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„SFÂNTUL IOAN IACOB” DOROHOI**

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WORDS AND THOUGHTS OF WISDOM

**REVISTĂ
a
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Colegiul de redacție

Președinte,

Director

Seminarul Teologic Liceal Ortodox „Sfântul Ioan Iacob” Dorohoi
Pr. prof. Chichioacă Petru-Georgel

Coordonatori,

Inspector Școlar General - ISJ Botoșani - Prof. Suruciuc Bogdan Gheorghe
Inspector școlar disciplina Limba engleză - ISJ Botoșani - Prof. Telișcă Irina
Prof. Istrate Vlad
Prof. Stoleru Paula-Mihaela
Prof. Surdu Alina-Daniela

Redactori,

Cadre didactice
Elevi
Colaboratori

Tehnoredactare și design,

Pr. prof. Chichioacă Petru-Georgel

Adresa redacției:

Str. Poștei, nr. 14, mun. Dorohoi, jud. Botoșani
Email: semdorohoi@yahoo.com
www.facebook.com/seminaruldorohoi
Cod poștal 715200
Tel. / fax. 0231611961

„*Words of Wisdom*” este o revistă școlară de cultură și creație, cu apariție anuală, realizată de profesorii Seminarului Teologic Liceal Ortodox „Sfântul Ioan Iacob” din Dorohoi.

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„*Words of Wisdom*” revine în exclusivitate autorilor.

Lucrările, ilustrațiile și fotografiile cuprinse în această revistă pot fi reproduse, preluate sau utilizate numai cu menționarea sursei.

Școli participante la proiect

- Colegiul Economic „Mihail Kogălniceanu” Focșani, Vrancea
- Colegiul Național „Grigore Ghica” Dorohoi, Botoșani
- Colegiul Național „Mihai Viteazul” Ploiești, Prahova
- Colegiul Național „Nicolae Iorga” Brăila
- Colegiul Național „Tudor Vladimirescu” București
- Colegiul Tehnic „Edmond Nicolau” Focșani, Vrancea
- Colegiul Tehnic „Ion Holban” Iași
- Liceul „Danubius” Călărași
- Liceul „Dimitrie Cantemir” Darabani, Botoșani
- Liceul „Ștefan Procopiu” Vaslui
- Liceul de Arte „Hariclea Darclée” Brăila
- Liceul de Arte „Ionel Perlea” Slobozia, Ialomița
- Liceul Tehnologic „Domnul Tudor” Drobeta Turnu Severin
- Liceul Tehnologic „Sf. Antim Ivireanu” București
- Liceul Teoretic „Traian Lalescu” Orșova, Mehedinți
- Liceul Teoretic „Vladimir Maiakovski” Bălți, Republica Moldova
- Liceul Teoretic Murfatlar, Constanța
- Școala Gimnazială „Aron Vodă” Aroneanu, Iași
- Școala Gimnazială „Manolache Costache Epureanu” Bârlad, Vaslui
- Școala Gimnazială „Miron Costin” Galați
- Școala Gimnazială Borlești, Neamț
- Școala Gimnazială nr. 1 Lunca, Botoșani
- Școala Gimnazială nr. 1 Roșia, Bihor
- Școala Gimnazială nr. 3 „Ciprian Porumbescu” Constanța
- Școala Gimnazială Plosca, Teleorman
- Școala Specială „Ion Pillat” Dorohoi, Botoșani

Cuvânt introductiv

În anul școlar 2023-2024, *Seminarul Teologic Liceal Ortodox „Sfântul Ioan Iacob” din Dorohoi* a organizat cea de-a doua ediție a Proiectului Concurs „*Words of Wisdom*”, inclus în Calendarul activităților educative județene la nivelul Inspectoratului Școlar Județean Botoșani.

Proiectul *Words of Wisdom* a pornit de la nevoia ca un număr cât mai mare de elevi de liceu, înscriși sau nu la clasele cu predare în regim bilingv, să dețină un bagaj cât mai vast de cunoștințe în ceea ce privește cultura celor mai utilizate limbi europene în momentul de față.

Elevii de liceu au avut o serie de teme pe care le-au studiat și pornind de la acestea s-au înscris în oricare dintre secțiunile concursului pe care le-au considerat potrivite sau interesante. Astfel, au avut posibilitatea de a-și exersa competențele de exprimare orală în limba engleză într-un mediu stimulat și atractiv. Respectiv, au avut șansa de a transpune în scris sau grafică, prin diverse mijloace și medii, propriile emoții și trăiri pornind de la teme de reflecție date.

În plus, dezbaterile reprezintă un sport intelectual ideal pentru a-i dezvolta oricărui adolescent gândirea analitică, abilitățile oratorice și spiritul de echipă, precum și nivelul de informare. Sunt o activitate foarte populară atât curricular, cât și extracurricular, în Marea Britanie și în alte țări din vestul Europei, și reprezintă un atu în portofoliul oricărui elev care dorește să își îmbogățească bagajul de cunoștințe în cele mai variate domenii.

De asemenea, elevii de gimnaziu au putut participa la secțiunile de creație literară sau grafică, ilustrând aspecte ale culturii și civilizației britanice într-o manieră proprie, creativă și adecvată temelor concursului.

Scopul principal al proiectului îl reprezintă aprofundarea cunoștințelor unui număr cât mai mare de elevi de liceu în ceea ce privește cultura spațiului britanic, cu precădere, și al celui european, respectiv rădăcinile latine și caracterul incluziv al limbii române.

Director,
Pr. prof. CHICHIOACĂ Petru-Georgel

SECȚIUNEA



The Book of Wisdom of Jesus, Son of Sirach

*Pr. Prof. Chichioacă Petru-Georgel,
Seminarul Teologic Liceal Ortodox „Sfântul Ioan Iacob” Dorohoi*

The *Book of Wisdom of Jesus, Son of Sirach*, also known as Ecclesiasticus, is part of the Old Testament of the Bible. This book contains a collection of teachings and advice regarding wisdom, morality, and everyday life. The author, Jesus son of Sirach, provides a profound perspective on themes such as the fear of God, the love of God, humility, charity, interpersonal relationships, and much more.

Here are some themes and concepts addressed in this book:

- *Wisdom is from the Lord:* The book emphasizes that all wisdom comes from God. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and wisdom is associated with the word of God and His eternal commandments.
- *Fear of the Lord:* Those who fear the Lord will receive grace and blessings and will have a long life. The fear of the Lord removes sins and brings peace and health.
- *Love of God:* Wisdom is associated with the love of God. Those who desire it receive wisdom according to the discretion of God, who loves the faithful man.
- *The root and branches of wisdom:* The root of wisdom is fear of the Lord, and its branches include virtues such as patience, humility, and charity. The book provides guidance on how to control our emotions and have patience in the face of trials, talks about respect and responsibility towards parents, encourages good deeds and helping those in need. Last but not least, the author urges us to be humble and avoid pride.

This book offers valuable advice for those seeking wisdom and spiritual guidance. These teachings are relevant today, offering guidance for a balanced and moral life. May they inspire us to seek wisdom and live in obedience to God.

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The Power of Words

Prof. Istrate Vlad,

Seminarul Teologic Liceal Ortodox „Sfântul Ioan Iacob” Dorohoi

It is said that words came into being in order to conceal the truth, so that we could hide behind them and avoid facing reality or accepting something that cannot be changed.

Words cannot have power by themselves but only by the meaning we have given them. It would be curious to know what would happen to a certain community if, one day, 100 or 1000 words were sent to word jail, without the right to speak, write or even mime them. What would we replace these notions with? How would we manage to express our feelings, our fears, our joys or our anxieties? Would it make it more difficult for us or, on the contrary, would things be much simpler, so that we could go back to a basic level of communication, where people could understand each other through looks, small gestures, facial grimaces or simply connect at a higher level, through an innate emotional intelligence or a special skill acquired involuntarily throughout life. Nowadays it is difficult to imagine a world without word communication, because we've grown so used to it and consider conversation the best way to convey our feelings to others.

An old Japanese saying mentions that "unspoken words are flowers of silence", which would mean that whatever we think and do not say cannot offend or harm anyone, because these words or ideas have never left the mind of the person who generated them. Thoughts that remain unspoken are believed to have no possibility of hurting the feelings of those close to us, because they remain at an early stage and never leave our minds. Nevertheless, it seems that it is still possible that an unspoken thought can offend or upset a person if the facial expression gives us away and the interlocutor guesses what we have not dared to point out loud. Words are like the wind, they can leave deep traces, that is why it is advisable to wisely weigh them before addressing to someone.

Another saying, this time an English one, tells us that „the fewer the words, the better”, which again brings up the idea that emotional intelligence and non-verbal communication play an important role in understanding the psychology of interpersonal relationships.

Some people believe that, sometimes, words can contain wisdom within. Words of wisdom can have the power to uplift, inspire, and guide us on our life's journey. Communication is a crucial aspect of our daily interactions, as it allows us to express our thoughts, feelings and needs. When words of wisdom and effective communication come together, they can create truly transformative experiences for both parties involved (transmitter and receiver of the message).

One of the key elements of words of wisdom is their ability to provide guidance and insights that can help us navigate through life's challenges. Whether it is advice from a mentor, a quote from a wise philosopher or a lesson learned from a personal experience, words of wisdom have the power to resonate with us on a deep level and offer us the strength and inspiration we need to overcome obstacles and achieve our goals.

Communication plays a vital role in conveying these words of wisdom to others. Effective communication involves not only speaking clearly and articulately but also listening attentively and empathetically. When we communicate with others in a respectful and compassionate manner, we create a safe and open space for sharing wisdom and insights that can benefit both parties.

In our fast-paced and digital world, it is easy to overlook the importance of meaningful communication. We often get caught up in our own thoughts and opinions, neglecting to truly listen to others and engage in open and honest dialogue. However, by practicing active and mindful dialogue, we can foster deeper connections with those around us and create a more harmonious and understanding society.

Words of wisdom and communication go hand in hand, as they both have the power to bring people together, inspire change and create a more compassionate and supportive world. By embracing the wisdom of others and engaging in open and honest communication, we can learn from each other, grow as individuals, and build stronger relationships based on trust and understanding.

Concluding, words of wisdom and effective intercommunication are essential tools for navigating through life's challenges and fostering meaningful connections with others. By sharing our insights and experiences with one another in a respectful and compassionate manner, we can create a more harmonious and supportive community where words of wisdom can truly make a difference.

Songs and Plays During English Classes
Performing on stage – teaching means for acquiring speaking skills in
English as a second language

Prof. Stoleru Paula-Mihaela,
Seminarul Teologic Liceal Ortodox „Sfântul Ioan Iacob” Dorohoi

Language learning is a constant process that begins at birth and continues till the end of life. Language learning is an active process by which human beings develop their language skills in order to use them effectively in their social life as well as their professional life. Through language learning, people communicate their thoughts, opinions, information, experiences and feelings and learn to understand themselves and understand others. They even establish their relationships with the members of their family, friends and others. Young learners enhance their language learning skills by utilizing what they know in more complex and novel contexts and with a more range of increasing sophistication. These learners develop their language proficiency and fluency by learning and incorporating various new language structures into their repertoire. It is a known fact that people cannot communicate without a language and even if they communicate, it does not make any sense. Hence there is a necessity of learning language skills in order to communicate with others in the society.

To acquire good communication in any language, one must get a good command over the four language skills i.e. listening, speaking, reading and writing. Among these four skills, speaking is considered the most important skill as communication plays a vital role in our daily life. After learning these four skills well, it is better to switch over again to speaking skills as they play a key role. In this regard, it is apt to say that oral language carries a community's values, customs, traditions, stories and beliefs. Speaking skills enhance the learners' language fluency and accuracy and they also boost the learners' confidence as well.

So, when teaching speaking English during drama classes we focus on two main aspects, what does teaching entail and what does drama mean to the teacher.

Teaching is ...*Definition from ardictionary (<http://www.ardictionary.com>)*

Teaching is the activities of educating or instructing or teaching; activities that impart knowledge or skill; "he received no formal education"; "our instruction was carefully programmed"; "good teaching is seldom rewarded" (<http://ardictionary.com>)

Definition from Lott (2008: 47)

Teaching is contract between a teacher and students. This implies that teachers and students have an agreement to give the teaching obligations each other. He adds that teaching is bidirectional and challenging. This is the case with a highly enthusiastic teacher - student relationship. The common goal of teaching is always the same: learning.

Definition from Davis, James R (<http://iteslj.org/>)

"Teaching", in this model, is defined as the "the interaction of a student and a teacher over a subject."² There may be one student or several in a class. The students can be young or old, bright or below average intelligence, "normal" or physically challenged, highly motivated or "turned off," rich or poor, male or female.

According to the definition of teaching above, we can conclude that teaching is the activity of the teachers to transform the knowledge, skills, and value to the learner, and interact each other to get the goals of learning.

Drama is ...*According to Susan Holden (1981 : 31)*

Drama is any activity which asks the participant to portray himself in an imaginary situation; or to portray another person in an imaginary situation.

According to Charlyn Wessels (1987)

"Drama is doing. Drama is being. Drama is such a normal thing. It is something that we engage in daily when faced with difficult situations. You get up in the morning with a bad headache or an attack of depression, yet you face the day and cope with other people, pretending that nothing is wrong [...] Getting on with our day-to-day lives requires a series of civilized masks if we are to maintain our dignity and live in harmony with others."

According to Wikipedia (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drama.html>)

Drama is a term that comes from an Greek word meaning "action" (Classical Greek: δράμα, drama), which is derived from "to do" (Classical Greek: δράω, draō). The enactment of

drama in theatre, performed by actors on a stage before an audience, presupposes collaborative modes of production and a collective form of reception.

According to Brainyquote (<http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/drama.html>)

Drama is

- a. A composition, in prose or poetry, accommodated to action, and intended to exhibit a picture of human life, or to depict a series of grave or humorous actions of more than ordinary interest, tending toward some striking result. It is commonly designed to be spoken and represented by actors on the stage.
- b. A series of real events invested with a dramatic unity and interest.
- c. Dramatic composition and the literature pertaining to or illustrating it; dramatic literature.

From the definition above, we gather that drama is an activity in the human life which act by actors or actress to deliver a story in front of the audience and express the idea, emotion, and feeling.

The ‘on the stage’ approach

Teaching English is not an easy task to do. The students are easy to feel bored caused by the lack of interest to learn English. The teachers are asked to be more creative to teach English to the students to avoid boredom.

One way to solve this problem is by using drama in teaching English. Drama releases imagination and energy and this could be considered as an educational objective. Drama also encourages students to exercise their sensitivity and imagination and thus makes learning more realistic and meaningful. The activities using drama tend to be purposeful.

There is a Chinese proverb which says ‘**I hear and I forget, I listen and I remember, I do and I understand**’ (Chinese Proverb). This is in essence why drama is a powerful classroom tool. It works through our experiential senses, they are seeing, hearing, saying and doing. Drama activity is used here to bring the various aspects of drama into teaching, mainly involving and stimulating the feelings and imagination of the students, providing them with various stimuli and enriching their learning with an experience on the deeper level. The student here is not a passive recipient but an active meaning maker. The student engages on a much

deeper and personal level than simply being given information. In drama the student demonstrates his understanding by acting out or being what Boal refers to as the ‘spect-actor’.

Using drama activities has clear advantages for language learning. It encourages students to speak gives them the chance to communicate, even with limited language, using non-verbal communication, such as body movements and facial expression. There are also a number of other factors which makes drama a very powerful tool in the language classroom. Some of the areas where drama is very useful to language learners and teachers are stated below.

- *To give learners an experience (dry-run) of using the language for genuine communication and real-life purposes; and by generating a need to speak.* In the classrooms, we usually expose students to small bits of language such as individual words, rather than whole phrases or “chunks”. Drama is an ideal way to encourage learners to guess the meaning of unknown language in a context. Learners will need to use a mixture of language structures and functions if they want to communicate with other people successfully.
- *To make language learning an active, motivating experience.* Dramatizing a text is very motivating and fun. In addition same activity can be done at different levels at the same time. In a class, there are many students and all the students’ ability is different. Drama can be used to involve all the students, which means that all the students can do it successfully.
- *To help learners gain the confidence and self-esteem needed to use the language spontaneously.* By taking a role, the students will act not as his self, but act as another character. When you give students special roles, it encourages them to be that character and abandon their shyness. The students will try hard to be another character and they have to be spoken. Automatically, this way will force their confidence in using English.
- *To bring the real world into the classroom (problem-solving, research, consulting dictionaries, real time & pace, cross-curricular content).* When using drama our aims can be more than linguistic. We can use topics from other subjects: the students can act out scenes from history, we can work on ideas and issues that run through the curriculum, such as respect for the environment. Drama can also be used to introduce the culture of the new language, through stories and customs, and with a context for working on different kinds of behavior.
- *To emulate the way students naturally acquire language through play, make-believe and meaningful interaction.* Dramatizing is part of students’ life from an early age. Students try out different roles in daily life situations such as shopping in the market, visiting doctors, buying medicine, etc. They practice the language and the “script” of the situation and

experience the emotions involved, knowing that they can switch back to reality whenever they want to.

- *To make what is learned memorable through direct experience and affect (emotions) for learners with different learning styles.* Dramatizing appeals to all kinds of learners. When students dramatize, they use all the channels (sight, hearing, and physical bodies) and each student will draw to on the one that suits them best. This means they will all be actively involved in the activity and the language will “enter” through the channel most appropriate for them. Dramatizing allow learners to add emotion personality to a text that they have read or listened to. This makes language memorable.
- *To stimulate learners’ intellect and imagination.* Drama encourages students’ creativity and develops their imagination in daily life, and at the same time gives them the opportunity to use the language which has been learned and outside of their daily needs. Language teachers can use this natural desire to act out situations.
- *To develop students’ ability to empathize with others and thus become better communicators.* Students often work in a group or pairs when dramatizing. They have to make decisions as a group, listen to each other, and value each other’s suggestions. They have to co-operate to achieve their aims in doing a drama. Automatically, they apply their knowledge and ability in real life communication.
- *Helps learners acquire language by focusing on the message they are conveying, not the form of their utterances.* Each drama or story have to contain message or meaning, whether it is to the students, to the teacher, to the society, to the government, etc. the students in this case have to tried to deliver the message from the story to the audience by using their ability in using language.

The teacher willing to teach English through drama

As the teacher who wants to teach English through drama, there is some preparation to be done before teaching. This can be done in order to make the drama lesson fun to be learned and give the best result for the purpose of learning English. But the most important thing before introduce drama to the students is having personality of a teacher. It is not possible to introduce drama if the teacher does not have self-confidence, and try to ensure the students about the importance of learning English through drama. Here are some important points in preparation for a drama lesson. If we plan it carefully, students will take it seriously and perform better, therefore benefitting more and wanting to do more.

- ❖ Choose the right activity

When you plan a drama activity, you need to know your aims. There can be activity for different purposes. The learners' age affects the kind of activity you plan. The more dramatization the learners do, and the more they reflect on what they have done, the better they will become. The topic also has to be decided to create more interested from the learner.

❖ Start small

Not all students are good at acting, especially if drama isn't part of their curriculum. This becomes the duty of the teacher to introduce drama into the classroom in small steps. Start with easy guided activities and move on to less controlled ones, until the students enjoy the lesson and be more creative to apply their knowledge of English.

❖ Give feedback

Teaching English through drama are not training professional actors and actresses but the teacher tries to give learners an enjoyable way of practicing and using their English. The teacher need to give feedback on what the students have done, not only the end product and language, but also the process that the went trough, the way they co-operated with each other and how they came to decisions. Find something positive to comment on. There will be areas of learners' work that can be improved and this should be part of your feedback to them. While the students are doing the activities, watch and listen to them, try not to interfere, and take notes on what you are observing. The process is your main aim, but learners will see that "the performance" as the most important part of the lesson. You need to value their performance. When they have finished give them feedback. There are many ways of doing this in oral or written forms. If constructive feedback becomes a regular part of dramatization activities, the learners will gradually improve their dramatizing abilities and their language. Another important thing in giving feedback is don't focus on the mistake of the students, but try to motivate them by giving support and positive feedback to burn their motivation in learning English, especially to drama.

In the ESL/EFL classroom, role-playing is a powerful tool. It teaches cooperation, empathy for others, decision making skills and encourages an exchange of knowledge between the students. These aspects alone make role-playing beneficial because the students are learning

from each other. Yet, there are many other positive aspects to the role-playing. Apart from the obvious development of communication skills, it encourages leadership, team work, compromise, authentic listening skills and practice with real life savoir-faire. However, it does not stop there. It teaches cooperation, empathy, develops decision making skills, promotes the exchange of knowledge, builds confidence and self-esteem, refines presentation skills, encourages self-acceptance and acceptance of others, features of empowerment, pride in work, responsibility, problem solving, management and organizational skills, begets creativity and imagination.

A good drama teacher can use the practice with role-playing to contribute to the self-esteem of the students, build their confidence in using the target language (English) as well as develop many of the skills mentioned above which will carry over to real life. It is certain that self-acceptance can be encouraged in subtle ways and acceptance of others.

Drama has the potential to empower the students, give them many opportunities to have pride in their work, it teaches them responsibility, problem solving, management and directing proficiencies. The many activities of team work force students to develop organizational skills and to think on their feet. These are tools that can be used in all aspects of their lives. These skills will be useful in the future job market when the students need to work with others or even in the future job interview when the potential employer asks an unexpected question and you need to think quickly.

Types of Drama

David Schejbal gives the following list of a number of drama activities that are commonly found in English language teaching:

1. **Role play** – Role plays enable students to step outside themselves, to accept and change into a different character. Students either improvise or create their own character or they are given role-cards. In either case, it has a stimulating effect and students feel freer to engage themselves in learning.
2. **Simulation** – In the initial stages of their learning, students become acquainted with various roles starting from the simpler ones, usually those they are used to from everyday life i.e. a mother, a father, a shop assistant, a customer, a tourist etc., before they take up more complex ones i.e. a consultation, problem solving, plays etc.

3. **Drama games** - Wessels points out that 'drama games' should "involve action, exercise the imagination, involve both 'learning' and 'acquisition' and permit the expression of emotion." (1987: 29) All the elements mentioned help students to become actively engaged in learning and experience the dynamics of the learning experience. There are many forms of games with various functions i.e. ice-breakers, warm-ups, fillers, concentration games etc.

