,MY HOUSE.

Everyone was sleeping. I walked lightly in the living room and rushed to the well dressed Christmas tree.There,I left a gift for everyone.

After I finished my mission ,a magic cloud shrouded me from the top to the bottom .The elves disappeared and I turned back to my original form.I was in front of my Christmas tree and I felt in the Seventh Sky.I just lived THE BEST EXPERIENCE OF MY LIFE!!!!.I had my heart full of joy,and near me there was a magic atmosphere.

Everyone of us could be Santa and bring magic and joy to everyone we love!





Matei Hogaş

clasa a V-a, Colegiul Național
„Mihail Sadoveanu” Iași



The Rush after the Presents

There we are again, in the Christmas Eve. I've been waiting Santa Claus to bring me a little present for hours! Or, better said, for years.

You see, neither me or my friends did not get any presents for three years. We really cannot understand why! We wrote the address correctly, we've been nice the whole year...we didn't even request too many presents!

But this sadness had to end. So the first thing I had to do was to call my friends as soon as possible, and to meet somewhere and...

-...not to go anywhere that late? dad said.

-Dad?!

-Stop talking to nobody like a shady and go to bed right now!

-Go to bed? Are you joking? It's only...22:46.

Well, not so soon as I thought. Unless I could sneak out of home and meet my friends anyway!

As I said, I've been nice the whole year!

So I went out in the park. Surprisingly, my friends were also there.

-What is it? Andrew asked. It's midnight and it's midwinter!

-Oh, but it's beautiful! Summer said. There are little frozen stars dancing in the waltz of the wind, the ground has fallen asleep under an endless shiny blanket, the...

-And so on, William Shakespeare! But why are we actually here? Andrew interrupted.

-I'm glad you asked. You didn't also get any presents for Christmas in the last three years, didn't you?

They are all silent.

-Good then. I say, let's go to the North Pole and see what's going on! Yes, I meant it. And no, I did not lose my mind.

Didn't I?

-Fine, because I desperately want a new tablet, Daniel said.

-Ok, why not? Anika said.

Alright, then if I did lose my mind, then I was not the only one. Good to know.

The only way we could reach the North Pole was...through a plane. Fortunately, the airport was only 700 meters far from the park. Which usually is not much, but we had to face one of the winter's greatest and meanest warriors: the freezing wind. Smart enough to realize that our destination will be even more...hospitable, we succeeded.

I would be probably proud to say that it was hard to get on the plane, but I wouldn't be proud to lie. Honestly, the guardians' vigilance was shamefully worse than I thought.

-Haha! I don't think that those poor, tired guardians know the meaning of the word „sleep”. Andrew laughed.





-Be quiet! I said. You are about to reveal us all!

We remained silent for the rest of the flight. Maybe because we were shocked to find out that all the people on the plane were secretly elves and other fantastic creatures.

After only half an hour, we arrived. It seems that Santa has his bewitched planes, which can travel with the speed of a child's hands unboxing a present. Trust me, it's one of the fastest things in the Universe. And its nemesis...or rival...were us staring at Santa's Kingdom.

-It's wonderful...!

-It's brilliant...!

-It makes you forget about the present-less years!

-No, it doesn't.

-True, I say. We are on a mission, do you remember? We must stay focused!

At that moment, I realized that I've just said something stupid. How could we stay focused, when we were surrounded by pure magic? The trees were decorated with golden apples, and there were shiny snakes wreathed on the trees, trying to eat the „apples”. There were countless stars playing on the night's dark scarf. And of course, the ground was covered by a cloak, which was softer than the silk, whiter than the milk and...

-Made of cotton candy! Daniel exclaimed.

Well...I thought it's snow, but...yes, it was cotton candy. And it was sweet. Reaaally sweet. Really...sleepy...

-Enough with the cotton candy! I said. We must go now!

-Matthew, are you still talking with yourself? Someone asked. It was my mother.

Wait. My mother? How?? And how was I in my bed?

Suddenly, I hear someone else knocking in the window. And it was not my mum. Neither my dad. It was...Santa Claus!

Gavril Daria


clasa a VIII-a, Colegiul Național
„Mihai Eminescu”, Iași



Winter Love

It all starts on a winter's day. The large, fluffy flakes seem to dance smoothly in the wind. Now, the bare trees are covered with shiny clothes, which will keep them warm until the long-awaited spring. Our character, Phume is a teenager of only nineteen years old who is very passionate about skating, and because of this she loves to spend her evenings at the ice rink in the center of London because it is the most beautiful she knows and the landscape around her is wonderful. Especially during Christmas, because it is decorated with all kinds of lights, each brighter than the other.