4. **Guided improvisation** – This kind of practice requires the teacher to guide students through the initial stage of an activity. When students join in and become part of the evolving activity, they use their imagination and improvisation, than the teacher steps out and becomes more like an observer who helps if there is a need. This help might be in a form of suggestions or even joining back in the story if the progress of the students is slow or if they are finding the work too difficult. The following are examples of activities for guided improvisation: a scene of a crime; a company meeting; a summer camp at night etc.

5. **Acting play scripts** – It is important to remember that a script is not a drama so much as a 'proposal for drama'. Script becomes a starting point that provides great space for each individual to utilize his or her talents and bring personal aspects into the learning experience. Students are presented with the script by the teacher or even prepare their own. All the stages of preparation, practice, performance or even the afterward analyses and evaluation can be very effective tools in learning and reinforcing the use of a foreign language.

6. **Prepared improvised drama** – Students themselves work and perform a story, a situation or a number of situations. They can also work within given framework that is set by the teacher. It is students who are in charge of their work. The aspect of ownership provides further motivation in order to succeed in the activity. The whole class can be involved in a more complex drama, although for practical reasons and affectivity, it might be more beneficial to have the students work in smaller groups.

And, in the end...

English is the most used language in the world and it becomes the international language. It is very important to the people to know about English. English in Indonesia is a foreign language, so it is taught to the students in the school as Teaching English as Foreign Language (TEFL). Teaching English the student needs to be more creative, in order to get the students' interest in learning English. One of the ways to teach English to be more enjoyable is by using drama.

Drama is an activity in the human life which act by actors or actress to deliver a story in front of the audience and express the idea, emotion, and feeling. Drama becomes the effective

way to teach English because drama involves the learners to practice their English in the real-life communication. It will make the learners are easier to remember because they act directly, practice directly, and bring them into the real-life advantages of learning English. Besides that, drama also will force the self-confidence of students in using English, develop their imagination, etc.

In order to making a good sense of drama to the students, the teacher has an important role. The most important things are having self-confidence to ensure the students the benefits of using drama, giving the students the instruction, and also giving feedback after the show of drama. The teacher has to prepare which types of drama can be used to the students in order to get the purpose of teaching English, and it must start from the small and easy way to do.

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Hot Cross Buns – Practices and Beliefs

Elev: Acasandrei Ionela-Georgiana,

Prof. Istrate Marta-Raluca,

Școala Gimnazială nr. 1 Lunca, Botoșani

Hot cross buns hold a significant place in the culture of various societies around the world. These delicious sweet treats, traditionally consumed during the Easter period, have a rich history that spans centuries. The cultural significance of hot cross buns manifests through their religious symbolism, culinary traditions, and widespread popularity among different communities.

The origin of hot cross buns can be traced back to ancient times. The practice of marking bread with a cross dates back to pagan rituals, where it symbolized the four quarters of the moon. With the rise of Christianity, this tradition transformed into a symbol of the crucifixion, making hot cross buns a prominent part of Easter celebrations. The cross on these buns is often made of icing or pastry, representing the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

Culinary traditions surrounding hot cross buns also contribute to their cultural significance. These buns are typically made with spiced dough infused with ingredients such as cinnamon, nutmeg, and currants. The intricate process of making hot cross buns often involves kneading and resting the dough, followed by baking it to perfection. This culinary artistry has been passed down through generations, thereby preserving cultural heritage and connecting people to their roots.

Moreover, hot cross buns have become a beloved tradition in many communities, transcending religious boundaries. While traditionally associated with Easter, they are now enjoyed throughout the year. Hot cross buns have gained popularity across various cultures, with regional variations and adaptations being made to suit different tastes. In some countries, these sweet treats are enjoyed as part of morning or afternoon tea, fostering a sense of community and togetherness.

In the United Kingdom, hot cross buns hold a special place in British culture. There, it is a common practice to enjoy these buns on Good Friday, as a symbol of mourning and

remembrance. In some communities, it is believed that hanging a hot cross bun in the kitchen could bring good luck and protect the household from evil spirits. Similar cultural practices and beliefs can be found in other regions that have embraced hot cross buns as part of their culinary and cultural traditions.

In conclusion, hot cross buns are a cultural delicacy with a deep-rooted history. Their religious symbolism, culinary traditions, and widespread popularity contribute to their cultural significance. These sweet treats have become an integral part of celebrations, connecting people from diverse backgrounds. By understanding the cultural importance of hot cross buns, we can appreciate and respect the traditions and customs associated with this cherished food item.

Echoes of the Anglo-Saxon Saga: A Journey through Time

*Elev: Adam Raluca Mihaela,
Prof. Mandrea Teodora,
Liceul „Ștefan Procopiu” Vaslui*

As the mist rolled over the ancient hills of Britain, a traveller embarked on a journey through the remnants of the Anglo-Saxon cultural space. Each step taken unearthed layers of history, literature, art, and governance, weaving together a tale of resilience and legacy that still echoes through the ages. In the hushed embrace of ancient forests and crumbling ruins, the travellers found themselves immersed in a symphony of time, where the past intertwined with the present in a delicate dance of memory and imagination. As they wandered through moss-covered stones and weathered pathways, each step resonated with the echoes of centuries long past. Amidst the towering trees and winding rivers, the traveller encountered fleeting glimpses of lives lived and dreams dreamed. They saw the flicker of torchlight illuminating the faces of warriors gathered around a hearth, sharing tales of valour and triumph. They felt the soft caress of parchment beneath weathered fingers, tracing the intricate lines of illuminated manuscripts that spoke of love and loss, faith and fear. In the quiet solitude of forgotten chapels and crumbling monasteries, the traveller heard the whispered prayers of monks and the haunting strains of ancient hymns. They witnessed the labour of generations etched into the stone, in the intricate carvings of saints and sinners, angels and demons, each telling a story of faith and devotion, of struggle and salvation.

In the fading light of dusk, the traveller stood upon the cliffs of Dover, gazing out at the vast expanse of the English Channel. Here, where the waves crashed against the rugged coastline, began the saga of the Anglo-Saxons. With the arrival of Germanic tribes, the landscape of Britain transformed, giving rise to kingdoms that would shape the course of history. Venturing inland, the traveller found solace in the hallowed halls of ancient monasteries, where scribes meticulously transcribed tales of heroism and valour. Beowulf, the epic poem of a brave warrior's quest to vanquish monsters, spoke of the courage and honour that defined the Anglo-Saxon spirit. Amidst flickering candlelight, the traveller immersed in the rhythmic cadence of Old English verse, feeling the heartbeat of a bygone era.

Amongst the whispering leaves of ancient oaks, the traveller encountered remnants of pagan shrines, where offerings were made to gods long forgotten. Yet, amidst the encroaching shadows, stood stone crosses adorned with intricate carvings, testament to the enduring influence of Christianity. In the dappled sunlight filtering through the trees, the traveller pondered the interplay of faiths and the quest for meaning that bound together the fabric of Anglo-Saxon society.

In the heart of bustling towns and bustling marketplaces, the traveller encountered echoes of Anglo-Saxon governance. Kings ruled with a firm hand, guided by councils of wise men and the ancient customs of their ancestors. The traveller listened intently as stories were shared of justice and honour, of oaths sworn and debts repaid, revealing the intricate tapestry of law and order woven into the fabric of Anglo-Saxon society. As the journey drew to a close, the traveller reflected upon the enduring legacy of the Anglo-Saxons. From the words penned by long-dead poets to the stones carved by forgotten hands, their story lived on, whispered in the wind and etched into the land itself. Though the centuries had passed and empires risen and fallen, the spirit of the Anglo-Saxons endured, a testament to the resilience of the human spirit and the power of culture to transcend time.

In the midst of bustling cities and quiet countryside, the traveller witnessed a revival of interest in the Anglo-Saxon past. Scholars and enthusiasts alike delved into dusty tomes and archaeological sites, piecing together fragments of history to uncover the lost treasures of a forgotten age. From academic conferences to reenactments of ancient battles, the Anglo-Saxon saga was brought to life once more, sparking imaginations and igniting a passion for the past. In the quietude of ancient groves and forgotten ruins, the traveller heard whispers carried on the breeze, echoes of a distant time. Amidst the rustling leaves and the gentle murmur of streams, they felt the presence of those who had walked these paths long ago. In the dance of shadows and the flickering light of twilight, the traveller glimpsed fleeting visions of kingdoms lost to the mists of time, of battles fought and won, of dreams and desires that transcended the ages. As the stars began to twinkle in the velvety sky, casting their shimmering light upon the land, the traveller's heart swelled with a bittersweet longing. For in the fading twilight, they had discovered not just the stories of a bygone era, but the essence of what it means to be human: to seek, to strive, to create, and to endure. With a sense of wonder and reverence, the traveller bid farewell to the Anglo-Saxon cultural space, knowing that though their journey had come to an end, the echoes of the past would continue to whisper in the wind, inspiring generations yet to come.

A Journey into Words

*Elev: Agapie Denisa Maria,
Prof. Militaru Nicoleta Marilena,
Liceul de Arte „Ionel Perlea” Slobozia, Ialomița*

Taking a journey into the world of words is similar to embarking on an excursion over unexplored waters. It is an adventure full of excitement, discovery, and occasional storms, but it promises limitless treasures to those who dare to explore.

The attraction of learning a new language is like a distant shore, offering fresh perspectives, glimpses into foreign civilizations, and the excitement of learning a new language. As students make their way across the foreign terrain of grammar rules, vocabulary lists, and pronunciation guides, the trip starts with small steps. Every new word that is learned and every phrase that is formed feels like a tiny success compared to the enormous linguistic terrain that lies ahead.

Learners face obstacles along the way that put their will and determination to the test. They encounter the intimidating extremes of conjugations, grammar, and idiomatic phrases, much like climbers ascending a mountain. There are times when one feels frustrated because words are difficult to come out or sentences are difficult to build, and questions appear out of nowhere. True progress, however, happens in these trying times when students overcome their comfort zones and welcome the discomfort of uncertainty.

But even with the difficulties and friendship, there are times when communication is so beautiful that words cannot express the joy it brings. It could be the excitement of reading a street sign in a new city, the delight of placing an order for food in the native tongue, or the discovery of truly engaging with a native speaker. In these instances, language no longer serves as a barrier but rather as a bridge that unites hearts and minds on different continents and civilizations.

In the long run, exploring the universe of words is about accepting the transforming potential of language learning, not just about learning a new language. It is about reaching new heights, cultivating empathy, and creating bonds across linguistic and cultural divides. It's an adventure that tests, encourages, and inspires one's soul; it serves as a reminder of the infinite possibilities that exist in the linguistic domain and are just waiting to be explored.

Words of Wisdom

Elev: Ambrono David,

Prof. Samson Oana,

Școala Gimnazială „Manolache Costache Epureanu” Bârlad, Vaslui

In the silence, whispers of sage,
Wisdom's words on life's grand stage.
Echoes of the ages past,
Guiding souls, holding steadfast.
Like stars that light the darkest night,
Words of wisdom shine so bright.
In the depths of heart and mind,
Their truth and beauty intertwined.
From elders' lips to pages penned,
Lessons learned, to future send.
Each syllable a precious gem,
Guiding us, our course to stem.
So let us heed these words divine,
In every rhythm, every line.
For in wisdom's grace, we find our way,
Through life's intricate, winding fray.

Words of Wisdom

Elev: Ambrono David,

Prof. Samson Oana,

Școala Gimnazială „Manolache Costache Epureanu” Bârlad, Vaslui

In the tapestry of life, woven with threads of experience, lies the timeless wisdom passed down through generations. Words of wisdom, like beacons in the vast ocean of existence, illuminate our path, offering guidance, solace, and inspiration. Embedded in the annals of history and whispered in the winds of time, these words carry the weight of collective understanding, distilled into pearls of truth. From ancient philosophers to modern sages, their insights traverse the ages, resonating with the eternal quest for meaning and purpose. "Know thyself," echoes the voice of Socrates, urging introspection and self-awareness as the foundation of wisdom. "The only true wisdom is in knowing you know nothing," he humbly imparts, reminding us of the boundless depths of knowledge yet to explore. Lao Tzu, with quiet reverence, imparts the wisdom of simplicity: "Simplicity, patience, compassion. These three are your greatest treasures." In a world often cluttered with noise and haste, his words serve as a gentle reminder to embrace the beauty of simplicity and the power of patience.

From the pages of religious texts to the lips of mentors and loved ones, words of wisdom permeate every facet of human existence. They teach us resilience in the face of adversity, humility in moments of triumph, and empathy in times of strife. As we navigate the complexities of life, let us treasure these words of wisdom, for they are the compass guiding us towards a life of fulfillment, understanding, and inner peace.

Queen Elizabeth II - a Model of Integrity and Dedication

Elev: Ancuța Dragoș-Marian,

Pr. prof. Chichioacă Petru-Georgel,

Seminarul Teologic Liceal Ortodox „Sfântul Ioan Iacob” Dorohoi, Botoșani

„I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong.” Quite a promise from a 21 year old young Elizabeth. A promise she kept entirely, though 70 years later, the world was in awe: a woman had dedicated her entire life to her people and represented the royal family with complete dignity and dedication.

250.000 people queued to pay to the Queen they respects when she passed away in September 2022. All over the world, great personalities spoke about the importance of her reign, but, mostly, about the quality af her life, which has become an inspiration to many, myself included.

Queen Elizabeth II is a model of integrity and dedication that I am honoured to follow. She is a symbol of female power as her life stands proof of. The Queen put God first in her life. As God annointed Queen, Elizabeth II had to make sacrifices and her personal life came second many times, but she always chose to do what was expected from a queen. She led her whole family, the whole country by rules that are not always easy to follow.

Accession to the throne and The Modern Monarchy

1. Accession to the Throne

The Queen acceded to the throne on 6 February 1952 aged 25 when her father died at Sandringham in Norfolk. Queen Elizabeth was in a difficult situation at the time , she was young and inexperienced, but along with her beloved husband, she managed to overcome this stage and she managed to lead the country with dignity and integrity.

2. The Modern Monarchy

Queen Elizabeth brought modernity to the monarchy by presenting the royal life in a televised show. However, the royal family was subjected to many challenges. The year 1992 was called by the Queen the most horrible year of the royal family. In 1997, after the death of

Princess Diana, many criticisms were brought to the address of Queen Elizabeth because she refused the national mourning in her memory.

Queen Elizabeth tried as much as possible to present the royal life to her people, as well as all the important events from the royal court such as: "the Golden Jubilee", "the Diamond Jubilee", the celebration of the marriage of Prince William, the eldest son of Charles, to Diana this being the step towards the modernization of the monarchy.

A model of integrity and dedication

We all know very well that the Queen always relied on faith when she led the country, God was for Queen Elizabeth inspiration and strength throughout her life through her actions. The spiritual fruit gave her peace, love, patience, joy, gentleness and many other positive qualities.

The Difficult Moments when She Shows Her Integrity and Dignity

1. Aberfan Mining Disaster - 1966

The tragedy of 1966 shows us the Queen's compassion for the people, she waited for 8 days to bring her regrets to all the victims who died, including 116 children.

2. First 'walkabout' - 1970

During the royal tour in Australia and New Zealand, she gave up greeting the crowd from a distance, she walked and greeted everyone present.

3. Prince Philip's Death - 2021

The loss of her beloved husband of 73 years of marriage represented one of the most difficult moments for Queen Elizabeth, since they had met before the Second World War. Prince Philip dedicated all his care to his wife and supported her in all the decisions she made in leading the country. An impressive love story that only death managed to end.

4. The Worst Year in Her Life - 1992

The year 1992 was a difficult one for the royal family, especially for the Queen, after three separations in the royal family, the Windsdor coat was engulfed in flames causing damages of 47.5 million dollars, 1992 is the year in which Princess Diana and Charles separated. Queen Elizabeth called this year the most horrible year of the royal family.

5. Princess Diana's Death

After the sudden death of Princess Diana in a car accident, accusations were made against Queen Elizabeth, such as that she arranged Princess Diana's death, she rejected these accusations and demonstrated through her deeds the love she had for Princess Diana.

6. *Princess Elizabeth during World War II*

During the Second World War, the future queen, Elizabeth, then still a princess, worked as a mechanic and driver for Windsor's Second Subaltern Unit. This also continued as an example of moral support and inspiration after the war. Elizabeth carefully saved her clothes coupons to buy her wedding dress, the population was so impressed that they sent their clothes coupons to help her buy her dress.

The Queen Love's for Corgis

We all know that Queen Elizabeth has a lot of corgis, she fell in love with this breed at first sight when she was only 7 years old in 1933 when her father, King George VI, bought the first dog of this breed. Together with her sister, they named him Dookie, and shortly after came a second corgi named Jane. When Elizabeth turned 18 she received Susan, the corgi puppy that would launch her fascination for this breed. After receiving the puppy Susan, the queen was inseparable from this breed.

Queen Elizabeth's Funeral

Queen Elizabeth II was the longest-lived British monarch, she died at the honorable age of 96, after 70 years of ruling the country. She died peacefully in her home in Scotland. Then she was brought to Buckingham Palace in London where all the people could pay their last respects.

QUEEN ELIZABETH II BORN ON 21 APRIL, 1926 –DIED ON 8 SEPTEMBER 2022

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Queen of Hearts

*Elev: Apetrei Ioan,
Prof. Drăgușanu Ana,
Școala Gimnazială Borlești, Neamț*

Elizabeth the Queen,
You're the best we've ever seen!
From your coronation long ago,
Your death the 8th and so...

For the strength of courage,
For the view of clarity.
For the calm of confidence,
For the humble humility.

You've travelled to India,
Africa and more,
But your kindness kept bubbling
And bursting galore!

Your Jubilee was amazing to see.
Now you're in heaven,
Rain falls from the skies,
And a new King will rise!

Remembering Queen Elizabeth II's Philanthropy

Elev: Băloiu Alexandra,

Prof. Silter Andreea,

Liceul Tehnologic „Sf. Antim Ivireanu” București

In September 2022, we bid farewell to Queen Elizabeth II, Britain's longest-reigning monarch. As we cherish her memory, it's important to reflect on her legacy of kindness and giving.

Queen Elizabeth II cared deeply about helping others. She often visited hospitals and care homes to show support to patients and their families. She also attended charity events to raise money for various causes, showing her dedication to making a positive difference in the world.

Education was another cause close to her heart. She believed everyone deserved access to learning opportunities. By supporting educational programs, she helped many people achieve their dreams and build a better future.

Protecting the environment was also important to Queen Elizabeth II. She supported efforts to preserve nature and combat climate change, showing her commitment to leaving a healthier planet for future generations.

Additionally, Queen Elizabeth II was a patron of the arts and culture. She recognized their importance in bringing people together and enriching society. Her support helped preserve cultural heritage and promote creativity.

Even in her personal giving, Queen Elizabeth II was modest and generous. Her donations to various charities made a real difference in the lives of many.

As we remember Queen Elizabeth II, let's honour her legacy by continuing to help others and make the world a better place, just as she did.

The Journey of My Dreams

Elev: Belu Alexandra,

Prof. Vasiliu Carmen,

Școala Gimnazială nr. 3 „Ciprian Porumbescu” Constanța

Last year I went to London with my family. We got there by plane, after we flew for three hours. To tell you the truth, it was a little bit boring waiting in all the airport lines but everything was worth it when we arrived in London. The tall luxury buildings and the streets filled with their special taxis and awesome, respectful people were so amazing! We checked in at a beautiful hotel, unpacked our luggage and then we started to explore the big and popular city.

On the first day we walked to the famous Big Ben, that was imposing, just like in the photos we saw on internet. Then we went to the London Eye. It was spectacular and the view from there, on top of the city, was incredible. When we looked down, it was just like a fairytale we were living in. I took lots of pictures with my family there.

On the second day we visited the Buckingham Palace, where King Charles stayed. The palace was wonderful and we also saw a parade with the soldiers that were protecting the palace and their horses. Everything was so luxurious there!

On the third day we went to the Harry Potter studio, where the film “Harry Potter” was made. It was incredible! I could imagine that I was right there in the movie. When we finished the tour, they gave us some food that was Harry Potter’s favorite! Cool, right?

We had lots of fun visiting the center of the city. There were street dancers and many weird restaurants with really spicy foods. We ate there and we were very close to having our mouths on fire! But I liked it, it was a special thing that I will remember.

On the fifth day, my favorite day of all, we went to Beyonce’s concert! It was amazing, wonderful and awesome at the same time! My passion is music, I love it because it makes me feel calm and I just think life would be different without it. Beyonce is one of my favourite singers. I love her music! For real, she is my idol. It was just like a dream attempting to her

concert. It was unforgettable. I still can't believe I saw her and listened to her in real life! On the last day we enjoyed our last moments in our dream city, London.

I will never ever in my life forget this vacation, it was my favorite of all, for sure! Thanks to mom and dad's hard work, we can go to all these beautiful cities and have these wonderful vacations! I will always be thankful for them and love them so much.

London was the best holiday, but if my family wasn't there, too, we wouldn't make these awesome memories and photos together.

The Magic of Learning Languages

Elev: Biteș Casiana,

Prof. Militaru Nicoleta Marilena,

Liceul de Arte „Ionel Perlea” Slobozia, Ialomița

Learning languages is like discovering a whole new world. It's not just about talking differently; it's about understanding new stories, songs, and feelings. To enter into the world of language learning is to go on a journey similar to discovering an intricate pattern woven with strands of culture, history, and emotion. In the literary domain, this journey goes beyond simple communication; it becomes a journey of the soul, boosting the inner landscape with the colors and sensations of other language contexts.

Imagine reading a book in another language. The words may look strange at first, but as you learn, they come alive. You start to see the world through different eyes. You feel the excitement of adventures, the warmth of friendships, and the beauty of love, all in a language that sings to your heart. Consider the deep impact of reading Dostoevsky's "Crime and Punishment" in its original Russian, where every phrase vibrates with the protagonist's existential suffering, or enjoying the lyrical beauty of Pablo Neruda's poetry in Spanish, which imbues it with sensual vibrancy. In the hands of a professional translator, these masterpieces may keep their essence, but they will certainly lose some of the delicate details, the delicate play of word that gives them their unique flavor.

And it is not just books. Learning languages helps you talk to people from faraway places. You can share jokes, learn about their lives, and make new friends. It is like unlocking a treasure chest full of stories and secrets waiting to be discovered. Learning a language is not always easy. Sometimes, you might get stuck or feel frustrated. But with each word you learn, you grow a little bit more. You become braver, more curious, and more connected to the world around you.

So, why learn languages? Because they open doors to new worlds, new friends, and new adventures. They make life richer, more colorful, and full of surprises. And most importantly, they remind us that no matter where we come from, we are all part of the same big, beautiful story called humanity.

Women in the Elizabethan Age

*Elev: Boceanu Robert Goran,
Prof. Cătănescu Angela Eugenia,
Liceul Tehnologic „Domnul Tudor” Drobeta Turnu Severin*

The Elizabethan period, spanning from 1558 to 1603 during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I in England, was marked by a flourishing of arts, literature, and exploration. However, beneath the surface of this cultural renaissance, women in Elizabethan society faced significant limitations and restrictions that defined their lives and opportunities. Understanding the societal norms and expectations during this era provides insight into the challenges women endured and the constraints placed upon them.

In Elizabethan England, the social structure was deeply hierarchical, and women were positioned firmly within a patriarchal framework. The prevailing ideology dictated that women were inherently inferior to men and were expected to conform to rigid gender roles defined by their domestic duties and obedience to male authority figures. These gender norms were reinforced by legal and religious institutions, further cementing the subordinate status of women in society.

One of the primary roles assigned to Elizabethan women was that of wife and mother. Marriage was regarded as the cornerstone of a woman's life, and it was often arranged by her family for reasons of social status, wealth, or political alliances. Once married, women were expected to be dutiful wives, obedient to their husbands, and dedicated to managing the household and raising children. Their primary responsibility was to bear heirs and ensure the continuation of the family line.

However, even within the confines of marriage, women's autonomy and agency were severely restricted. The legal doctrine of coverture stipulated that upon marriage, a woman's legal identity and property rights were subsumed by those of her husband. She had no independent legal standing and could not own property, enter into contracts, or initiate legal proceedings without her husband's consent. This lack of legal autonomy left women vulnerable to exploitation and abuse within the confines of marriage.

Moreover, women's access to education and employment opportunities was severely limited. Formal education for girls was rare and typically reserved for the daughters of the nobility or wealthy merchant families. Most girls received only basic instruction in household management and domestic skills, preparing them for their future roles as wives and mothers. As a result, women were largely excluded from professions such as law, medicine, and academia, which were dominated by men.

In the realm of religion, women were expected to adhere to strict moral codes and religious observances prescribed by the Church of England. Their conduct was closely scrutinized, and any deviation from societal norms could result in censure or ostracism. Women were admonished to be chaste, modest, and submissive, with their virtue and reputation serving as markers of social respectability.

Furthermore, women's participation in public life and political discourse was virtually nonexistent. They were barred from holding political office or participating in the decision-making processes that shaped society. Their voices were silenced, and their concerns were often disregarded in favor of those of men.

Despite these pervasive limitations and restrictions, Elizabethan women found ways to assert agency and challenge societal norms within the constraints of their circumstances. Some women defied convention by engaging in clandestine romantic relationships, pursuing intellectual interests, or participating in underground religious movements. Others sought refuge in the company of other women, forming networks of support and solidarity that provided a sense of community and empowerment.

In conclusion, life for women in Elizabethan England was characterized by pervasive limitations and restrictions that defined their roles and opportunities within society. Constrained by patriarchal norms and legal constraints, women navigated a world that sought to confine them to the domestic sphere and deny them autonomy and agency. Despite these obstacles, women found ways to resist, adapt, and assert their humanity in the face of adversity, laying the groundwork for future generations to challenge gender inequality and strive for greater equality and justice.

The Evolution and Influence of one of the World's Most Spoken Language, English

*Elev: Borcea Luca-Mares,
Prof. Cucoreanu Gianina-Magdalena,
Colegiul Național „Grigore Ghica” Dorohoi, Botoșani*

Humanity was built upon the concept of survival through cooperation, and the best way to form such cooperation is through communication. There are many ways which we as a race use to communicate, but the most important of all is verbal communication. Reliable and adaptive, this type of engagement between humans has been majorly used for the past couple thousands of years. Every society that formed in this time created or adopted a set of mixtures of sounds which in the long run turned out as a language.

Languages began to spread to other regions starting with migrations or conquests. One of the most influential conquests of mankind was created through the wish of The European Naval Major Powers of the time to spread the word of Christianity. In the first place Spain and Portugal began to grow their influence and spread their beliefs and language in other parts of the world as The Americas, Africa and Asia, but the colonial power which withstood the test of time and power was The British Empire which at one time was the biggest empire by land size.

The British left a linguistic and cultural mark to important places as The Indian Peninsula, most of North America, nowadays The United States of America and Canada, various places in Africa such as Nigeria and South Africa and Australia. Even if they ruled these regions with an iron fist, today these countries have a much larger economy and regional influence than other post- colonized countries. The reforms that The British implemented did only good to these parts of the world. A notable aspect of these culture is the distinctive print which English left on their language. The people of these regions have acknowledged the fact that English is much easier to learn and understand then their former languages and proceeded to adopt some of its aspects into their own language but also kept a specific accent which distinguishes them from the rest of the English-speaking world.

The origins of the English Language emerged from the dialects and vocabulary of Germanic people called Angles, Saxons and Jutes which settled on the British Isles in the 5th century CE. Before that, the language that was mainly spoken on those shores was Old French.

Another influence on the English language as we know it today were the Viking raids and pillages which further deepened the Germanic roots of the language.

Troughout the last two centuries, humanity has developed a passion for modern technology, a newly invented concept which created the easiest means of communication ever recorded through the Internet. Internet users can communicate with one another through text and vocal or video recordings over long distances. This worldwide connection formed a deeper bond between different people from different parts of the world. Because it was invented in the United States, being programed and formed in English, and because a large amount of Internet users was speaking English, it was named as “The Official Language of The Internet”.

Also nowadays, a lot of neologisms are adopted by other languages from English because of its widespread use and understanding. It is also taught in schools in a lot of countries as a secondary language. Large industries as The Movie Industry are largely dependent of English because of its easiness to be translated to other languages to be used in subtitles.

Many people consider English to be one of the easiest languages in the world. But it is not true, because in addition to the bushy set of tenses and rules of grammar. English is made up of numerous exceptions and linguistic traps. Also learning it can be quite difficult for people whose primary languages have Romance, Slavic or other non-Germanic roots.

Some words in English are formed by adding two words with a totally different meaning together. For example, the word “butterfly”, which refers to a beautiful insect with incredibly colorful wings, is formed by adding the word “butter”, which is a pale-yellow edible substance made by churning cream, to the word “fly”, which means to be moved through air. In this instance, the word is formed by referring to two of the most important aspects of a butterfly, its ability to fly and its very frail nature.

There have been cases of words used by poets in their literary creations which with time started to be used by people in their daily life, concluding in the fact that literature had an important role in the evolution of this language.

The famous writer, William Shakespeare, known as England's national poet, is known for creating around one thousand new English words such as “bandit”, “cold-blooded”, “birthplace”, “blushing”, “undress”, “torture” and many others.

Another industry in which English is vastly used is The Flight Industry, pilots having to know a reasonable amount of English to prevent language barriers in important moments.

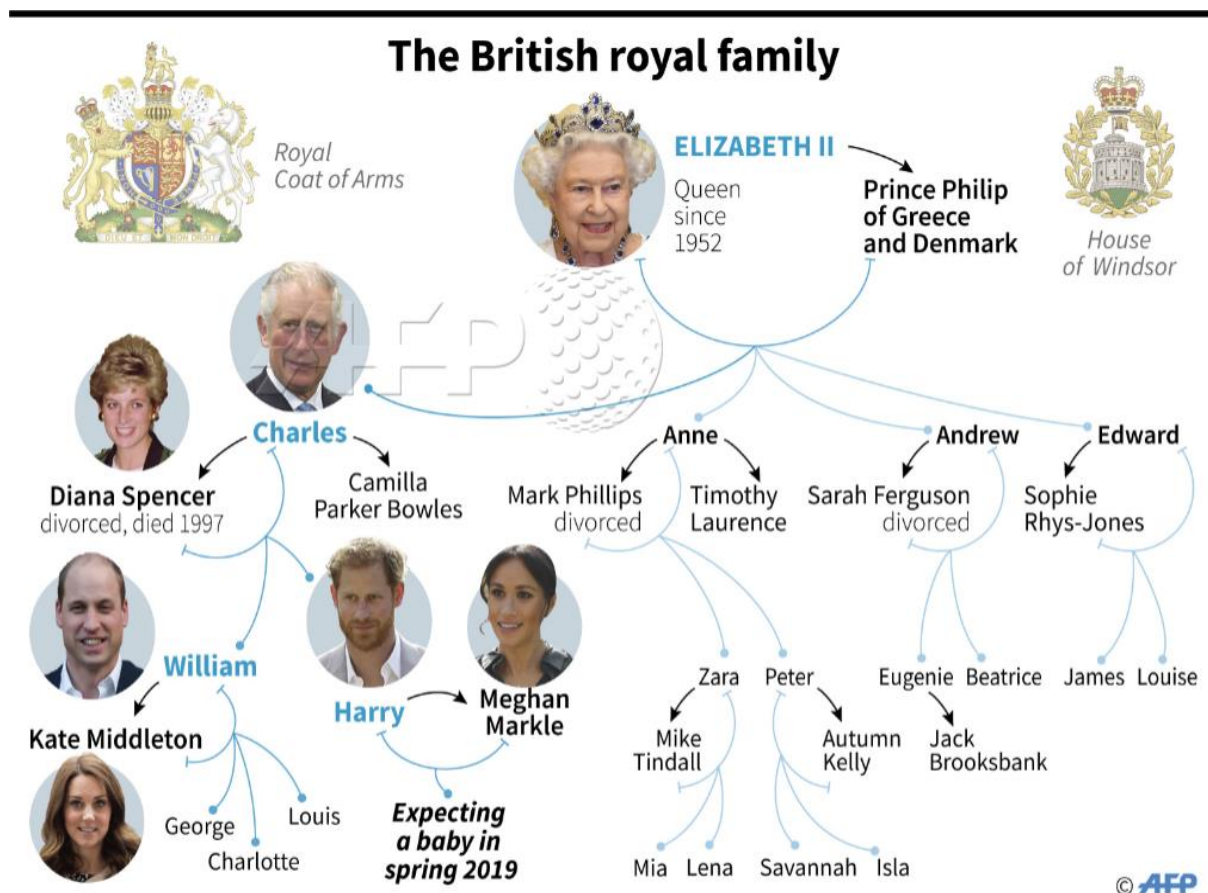
In conclusion The English Language has a unique history, starting from humble beginnings and becoming a very important language throughout the years and becoming the main language of multiple countries and important industries. Start learning English today, never stop learning but do not dream of perfection, because English is richer every day.

The British Royal Family

Elev: Bradu Denis-Marian,

Pr. prof. Chichioacă Petru-Georgel,

Seminarul Teologic Liceal Ortodox „Sfântul Ioan Iacob” Dorohoi, Botoșani



History of the Monarchy

Monarchy is the oldest institution of government in the United Kingdom. Until 1603 English and Scottish Crowns were separate; after this date one monarch reigned in the United Kingdom.

English Monarchy

His 14-year-old son became Edward III. In 1399, while he was campaigning in Ireland, his cousin Henry Bolingbroke seized power.

King Henry VII neutralised the remaining Yorkist forces, partly by marrying Elizabeth of York, a Yorkist heir.

The reign of the second Tudor king, Henry VIII, was one of great political change.

Henry VIII's son and successor, the young Edward VI, continued with further religious reforms, but his early death in 1553 precipitated a succession crisis.

Scottish Monarchy

Scottish leaders appealed to King Edward I of England for help in determining who was the rightful heir.

During the first ten years of the ensuing Wars of Scottish Independence, Scotland had no monarch, until Robert the Bruce declared himself king in 1306.

In 1513 James IV launched an invasion of England, attempting to take advantage of the absence of the English King Henry VIII. His forces met with disaster at Flodden Field; the King, many senior noblemen, and hundreds of soldiers were killed.

The British Royal Family

Her Majesty the Queen: As well as being Head of State, The Queen was a wife, mother and grandmother.

Prince Charles, now The King, was born in 1948, and his sister, Princess Anne, now The Princess Royal, two years later.

After Princess Elizabeth became Queen, their third child, Prince Andrew, arrived in 1960 and the fourth, Prince Edward, in 1964.

Family life has been an essential support to The Queen throughout her reign.

HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh: Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, Earl of Merioneth and Baron Greenwich, was married to The Queen since 1947.

Having joined the Royal Navy in 1939, Prince Philip saw active service throughout the Second World War, rising to the rank of Lieutenant.

After Princess Elizabeth became Queen, Prince Philip gave up his naval career to support The Queen in her duties.

The Prince of Wales and The Princess of Wales: Prince of Wales is the eldest son of The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh.

Born in 1948, he is the 21st holder of the title Prince of Wales in the last 700 years

The Prince of Wales married Mrs Camilla Parker Bowles on 9 April 2005 at a civil ceremony at the Guildhall in Windsor, followed by a service of prayer and dedication in St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle.

Prince William: Prince William, Duke of Cambridge (William Arthur Philip Louis; born 21 June 1982) is a member of the British royal family. He is the elder son of Charles, Prince of Wales, and Diana, Princess of Wales. Since birth, he has been second in the line of succession to the British throne after his father. In 2011, William was made Duke of Cambridge preceding his marriage to Catherine Middleton.

Prince Harry: Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex, (Henry Charles Albert David; born 15 September 1984) is a member of the British royal family. He is the younger son of Charles, Prince of Wales, and Diana, Princess of Wales, and is sixth in the line of succession to the British throne. In 2018, Harry was made Duke of Sussex prior to his wedding to American actress Meghan Markle.

HRH The Duke of York: The Duke of York is the second son and the third child of The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh.

Named Andrew Albert Christian Edward, he was known as Prince Andrew until his marriage, when he was created The Duke of York, Earl of Inverness and Baron Killyleagh.

Since leaving the Royal Navy, The Duke of York has worked as the UK's Special Representative for International Trade and Investment.

Religious Role

The sovereign is the Supreme Governor of the established Church of England. Archbishops and bishops are appointed by the monarch, on the advice of the Prime Minister, who chooses the appointee from a list of nominees prepared by a Church Commission. The Crown's role in the Church of England is titular; the most senior clergyman, the Archbishop of Canterbury, is the spiritual leader of the Church and of the worldwide Anglican Communion.

Since the monarch is also the Supreme Governor of the Church of England, the law which prohibits a Roman Catholic from acceding to the throne remains.

Only individuals who are Protestants may inherit the Crown.

Residences

The residences associated with today's Royal Family are divided into occupied Royal residences, which are held in trust for future generations, and private estates which have been handed down to The Queen by earlier generations of the Royal Family.

Windsor Castle is an official residence of The Queen and the largest occupied castle in the world.

A Royal home and fortress for over 900 years, the Castle remains a working palace today.

They are furnished with treasures from the Royal Collection including paintings by Holbein, Rubens, Van Dyck and Lawrence, fine tapestries and porcelain, sculpture and armour.

The Monarchy today

As Head of State, The Queen undertakes constitutional and representational duties which have developed over one thousand years of history. In addition to these State duties, The Queen has a less formal role as 'Head of Nation'.

There are inward duties, with The Queen playing a part in State functions in Britain. The Queen receives foreign ambassadors and high commissioners, entertains visiting

Heads of State, and makes State visits overseas to other countries, in support of diplomatic and economic relations.

The role of the Royal Family

The Royal Family plays an important role in supporting and encouraging the public and charity sectors.

Members of the Royal Family have official relationships with many units of the Forces, paying regular visits to soldiers, sailors and airmen serving at home and abroad.

Royal attributes and rights

The members of the royal family are bound by the Act of Settlement and the Royal Marriages Act when planning to marry.

Royal finances

These are: the Civil List, the Grants-in-Aid for upkeep of Royal Palaces and for Royal travel, the Privy Purse and The Queen's personal wealth and income. The Prince of Wales's life and work are funded predominantly by the Duchy of Cornwall.

Royal style

Royals have to dress not in a way that merits attention, but rather their countrymen's approval, or, at least, doesn't merit their country men's disapproval.

Queen Elizabeth II, age 21, alongside her corgi.

They are role models for dressing for situations where you will be judged.

Queen Elizabeth I

She wore tons of pearls because they represented chastity.

Queen Victoria

She wore black mourning attire for decades after the death of her husband Albert.

Princess Diana

The first female royal who managed to adopt an openly sexy style was Princess Diana. When you think of early Diana, you think of pearl necklaces and schoolgirlish Peter Pan collars.

Kate Middleton

Kate Middleton seems like she's managed to land somewhere in between dressing in the practical manner of the Queen and Queen Mother and Diana's bombshell style.

History of the British Royal Pups

In a painting from 1635, the three eldest children of King Charles I are kept company by two well-behaved King Charles Spaniels.

The King Charles Spaniel breed was popularized by King Charles II. Sources claim he was rarely seen without a pup or two on his heels and that he even wrote a decree that King Charles Spaniels were permitted in any public place, including the House of Parliament.

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England's Timeless Traditions and Customs

Elev: Bumbel Anemona-Maria,

Prof. Mușat Simona-Marilena,

Liceul Teoretic „Traian Lalescu” Orșova, Mehedinți

England, a land so beautiful, buzzing with a myriad of traditions and customs that have passed the test of time. From ancient ceremonies rooted in Anglo-Saxon paganism to modern-day celebrations of national identity.

Have I piqued your interest? Then, allow me to walk you through a short presentation of some of England's intriguing traditions.

When talking about a place so rich with history and cultural diversity, it's hard to choose just a few things to write about, but I found that the Morris dance would be a perfect place to start.

One of the most recognisable symbols of English folk tradition, the Morris dance, features groups of people dancing while wearing bells and rhythmically waving handkerchiefs or striking chunky sticks.

This lively folk dance is often performed at seasonal festivals, village fairs and community gatherings serving as vibrant expressions of local identity and camaraderie.

Maypole dancing on May day, is a festival celebrated on May first, that praises the return of spring.

The celebration consists of gathering wildflowers and green branches, the waving of floral garlands, the crowning of the May king and queen, and the setting up of a Maypole.

The Maypole is a young tree that has been cut and placed in the middle of a village, around which people danced while holding on to colourful ribbons.

This rite also has pagan origins, being a reincarnation of the pagan Beltane holiday. It is believed that this rite was originally intended to ensure fertility for crops, for livestock and for humans, but the significance was gradually lost.

Guy Fawkes Day is a more unusual holiday celebrated on November 5th.

This holiday is a more recent one being created after a failed assassination attempt in 1605.

The Gunpowder Plot conspirators, led by Robert Catesby were a group of Roman Catholics enraged at King James I for refusing to grant greater religious tolerance for Catholics.

They planned to blow up the House of Parliament (Palace of Westminster) intending to kill the king and the members of the parliament in order to clear the way to reestablishing Catholic rule in England.

The plan failed when the conspirators were betrayed. One of them, Guy Fawkes, was taken into custody the day before the attack. In the aftermath Parliament declared November 5th a national day of thanksgiving.

Today, Guy Fawkes Day is celebrated with parades, fireworks, bonfires and food. Straw effigies of Fawkes are tossed in bonfires. Traditionally children carried these effigies called "Guys" through the streets in the days leading up to Guy Fawkes Day and asked passersby for "A penny for the guy".

The last tradition I wish to talk about is known as the Mystery Plays.

This tradition goes back to mediaeval times when they served as both entertainment and education for the people.

Mediaeval Mystery Plays dramatised the Bible in a cycle of plays which were performed on pageant wagons at different sites around the city centre. The most well known plays are those of York, Coventry, Chester, Lincoln and East Anglian plays.

The revival of Mystery Plays began with the York Mystery Plays in 1951 as part of the Festival of Britain and the Chester Mystery Plays in the 1970s.

In conclusion, England is a country so rich in culture with still so many traditions left to be explored.

We have seen a bit about the more popular and interesting traditions, but what else is there to see? What intriguing traditions are left to acknowledge?

One thing I know for sure, as England continues to evolve, its timeless customs remain a testament to its enduring spirit and heritage.

The True Beauty of Life: Christianity and London

*Elev: Bursuc Alexia-Maria,
Prof. Anuței Angela-Georgeta,
Școala Gimnazială „Aron Vodă” Aroneanu, Iași*

In the heart of London, amidst the hustle and bustle of city life, there exists a timeless connection to something greater – the boundless love of Jesus Christ. This love, like a gentle breeze that whispers through the centuries-old streets, weaves its way through the very fabric of the city, touching the hearts and souls of all who call it home.

London's architecture stands as a testament to the enduring influence of Christianity and the love of Christ. From the towering spires of Westminster Abbey to the intricate stonework of St. Paul's Cathedral, these majestic structures serve not only as places of worship but also as tangible reminders of the profound impact of faith on the city's history and culture.

As you walk through the historic neighborhoods of London, it's hard not to feel a sense of awe and reverence in the presence of such magnificent architecture. Each stone tells a story, each stained-glass window a testament to the enduring power of faith and the love of Christ. It's a feeling that transcends time and space, connecting us to generations past and inspiring us to carry the torch of hope and compassion into the future.

But beyond the grandeur of the churches and cathedrals lies a deeper, more intimate expression of Christ's love – one that is found not in the stone and mortar but in the hearts of the people who inhabit this vibrant city. It's in the quiet moments of reflection at a local park, the shared laughter of friends gathered at a pub, and the outstretched hand of a stranger offering assistance on a crowded street corner.

London's history is filled with moments of triumph and adversity, from the days of Roman occupation to the devastation of the Great Fire and beyond. Through it all, however, one constant remains – the unwavering love of Jesus Christ, a beacon of hope in times of darkness and a source of strength in moments of uncertainty.

In the face of challenges both past and present, the love of Christ has served as a guiding light, inspiring acts of courage, compassion, and resilience among London's

inhabitants. It's a love that knows no bounds, reaching out to embrace all who seek solace and comfort in its embrace.