Of course, tonight, Phume decided to go skating to relax because it was Friday and she had had a very difficult week before, being during school. She had started to skate but at the same time she felt better than ever because there was only a week until Christmas and everyone was excited, on the street, people sang carols, children made snowmen and at the windows of the buildings you could



see the colors of the LEDs from fir trees that gave you a feeling of well-being just by looking at them.

Attracted by all these aspects, Phume stumbled and was about to fall, but a boy came to catch her so as not to hit her. At a simple glance, she began to sympathize him and excitedly said „Thank you for not letting me fall!”, „No problem, by the way my name is KB.”

Embarrassed, she couldn't say a word in front of him, she just smiled so as not to seem uninterested about him.

The days had passed quickly and the two had seen each other at the ice rink every night, but neither of them dared to speak, until Christmas Eve. KB came to Phume and they got to know each other. At the end of the conversation, he asked her what she was going to do for Christmas because he wanted to invite her to a dinner at the most famous restaurant in town. There was a splendid Christmas-themed concert, singing carols and classical music. Shy, the girl accepted but did not want to look like she was in love with him.

The teenager was thinking about him all night because she wanted not to get laugh about her. The long-awaited dinner had arrived, Phume looked perfect, she was dressed in a molded red dress and very elegant heeled shoes, and KB was dressed in a suit, with the shoes matched with the jacket. They sat down at the table, listening to the music and after ten minutes they decided to order food. KB couldn't take his eyes off her face because she looked gorgeous that night. At one point, a classical song began to unfold, in which the couples had to dance slowly. Phume was shocked when the boy invited her to the dance and of course her answer was a big YES, because she was waiting for this moment from the day they met.

He grabbed her slightly by the waist and they started dancing. Phume felt better than ever and realized that this was a Christmas miracle. Midnight was fast approaching so each couple sat down under a mistletoe branch to kiss. KB pulled Phume next to him and finally kissed her.

That evening remained their most beautiful moment and from those minutes they decided to be together until old age because they were soul mates and they had a wonderful first Christmas together.




**Radeanu David
Alexandru**

clasa a V-a, Școala Gimnazială
„Bogdan Petriceicu Hasdeu” Iași

Harry and Santa's Empire

It was a cold winter day. Harry was in his room, looking at the snow outside. He wanted to go in an adventure because he was bored. Suddenly, the boy remembered that he needed to write a letter to Santa Claus so he sat at his desk and wrote it. Later he started reading a book about photography.

After a while he went to sleep. Harry was cold. He was not in his bed anymore, but in a strange big city with thousands of different shops, something that looked like a train station and a really big building that seemed to be a home. He saw little people walking around, all wearing a green and yellow jacket, green pants and a red and white funny hat. Harry didn't know why these funny people



were so small. But then he saw... Santa. He immediately recognized Santa. He asked him why did he woke up there.

„You were bored... And wanted an adventure. So I thought it would be nice to show you the surroundings”, Santa said.

Harry was fascinated and he wanted to stay longer with Santa and his little elves, but his new friend said Harry must go back home to his parents. Harry blinked and woke up in his bed." Was it a dream? No... Santa is real !"... Harry smiled and got up thinking: "I want to see Santa and his little elves again..."

He took his pen and wrote another letter to Santa, but this time the boy wrote also a message to his parents and left it on his bed. "I hope they see my message."

He waited minutes that seemed like hours and at some point he felt a slightly cold wind. "Yess! Finally! I'm here again!" He explored the train station by himself. He saw a train made from gingerbread. "It looks tasty!" Harry also explored a huge garden with a big maze. In the center of the maze there was a beautiful

fountain made from candy. There was no water in the fountain, just chocolate."Ooooh, this looks delicious!". Then he explored the bigger shops and buildings. The elves Harry met were so nice to him!

Before he left, Harry wanted to take a Selfie with Santa. "Where is he?"

He looked for Santa everywhere and asked many elves."WHERE IS HE?"..."Is he...okay?"

BOOOOOOOM !!!

Harry woke up in his room. His parents were in the living room. They were watching TV. Harry's parents welcomed him like nothing happened, but all Harry could think about was: "Is Santa Ok?"

It's Christmas Eve. Harry wakes up and jumps out of his bed. He runs to the Christmas Tree, looks and ... calms down. There were lots of presents under the Christmas tree. " Santa is Okay!". He wakes up his parents and opens the presents . "OOOH, a new ball! A new video game! Some clothes and a new iPhone!" Harry was really happy that he met Santa and his elves and A NEW iPhone!