So, as we navigate the bustling streets and historic landmarks of this great city, let us take a moment to pause and reflect on the love of Jesus Christ that surrounds us. It's in the laughter of children playing in the shadow of Big Ben, the whispered prayers of worshippers gathered in a quiet chapel, and the timeless beauty of a city steeped in history and faith.

May we carry this love in our hearts as we go about our days, spreading kindness and compassion to all whom we encounter. And may we never forget that amidst the grandeur of London's architecture and the complexities of its history, there is always room for the boundless love of Jesus Christ.

In the vibrant markets of Covent Garden and the tranquil gardens of Kensington Palace, the love of Christ finds expression in the diverse tapestry of cultures and traditions that coexist harmoniously within the city. It's in the colorful array of street food stalls, the vibrant street art that adorns alleyways, and the lively festivals that bring communities together in celebration of shared heritage and unity.

Moreover, London's cultural institutions, such as the British Museum and the National Gallery, offer glimpses into the rich tapestry of human history and creativity, reminding us of the inherent beauty and diversity of God's creation. From ancient artifacts to contemporary masterpieces, each piece tells a story of human triumphs and struggles, offering insights into the universal themes of love, faith, and redemption that have endured throughout the ages.

In this bustling metropolis, where the past and present intersect at every turn, the love of Christ serves as a guiding force, offering hope and solace to those in need. It's in the quiet moments of reflection at the Thames River, the shared smiles exchanged among commuters on the Underground, and the acts of kindness extended to strangers in times of crisis.

As London continues to evolve and grow, may we hold fast to the timeless truths of Christ's love, allowing it to illuminate our path and guide our actions. For in the bustling streets and historic landmarks of this great city, there is a constant reminder of the boundless love of Jesus Christ, which transcends all barriers and unites us in a shared journey of faith and compassion.

Remembrance Day

*Elev: Buzilă Denisa-Dumitrița,
Prof. Istrate Marta-Raluca,
Școala Gimnazială nr. 1 Lunca, Botoșani*

Remembrance Day, also known as Armistice Day or Poppy Day, is observed on November 11th each year to commemorate the end of World War I and honor the brave men and women who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty. This solemn day holds great significance for people worldwide, as it serves as a reminder of the heroic deeds and immense sacrifices made by our military personnel.

One of the most iconic symbols associated with Remembrance Day is the poppy flower. The red poppy has long been a powerful symbol of remembrance and represents the bloodshed of those who fought in the war. The tradition of wearing a poppy on Remembrance Day originated from the famous war poem "In Flanders Fields" by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, a Canadian soldier. McCrae's poignant words immortalized the poppy as a symbol of sacrifice and remembrance, and since then, it has become synonymous with honoring the fallen heroes.

On Remembrance Day, people from all walks of life gather at war memorials, cemeteries, and cenotaphs to pay their respects. The day begins with a two-minute silence at 11 am, coinciding with the time when the armistice was signed to end World War I. This silence allows us to reflect on the courage and bravery displayed by our servicemen and women, showing our gratitude for their selfless acts.

The heroic tales of those who fought in wars and conflicts are not limited to the battlefield. Many civilians also exhibited bravery and resilience during times of adversity. Remembrance Day is an opportunity to recognize the contributions of these unsung heroes and appreciate their efforts to build a better world.

Through the commemoration of Remembrance Day, we acknowledge the lessons learned from the past and their relevance in shaping our present and future. It is a time to reflect

on the consequences of war, the value of peace, and the importance of resolving conflicts through dialogue and understanding.

While Remembrance Day predominantly focuses on World War I, it serves as a broader reminder of the sacrifices made by military personnel in subsequent conflicts as well. It is a day to honor all those who have served or currently serve in our armed forces, defending our freedom and upholding our values.

In conclusion, Remembrance Day holds immense significance as we remember the sacrifices of the brave men and women who fought to protect our nations. The symbol of the poppy, derived from Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae's poem, serves as a constant reminder of their heroism and selflessness. As we observe this solemn day, let us pay tribute to all our fallen heroes and embrace the values of peace, unity, and gratitude that Remembrance Day represents.

The History of Great Britain

Elev: Caragea Bogdan Aurelian,

Prof. Vasiliu Carmen,

Școala Gimnazială nr. 3 „Ciprian Porumbescu” Constanța

As you may know, the United Kingdom, or Great Britain, has one of the richest history of all countries around the world.

Before the World Wars, in the 1600s, 1700s, 1800s and 1900s, the United Kingdom, was named „The British Colonial Empire”. It was the most powerful country in the world and had the best army in the world, too. In the 1800s and 1900s, the empire lost some territories because countries like India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Belize, Egypt, Australia and many other, gained independence.

You may wonder „How did it become so powerful?” Well , this nation was founded on an island, so it focused on the navy. Because they had a good navy force, they colonized a lot of territories. The British Channel separates the United Kingdom from Europe, that’s why it was hard to be attacked and conquered.

This Empire was also the only country or empire to ever exist that colonized a piece of land from every continent of the world. The fall of the glory of the empire started in the 1700s, when the first 13 states of the USA under control of the empire started a civil war named ”The Independence War”. With the help of France, Netherlands and other countries, the United States won, and George Washington was the leader of the army. That’s how the USA got independence.

This empire is one of the few countries to have won both world wars , as in the First World War they defeated The Ottoman Empire, The German Empire, Bulgaria and The Austro-Hungarian Empire with the help of The Russian Empire (which was hit by a civil war in 1917, during World War I and the Tsar Nicholas II was killed by the rebels having Vladimir Lenin as leader), France, Brazil and a lot of other countries, Romania included.

Some years later, still in the 1900s, in 1939 the Second World War burst out, and this time the empire was protected by the British Channel, which was hard for the Germans to

navigate through. Because The Japanesse Empire, ally of Germany and Italy, attacked the USA for no reason, the USA joined the war in the part of The British Colonial Empire, the African part of France (which lost half of the European territory and even Paris during the war with Germany).

After the two nuclear bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaky by the USA in 1945, Germany surrendered to France, USA, USSR and The British Colonial Empire and was divided in two parts, West Germany- which was controlled by the USA, and the Democratic and East Germany, the communist part- controlled by the USSR. After the two World Wars, the Empire lost a lot of territories as it was no longer an empire.

Even now, the U.K. has some colonies but in the form of some islands. The decomandition of the British Empire began in the first half of the 20th century, when the Commonwealth of Nations was created. This organisation aimed to ensure the self-goverment of same former imperial territories .The current Commonwealth of Nations was formally constituted by the London Declaration in 1949, which modernised the community and established three member states as „Free and equal” .The leader of Commonwealth is the king of the U.K .

The Joy of Driving: A Gateway to Freedom

Elev: Chicoș Damian-Mihail,

Prof. Istrate Vlad,

Seminarul Teologic Liceal Ortodox „Sfântul Ioan Iacob” Dorohoi, Botoșani

In the rhythm of our daily lives, driving often transcends its utilitarian purpose, becoming a conduit to escape, a source of pleasure, and a means to experience the world in a unique way. Beyond mere transportation, driving offers a myriad of benefits, both tangible and intangible, enriching our lives in unexpected ways.

Firstly, the practical benefits of driving are undeniable. It provides unparalleled convenience, offering the freedom to travel wherever and whenever one desires. Whether it's commuting to work, running errands, or embarking on a road trip, driving facilitates mobility and independence. In today's fast-paced world, where time is of the essence, the efficiency of driving allows individuals to optimize their schedules and accomplish more in less time.

Moreover, driving fosters a sense of empowerment and control. Behind the wheel, one assumes the role of navigator, steering their destiny with each turn of the wheel. The ability to choose one's route, speed, and destination instills a feeling of autonomy, empowering individuals to chart their own course in life.

However, the true allure of driving extends beyond its practical advantages. It embodies a sense of freedom and liberation, offering a temporary escape from the constraints of everyday life. The open road beckons with promises of adventure and discovery, inviting drivers to leave their worries behind and embrace the present moment.

The pleasure of driving lies in the sensory experience it affords. The hum of the engine, the feel of the steering wheel beneath one's fingertips, the rush of wind against the windows – all conspire to create a visceral connection between driver and machine. With each mile travelled, the monotony of routine fades away, replaced by a sense of exhilaration and possibility.

Moreover, driving provides a form of therapy, offering solace to those grappling with life's challenges. Behind the wheel, individuals find sanctuary from their troubles, enveloped

in a cocoon of solitude and reflection. The act of driving becomes a form of meditation, allowing drivers to clear their minds and gain perspective on their problems.

In essence, driving transcends its utilitarian function, evolving into a source of joy, freedom, and catharsis. It is a reminder that life is not merely about reaching our destinations but savouring the journey along the way. So, the next time you find yourself behind the wheel, take a moment to appreciate the simple pleasure of driving – for in that moment, you may just find the escape you've been seeking.

The Role and Significance of Wisdom

Elev: Ciobănescu Carina,

Prof. Caragea Carmen,

Școala Gimnazială Plosca, Teleorman

Being wise in life leads you to a righteous path so that you can achieve your lifelong dreams and ambitious goal in life. Looking for your path takes time before you discovered it, seeking wisdom to construct yourself and building self-knowledge as well as exploring things that you don't know. Doing things in the right way leads you to a beautiful future. It says that, if you follow the right path and achieving good things for yourself, we can be successful, and we can achieve what we visualize in life. We must know all things to become wise to think of the right track for yourself so that you can reach wisdom. Wisdom can be found in yourself. You can obtain this if you know how to handle things, if you know how to carry out the decision, and if you recognize what is knowledge. Finding the worthiest things for yourself requires many sacrifices as well as dedication to doing it if you definitely want to know what wisdom is. Having knowledge but being unwise is useless, some people consistently seek wisdom because they did not use it properly.

Wisdom spreads empathy, compassion, and kindness. Acquiring this, you learn how to interact with unknown people. You know how to willingly give and spread tons of unconditional love towards everything. Wisdom grants us the power to discover the beauty of life. Wisdom teaches us what is life as well as it gives us experiences on how to achieve things through obstacles. Finding your path to your wisdom gives you a unique experience of real-life. Having the ability to choose and decide what is right for you and what is bad that would ruin you. This actively illustrates that if you seek wisdom, then you must have the ability to be in the right and decide the goodness for yourself. We have wisdom if we pursue things and have experience in life, in good people, and a better version of yourself. People around you give life lessons but no one teaches about wisdom because wisdom can be acquired if you want to possess it. Wisdom can be acquired if you know the meaning of life and what it is for. We can have wisdom in ourselves when we appreciate the beauty of everything in life. Wisdom in

myself is in the golden path because I know about myself that I am productive and I appreciate the beauty in my life. I interact with various people, how to serve, and respect everyone full of love, kindness, and compassion. Experiencing darkness and brightness of life full of compassion, being contented and with unconditional love, this is what wisdom disciplined me.

Wisdom gives knowledge for life, proper judgment, and a pleasant experience. Experiences that we gather before reaching the wisdom in ourselves is our priceless treasures. We have a different definition of wisdom, but for me, wisdom is life and a path to knowing yourself. Reaching wisdom demonstrates to us what life is, wisdom takes us to be a better person for a good role model for everyone. It's uneasy to acquire wisdom. It takes some experiences, realizations, obstacles, and efforts to learn some moral lessons about life. Every experience has a purpose. Learning and opening our mind and soul to its fullest is what wisdom explains to us.

Discovering the Tea Culture in the UK

Elev: Costache Ionuț,

Prof. Silter Andreea,

Liceul Tehnologic „Sf. Antim Ivireanu” București

Tea is more than just a drink, it is a tradition that is deeply ingrained in British life. Whether it's a morning cup to start the day or an afternoon tea with friends, tea brings people together and plays a significant role in daily routines.

A Nation of Tea Lovers

Brits love their tea. They drink millions of cups of it every single day, making it the most popular hot drink in the country. No matter the time of day, you'll find someone enjoying a nice, hot cup of tea.

The Art of Making Tea

Making tea is serious business in the UK. People take pride in brewing the perfect cup. They use high-quality tea leaves or tea bags and make sure the water is just the right temperature. Letting the tea steep for a few minutes allows the flavors to develop, resulting in a delicious brew.

Afternoon Tea: An Age-Old Tradition

Afternoon tea is a special tradition in the UK. It started in the 19th century when people wanted a light snack between lunch and dinner. Today, it's a fancy affair with sandwiches, scones, and cakes, all served alongside a pot of tea. Whether you're in a fancy hotel or in your grandma's kitchen, afternoon tea is a lovely way to spend time with loved ones.

Tea Etiquette and Social Rituals

Drinking tea comes with its own set of rules. When you're at a tea party, it's polite to let the host or hostess pour the tea first. There's even debate about how to hold your teacup and whether or not to dunk your biscuits (that's cookies to our American friends), but no matter the rules, tea brings people together and creates moments of joy and connection.

Conclusion

In the UK, tea isn't just a beverage, it's a way of life. Whether it's a quick cup in the morning or a fancy afternoon tea, tea brings people together and adds a little warmth and comfort to everyday moments. So, the next time you're in the UK, don't forget to sit down, relax, and enjoy a nice, hot cup of tea.

A Champion for Change - Elisabeth Fry

Elev: Costache Maria,

Prof. Silter Andreea,

Liceul Tehnologic „Sf. Antim Ivireanu” București

Elisabeth Fry was an extraordinary woman who lived nearly two centuries ago, yet her impact on the world is still felt today. Born in 1780, she dedicated her life to helping people and fighting for fairness and kindness in society. Her story is one of compassion, courage, and the belief that one person can make a difference.

In Elisabeth's time, prisons were harsh places where people were often treated very badly. Many were crowded, dirty, and lacked basic things like clean water and proper food. Elisabeth saw this injustice and decided to do something about it. She worked hard to make prisons better, especially for women and children who were treated poorly. She believed that everyone, no matter their mistakes, deserved respect and a chance to improve their lives.

But Elisabeth didn't stop there. She also cared deeply about education. She believed that everyone should have the opportunity to learn, especially girls and children from poor families. So, she helped to create schools where they could go to study and grow.

Elisabeth's kindness didn't end at her own doorstep. She reached out to help people in other countries who were suffering because of things like poverty and war. Her heart was big, and she wanted to make the world a better place for everyone.

Today, we remember Elisabeth Fry as a symbol of hope and inspiration. Her legacy teaches us that even the smallest acts of kindness can have a big impact on the world around us. She showed us that by standing up for what's right and helping those in need, we can all play a part in making the world a brighter, better place.

Words of Wisdom

*Elev: Crăciun Gabriel,
Prof. Călinescu Amalia,
Colegiul Național „Tudor Vladimirescu” București*

People always try to find the best answer to the questions that lay beyond our point of view. One of these is death. The most accurate thing that scientists found is the fact that the human brain lives for 7 minutes after our body dies. From here on out we can only theorize, one of the most popular ones being the existence of heaven and hell. This is the most reassuring one, since this would mean that, in the end, our actions have an impact. Personally, I think that heaven and hell do exist, but only inside our minds, for what we know, this life that we're living could be one of the two. In those last 7 minutes of brain activity, it desperately searches through all of our memories to try to find a similar situation in order to save us, and when it fails to do so, I believe that it resorts to one of the two. Most people try to live a simple life, not searching for anything greater than what they're given. Because of this, for the majority their brain resorts to a familiar hell over an unfamiliar heaven. This happens because they were too afraid to get out of their comfort zone and try out new things. The familiar hell can range from heartbreak to living in an endless cycle, the brain resorting to this since there's nothing else to choose from or it's the most known one, therefore the simplest option.

It has also been theorized that parallel universes exist. For most people, when something does not work out at first, they simply say "Maybe in another universe" instead of trying again and again until they succeed. This is one of the biggest reasons why they end up having massive regrets later on in life. The way this could tie with death is a different possibility of the light at the end of the tunnel, that after we die, our memories are erased and we are transported into one of them, playing out a completely different life. Along with parallel universes would also come the existence of 1:1 simulations of reality. Currently there's a 50 – 50 chance that we're living in one, because until we're able to recreate our reality perfectly, for what we know this is the base reality. Once we achieve that, the chances would be near zero due to the existence of perfect copies of our world, which could then branch off into even deeper simulations.

When we are little, we are often told by our parents that these are the best years of our lives, but, at the time, we don't believe them since, from our perspective, it seems like they have so much freedom and we wish to be just like them. As we grow up, we realise that they were right. When we look back at our childhood, everything seems so perfect, the colours seem brighter, the nature more alive, which is partly true, the world has died off, but not totally. Due to our imagination, we were able to make everything feel more alive. These were our only thoughts: having fun and enjoying every second. Nowadays we have all of these complex thoughts and problems making everything look and feel more depressing. This realisation usually comes to mind when we get a feeling of nostalgia, either from something we hear or we see.

From a young age we are exposed to something that we call "love", either from what we see around us or what we are shown on television. The main problem is that we only see the surfaces of things, cut down to only the perfect and good parts of a relationships. When we are young, we have relationships that usually do not tend to last long. Most people call it immaturity or simply being too young, but it is really the expectations that we grew up having. As we mature, we come to learn that it's not all rainbows and sunshine. Love is more about growing together as people and bringing the best out of each other. It's about the mutual trust in the relationship. Love without trust is like furniture with no home. The matter about love that isn't really talked about is the undeniable truth that you only fall in love once, usually when you're not looking for it. You may tell yourself that you don't love that person, but, at one point or another, you're going to have to face it. You cannot simply tell your brain to not do something, because it will end up doing the exact thing you told it not to do. After that you are just trying to find the person you fell in love with in someone else. You will never be able to find that connection again or the way you look at that person. No matter how many times they do you wrong, you will always view them as perfect. Even when it is over, even though you might not want to admit it, if they knocked on your door on a random night you would probably let them in.

When we are young, we usually have big dreams, like owning a big house, having a beautiful wife, but, as we get older, that dream is lost along the way. The true question is where and why? Well, we get restricted by a sort of imaginary barrier that is born from the lack of hope and will. We start looking at that dream and we realise just how absurd it sounds. We restrain ourselves in these shells of what we used to want. The truth is, if we worked hard enough and never doubted ourselves, we could easily achieve these goals. It is always better to

get up after failing and try again than to not try at all, because if we won't, we shall look back at our lives and think "Once upon a time I was happy". The happiness came from those hopes that we held deep down and slowly started to let go of.

Your mindset deeply influences your success. What I mean by that is that your mentality means everything. This is greatly revealed when looking at successful people, specifically sports players. A great example of this would be famous footballer who revealed in interviews that even after they won the UEFA champions league, which is the greatest club level trophy, they still went to training the following day instead of staying out drinking and partying. This is the reason why they were able to achieve such a high level of performance. Likewise, if you have the discipline to do certain things even when you don't want to, you'll be able to achieve what you're working towards faster and easier. If you are not able to do this, you will slowly start giving up bit by bit. Nothing can destroy iron except its own rust. Likewise, nothing can destroy your mentality except your own mind.

Lying is a big dilemma in today's world. These can range from white lies to blatant lies. We usually lie in order to seem more likeable or only tell half of the truth to seem less at fault in the situation. These are the most common sorts of lying that every single person does. The most dangerous and serious lies are the ones we tell to ourselves. With time, if we repeat them long enough, they will eventually come true. This is not necessarily a bad thing, unless what we tell ourselves are negative things.

At one point or another, everyone wonders what our purpose in life is. They search for it until they eventually "find" it. In essence, there is no purpose in life. We are put on this planet and we are not given any instruction. For what we know, there is no purpose in life, but people find comfort in it. If they did not have one, they would feel stifled and for some, that would be too much pressure to take. They are basically lying to themselves to feel better.

These are only a few examples of how our mind can wander into uncharted territories when we have too much time and latent energy on our hands. But what good does it do us? Some would argue that it is a niche way of giving our life purpose, but personally I think that in the end it only leads to more problems. Over time, this will become a habit, and you know what they say "It doesn't hurt if you don't know about it". You will accumulate a ton of knowledge about the depths and perceptions of the universe, making you question almost anything. This can be particularly bad for people that struggle with depression, since instead of finding purpose, they end up only finding more questions and problems.

The Role of the Royal Family in Modern Diplomacy

Elev: Cristea Denisa Maria,

Prof. Dorobanțu Andreea,

Colegiul Național „Mihai Viteazul” Ploiești, Prahova

The involvement of the Royal Family in contemporary diplomacy sparks vigorous debate, with divergent viewpoints on its symbolic importance, diplomatic utility, and potential political ramifications.

Advocates of royal involvement argue that the monarchy serves as a beacon of national identity, embodying the rich tapestry of history, traditions, and culture unique to their nation. Their presence in diplomatic circles adds a touch of prestige and continuity, enhancing the ceremonial aspect of international relations. Moreover, by showcasing their country's cultural heritage and values, they facilitate cross-cultural understanding and foster cooperation on a global scale, enriching diplomatic discourse with depth and resonance.

Furthermore, the Royal Family can be instrumental in bolstering diplomatic ties through their active engagement on the world stage. Their visits to foreign nations provide valuable opportunities for cultural exchange and dialogue, fostering closer bonds between countries. By participating in cultural exchanges, donning traditional attire, partaking in local ceremonies, and promoting indigenous art and cuisine, they not only celebrate their nation's heritage but also forge meaningful connections that transcend borders. Consequently, their involvement in diplomatic endeavors serves to imbue international relations with warmth and authenticity.

However, detractors argue that the inclusion of the Royal Family in diplomacy blurs the distinction between ceremonial duties and substantive political influence. Despite lacking official political authority, they wield considerable soft power, which can sometimes impede the efforts of elected officials and career diplomats. This dynamic raises concerns, particularly in democratic societies, where elected leaders are expected to be the primary architects of foreign policy decisions.

Moreover, there is apprehension that relying on hereditary status perpetuates antiquated notions of privilege and entitlement. In an era that champions meritocracy and equal opportunity, the idea of representation based solely on birthright runs counter to principles of fairness and inclusivity. Consequently, the perpetuation of such traditional hierarchies undermines efforts to foster a more egalitarian and merit-based approach to governance and diplomacy.

In conclusion, the involvement of the Royal Family in modern diplomacy presents both advantages and challenges. While they serve as custodians of national identity and cultural heritage, their potential political influence and perpetuation of outdated norms warrant careful consideration. Striking a balance between tradition and contemporary values is imperative in navigating this complex terrain and ensuring that diplomacy remains relevant and inclusive in the 21st century.

Culinary Delights of Great Britain: A Tapestry of Tradition and Innovation

Elev: Croitoriu Teodora,

Prof. Istrate Vlad,

Seminarul Teologic Liceal Ortodox „Sfântul Ioan Iacob” Dorohoi, Botoșani

Great Britain's culinary landscape is a testament to its rich history, diverse influences, and penchant for innovation. While traditional dishes like fish and chips and Yorkshire pudding remain beloved staples, the country's gastronomic scene has evolved to embrace global flavors and cutting-edge culinary techniques, making it a haven for food enthusiasts worldwide.

One cannot delve into British cuisine without mentioning the ubiquitous fish and chips. This quintessential dish, featuring battered fish served with golden fries, is a culinary institution beloved by locals and tourists alike. Whether enjoyed wrapped in newspaper by the seaside or savored in a quaint pub, fish and chips encapsulate the essence of comfort food in Great Britain.

Similarly iconic is the traditional Sunday roast, a hearty meal consisting of roasted meat, potatoes, Yorkshire pudding, and seasonal vegetables, often accompanied by rich gravy. This cherished ritual brings families and friends together to savor wholesome fare and bask in the warmth of shared traditions.

However, Great Britain's culinary prowess extends far beyond its classic dishes. In recent years, the country has witnessed a culinary renaissance, with innovative chefs pushing boundaries and redefining British cuisine. Michelin-starred restaurants like The Fat Duck and The Ledbury showcase the country's flair for culinary creativity, offering innovative dishes that tantalize the palate and challenge perceptions.

Moreover, Britain's cultural melting pot has contributed to a vibrant tapestry of flavors and culinary influences. Indian curry houses, brought to the country by South Asian immigrants, have become an integral part of British gastronomy, with dishes like chicken tikka masala earning national acclaim. Similarly, the proliferation of international cuisines, from Thai and Japanese to Lebanese and Mexican, reflects the country's cosmopolitan identity and adventurous palate.

Furthermore, Great Britain's commitment to sustainability and locally sourced ingredients has gained prominence in its food scene. Farmers' markets, artisanal producers, and farm-to-table restaurants champion seasonal produce and traditional farming methods, fostering a deeper connection between consumers and the land.

In conclusion, the food in Great Britain is a dynamic fusion of tradition and innovation, reflecting the country's rich culinary heritage and global outlook. Whether savoring time-honored classics or embarking on gastronomic adventures, one thing is certain: Great Britain offers a feast for the senses that delights, surprises, and leaves a lasting impression.

Sports in the United Kingdom

*Elev: Dancău Nicoleta,
Prof. Mușat Simona-Marilena,
Liceul Teoretic „Traian Lalescu” Orșova, Mehedinți*

The United Kingdom is made up of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. I am currently staying in London, the capital of The United Kingdom, as an exchange student. School is really fun, but the thing I am most interested in is sports.

Many sports were invented in The United Kingdom, such as soccer, rugby, cricket, boxing and golf. One of the most British games is cricket, often played in schools, colleges, universities and club teams across the country, but like almost everywhere in the world, the game attracts the most attention is football. Every Saturday, from the end of the August to the beginning of May, large crowds of people support their favourite teams on football fields. It is really important to identify the main goals and objectives of sports. Through a well planned sports strategy, United Kingdom sport aims to target and invest in athletes with medal winning potential and providing them with the guidance and resources available. I am extremely impressed with this country's commitment to student sports. The sport that impresses me the most is handball. Although handball is not a popular sport for students at the moment a lot of adults play it. The people that still play it try to pass it on to their children, so that this sport is not forgotten. Another sport that interests me is dance. Although not a lot of people not consider this activity to be a sport, researchers say that dance is indeed a sport as well as it is an art. I love how people express themselves through dance and I adore doing it myself. The traditional dance of the United Kingdom is Morris dancing, which is based on rhythmic stepping by a group of dancers.

This country's commitment to sports is truly extraordinary. I hope more countries in the world take the United Kingdom as an example to be more involved when it comes to sports. I really enjoy my staying in the United Kingdom, because I am learning a lot of new things which I know will have a big impact on my future. I hope I will return to this beautiful country when I grow up.

The Royal Family: The Monarch is Head of State

*Elev: Danilov Maria-Magdalena,
Prof. Anuței Angela-Georgeta,
Școala Gimnazială „Aron Vodă” Aroneanu, Iași*

The King reigns, but he does not rule. Ruling is done by his government, and as head of state in the UK the King is constitutionally obliged to follow the government's advice. His main functions as head of state are to appoint the Prime Minister, and all the other ministers; to open new sessions of parliament; and to give royal assent to bills passed by parliament, signifying that they have become law.

The King also chairs monthly meetings of the Privy Council, to approve Orders in Council; he receives incoming and outgoing ambassadors; he makes a host of other appointments, such as the senior judges, but in all this he acts on the advice of the government. He has a weekly audience with the Prime Minister, and receives daily papers on signing.

The monarch is also head of the nation

To the public the King is more visible in his wider role as head of the nation. In this representative role the Sovereign acts as a focus for national identity, unity and pride; gives a sense of stability and continuity; officially recognises success and excellence; and supports the ideal of voluntary service. This role has been fulfilled through speeches such as the Queen's address to the nation at the start of the Covid pandemic, and annual broadcast on Christmas day; through giving honours to recognise public and voluntary service; and through visits to the armed forces, schools, hospitals, charities and local organisations.

The Commonwealth and the Realms

The King is also head of state of 14 other countries around the world, known as the realms: they include Australia, Canada, Jamaica and New Zealand. And the King is Head of the Commonwealth, a voluntary association of 54 states, mainly former British colonies and dependencies.

The Commonwealth, also known as the Commonwealth of Nations, is a political association of 56 states, most of which are former colonies of the British Empire. Here's what states are in the Commonwealth and what its history is.

The Commonwealth was born in the first half of the 20th century, with the decolonization of territories that had been part of the British Empire. They won their independence, and in 1926 the British Commonwealth of Nations was created by the Balfour Declaration.

The Balfour Declaration stated that the countries were equal in status and not subordinate to each other in any aspect of domestic or foreign affairs, although all were united by loyalty to the Crown, freely associating as members of the British Commonwealth of Nations.

The signing of the document was attended by King George V of Great Britain and the Prime Ministers of Canada, Australia, the Union of South Africa, New Zealand, Newfoundland and the Irish Free State.

British Christmas Traditions

Elev: Dumitrescu Lisabona,

Prof. Muşat Simona-Marilena,

Liceul Teoretic „Traian Lalescu” Orşova, Mehedinţi

Christmas is the most wonderful time of the year for everybody. From decorating the Christmas tree to eating mince pies in this period of the year and kissing under the mistletoe, these are our British Christmas traditions and their origins.

Christmas has a long history in the UK and if we have to thank somebody, these are Victorians because they invented our most loved festive traditions, including decorating Christmas trees or sending cards.

Today, in British houses it is very common to see Christmas trees full of twinkling lights, colourful decorations or natural decorations like ivy, holly and mistletoe which is considered a romantic symbol. This plant has connotations of love, so the people who kiss under the mistletoe will fall in love.

Another plant which is associated with Christmas is holly – the bearbed leaves and red berries of it have been identified with eternal life and protection in Great Britain.

Ivy is another symbol of Christmas in the UK because it is the symbol of everlasting life and resurrection.

Traditional Christmas food and drink in the UK

Mince pies – British traditions say that everybody should eat a mince pie on each of the twelve days of Christmas for good luck. If anyone refuses one of their twelve pies, he will suffer a year of misfortune. So treat your friends and family a hot mince pie this Christmas, and they will be lucky the whole year.

The Turkey is also a later on a Christmas Day and everybody must have the turkey on the table in this special day of the year. So crispy bacon-basted turkey is a recipe which makes Christmas dinner more special and the guests are amazed.

Traditional Christmas deserts are „Yule log” (a chocolate cake) „Twelfth Night cake” (a cake is considered a symbol of luck)

A traditional drink for Christmas is „-Jough-Y-Nollick” or the drinks of Christmas. This drink is brewed in a giant kettle that would be taken around the entire neighbourhood.

Morality

*Elev: Dantz Eric,
Prof. Călinescu Amalia,
Colegiul Național „Tudor Vladimirescu” București*

For millennia, our society has been anchored by a guiding light, serving as the arbiter of social cohesion as we understand it today. Since humanity first gained sentience—whether through divine intervention or evolutionary processes—this concept has profoundly influenced our lives, shaping the very foundation of our world.

Some argue that morality emerged as an evolutionary adaptation, stemming from humanity's communal nature, intended to curb violence and promote collective well-being. Conversely, others assert that morality predates humanity, attributing its origins to a divine entity such as God, viewing it as a fundamental aspect of existence, akin to the creation of the world itself—a structural cornerstone upholding the fabric of reality.

For a time, it thrived. Demonstrating its efficacy, we rose as the dominant species on our planet. Though our society was still in its infancy, morality ensured our collective cooperation. It prompted actions such as sharing food with the less fortunate and aiding the sick rather than abandoning them to their plight. Gradually, this led to significantly higher survival rates compared to the animals inhabiting the Earth.

However, as our society progressed beyond the Stone Age, transitioning from small communities to villages, and from villages to cities, states, countries, and eventually empires, human civilization advanced at a pace that outstripped our biological evolution. What initially served as a unifying force began to be corrupted by those who shaped it over the centuries.

Religion emerged as a construct centered on the notion that morality and virtue would redeem us from sin. This dichotomy reflects humanity's inclination toward a reward-punishment dynamic, deeply ingrained in our daily lives. Then came the Renaissance, another endeavor to define the ideal moral character. This time, we sought to promote enlightenment through scientific and theological means, striving to convince ourselves that we were inherently good and deserving of whatever rewards our outdated biological systems deemed fitting for

moral behavior. This concept was not inherently flawed. After all, what harm could arise from ensuring that each person possessed knowledge about themselves and the world around them? However, true to form, over time, we molded this concept to suit our quest for power and exemption from the very principles we purported to uphold. Venturing beyond the confines of the known world in pursuit of knowledge, we returned with plunder, enslaved peoples, and diseases. We justified these actions in the name of science or the betterment of society, proclaiming that the suffering of the few was necessary for the benefit of the many. Already, we can witness how the notion of "the greater good" and the idea that moral actions should maximize benefits for the largest number of people at the lowest cost—fundamental concepts of morality—have been so distorted that adhering to moral standards becomes, paradoxically, immoral.

The industrial revolutions ushered in a new era of reckless attempts to enforce moral ideals, this time through political systems. Communism, socialism, fascism, and democracy all promised that under their respective banners, life would finally be equitable for all, and morality would flourish as it was intended. However, these systems inherently contradict the very notion they seek to uphold. Fascism suppresses individual freedoms, communism often results in unfair distribution of resources, and democracy sometimes grants power to individuals ill-equipped to wield it responsibly. In their pursuit of moral righteousness, these political ideologies often fall short, revealing the inherent complexities and contradictions within their structures.

Perhaps it is time we acknowledged that our relentless pursuit of this social construct lingering from the early stages of human evolution has led us astray. We have relied on it to delineate between right and wrong, as it has dictated our actions and behaviors. However, when combined with humanity's innate drive to amass power expediently, these two conflicting values create a concoction so distorted that our primitive minds struggle to comprehend and adhere to it. Morality, once viewed as a guiding light, ironically becomes a burden for many, imposing a sense of obligation that constrains their sense of self. The imposition of moral standards and duties creates internal conflicts, as individuals find themselves torn between their personal desires and societal expectations. This conflict extends to the tension between the pursuit of power and one's interpretation of what is morally right or wrong.

Finally, to quote Frederick Nietzsche, "Morality is the herd instinct in the individual."

Burning Waters

*Elev: Drăgoescu Simina,
Prof. Dorobanțu Andreea,
Colegiul Național „Mihai Viteazul” Ploiești, Prahova*

Beads of sweat were running down her forehead as her chest was heaving up and down with exhaustion. Never had she ever experienced such gruesome fright in her life before. The crisp night air was biting at her nose, goosebumps forming all over her skin each time a gale of wind blew her way. The young girl desperately tried to hold her gown up, lest she should trip over and fall. And God knows what would happen if that nightmare, who was creeping hauntingly close to her, would finally get his hands on her.

She frantically looked up at the moon-lit sky through the empty tree branches that appeared to be countless tangled hands, purposefully trying to slow her down. The more she looked back, the louder the footsteps grew. Tears were forming in the corner of her eyes as quiet sobs would escape her quivering lips every now and then.

How on earth did she manage to get in that situation in the first place? Why would God even allow that misfit of a creature to get a hold of her, trapping her in its brutal claws? Where was He while all of this was happening? "Father, why have You forsaken me?" She managed to muster in between breaths, not wanting to slow down her pace. But to her misfortune, her journey had come to a halt. The mist-covered forest misled her to an open field, where her entire being was highly visible to any imminent threat.

Mentally, the girl had already given up. Although whatever she was running from was no longer near her anymore, she knew her running away was more than pointless in the given situation. As her panting breath began to slow back down, her gaze fell upon a body of water, the glistening moon reflecting on its sublime crystalline surface.

It felt as if the song of a siren was casting an ancient spell upon her, making her legs move with minds of their own. She waltzed towards the lake, stopping right before the brim of the water. Kneeling down, a gust of wind messed with her loose locks of hair as she forcefully gripped the grass in-between her calloused fingers.

She was nothing. A nobody. Just a peasant girl who worked at her father's farm, far away from any form of civilization. But with God? She felt like she belonged, she felt like her life owned a vast amount of importance each time she called out to Him. But most importantly, she felt loved.

But one day, this blessing came to an end when a foreign voice began whispering to her sweet unknown words, luring her in with the delightfulness of them. At first, she was appalled by the obvious attempt to set her astray from her walk with God. But she was painfully oblivious to the effectiveness of it. The more she tried to run away from the shadow, the stronger it grew, holding even more power over her than it initially did.

However, as time passed, she slowly stopped fighting against those whispers. She listened closely and opened her eyes widely. Only then had she realized that all that time, she had never been alone in the first place and that the whispers were not just a figment of her imagination. They, in fact, belonged to somebody.

Out of the sudden, she lost her balance, a throbbing headache taking over herself. She grunted in pain while the rest of her body grew weaker. Full of anguish, she cried out to her God in hopes for salvation "Father, if You still love me... If You do still love me, save me from this hell!"

A large shadow emerged from behind, towering over her with all its might. "Hell, you say? Is that what you think of me?"

Her head instantly turned towards the direction of the grating voice as a tremendous amount of fear spread throughout her veins like a poisonous drug that had her petrified in that very place. Her orbs were drastically enlarged and her pupils trembled frantically at the sight of the man that had been tampering with her sanity for such an awfully long time.

Full of anticipation, she slowly looked up to see the entirety of his cursed face. The poor girl gulped in fear as she was met with a pair of hungry eyes and the most sinister and wicked grin she had ever seen before. He crouched down and his hand reached for her. In contrast, she moved backwards, trying to get away from him, but there was no escaping it. She squinted her eyes, expecting the worst out of the interaction. But to her surprise, she felt his hand gently stroking her head, just like the first night she ever saw him.

As a faithful Christian, she would read her Bible daily. Just like her father taught her to. There, she learnt how the devil operated. It's not always that he roars like a lion who tries to strike fear into the hearts of its prey, but also like a luring snake who gives and gives until you

forget about your Creator. So often, his gifts turn out to be a double-edged sword, that pierces through your flesh, deeper and deeper, until nothing remains of you.

Just like that, once again, even in the final moments, he still tried to lure her in, despite all the terrible damage he had caused her. And akin to the initial encounter, she fell for the very same ploy. Her teary doe eyes glistened under the pale moonlight while her eyebrows fused together in anger.

"How dare you?!" She bellowed as she swiftly emerged from the ground. "How dare you interfere with my relationship with God? How dare you separate me from Him?!" He was taken aback by her sudden outburst. But his perplexed expression soon turned into a mocking one, amused by the distressed damsel.

"What 'God' are you talking about?"

Her furrowed eyebrows denoted pure confusion. She furiously grabbed her cross necklace that was hidden underneath the bodice of her dress. She held the small silver crucifix as if it were a protection charm.

"See this?! Jesus Christ is my God! Why are you so amused?!"

"Foolish human. Don't you know you have been praying to a false god?"

Her eyes widened in complete shock whereas her mouth was agape, trying to mutter something in reply, but no words would come out.

"I've heard all of your prayers. And I did everything to be the first one to respond to them. Isn't that better than God?"

"No! Who do you think you are to compare yourself to Him?!"

He flashed her another devilish smile and took a step back.

"The devil, himself."

Those were the last words the dear girl had heard before her frail body was engulfed in a lake of crimson red blood. Like so, the troubled beauty turned into a sacrifice for the dark side. She tightly held onto her faith in the Lord, not letting the cunning words of the devil trick her into sin.

But the demon? He returned satisfied into the forest where he would search for his new prey to turn away from God. Another foolish Christian girl from a small English village to turn into either a witch or a burnt offering for the wicked. Whenever will God take His revenge on those who bedevil and bewitch?

The lake was still and calm as the fiery hues of the rising sun mirrored on its surface. Only the faint sound of the wind rustling through the blades of grass could be distinguished.

Deep inside the water lay the young girl as the red liquid marred the ethereal appearance of the dark blue pond. Her eyes were closed and she looked dead to the world. And so did the other girls that lay with her like a bouquet of withered roses.

Gaining Wisdom after Regrets

*Elev: Drăgan Bianca,
Prof. Caragea Carmen,
Școala Gimnazială Plosca, Teleorman*

One of my favourite sayings is a Chinese proverb that goes like this; “The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.”

Whenever I’ve told people I left my job to take a chance on following my dreams, they are always incredibly supportive. I’ve never had anyone say, “But aren’t you worried you’ll regret going after your dreams?” Not once has someone questioned the decision because we all know what it’s like to have regrets. Instead, every person I tell says, “You did the right thing, take the chance now or you’ll always wonder what could have been.” Life ain’t going anywhere and the world won’t stop turning if you change your life path.

Another great piece of wisdom that had a huge impact on me was given to me by a previous boss, who told me it was important I understand that I am completely replaceable. Now, hold on, that might sound a little bit harsh but that wasn’t what she was intending. What she was saying was that I shouldn’t ever stay in a situation I’m unhappy in, because even if I think I’m incredibly important and key to that situation, it really doesn’t depend on me. I am always replaceable.

If you’re in a job you dislike, thinking ‘I have to stay, they need me!’ That’s not true. If you leave they will recruit someone else, train them and they will do the job and the company will continue without you. If you’re in a relationship or friendship you’re unhappy with, the other person won’t simply disappear or cease to exist if you leave. Nope, they will find another partner or another friend to replace you and they will get on with life and so will you. It is the continual momentum and rhythm of life. When one thing ends, something else grows in its place.

This is excellent news for us, my friends because it removes a lot of the pressure we place on ourselves. It brings a sense of lightness and ease into our lives because things aren’t as difficult or binding as they may seem. No matter what you choose to do in your life today,

the sun will still rise and set tomorrow and the human race will continue to exist. So, why waste time doing something you don't want to be doing?

Find that self-belief and trust within yourself and put yourself out there. You can achieve everything you've ever dreamed of achieving, all you have to do is make a start and what better time than right now?! Today is your day to plant your tree and watch it grow. So, be bold and take a step toward everything you desire. It's all there waiting for you.

The Power of Words

*Elev: Fătăligă Maria Magdalena,
Prof. Militaru Nicoleta Marilena,
Liceul de Arte „Ionel Perlea” Slobozia, Ialomița*

Words are more than just combinations of letters and sounds; they are powerful instruments with the ability to influence attitudes, feelings, and behavior. Words have sparked movements, started revolutions, and changed societies throughout history. Words have the power to profoundly shift perceptions, move hearts, and challenge hearts—from the powerful speeches of leaders to the moving poetry of poets.

Above all, words have the ability to uplift and encourage. Words have the power to arouse emotion, inspire hope, and mobilize people to action—whether they be spoken or written in an inspirational speech. Consider famous orations such as Winston Churchill's wartime speeches or Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech, which motivated entire countries and motivated people to work for a better future. Words of inspiration and encouragement can give people the fortitude and resiliency they need to overcome challenges and succeed in difficult or uncertain circumstances.

Furthermore, words have the ability to instruct and enlighten. Language allows us to impart knowledge, discuss ideas, and express complicated thoughts. Books, articles, lectures, and discussions are all methods for disseminating knowledge and expressing views. Words have the ability to challenge conventional wisdom, spark critical thought, and broaden viewpoints. They can highlight injustice, increase awareness about social concerns, and encourage people to campaign for change. In this way, words act as catalysts for intellectual development and societal advancement.

However, it is critical to remember that words have the potential to injure and divide. The same language that can raise and inspire can also be used to instill hatred, provoke violence, and perpetuate prejudice. We must select our words carefully, considering their influence on others, and aim to encourage compassion, empathy, and understanding in all of our encounters.

To sum up, the power of words is obvious. They can inspire, educate, heal, and unify. Individuals have a responsibility to use the power of language to effect positive change—to uplift, empower, and create a more just and compassionate world. Let us remember the immense power that words may have, and attempt to use them wisely for the benefit of ourselves and society as a whole.

Unravelling the Cultural Enigma of the Anglo-Saxons

*Elev: Gîrjan Dimitrie Cristian,
Prof. Mandrea Teodora,
Liceul „Ștefan Procopiu” Vaslui*

The Cultural Space of the Anglo Saxons is a rich tapestry intertwined with threads of tradition, conquest, and evolution, from their migration to the island now known as 'Britain' in the 5th century, to the Norman conquest in 1066 in which England went through a massive transformation under its new Norman rule. The Anglo-Saxons left an indelible mark on the landscape of England, shaping its language, literature, art, and social structures.