.....
>And that is how Harry met Santa<
THE END

Lungu- Constantineanu Ioana

clasa a VII-a, Colegiul Național
„Mihail Sadoveanu” Iași




Winter wonderland

The sun was peeking from between the clouds, a few stray sun rays heating up my skin. While enjoying the warmth of my blanket and the sun, I heard a voice calling my name.

„Mars! Mars, wake up!"

I groaned and rubbed my eyes, trying to get rid of the sleepiness that was keeping them closed.





„Mars, wake up already!”

„Okay okay fine. Just give me a moment.” I said, lazily opening my eyes. The first thing I saw was my boyfriend, Felix. His face was only a few inches away from mine, and a huge grin was plastered on his face. I stared at him, admiring his chocolate-brown eyes that shined in the sunlight, his freckles, and his pretty, pink lips.

„Good morning, love” he said, smiling even wider.

„Morning, Lix” I answered, smiling back at him. „Why did you wake me up, though? I was dreaming about something really nice.” I said, trying to seem mad.

He laughed and apologized for interrupting my dream.

„Anyways, the thing. Wait, I wanna show you.”

He grabbed my wrist and dragged me to the window, giggling like a little kid.

„Look, look! It’s snowing!” he yelled, waving my hand around. „Can we please go outside?”

„Hmmm... Sure, I don’t see why not!” I said, laughing while he jumped around excitedly.

We both got dressed and ate breakfast, then went outside.

The snow that was covering the ground and trees was glittering in the pale sunlight, making the scenery look like it came out of a fairy tale. I looked around, mesmerized by the beauty of the sparkling snow, elegant and delicate, yet so tempting. I could barely stop myself from jumping straight into the pile of snow next to me, and I’m sure I would have, if it wouldn’t have been freezing-cold outside.

We walked around the forest for a while, admiring the scenery and chatting, until I realised that I was so cold I couldn’t feel my fingers anymore.

I looked at Felix and grabbed his hand, trying to warm up my own. Then I noticed the little snowflakes that landed on his eyelashes. I laughed a little, getting all soft because of how cute he looked. I held both his hands, swinging them back and forth.

Soon, my hands were on his shoulders, and his were on my waist. We were dancing and spinning around, singing and laughing. He twirled me one more time, before leaning in and pressing his lips against mine. I started forgetting about the cold, slowly melting in his arms, just like snow.

We pulled away, both gasping for air. He smiled at me. Oh God, that smile. That damned smile. It made me go weak in the knees every time. I hugged him, hiding my face in the crook of his neck. I heard him giggle as he patted my head. I was about to die from how cute he was. Metaphorically, though. Something so cute couldn’t kill anyone.

As I hugged him, I remembered how I spent winter days in my childhood. I played for hours with my friends in the snow, making snowmen and having snowball fights. God, that was so fun. I really miss those days. But still, I wouldn’t change anything. I’m happy with whatever will happen, as long as he is still with me. I hugged him tighter, not wanting to let go. He’s truly the most precious thing in my life. If only he knew...

But before I could finish my thoughts, he poked my side, making me laugh.

„Calm down, you koala. It’s not like I’m going anywhere.” he said, giggling. „Also, I’m thirsty. And cold.” he added, trying to sound serious.

„Hmm... how about we go get some hot chocolate?” I said, as he nodded frantically.


And so we walked over to the cafe hand in hand, talking about the most random things and thinking how lucky we are to have eachother.





Bursuc Ruxandra- Elena

clasa a V-a, Scoala Gimnazială
„Bogdan Petriceicu Hasdeu” Iași



Who wouldn't love to live in Winter Wonderland?


Welcome to the Winter Wonderland! This is a wonderful place far from here. There all people are friends with animals and nature. The view is wonderful. All trees are covered with a thin layer of cold snow just like the ground. In the middle of the country there is always a big fir decorated with red, gold, silver and white globes.

Next to there is the Frozen Lake, where all the children meet every morning, at 10 o'clock, in December, because in the Land of Winter Wonders, December is the month of joy, holidays and gifts. Everyone is happy and eager to learn new and new winter songs, but especially to make and receive gifts. Each child has a leprechaun-helper, and the workshops are in the houses located around the Frozen Lake. Every night, after packing, the children have fun on the frozen lake. Some skate, others fight with lumps, and some build people or elves out of the snow.