At the heart of Anglo-Saxon culture lies their language, Old English, a Germanic tongue infused with elements of Latin and Celtic languages. This linguistic heritage still continues to influence modern English, with many words and grammatical structures tracing their roots back to this early period. Religion played a central role in Anglo-Saxon life, with Christianity gradually supplanting the earlier pagan beliefs of the Germanic tribes. Monasteries, such as those established by Saint Augustine of Canterbury, became centres of learning for those seeking knowledge and sometimes even piety, preserving knowledge and serving as hubs of cultural exchange. The fusion of Christian and pagan elements is evident in Anglo-Saxon art and literature, where themes of heroism and redemption coexist alongside references to Norse mythology and Anglo-Saxon deities. That pagan influence is still present in England to this day. Socially, Anglo-Saxon society was hierarchical, with kings and nobles ruling over a predominantly agrarian population. The wergild, or "man-price," system governed matters of justice and compensation, emphasizing the importance of kinship and personal honour. Despite this stratification, there were opportunities for social mobility, with successful warriors and landowners able to rise through the ranks and attain greater status and wealth. England to this day is still ruled by a monarch, the current being King Charles the Third, but he rules with limited power since the UK is a constitutional monarchy.

In conclusion, the cultural space of the Anglo-Saxons is a multifaceted realm comprising language, literature, art, religion, and social organization. Through their beautiful

language, they shaped the linguistic landscape of England and of many other countries that adopted English as their language, such as the United States. And while their artistic achievements and religious beliefs left an enduring legacy that continues to captivate and inspire. By exploring the cultural space of the Anglo-Saxons, we gain insight into a dynamic and vibrant society whose influence reverberates through the corridors of history and continues to shape the whole world to this day.

Words of Wisdom

*Elev: Gherghe Răzvan Andrei,
Prof. Toader Diana,
Colegiul Economic „Mihail Kogălniceanu” Focșani, Vrancea*

Life is an unpredictable journey with many unexpected twists and turns. As we navigate through this journey, we learn important lessons that shape us into who we are today. One of the most crucial things we learn is the power of words. Words can have a profound impact on our lives. They can inspire and motivate us, bring us joy, but they also cause us pain, sadness, and frustration, and even demotivate us. That's why it's crucial to choose our words carefully and thoughtfully.

One of the most important things we can learn is the power of positivity. Positive words can lift our spirits and change our outlook on life. For instance, when someone tells us that we did a great job, it can make us feel proud of ourselves and encourage us to do even better. Positive words can also make us feel appreciated, loved, and valued. In contrast, negative words can bring us down, lower our self-esteem, and damage our relationships with others. Therefore, it's essential to use positive words to uplift and inspire those around us.

Another valuable lesson we can learn about words is the power of honesty. Honesty is a virtue that society highly values. It's essential to be truthful in our words and actions, as dishonesty can erode trust and damage relationships. When we're honest, we build trust and respect with others, and we create an environment of openness and understanding. Honesty can also help us become better individuals by acknowledging our mistakes and taking responsibility for our actions.

Lastly, we can learn the power of forgiveness. Forgiveness is an act of kindness and compassion that can heal broken relationships and bring people together. Though it's not always easy, forgiveness is a powerful tool that can help us let go of negative emotions and move on from hurtful situations. When we forgive someone, we release ourselves from the burden of anger and resentment, and we open ourselves up to love, understanding, and empathy.

In conclusion, words are incredibly powerful. They can uplift or bring us down, inspire or demotivate us, and create a positive or negative impact on our lives and the lives of those around us. Therefore, it's crucial to choose our words carefully and thoughtfully. We should strive to use positive words to uplift and inspire those around us, be honest in our words and actions, and practice forgiveness to promote healing and understanding. By doing so, we can create a positive impact on the world and make it a better place for all.

The Influence of the Monarchy on British Society

Elev: Georgescu Antonia-Theodora,

Prof. Gimbir Lavinia,

Colegiul Național „Mihai Viteazul” Ploiești, Prahova

The Royal Family, as it presently stands, has been deeply intertwined with British culture and history and has become a longstanding symbol of the country's monarchy and national identity. While some commend the Family's well-known acts of charity regarding its influence on society, others heavily critique it, often referring to the fact that it perpetuates class distinctions and poses risks of political interference.

One of the significant advantages, influence-wise, is the Royal Family's frequent contributions to charitable cases. Its members often lend their help to various non-profit organisations, thus raising awareness and proper funds and helping solve a high number of deeply ingrained issues within our current society. Their patronages serve to motivate people to contribute in their own way, amplifying the impact of these initiatives. Right now, over 3000 organisations list a member of the Royal Family as their patron or president, ranging from the well-known British Red Cross to newer, smaller charities.

Moreover, the United Kingdom's monarchy has represented its national and cultural identity, embodying tradition and continuity; the Royal Family interacts with citizens by means of public appearances and events such as coronations, jubilees or even royal weddings. This way, a deep sense of connection and unity that transcends any differences is spread amongst the populace. More than that, due to its fame as a staple of British culture and history, the Family serves to enhance the country's standing in the world through diplomatic means.

However, despite constant efforts, the very idea of monarchy continues to perpetuate differences between classes and therefore underlines certain privileges that differ from one social class to the other. The hereditary nature of royal succession has raised questions about influence, status and power as birth rights and their legitimacy. The structure of this type of system encourages differentiation by way of birth rather than merits or achievements and enforces resentment between the privileged and the marginalised.

Another criticism is that the Royal Family presents the potential of interfering in political affairs of the world despite their role being mainly ceremonial and apolitical. The fact remains that the British monarchy has retained some of its power and could be very much capable of taking action in desperate times through the King's status as head of state and commander-in-chief of the state's armed forces. It's possibilities such as these that raise questions regarding the compatibility of a monarchical system with a modern democratic governing system.

In conclusion, the influence that the monarchy holds over British society is complex, with many colliding aspects surrounding its contributions as opposed to its validity in modern times. While it's symbolic of the nation's identity and commended for charitable actions, it continues to widen the gap between social classes and poses a risk of heavy political interference. Thus, it is essential to form an opinion of the Royal Family and the system they represent based on a thorough understanding of all advantages and disadvantages they bring forth. Whether considered a monument of tradition or an ancient relic, its presence is significant and undeniable regarding the UK's social, cultural and political landscape.

Harry's Wisdom

Elev: Iancu Luigi George,

Prof. Gimbir Lavinia,

Colegiul Național „Mihai Viteazul” Ploiești, Prahova

Time Long ago, in the quaint Anglo-Saxon village of Eldwick, nestled amidst rolling hills and ancient oaks, there lived an esteemed sage named Harry. His weathered face bore the lines of countless stories, each etched with wisdom garnered over a lifetime of observation and reflection. Harry's name echoed through the kingdom, carried on whispers of admiration for his sagacity and the timeless tales that flowed from his lips.

One crisp morning, as the mist lifted from the village, a young warrior named Otto sought out Harry's humble abode. His heart, heavy with the weight of love unspoken, yearned for guidance. With a gentle knock, Otto entered Harry's dwelling, his eyes alight with hope mingled with uncertainty.

"Harry," Otto began, his voice soft yet resolute, "I seek your counsel to win the heart of my beloved."

Harry's gaze, warm and understanding, met Otto's earnest stare. With a gentle smile, he spoke words that resonated with the depth of ages, "Otto, true wisdom lies not in grand words or deeds, but in the simplicity and sincerity of your heart."

Seated by the flickering hearth, Harry unfurled a tale as ancient as time itself, a parable woven with threads of truth and enlightenment. He recounted the story of a valiant knight who, consumed by the allure of glory, embarked on a perilous quest to vanquish a fearsome dragon. Blinded by ambition, the knight believed his triumph would herald adoration and renown beyond measure.

Yet, upon his triumphant return, the knight beheld a sight that shattered his illusions. The village he pledged to protect lay in ruin, not at the talons of the dragon, but by the neglect born of his absence. In his pursuit of greatness, he had forsaken the very essence of heroism – the steadfast commitment to those who relied upon his strength and valor.

"See, Otto," Harry intoned, his voice a soothing melody, "true wisdom and courage transcend the grandeur of quests and conquests. They find root in the humble acts of kindness and the unwavering devotion to those we hold dear."

Otto drank in Harry's words with rapt attention, their significance settling deep within his soul like a seed taking root in fertile soil. With newfound clarity, he understood that to win his beloved's heart, he need not embark on grandiose endeavors, but rather, embrace the quiet strength found in steadfast presence and selfless service.

Gratitude filled Otto's heart as he bid farewell to Harry, his spirit buoyed by a newfound purpose. Returning to Eldwick, he embarked on a journey of compassion and benevolence, lending his hands to rebuild homes and tend to the sick and weary.

In the gentle rhythm of his daily deeds, Otto emerged as a beacon of hope and resilience, a testament to the transformative power of love in its purest form. And in the hushed whispers that echoed through Eldwick's halls, his tale intertwined with Harry's, weaving a timeless tapestry of wisdom that illuminated the path for generations to come.

For in the quiet corners of Eldwick, amidst the rustling leaves and murmured prayers, the echoes of Otto and Harry's story endured as a testament to the enduring truth that true wisdom springs from the depths of the heart and finds expression in the simplest of gestures.

Dishes – English Breakfast

Elev: Huțanu Alexoaie Sebastian,

Prof. Istrate Vlad,

Seminarul Teologic Liceal Ortodox „Sfântul Ioan Iacob” Dorohoi, Botoșani

The idea of the English breakfast as a national dish, stretches back to the 14th/15th century and an English institution gentry, who considered themselves to be the guardians of the traditional English country lifestyle and who saw themselves as the cultural heirs of the Anglo-Saxons.

The story of the English breakfast begins in the country houses of the English gentry, with their notion of what constituted a proper Anglo Saxon breakfast and their tradition of social hospitality.

Sometimes called a fry up, a full English is a hearty, hefty breakfast plate served in the UK and Ireland. Full English breakfasts are so popular that they're pretty much offered throughout the day as all-day breakfast.

An English breakfast typically includes eggs (fried, scrambled, or boiled), bacon, sausage, baked beans, grilled tomatoes, mushrooms, black pudding, and toast. Sometimes it also includes hash browns or fried potatoes. It's a hearty meal often associated with a leisurely weekend morning or as a special treat. The ingredients can vary slightly depending on personal preferences or regional traditions.

In medieval England, breakfast was a much simpler affair, often consisting of bread and ale. The idea of a hearty breakfast with meats and other cooked items didn't become widespread until later.

Today, the English breakfast is enjoyed not only in England but also in various parts of the world, often served in cafes, restaurants, and bed and breakfast establishments. While its exact origins may be difficult to pinpoint, the English breakfast remains a cherished.

Research suggests that consuming an English breakfast may be more beneficial for weight loss than a breakfast high in carbohydrates such as cereal or fresh fruit. This is down to

the fact that a full English breakfast is higher in protein and will therefore leave you less likely to snack on other foods until lunchtime.

The Victorian era saw a wealthy middle class begin to emerge in British society who wished to copy the customs of the gentry, including the tradition of the full cooked breakfast. As the middle classes went out to work, breakfast began to be served earlier, typically before 9am.

Surprisingly, the full cooked breakfast was also enjoyed by many of the working classes. The punishing physical labour and long hours of work in the factories of the Industrial Revolution meant a hearty meal first thing in the morning was necessary. Even as late as the 1950s, almost half the adult population began their day with cooked ‘fry-up’.

The Incredible Accomplishments of British Culture and Civilization

*Elev: Lăcătușu Robert Alexandru,
Prof. Cătănescu Angela Eugenia,
Liceul Tehnologic „Domnul Tudor” Drobeta Turnu Severin*

As a teenager, I find myself deeply admiring the rich tapestry of British culture and civilization, which has left an incredible mark on the world stage. From literature to music, from history to innovation, British contributions have shaped global discourse and enriched human experience in countless ways. From my perspective, the benefits and accomplishments of British culture are truly remarkable and worthy of admiration.

First and foremost, British literature stands as a testament to the power of storytelling and imagination. The works of literary giants such as William Shakespeare, Jane Austen, Charles Dickens, and J.K. Rowling have captivated audiences across generations and continents. Through their words, we are transported to different worlds, confronted with timeless themes, and invited to explore the depths of the human condition. The enduring popularity of British literature speaks to its universal appeal and its ability to resonate with readers of all ages and backgrounds.

Moreover, British music has had an undeniable impact on global culture and continues to inspire and influence artists around the world. From the Beatles to Adele, from Queen to Ed Sheeran, British musicians have produced some of the most iconic songs and albums of all time. Their innovative sounds and lyrical courage have transcended borders and united people across cultures, creating a shared language of rhythm and melody that knows no bounds.

In addition to its cultural contributions, British history is a testament to resilience, progress, and the pursuit of freedom. From the Magna Carta to the abolition of slavery, from the suffragette movement to the fight against tyranny in World War II, Britain has been at the forefront of changing moments in human history. Its legacy of democracy, rule of law, and human rights continues to inspire movements for justice and equality around the globe.

Furthermore, British innovation and ingenuity have led to outstanding discoveries and advancements in science, technology, and industry. From the Industrial Revolution to the

invention of the World Wide Web, British inventors and entrepreneurs have pushed the boundaries of knowledge and transformed the way we live, work, and communicate. Their pioneering spirit and willingness to embrace change have fueled progress and propelled society forward into the modern era.

So, I am inspired by the resilience, creativity, and spirit of exploration that define British culture and civilization. From its literary masterpieces to its musical triumphs, from its storied past to its innovative present, Britain continues to shape the world in profound and meaningful ways. As we navigate an increasingly changing, uncertain world, we can look to the lessons and legacies of British culture for guidance, inspiration, and hope for the future. In celebrating the benefits and accomplishments of British culture, we celebrate in fact the best of what it means to be human.

Unlocking the Mystery of Boxing Day

Elev: Lungulescu Liviu,

Prof. Silter Andreea,

Liceul Tehnologic „Sf. Antim Ivireanu” București

The day after Christmas isn't just any ordinary day in many parts of the world—it's Boxing Day, a holiday filled with history, tradition and a touch of mystery. While its exact origins are debated, the essence of Boxing Day as a time for giving, sharing, and being with loved ones is widely understood.

A Day with Uncertain Beginnings

The roots of Boxing Day remain unclear, with various theories circulating. Some believe it started in medieval times, when servants and tradespeople received "Christmas boxes" from their employers as a gesture of gratitude. Others suggest it may have originated from church collections for the poor. Regardless of all the above-mentioned facts, Boxing Day has become a day synonymous with generosity and kindness.

Giving Back and Helping Others

One of the central themes of Boxing Day is giving back to the community. Many use this day to support charitable causes, whether through donations, volunteering, or fundraising events. It's a time to remember those in need and lend a helping hand.

Shopping Frenzy

For many, Boxing Day is a shopper's paradise, with retailers offering big discounts and promotions. It's a day when bargain hunters flock to stores in search of post-holiday deals. The excitement of finding a great bargain adds to the festive atmosphere of the day.

Sports and Entertainment

Boxing Day is also a day for sports and entertainment. In the UK, horse racing and football matches are popular events, drawing crowds of enthusiasts. The day also offers opportunities for families to enjoy movies, theater performances, and other forms of entertainment together.

Family Time and Relaxation

Boxing Day is also about spending quality time with family and friends. Whether it's sharing a meal, taking a walk, or simply relaxing at home, it's a chance to unwind and enjoy each other's company after the excitement of Christmas.

In Conclusion

Despite its mysterious origins, Boxing Day remains a cherished holiday filled with giving, sharing, and enjoying the company of loved ones. Whether engaging in acts of kindness, hunting for bargains, or simply relaxing, Boxing Day offers something for everyone to enjoy as part of the holiday season festivities.

The Evolution of Language in English Literature

Elev: Mertoiu Cristina-Alexia,

Prof. Puiu Otilia-Mariana,

Colegiul Național „Grigore Ghica” Dorohoi, Botoșani

English is one of the most spoken languages in the world, with over 1.5 billion speakers. It is the official language of more than 50 countries and is commonly used in international communication, business and education. English language has evolved in a fascinating way in English literature over time. From the works of Shakespeare and Chaucer to modern novels, we can see significant changes in vocabulary, grammar and style. Old English, used in medieval times, evolved into Middle English, and then into modern English. Today, we have numerous literary styles and genres that reflect the diversity of the English language.

William Shakespeare

He is one of the most famous playwrights and poets of all time. He was born in England in the sixteenth century and wrote over 30 plays, including **“Hamlet”**, **“Romeo and Juliet”** and **“Macbeth”**. His works are known for their psychological depth, complex characterization of characters and ingenious use of language. Shakespeare invented new words and contributed to the development of the English language. His works have had a lasting impact on literature and theatre and are studied and performed around the world and today.

He introduced over 1,700 new English words such as "eyeball", "bedroom" and "swagger".

There is a famous quote by Shakespeare that is often associated with the evolution of the English language in literature. In his play Hamlet, the character Polonius says, "Brevity is the soul of wit."

Geoffrey Chaucer

He was one of the most important English poets of the medieval period. He is best known for his work **“The Canterbury Tales”**, an epic story about the travels of a group of

pilgrims. Chaucer wrote in Middle English and was one of the first authors to use this language in written literature. His works significantly influenced the development of English and contributed to its establishment as a literary language. Chaucer is considered one of the pioneers of English literature and one of the most important writers of his time.

A representative quote of his is "And gladly wolde he lerne, and gladly teche". Through his works, Chaucer contributed to the establishment of English as a literary language and paved the way for its further development.

Jane Austen

She was an English novelist who lived in the 18th and 19th centuries. Her novels, such as **“Pride and Prejudice”**, **“Sense and Sensibility”** and **“Emma”** are beloved for their witty social commentary and engaging characters. Austen's works explore themes of love, marriage, and societal expectations, and her writing style is known for its clever dialogue and satirical tone. Her novels continue to be widely read and adapted into films and TV shows, making her a timeless literary figure.

"The power of doing anything with quickness is always prized much by the possessor, and often without any attention to the imperfection of the performance."

Examples of works that contributed to the evolution of the language

A remarkable example is the novel "1984" written by George Orwell. Through this work, Orwell introduced concepts and terms such as "Big Brother", "Newspeak" and "doublethink" that became part of popular culture and influenced the way people speak and understand the world around them.

Another example is William Wordsworth's poetry from the Romantic period. He brought a new perspective to nature and human emotions, using simple and accessible language that had a significant impact on English poetry.

We cannot fail to mention the novel "To Kill a Mockingbird" written by Harper Lee. This work explored social and racial themes, bringing issues of discrimination and injustice to the fore. Authentic language and memorable characters contributed to the success and impact of this book.

William Wordsworth was one of the founders of English Romanticism and one its most central figures and important intellects

He is remembered as a poet of spiritual and epistemological speculation, a poet concerned with the human relationship to nature and a fierce advocate of using the vocabulary and speech patterns of common people in poetry. He began writing poetry as a young boy in grammar school, and before graduating from college he went on a walking tour of Europe, which deepened his love for nature and his sympathy for the common man: both major themes in his poetry. Wordsworth is best known for Lyrical Ballads, co-written with Samuel Taylor Coleridge, and The Prelude, a Romantic epic poem chronicling the “growth of a poet’s mind.”

William Wordsworth contributed to the evolution of English civilization by fostering a deeper relationship with nature, exploring human subjectivity, and inspiring a new perspective on life and art. His works have had a lasting impact on English culture and literature and continue to be studied and appreciated today.

~A Slumber did my Spirit Seal~

“A slumber did my spirit seal

I had no human fears:

She seemed a thing that could not feel

The touch of earthly years.

No motion has she now, no force;

She neither hears nor sees;

Rolled round in earth's diurnal course,

With rocks, and stones, and trees.”(William Wordsworth)

The Bayeux Tapestry

Elev: Minea Andrada Anabel,

Prof. Gimbir Lavinia,

Colegiul Național „Mihai Viteazul” Ploiești, Prahova

King Edward has gone
Harold now holds the throne
The crown lays on his head
Or so the French messenger said

Upon hearing such words
William gathered his herds
"Build me the greatest fleet
We shall knock Harold off his feet!"

And so, the Normans set sail
Beginning an epic tale
Ships filled with skilled men
Ready to invade the realm

Meanwhile king Harold faced betrayal
As his brother Tostig tried to prevail
While Harold victorious reigned
His battling forces waned

William was unsurprised to hear
That king Harold lurked near
He hoped to take the Normans by surprise
But unfortunately, they had spies

At the top of a green hill near Hastings
Was 'arold and that diminished army of his
The battle was fought a full day
And a never-ending tapestry was put on display

As Norman forces seemed to run away
King Harold's army chased in dismay
An arrow shot at high speeds flew by
And pierced King Harold Godwinson in the eye

Another king lost his life
Ending a terrible strife
This story presently hangs on a wall
In France Bayeux to be seen by all

Words of Wisdom

*Elev: Mocanu Georgiana,
Prof. Toader Diana,
Colegiul Economic „Mihail Kogălniceanu” Focșani, Vrancea*

In the labyrinth of life, where each corridor echoes with the whispers of joy, sorrow, triumph, and defeat, wisdom serves as our guiding light. It is not merely an accumulation of knowledge, but the insightful application of it in our daily decisions. Wisdom is the art of navigating the complex tapestry of human existence with grace, understanding, and foresight. It requires us to look beyond the superficial, to understand the essence of things, and to act not just for the immediate but with an eye on the future.

The pursuit of wisdom is a noble endeavor that enriches not only the individual but also the community at large. It encourages us to look beyond the superficial, to question with curiosity, and to approach life with a sense of wonder and openness. In this essay, we shall explore three timeless pieces of wisdom that, if embraced, can profoundly transform our lives and the world around us.

Firstly, „The only true wisdom is in knowing you know nothing,” a statement attributed to Socrates, reminds us of the virtue of humility. It suggests that the beginning of wisdom is the recognition of our own ignorance. This acknowledgment opens us up to the vastness of what we don't know, igniting a lifelong quest for learning and understanding. It teaches us to question, to seek, and to listen, recognizing that everyone we meet has something to teach us.

Secondly, „Change is the only constant in life,” a concept from Heraclitus, invites us to embrace the fluidity of existence. Life is an ever-evolving journey with its ebbs and flows. Understanding and accepting that change is intrinsic to the fabric of reality can liberate us from the fear of the unknown, enabling us to adapt, grow, and flourish in the face of life's inevitable transformations. This wisdom encourages resilience, flexibility, and the courage to let go of what no longer serves us, making room for new growth and possibilities.

Lastly, „Do unto others as you would have them do unto you,” often referred to as the Golden Rule, found in numerous cultures and religious traditions, encapsulates the essence of empathy and compassion. It invites us to step into the shoes of another, to treat people with kindness, respect, and fairness. This principle fosters a sense of interconnectedness and community, reminding us that our actions and words have a profound impact on the lives of others. By embodying this wisdom, we contribute to a more understanding, peaceful, and compassionate world.

In the realm of relationships, wisdom teaches us the value of empathy and understanding. The age-old adage, „Do unto others as you would have them do unto you,” known as the Golden Rule, underscores the importance of treating others with the same respect, kindness, and understanding that we seek for ourselves. Empathy, the ability to put ourselves in someone else’s shoes, is the cornerstone of meaningful and harmonious relationships. It fosters a sense of connection and community, reminding us that we are all part of a larger whole and that our actions have a ripple effect on those around us.

Cultivating wisdom is a deliberate and lifelong endeavor. It requires curiosity, an open mind, and the humility to acknowledge that no matter how much we know, there is always more to learn. Engaging with diverse perspectives and challenging our preconceptions are crucial steps in this process. It also involves reflection, taking the time to ponder our experiences, and the lessons they offer. Practicing mindfulness helps us to live in the present, making us more aware of our thoughts, feelings, and the world around us, thereby deepening our understanding and appreciation of life.

In conclusion, wisdom is a multifaceted virtue that enriches our lives and the lives of those around us. It is about understanding, empathy, adaptability, and above all, the application of knowledge for the greater good. As we navigate the complexities of life, let us strive to cultivate wisdom, for in doing so, we pave the way for a more compassionate, understanding, and harmonious world.

Robin Hood: The Legendary Hero of English Folklore

Elev: Moise Diana- Andreea,

Prof. Istrate Vlad,

Seminarul Teologic Liceal Ortodox „Sfântul Ioan Iacob” Dorohoi, Botoșani

Robin Hood stands as one of the most enduring figures in English folklore, embodying the spirit of rebellion against tyranny and championing the cause of the oppressed. This legendary outlaw, whose exploits have been told and retold for centuries, represents the ideal of justice and heroism in the face of injustice and oppression. While the historical existence of Robin Hood remains a subject of debate among scholars, his legend has left an indelible mark on English culture and continues to captivate audiences worldwide.

The earliest references to Robin Hood date back to medieval ballads and tales, where he is depicted as a skilled archer and outlaw living in Sherwood Forest with his band of Merry Men. These stories often portray Robin Hood as a nobleman who becomes an outlaw after being wronged by corrupt officials or unjust laws. His exploits, which include robbing from the rich to give to the poor and outwitting his enemies with his cunning and resourcefulness, have been passed down through generations, evolving and adapting to different cultural contexts over time.

In addition to the ballads and tales, Robin Hood has been immortalized in various literary works, including plays, novels, and poems. Perhaps the most famous of these is Sir Walter Scott's "Ivanhoe", where Robin Hood appears as a supporting character aiding the protagonist in his quest for justice. The character of Robin Hood has also been depicted in countless films, television shows, and other forms of media, further solidifying his status as a cultural icon.

Robin Hood's popularity as a symbol of resistance and defiance against injustice has endured for centuries, inspiring countless individuals and movements throughout history. His willingness to stand up for the downtrodden and challenge authority has resonated with people from all walks of life, making him a symbol of hope and heroism.

Moreover, the legend of Robin Hood has inspired numerous adaptations and reinterpretations, reflecting changing social and political attitudes. In some versions of the story, Robin Hood is portrayed as a revolutionary figure fighting against feudal oppression, while in others, he is depicted as a romantic hero driven by love and loyalty.

In conclusion, Robin Hood remains an enduring figure in English folklore, representing the timeless ideals of justice, courage, and compassion. Whether as a medieval outlaw or a modern-day icon, his legend continues to capture the imagination of people around the world, reminding us of the power of the individual to make a difference in the face of adversity.

The Beauty and Complexity of Culture

*Elev: Munoz-Rusu Alejandro,
Prof. Cucoreanu Gianina-Magdalena,
Colegiul Național „Grigore Ghica” Dorohoi, Botoșani*

Culture is a multifaceted aspect of human society that includes language, customs, traditions and values. In this essay we delve into the unique cultural characteristics of British and European societies, focusing in particular on their linguistic roots. Additionally, we explore the inclusive nature of the Romanian language and its importance in reflecting the diversity of its people.

British culture is rich and diverse, shaped by centuries of history, conquests and the influence of different civilisations. The British cultural landscape is characterized by literature, art, music and social norms. One of the defining characteristics of British culture is the emphasis on courtesy, modesty and compliance with social etiquette.

English, the language of Great Britain, has evolved over the centuries, influenced by Latin, French, Germanic and Celtic languages. The influence of Latin is particularly evident in the English vocabulary, with many words derived from Latin derivatives, reflecting the Roman conquest of Britain and subsequent exchanges with Latin-speaking cultures.

European culture is a tapestry of diversity, and each country has its own customs, traditions and language. Despite this diversity, there are general cultural traits that unite Europeans, including a strong emphasis on art, literature and philosophy, and a common history of exploration, colonization and conflict.

Europe's linguistic landscape is incredibly diverse, with each country maintaining language as an important aspect of its cultural identity. Many European languages, such as French, Spanish, Italian and Portuguese, are largely derived from Latin, due to the influence of the Roman Empire on the continent.

Romanian culture is a mix of Eastern and Western influences, due to its location at the crossroads of Eastern and Central Europe. As a Romance language, Romanian is derived

from Latin and has many similarities with other Romance languages, such as Italian, Spanish, and French.

One of the most striking aspects of the Romanian language is its inclusivity and adaptability. Throughout its history, Romanian has borrowed words from a variety of languages, including Slavic, Greek, Turkish and Hungarian, reflecting the country's multicultural heritage. This inclusion is not only linguistic, but also extends to Romanian society, which takes pride in its diverse ethnic makeup and cultural heritage.

In conclusion, the cultures of British, European and Romanian societies are diverse and multifaceted, shaped by their own unique histories, languages and traditions. British culture is a mix of influences from different civilizations, while European culture is characterized by rich diversity and shared heritage. Romanian culture, on the other hand, is defined by its inclusivity and adaptability, exemplified by the Romanian language's diverse vocabulary and multicultural influences. Despite their differences, all of these cultures contribute to the rich fabric of human civilization, demonstrating the beauty of diversity and the importance of cultural heritage.

Bib Ben - Between Reality and Imagination

Elev: Nină David,

Prof. Cătănescu Angela Eugenia,

Liceul Tehnologic „Domnul Tudor” Drobeta Turnu Severin

Time is a continuous Pilgrim that flows freely through history, unchanging, detached and impersonal. We humans, however, are deeply anchored in now, we live in the present moment but our past defines us, we carry it within us. We could not completely separate from it, even if we wanted to, because trying to separate would lead to the alteration of our identity. In fact the idea is that the history of a people lives in and through each individual, we are the bearers of a culture and civilization.

The subject chosen for today's work is one that makes such a past-present temporal connection in both the real and imaginary planes. So I chose to do an essay on The Clock Tower, falsely called Big Ben, housing one of the most famous watches in the world, if not the most famous.

The Clock Tower, however, can only be spoken of in close connection with the Parliament House of which it is a component. What I will try to demonstrate is the vital importance of this institution in the London world over time. It was not only a landmark, a faithful witness to a tumultuous history, but rather a pillar of Anglo Saxon culture and civilization and thus of universal culture and civilization.

Located along the Thames, the Parliament House or the Palace of Westminster is the seat of the government of Great Britain. Today the British government consists of the sovereign, the House of Lords and the House of Commons. The House of Commons is made up of elected members of Parliament while the House of Lords is the non-political party that examines legislative proposals of the House of Commons and acts as the highest court of Appeal.

The building in which the two rooms are based is one that amazes with architecture and has a tumultuous history. The Palace of Westminster dates from the first half of the 11th century (1049) and was built by Edward the Confessor. Sitzings of Parliament were first held

here as early as 1275 but it became the permanent seat of Parliament only in 1532 when Henry VIII decided to live at Whitehall.

Today's building of this institution is the masterpiece made in the Gothic and Elizabethan style by the architect Charles Barry and was built between 1840 and 1888. The Old Palace of Westminster burned down in 1834, the only components that were not destroyed being Westminster Hall and one of the towers, that of the jewels, testimonies of a troubled history, true jewels of medieval architecture.

The center of the political life of Great Britain over time, the House of Parliament still impresses today with the harmony and ingenuity of the architectural style, its history raising it to the rank of a symbol of a tradition of government, of a nation. Given the importance of this institution in London life, it is understandable the concern given at the time of the reconstruction of the building itself and the details related to the functionality and harmony of the component parts. It was Parliament's desire for the New Palace of Westminster to include a clock tower on its northern side. Originally the tower was supposed to be called Victoria, in honor of Queen Victoria, but today it is known as St Stephen's Tower (St Stephen's).

The name Big Ben actually refers to the clock in the tower, specifically its huge bell, which beats the hour. The history of the construction of the bell is an intricate one. Parliament's wish had been that the tower should contain a clock of unprecedented acuity. The indications of the Royal Astronomer George Airy provided for an error of less than a second at the first bell beating that announced the time, and the desire for permanent reporting at Greenwich Observatory.

Normally such a demand seemed impossible to achieve due to the size of the clock mechanism and its exposure to the weathering of the weather. It was not until 1851 that Edmund Beckett Denison thought he could make a bell that met these precision requirements. He asked for a special shape for the bell and gave his own recipe for the metal from which it was to be built. After an unsuccessful first and second attempt it proved a disaster-the Bell made was far too heavy, 16 tons compared to 14 as planned by architect Charles Barry.

In 1858 the collaboration with the Whitechapel smelter yielded the long-awaited results. Denison did not follow the instructions of specialists, in this case George Mears, the creator of the bell and also the owner of the smelter. He used a hammer twice as large as indicated and that led to the bell cracking after barely two months of operation.

The Great Clock in Westminster thus struck the first time on May 31, 1859. It was then that Parliament was in extraordinary session to decide which name to give the clock. It

would seem that they named it Big Ben in honor of a member of parliament who had given an impressive speech on the subject in that sitting. Since then the presence of politicians at debates is signaled in the tower either by a flag during the day or by a light at night.

The famous clock tower has some remarkable technical data: the height of the tower is 320 feet (107 meters), the main bell, the one that beats the hour, weighing over 13 tons. The four faces of the clock are each 23 feet (14 meters) high, with the figurines 2 feet high. The peculiar tone of the clock in St Stephen's Tower is given by that crack of the Bell, a crack which, although it is broken by the perfection of the sound, gives it uniqueness.

However, this real side must be seen in close connection with the subjective, affective reception of the clock tower. Amazing in its architecture and acuity, anchored in a heavenly, eternal time, Big Ben paradoxically connects with earthly time, with the fleeting now in which we are deeply anchored.

A witness to the passing of time, Big Ben was the contemporary of many generations equally belonging to every period in British history. It is noteworthy that during the Second World War in 1941 a bomb destroyed the House of Commons, but the clock tower remained intact, its unique sound being, to those who heard it, an assurance of hope.

One of the most famous events in the history of the Palace of Westminster, and thus related to Big Ben, took place in 1605. It was then, that Guy Fawkes was discovered in the cellars of the palace trying to blow up King James I. The death sentence was carried out on November 5, 1605. This day is celebrated all over the UK with fireworks every year from then until the present day.

If we asked anyone what places in London they had heard about or what they would like to visit there, they would inevitably include Big Ben in their answer. The reputation of the clock tower therefore transcends geographical barriers, thus becoming an asset of all, a bridge between cultures and civilizations.

The regular beats of the famous clock not only specify the time with an enviable accuracy, (even for modern times), but are also an opportunity to escape into a world of imagination, a medieval world with knights and battles for honor, or simply an escape to something better, different. It is remarkable this power to open the gates of the imaginary, but also the ability to wake up to reality, to anchor yourself in the now, in the real.

The location of The Parliament House in close proximity to the Thames is a meaningful one. If we think at the level of connotations, we put in the antithesis on the one hand two eternal elements – time and water – whose flow is timeless, independent of the will of

mortals, and, on the other hand, an institution that represents the people, the people, who by their nature are subject to passage of time. However, the resistance of this institution for 900 years in the face of the meanders of history and the flow of time give hope, it is proof that true values endure, cannot be altered or destroyed.

In conclusion, Big Ben, as it appears in this work, is not only an essential part of a famous institution that has determined the evolution of British culture and civilisation throughout history, but also a part of each of us, those of every nationality, giving us with every beat a drop of Eternity.

Regal Echoes

Elev: Pațilea Maria Ștefania,

Prof. Dorobanțu Andreea,

Colegiul Național „Mihai Viteazul” Ploiești, Prahova

It all started with Aethelstan
The founder of a new kingdom
Unaware of what fate would decree,
His legacy, a tree, would sprout and flee.

History marches, through Tudors and Stuarts,
Each era adding to its chapters, its parts.
Yet on common ground, they all tread,
Their strides of success, where history's led

From ancient roots, through winds of change,
"Magna Carta" marks a path so strange.
A journey from seed to noble deed,
Progress whispers, in every creed.

Today, the British monarchy stands bold,
In the spotlight, its stories are told.
A platform built for culture's embrace,
Supporting events with regal grace.

Style and fashion, woven in their thread,
An influence eternal, in words unsaid.
In media's lens, their image shines bright,
From silver screens to songs in the night.

Thus, from Aethelstan's humble start,
To realms where culture and history impart,
The monarchy's saga, an everlasting flame,
In the annals of time, it etches its name.

Where is this World Going?

*Elev: Păduraru Andrada-Maria,
Prof. Bilitz Veronica,
Colegiul Național „Nicolae Iorga” Brăila*

Words of wisdom...When we think of these words we might go back to in time and analyze all the words that our parents told us right from our early childhood. We can also think of our grandparents who spent a great part of our childhood with us and had the main goal of teaching and showing us parts of life. Wisdom takes you to the term wise, being wise...and my question is...'Are we wise enough to value our lives and see the good in them?!' We can look around in our families and see that humans are not satisfied with what they have, they are not ok with what they achieved in life till that point, they lack money all the time and they get a job and another job and some of them go abroad to work as to get more money and they leave their families behind not thinking of the fact that their sacrifice doesn't worth it because they loose their families and their lives. Being wise means to understand the fact that you are not immortal and some day you will leave everything behind and you will die or start a different life and if you look back then, if you had the chance to look back and see your whole life maybe you'd say that you wasted and you might have regrets about it. I am just 16 and I want to stay away of what society makes us do, I want to stay away of this `adventure` of making money, lots of money and for making money to leave my family behind because I truly believe that life is meant to be lived fully.

Life means looking at the sky, hearing the birds chirping, feeling the wind blow , laughing a lot, listening to music, painting a nice picture, writing stories about whatever makes you happy and satisfied, eating a cake without regretting it later, about taking chances, about speaking in public, about sleeping, about spending time with your family and talking a lot about your day and so on... Life is not about fancy cars, expensive clothes, shiny jewelry and going to Dubai or other trendy places all over the world. You can travel around the world just with a backpack and you can be more happy than those ones who pay a fortune for just one holiday

just because your vibe is better and because you are with the right person next to you and you know how to live indeed.

I can't really say about myself that I am a wise person but I can say that I like the way I see things around me and each and every time I have long talks with my parents they encourage me to keep on seeing the things like this because this is the right perspective as to have a decent, healthy life. This approach to life is not just in our country but also all over the world...I have got some friends who went together with their families and live in UK now and we discussed about this way of seeing the world and they said that this is almost the same in UK, too. Their parents run from one place to another each and every day without thinking of the fact that they are wasting precious moments and they will never get them back. It is very interesting to know that the English have a disorganized way of handling everything that family means just because they are too preoccupied by having better positions in companies, by paying the mortgages, by paying the rent and so many other things that deal with money and jobs. When you go to UK and you are just a tourist you can see many things and you can really feel the English vibe because your purpose there is just to visit and see as many places as possible without having the pressure of school and other external factors that stop you from relaxing 100%.

Buckingham Palace, the Heart of London

Elev: Pătrășcuță Radu,

Prof. Amatiesei Gabriela-Cristina,

Școala Specială „Ion Pillat” Dorohoi, Botoșani

Castles are tangible relics of a remarkable past, a lengthy heritage etched in stone, as well as with the blood and sweat of those who built, laboured, fought and died in their shadow. I have always been impressed with Buckingham Palace, which is the Queen's official and main royal London home. It has been the official London residence of Britain's monarchy since 1837. Queen Victoria was the first monarch to live there. Buckingham Palace is used also for the administrative work for the monarchy. It is here in the state apartments that Her Majesty, His Majesty now received and entertained guests invited to the Palace.

WHY IS BUCKINGHAM PALACE IMPORTANT?

The City of Westminster is the home of Buckingham Palace, which has been the official London-based home of the monarch since 1837, although it is owned by the state. Today, it is the administrative headquarters of the Monarch and is also used for state occasions and whenever the need arises to display traditional royal hospitality.

SECURITY

While there is no secret underground Tube station as many believe, the Palace does have secret tunnels that connect it to Clarence House and the House of Parliament.

HISTORY

Buckingham Palace is only one of the more than 15 royal residences throughout the United Kingdom and has been the official home of the monarchy since 1837, making it much more than just a home to Queen Elizabeth and members of her family. With a long history also comes a lot of upkeep.

The Site In the Middle Ages, Buckingham Palace's site formed part of the Manor of Ebury (also called Eia). The marshy ground was watered by the river Tyburn, which still flows below the courtyard and south wing of the palace. Where the river was fordable - Cow Ford – a village, Eye Cross, grew up. Ownership of the site changed hands many times; owners

included Edward the Confessor and his queen consort Edith of Wessex in late Saxon times, and, after the Norman Conquest, William the Conqueror. William gave the site to Geoffrey de Mandeville, who bequeathed it to the monks of Westminster Abbey. In 1531 Henry VIII acquired the Hospital of St James (later St. James's Palace) from Eton College, and in 1536 he took the Manor of Ebury from Westminster Abbey. These transfers brought the site of Buckingham Palace back into royal hands for the first time since William the Conqueror had given it away almost 500 years earlier.

First Houses on the Site

Possibly the first house erected within the site was that of a Sir William Blake, around 1624. The next owner . The improvident Goring defaulted on his rents; Henry Bennet, 1st Earl of Arlington obtained the mansion and was occupying it, now known as Goring House, when it burnt down in 1674. Arlington House rose on the site - the southern wing of today's palace - the next year, and its freehold was bought in 1702.

The Garden

At the back of the palace, large and park-like, is Buckingham Palace Garden. The Garden Front of the palace, by Nash, is of pale golden Bath stone. The garden, which includes a lake, is the largest private garden in London. Here, the Queen hosted her annual garden parties each summer, but since June 2002, she invited the public into the Garden on numerous occasions. Buckingham Palace Garden accounts for the historical spectacles which marked the Queen's Golden Jubilee (2002) and her 80th birthday (2006).

Home of the Monarch

Buckingham Palace finally became the principal Royal residence in 1837 on the accession of Queen Victoria. While the state rooms were a riot of gilt and colour, the necessities of the new palace were somewhat less luxurious. For one thing, it was reported the chimneys smoked so much that the fires had to be allowed to die down, and consequently the court shivered in icy magnificence. Ventilation was so bad that the interior smelled, and when a decision was taken to install gas lamps there was a serious worry about the build-up of gas on the lower floors. It was also said that the staff were lax and lazy and the palace was dirty.

CONCLUSION

Buckingham Palace is a symbol and home of the British monarchy, an art gallery and tourist attraction. Behind the gilded railings and gates which were made by the Bromsgrove Guild and Webb's famous facade which has been described as looking "like everybody's idea of a palace" the large staff employed by the Royal Household work to keep Britain's

constitutional monarchy functioning. Buckingham Palace features as a prominent back drop to London charity fund raising events like the London marathon and the British 10K each summer. The Palace is more than a home for the Royals. It is the official administrative headquarters of the monarchy and contains the offices of their staff. It is the place where all Royal ceremonies and official banquets are held. Government ministers, top civil servants and heads of state visit to carry out their duties.

More than 50,000 people visit Buckingham Palace each year, either officially or as guests. It brings a whole new meaning to the phrase 'working from home'.

UK or USA?

Elev: Pîrlog Crina Alexandra,

Prof. Bilitz Veronica,

Colegiul Național „Nicolae Iorga” Brăila

This essay is meant to highlight some features of the British people in comparison to the American people. I travelled to both places and this essay is not just about what I have read about them but also about what I have seen and heard so many times just because I am lucky enough to have relatives on both continents, in right these two magnificent places. Communication styles between the British and the Americans tend to differ slightly. Whereas Americans are very direct, British people tend to spend a lot of effort making their opinions and views sound polite and well-measured. If you find it difficult to parse what your British colleague thinks—or perhaps find them distant or not very warm—that’s possibly a cultural difference at play and not something to take personally. British people also tend to have more respect for holidays and annual leave, as it is afforded to every working person regardless of their job. While taking time off from work in the US can be seen as a luxury, in the UK it’s seen as more of a right for all working people.

You may also notice that British people apologize extensively, even when it seems that there’s not much to apologize for. This emphasis on politeness is a very British. Whether it’s the Beatles, the BBC, or Charles Dickens, people in the UK tend to be proud of British literature, British art, and British culture. Generally speaking, the government values it as well, providing more funding to the arts and culture than the US does. British history is very obvious in everyday life in the UK, whether it’s just walking by London’s St. Paul’s Cathedral (which was built in the 17th century) or the blue plaques commonly seen on buildings indicating which historical figure used to live or work there. If you pay attention to architecture or even the small details of everyday life, you can learn a lot about the past. Another thing Brits are renowned for is their sense of humor. It does tend to be a lot drier and more deadpan than American humor, though, so you might be surprised at the things people find funny here. It’s good to know that “banter”—the practice of sending good-natured insults or jabs back and forth—is generally seen as a sign of affection, so try not to take offense. Since the postwar period, Britain has had

a social welfare state that includes entitlement to medical care under the National Health Service, as well as a fairly robust benefit system. If you are working on a visa in the United Kingdom, you will generally have access to some of these services as a legal resident. Though the British royal family sparks great interest worldwide, it can be something of a divisive issue in the UK. Some British people can be described as monarchists, meaning they believe the institution and traditions of the royal family provide a benefit and are still relevant to modern-day life. Others take a more “republican” view and believe the royal family should no longer be funded in part by taxpayers and instead be consigned to British history.