In December, many competitions are organized, for baking gingerbread, figure skating, speed skating, building snowmen, sledding dogs and gift wrapping. There are also many fairs. There are handmade ornaments or sweets. Each inhabitant participates in a competition. Participants in the baking contest prepare their biscuit recipes, icing and decorations the night before. The skaters practice their number of hours from the beginning of the month until the competition. Most of the work is done by the dogs that pull the sleds. They do a lot of training, a lot of training and they need a lot of training time. All people are very busy during the holidays.

All gifts require a lot of time and attention. This year everything went perfectly, all the gifts were finished on time. All the children and elves worked hard to get everything ready for Christmas Eve. Christmas Eve is the most important part of the month for workshop aids. Then Rudolph comes with the other reindeer to pick up the presents. Which always happens at 8 o'clock in the evening.

The big night has come. All the boxes were in bags ready for Rudolph to pick them. It was 10 to 8. All the children were waiting for the red sleigh to appear. It was no small surprise when the clock struck the fixed time and the sleigh did not appear. They stayed for half an hour, an hour but still nothing. While people were waiting for the sleigh, a strong storm broke out. It tore down a large fir tree that fell over the frozen lake. The trunk made a big hole in the ice. Suddenly the big bag of presents was also torn down by the wind in the lake. Everyone jumped to catch him, but no one succeeded. Everything was lost of hope if the reindeer had not appeared. They caught the bag in flight with the highest speed. Everyone present was relieved. Rudolph went down slowly to the people and explained that he was late because Santa's elves




slept too much and didn't have time to put magic dust on the sleigh for it to fly. Everyone was happy to hear these words because they were worried. The reindeer stopped talking because they were already late.

The children and the elves returned home, where they spent a Christmas full of joy and gifts.

I don't know about you, but I would loooove to live in Winter Wonderland!

Albert Stenzler

clasa a VI-a, Școala Gimnazială
„Ion Creangă” Iași



A Christmas Miracle

Once upon a time, in a small town lived a poor boy, Jiminy. He never felt the joy of getting a present for Christmas. Jiminy was slim, small with brown hair and brown eyes. People tried to avoid him, because of his faith. In a big city, far away from that small town lived a rich boy, Simon. He got so many presents on Christmas, that he was getting bored of them.

One year, everything was about to change for Jiminy. In that year he was going to get not one, but many presents. Simon was visiting his grandparents which lived in the small town. Grandpa Ron saw that something bothered his grandson. He went close to him and asked:

„What is the matter, Simon?”

„I am all right. Nothing is wrong.”

„But you look sad. Please tell me, I can help you.”

„Fine, the truth is I am bored of always getting presents on Christmas.”

„Well, that is the spirit.”

„I know, but I want to do something different. The problem is that I don't know what.”

„Well, I can suggest you something.”

„Really? What is it?”

„You can be the one who gives presents.”

„Give? Just like the others who gave me?”

„Yes, exactly.”

„But ... do you know a person who would like these presents?”

„No, but my advice is to offer your presents to the ones that don't usually get any.”


„Do you mean poor children?”

„Yes.”

„Why not?”

„Thank you, grandpa.”

After Simon gave his grandpa a hug, he dressed up and went for a walk. Of course he took a backpack to put some of his less favourite presents in. The weather was lovely, it was snowing slowly and the soft snow made a carpet on the ground. Meanwhile Jiminy was also walking as always, begging people for money, although he rarely gained something. Suddenly a group of



bullies appeared in the street. They were the ones that stole Jiminy's money a week ago. They started to talk:

„Look who we have here.”

„Leave me alone!”

„Never! Give us the money and you're free.”

„No! No! No!”

„Well, hard way it is.”

The group started to fight with Jiminy. They kicked him and punched him until he couldn't move. Simon got closer to the fight zone. He saw the poor boy and the mean boys. Then he shouted furious:

„Hey, fight someone on your size if you are very tough.”

Simon started to throw snow in the boy's eyes and legs. He knew to fight, so he used some skills he learned and in three minutes the group ran away. Jiminy said:

„Thank you! I couldn't face them alone.”

„No problem! What is your name?”

„Jiminy.”

„Nice name. I am Simon.”

„You seem rich.”

„That is true, but I don't like to be called that way.”

„Oh, interesting.”

„Why did those monsters attack you?”

„Well ... they wanted my money.”

„Oh, that is rude.”

„Yeah, I haven't got the best life! I am poor and I live in a wood house with my mother.”

„Sad. I was looking for someone to give him some presents. It looks like it's your lucky day.”

Simon showed Jiminy all the presents he had in the backpack. Jiminy was amazed he got presents from a rich boy. Simon felt happy. Giving wasn't bad. It was amazing. Simon also bought some food for Jiminy, because he saw the poor boy was starving. Simon promised that he will meet him whenever he visits to his grandparents.

What happened in that year showed Simon that giving is better than getting. The boy became a good friend with Jiminy and other poor children he met accidentally.

Simon was only one thing for Jiminy, he was his Christmas Miracle.





Podariu Sabina Maria

clasa a VI-a, Școala Gimnazială
„Elena Cuza” Iași



Winter Wonderland

If there were the land of winter wonders I think it would be a wonderful and very beautiful country.

This country I think would hide many wounds and feelings left behind by those who left it. People who have lived in it or even live in it now should be very warm to survive the temperature. There should be amusement parks and slide slides and only the brave should be given. In addition to this in every store there had to be an elf at the cash register where all customers pay for their purchases. Every day when it snowed, all the children were allowed to go out in the sauna and make snowmen and igloos like bear houses. Once a month all the children went with carols and ugly, receiving candy and money from people. Adults had to talk to Santa and buy children between two or four presents every two months enjoying and children instead had to take only high grades at school, if a child did not keep his promise, he would not receive gifts next month. The children's lives were very beautiful and if I could live there I would be very happy. Along with winter, many very important and beautiful holidays and traditions are brought after it. The birth of the lord is on the 25th of December, it goes with the ugly, the caroling and the sorcovat. At Christmas all the people decorate their Christmas tree and make a big table to enter the new year well. At Christmas all the people decorate their Christmas tree and make a big table to enter the new year well.


I believe that the Christmas holidays are the most fruitful time of the year.





Luca Ababei Miruna Maria

clasa a VIII-a, Școala Gimnazială
„Titu Maiorescu” Iași



The spirit of the winter holidays

Hello, my name is Miruna and today I will tell you a little story about my winter holiday. Let's begin! It was last year's Christmas Eve and my mother and I were cooking for the Christmas buffet.

We were so excited about spending quality time together. I was so nervous about cooking. I've never cooked before and I was worried that I would set the kitchen on fire by simply turning on the oven. Everything was going great until something incredible happened. I will tell you about it, however, after I finish making dinner. Okay, I am back. Like I said, everything was going great until that fateful moment when the Christmas tree fell over! Its stand snapped in two, an elf emerging out of it. I still do not know how he got in there. He was so full of energy that he started to jump on my family's sofa! He was running happily through my home when, suddenly, someone rang the doorbell.

I went to see what was going on and I noticed a man waiting at the front door. He seemed poor, so we invited him in. We sat him down at the table and offered him a warm meal. After he finished eating, I gave him some of my father's clean clothes. When he saw them, he began to cry.

He thanked us for our kindness and generosity and, out of the blue, he turned into Santa Claus and gave us loads and loads of presents. He asked us to get in his sleigh, and off we went to the North Pole! I was so happy when I got there! I couldn't believe my eyes when I met Santa's wife, who invited us to her house. She was very beautiful. She had red, curly hair and her eyes were as blue as the ocean. She was wearing a red, long dress and a red coat with little Christmas trees on it. She asked us to try her famous gingerbread and some other sweets and oh my gosh, they were delicious. Everything was beautiful and white. I must admit, though, that I started to shiver because of the cold.

After eating, we went to Santa's factory to prepare the gifts for the kids. Everything was so fun. I was excited and very happy to spend time with my family and with Santa. I also ran into the elves. They were smaller than I expected, and their skin was as green as the Christmas tree leaves. Their diligence and energy deeply impressed me. They were doing all their tasks with a smile on their faces. The factory was so beautiful; its decorations were rich and sparkly, and the atmosphere was lovely. We were so lucky to meet Santa because this experience helped us bond as a family.

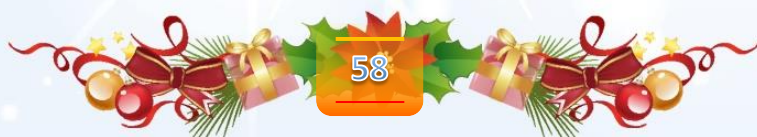
After three days on Santa's Island at the North Pole, we returned home. I will never know if this was a dream or not. Yes, my beautiful friends, that was my Christmas story. Thank you for reading it. Have a great day! I will see you again soon!



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