Queen Elisabeth II and Her Passion for Dogs

Elev: Posteucă Alexandra Claudia,

Prof. Istrate Vlad,

Seminarul Teologic Liceal Ortodox „Sfântul Ioan Iacob” Dorohoi, Botoșani

Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom is well-known for her love for dogs. These furry companions have been a constant presence in her life and have become an integral part of the royal family. In this essay, we will explore the queen's relationship with her dogs and the impact they have had on the British monarchy.

Queen Elizabeth II has always had a special passion for dogs. Over the years, she has owned several breeds, including corgis, dachshunds, cocker spaniels, and labradors. These pets were not just mere dogs to the queen but trusted companions and friends.

Among the most well-known breeds of dogs owned by the queen are Welsh corgis. These small and adorable dogs have been a constant presence in the royal family for several decades. Queen Elizabeth II had a particular affection for this breed, raising several corgis throughout her life. These dogs have been featured in numerous official photographs and royal events, bringing warmth and humor to Buckingham Palace.

In addition to corgis, the queen has also had other breeds of dogs, including dachshunds and labradors. Each of these breeds brought its own unique qualities and personalities into the queen's life. Labradors, with their gentle and friendly nature, were often used for hunting and other outdoor activities, while corgis, with their short legs and playful personalities, were more suited for indoor companionship.

The queen's relationship with her dogs has been deep and meaningful. These furry companions have always been there to provide comfort and support during difficult times and have been by her side during many royal events and important ceremonies. Additionally, the queen has been known to treat her dogs as members of the family, providing them with the best living conditions and care.

In conclusion, Queen Elizabeth II's dogs have had a profound impact on her life and the British monarchy as a whole. These pets have brought joy and light into Buckingham Palace and have been witnesses to numerous significant moments in modern British history. The queen's special relationship with these adorable furry friends is beloved by many people around the world and is an important part of her legacy.

The Evolving Role of the Royal Family in Contemporary Diplomacy

Elev: Preda Ilinca,

Prof. Dorobanțu Andreea,

Colegiul Național „Mihai Viteazul” Ploiești, Prahova

The royal family's diplomatic role has undergone significant transformation in recent years, reflecting shifts in societal norms, global politics, and the monarchy's adaptation to modern standards. While historically praised as symbols of national identity and continuity, their diplomatic endeavors often encounter scrutiny and debate. This paper explores the advantages and challenges associated with their engagement in modern diplomacy.

Originating as the oldest form of government in the United Kingdom, the monarchy embodies a constitutional framework where the sovereign serves as the head of state, while an elected parliament governs legislatively. Though the sovereign no longer holds political or executive powers, their presence remains pivotal in national life, symbolizing unity, stability, and recognition of achievement.

One of the primary benefits of the royal family's diplomatic involvement lies in their symbolic representation of the nation on the global stage. With ancient lineage and cultural significance, they epitomize their country's history, customs, and ideals. Their participation in international events and state visits not only promotes national interests abroad but also fosters goodwill, enhancing diplomatic efforts. Moreover, by nurturing bilateral relations and facilitating cross-border communication, their diplomatic roles serve as catalysts for collaboration, trade, and investment.

Additionally, the royal family's diplomatic activities can catalyze relationships between nations through informal diplomacy. Their presence at state functions and official trips fosters interpersonal connections, supplementing formal diplomatic channels. Extensive media coverage of royal engagements generates public interest, fostering goodwill towards both the royal family and their nation. By raising awareness of global challenges, humanitarian initiatives, and cultural exchange, they contribute to international understanding and cooperation.

However, the royal family's diplomatic engagements are not without drawbacks. The potential for perceived or actual involvement in political affairs raises concerns about impartiality and neutrality. While constitutional monarchs typically operate within established frameworks, instances of royal pronouncements or political entanglements have strained international relations, prompting accusations of bias or undue influence.

Furthermore, the adherence to traditional monarchical concepts in diplomacy may clash with contemporary values. In an era marked by globalization and democracy, hierarchical systems and ceremonial functions associated with monarchy may appear antiquated, undermining principles of equality and fairness.

In conclusion, the royal family's role in modern diplomacy is multifaceted, presenting both opportunities and challenges. While their diplomatic efforts enhance national prestige and foster international cooperation, they must navigate the risks of political interference and reconcile traditional customs with evolving global norms. As diplomatic landscapes evolve, the royal family must strike a delicate balance between tradition and progress, ensuring their continued relevance in a rapidly changing world.

Knight's Odyssey: Trials of Virtue

*Elev: Radu Christiana,
Prof. Dorobanțu Andreea,
Colegiul Național „Mihai Viteazul” Ploiești, Prahova*

The sun shone golden over the Evercrest training fields, as Vald stood with his longtime mentor, the seasoned knight Sir Geralt, whose eyes glistened with ageless knowledge.

"Vald, you stand at the beginning of a journey that few knights dare to embark upon—the Trial of the Seven Virtues," Sir Geralt said, his voice rough yet endearing.

Vald caught his mentor's gaze and nodded, his eyes unwavering. "I recognize the story, Sir Geralt. However, why is this trial so crucial? What does it truly mean to be a knight of the Royal Court?"

Sir Geralt's lips curved into a faint smile, his eyes alight with the fire of conviction. "To be a knight of the Royal Court is more than wielding a sword or donning armour," he said. "It is to embody the virtues of chivalry—to be courageous in the face of danger, temperate in times of abundance, just in the midst of chaos."

With a frown on his face, Vald questioned, "But how do the trials relate to these virtues?"

"Now that we have discussed these cardinal sins, which are essentially a tribute to a deficiency in emotional intelligence, let us examine their remedy."

"We know that emotional intelligence is educable, so let's see how we can practise the virtues, which are the opposite of these capital sins," he persisted. "I myself am guilty of all these sins. Some have lingered longer in my life, others less. Sometimes more than one of them has crept in at the same time and others have persisted and lowered the quality of my life."

Sir Geralt's hand pressed against Vald's chest plate, each word accompanied by more pressure. "When the knife is to the bone, when your physical, emotional, and psychological state can't get any worse than it is, then you know it's time to change something. Whether you choose to change things before they become serious or wait until the knife reaches your bone, salvation will come from practising the virtues."

Sir Geralt gestured toward the horizon, where the spires of the Royal Court rose majestically against the azure sky. "Each trial you face will test a different aspect of your character," he said. "Through adversity, you will learn the true meaning of courage. Through temptation, you will learn the value of temperance. And through conflict, you will learn the necessity of justice."

Vald listened intently, his heart pounding with anticipation. "And what of the other virtues?" he asked.

Sir Geralt's gaze softened, a hint of pride shining in his eyes. "Prudence will guide your actions, Fortitude will sustain you in times of trial, Faith will illuminate the path ahead, Hope will bolster your spirit in moments of despair, and Charity will remind you of the importance of compassion."

For a moment, silence hung heavy between them, broken only by the rustle of leaves in the gentle breeze. Then, Vald spoke, his voice steady and resolute. "I feel ready, Sir Geralt. Ready to face the trials that lie ahead, and to prove myself worthy of the honour I seek."

A smile graced Sir Geralt's face, and he clasped Vald's shoulder, his grip firm and reassuring. "Then go forth, lad, and may the virtues guide your path," he said. "For in the crucible of trial, true knights are forged, and legends are born."

And with those words echoing in his heart, Vald set forth on his journey, his spirit ablaze with determination and his eyes fixed upon the horizon, where the Royal Court awaited, its gates open to those who dared to seek the path of virtue.

Religion in UK

Elev: Rus Robert-Mihail,

Pr. prof. Chichioacă Petru-Georgel,

Seminarul Teologic Liceal Ortodox „Sfântul Ioan Iacob” Dorohoi, Botoșani

About RELIGION IN UK

Christianity is the largest religion in England, with the Church of England being the nation's established state church, whose supreme governor is the monarch. Other Christian traditions in England include Roman Catholicism, Methodism and the Baptists. After Christianity, the religions with the most adherents are Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism, Judaism, Buddhism, modern paganism, and the Bahá'í Faith. There are also organisations promoting irreligion including humanism and atheism.

History of Christianity in Britain

The history of Christianity in Britain covers the religious organisations, policies, theology and popular religiosity since ancient times.

The Roman Catholic Church was the dominant form of Christianity in Britain from the 6th century through to the Reformation period in the Middle Ages. The (Anglican) Church of England became the independent established church in England and Wales in 1534 as a result of the English Reformation. In Wales, disestablishment took place in 1920 when the Church in Wales became independent from the Church of England. In Scotland, the (Presbyterian) Church of Scotland, established in a separate Scottish Reformation in the 16th century, is recognized as the national church, but not established.

Following the Reformation, adherence to the Catholic Church continued at various levels in different parts of Britain, especially among recusants and in the north of England. Particularly from the mid-17th century, forms of Protestant nonconformity, including Congregationalists, Baptists, Quakers and, later, Methodists, grew outside of the established church.

The Lord's Prayer

Most Christians know the prayer by heart in their own language, and it is used today by every Christian tradition, though there are sometimes minor variations in the wording. It has a place in every Anglican act of worship, and forms a pattern for prayer for Christians:

We bless God and pray for our world, our communities and our lives to be shaped by God's will;

We pray for daily needs to be met,

For forgiveness for wrongdoings, strength to resist temptation and protection from danger.

In England, there are two versions commonly used in the Church of England
Contemporary and Traditional Language:

Contemporary

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come, your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours now and for ever.

Amen.

Traditional

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;

thy kingdom come; thy will be done;

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Church of England

The Church of England, or Anglican Church, is the primary state church in England, where the concepts of church and state are linked. The Church of England is considered the original church of the Anglican Communion, which represents over 85 million people in more than 165 countries.

While the Church upholds many of the customs of Roman Catholicism, it also embraces fundamental ideas adopted during the Protestant Reformation. In recent years, the Church of England has been viewed as one of the more progressive sects of Christianity and is known for its relatively liberal policies, such as allowing the ordination of women and gay priests.

Church of England Facts

The British monarch is considered the supreme governor of the Church. Among other privileges, he or she has the authority to approve the appointment of archbishops and other church leaders.

The Church of England contends that the Bible is the principle foundation of all Christian faith and thought.

Followers embrace the sacraments of baptism and holy communion.

The Church claims to be both Catholic and Reformed. It upholds teachings found in early Christian doctrines, such as the Apostles Creed and the Nicene Creed. The Church also reveres 16th century Protestant Reformation ideas outlined in texts, such as the Thirty-Nine Articles and the Book of Common Prayer.

The Church of England sustains a traditional Catholic order system that includes ordained bishops, priests and deacons.

The Church follows an episcopal form of government. It's divided into two provinces: Canterbury and York. Provinces are separated into dioceses, which are headed by bishops and include parishes.

The Archbishop of Canterbury is thought to be the most senior cleric in the Church. The Church's bishops play a lawmaking role in Britain. Twenty-six bishops sit in the House of Lords and are referred to as the "Lords Spiritual".

Generally, the Church embraces a way of thinking that includes scripture, tradition and reason.

The Church of England is sometimes referred to as the Anglican Church and is part of the Anglican Communion, which contains sects such as the Protestant Episcopal Church.

Each year, about 9.4 million people visit a Church of England cathedral.

Church Movements

The Puritan movement in the 17th century led to the English Civil Wars and the Commonwealth. During this time, the Church of England and the monarchy were quelled, but both were re-established in 1660.

The 18th century brought the Evangelical movement, which promoted the Protestant customs of the Church. Conversely, the Oxford Movement in the 19th century highlighted the Roman Catholic heritage.

These two movements and their philosophies have endured in the Church and are sometimes referred to as “Low Church” and “High Church.”

Since the 20th century, the Church of England has been active in the Ecumenical Movement, which promotes ideas of worldwide Christian unity.

Conclusion

In conclusion, I chose the topic "Religion in UK" because of the number of religions in England, such as: Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism, Judaism, Buddhism, Baha'i Faith, Rastafari Movement and Neopaganism. Which are also the religions with the most followers after Christianity. I had the idea to choose this topic because of the quite large number of religions in England and because of the information I can use to help me study. In conclusion, I chose this topic because it has many sources where I can get information.

Webography:

- <https://www.prayercast.com/england.html>
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Words of Wisdom

Elev: Smîntîna Ariana-Elena,

Prof. Toader Diana,

Colegiul Economic „Mihail Kogălniceanu” Focșani, Vrancea

Words have the power to inspire, motivate, and enlighten us. Throughout history, great thinkers, leaders, and philosophers have shared their wisdom through memorable quotes. These words of wisdom serve as guiding lights, offering insight and perspective in times of challenge and uncertainty.

Firstly, change is an inevitable force that shapes the course of our lives. It encompasses transitions, transformations, and the passage of time itself. Embracing change involves cultivating a mindset of adaptability and resilience. Rather than fearing or resisting change, we can choose to embrace it as an opportunity for growth and evolution. By recognizing change as a natural and necessary aspect of life, we open ourselves up to new experiences, perspectives, and possibilities. To have the strength for embracing them, you must have the power of persistence, which can be defined as the steadfast commitment to pursuing our goals and aspirations, even in the face of obstacles, setbacks, and failures. It is the fuel that drives us forward, propelling us towards success and fulfillment. The journey towards our dreams is often fraught with challenges and setbacks, but it is through persistence that we overcome these obstacles and ultimately achieve our objectives. In order to transform our dreams into reality, we should practice some strategies, such as setting clear goals to provide a sense of direction and purpose, guiding our efforts towards achievement, and also making a support group with friends, family and mentors to provide encouragement and motivation during challenging times. Alan Watts was an important person who affirmed that "The only way to make sense out of change is to plunge into it, move with it, and join the dance." Watts says that the change is inevitable in life. He encourages us to embrace change rather than resist it, for it is through adaptation that we find growth and new opportunities.

Secondly, gratitude is the practice of acknowledging and appreciating the blessings, big and small, that enrich our lives. It is a powerful antidote to discontentment, shifting our focus from what we lack to what we have. Cultivating gratitude fosters a sense of abundance and contentment, regardless of our external circumstances. By embracing gratitude as a way of life, we awaken to the richness of each moment and find joy in the simple pleasures that surround us. For cultivating it, we should keep a gratitude journal to write down things we are grateful for, but also to express gratitude to create deeper connections and stronger relationships, while amplifying our own sense of well-being. Like Melody Beattie once said, "Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more." With this quote she was trying to make us understand that practicing gratitude allows us to appreciate the blessings in our lives, fostering a sense of contentment and fulfillment. Beattie reminds us that true happiness comes from within, through gratitude for what we have. For making all of these big decisions in our lives, we need to know the importance of courage. "Courage is not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it.", Nelson Mandela once said. His quote teaches us that courage is not about being fearless but about facing our fears head-on and rising above them. It is through courage that we find strength and resilience.

Briefly, these words of wisdom offer guidance, reminding us of the timeless truths that can help navigate life's journey. By embracing persistence, change, peace, courage, and gratitude, we can lead fulfilling and meaningful lives, contributing positively to the world around us. As we reflect on these quotes, may they inspire us to live with purpose and passion, striving to be the best versions of ourselves.

Exploring the Wonders of the World through Languages

*Elev: Stanciu Maria Gabriela,
Prof. Militaru Nicoleta Marilena,
Liceul de Arte „Ionel Perlea” Slobozia, Ialomița*

Languages are more than just means of communication; they are doors leading to unknown territory. Every language is filled with distinct sounds, words, and expressions that provide insights into various civilizations, periods, and ways of thinking, much like a treasure chest. Setting off on a voyage to investigate the world of languages is an adventure full of infinite surprise and discovery.

The excitement of finding secret gems—words and phrases that encapsulate a culture in a way that defies translation—lies at the core of language discovery. Every language reveals the values, customs, and beliefs of the people who speak it, from the melodious phrases of Italian to the complex characters of Mandarin. Engagement in the sounds and rhythms of a foreign language helps learners develop both their language skills and their comprehension of the outside world.

One of the joys of language exploration is the opportunity to connect with people from diverse backgrounds and forge meaningful relationships across cultural divides. Whether through language exchange programs, online communities, or travel experiences, learners have the chance to engage with native speakers, exchange stories, and share perspectives. These interactions not only enhance language skills but also foster empathy, compassion, and mutual respect—a reminder of our shared humanity in an increasingly interconnected world.

Additionally, learning a language offers doors to a variety of cultural riches, including music, food, literature, and art. Students who study literature in its native language have access to both modern masterpieces and timeless classics, and they get to witness the beauty of narrative in its most basic form. Similar to this, exploring the world of music enables one to appreciate a variety of musical traditions, such as the mysterious melodies of flamenco and the rhythmic pulses of Afrobeat, adding a symphony of sounds to the surrounding environment.

As technology continues to shrink the distances between people and nations, the importance of language exploration becomes increasingly apparent. In a globalized society, where cross-cultural communication is essential for success, multilingualism offers a competitive edge in both personal and professional realms. Whether for travel, business, or simply personal enrichment, the ability to speak multiple languages opens doors to new opportunities and experiences, broadening horizons and expanding possibilities.

In conclusion, exploring the world of languages is a journey of discovery, connection, and growth—a journey that crosses borders and enriches the soul. By immersing oneself in the rich variety of linguistic diversity, learners gain not only linguistic proficiency but also a deeper appreciation for the ways in which language shapes our world. As we embark on this adventure of a lifetime, let us embrace the wonders of language exploration and celebrate the beauty of cultural exchange, knowing that the journey itself is its own reward.

Monarchy Poem

Elev: Stoian Tudor-Ioan,

Prof. Dorobanțu Andreea,

Colegiul Național „Mihai Viteazul” Ploiești, Prahova

Head of state the monarch is,
The oldest form of government,
Tradition is represented by him,
In Britain we are praising him.

A beacon of history, in stories long told.
With a crown, a sceptre, and a throne, symbols of might,
Ensuring the nation's flight.

But beyond the halls of governance,
Lies a fantastic royal world,
Which people love to see in the UK,
In the grand halls of the Windsor Royal,
It exudes a rich tapestry of age-old customs.
There is no rival in sight.

People are getting crowded,
Just that they can see the crown,
Which they heard about,
Tourists are getting fascinated,
They wouldn't stop celebrating,
At the king standing.

So let's raise our voices, let jubilation unfurl,
To Britain's monarchy, enriching the world.
In tourism's embrace, and politics too,
A fascinating realm, both old and new.

***Pride and Prejudice* - a Book of a Fascinating Era**

*Elev: Stratulat Ana Maria,
Prof. Cătănescu Angela Eugenia,
Liceul Tehnologic „Domnul Tudor” Drobeta Turnu Severin*

Each book comprises in its pages an entire world, with its own rules, a universe where imagination can be free of constraints, where you can be who you want to be : a prince or a servant, the courageous soldier or a magical creature, the beautiful girl who married her beloved one, the discoverer of new planets, and so on. Not only that you can get in the shoes of a character and experience a different existence, but you can also travel in time, find out about the customs and traditions of various cultures, in various centuries. In fact it is this large variety of choices, an almost unlimited way of discovering things that fascinates me when I enter the pages of a book.

I am an explorer with an eclectic taste in books: love stories, fantasies, realistic novels or historical ones, science fiction, dramas and fairy tales, are all part of my bookcase, and I enjoy each type depending on my mood, the person who recommended it, the opinion of the critics or the author. I believe you should dive in, try different genres so that you can enlarge your horizon, enrich your knowledge of the world and open your mind continuously.

One of the books that I discovered with great joy and surprise was *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen. My teacher suggested this title, so I gave it a try. Once I started reading it I was unable to let it go and there were three wonderful days in which I accompanied the Bennet family in rural England of the 19th century. My favourite character, and probably Austen's favourite among all her heroines, was of course Elizabeth, the second of the five daughters of the family. I believe it is a character so well conceived and rendered that the reader cannot but be gripped by her story. She is intelligent, high-spirited and she shares her father's distaste for the conventional views of society as to the importance of wealth and rank. She prides herself with her wit and her ability to judge the character of a person, but she is initially prejudiced against the aristocratic hero, Fitzwilliam Darcy, because she sees him as a proud, arrogant person, who uses his position in society to intimidate.

The romantic novel unveils the burgeoning relationship between Elizabeth Bennet, the daughter of a country gentleman and Fitzwilliam Darcy, an aristocratic landowner. With

unswerving accuracy and satire the author presents a society where wealth is inherited and enables you with the power to look down on others less fortunate, which is in fact the world of her time. In such a world, the love story of the two main characters has to face a lot of difficulties but in the end Elizabeth accepts Darcy's second marriage proposal proving that first impression is not always correct and the rules of society can't be a real obstacle in the case of true love.

One of the features that I like best about this book is the fact that both main characters are very much alike, although in the beginning and through most of the story they believe that they are completely different, unable to find a connection between their worlds. In fact Fitzwilliam Darcy's pride of rank and fortune and prejudice against the social inferiority of Elizabeth's family hold Darcy aloof, while the pride of self-respect and prejudice against Darcy's snobbery hold Elizabeth equally aloof. Their sense of duty, the ability to use their intelligence and listen to reason, the common high standards they both share, make them realize, after a long process and challenging experiences, full of misunderstandings and wrongly applied values, that they are right for each other.

The large variety of human types representing that period of time was also revealing and appalling to me, and they made me understand better that period of time. Mr. Bennet, an intelligent but eccentric and sarcastic man, who does not care for society's conventions and mocks his wife's obsession with finding suitable husbands for their daughters, Mrs. Bennet's a woman of little sense and much self-pity who indulges her lively youngest daughters, Bingley's sisters, the snobbish and scheming Caroline or Collin, a dull clergyman Mr. Bennet's nephew, who is the next male in line and will inherit the estate.

Another essential element to be mentioned here is the way the novel begins: "It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife." It made me wonder about what I may encounter inside, it aroused my interest and attention and soon I was fascinated by the ironical, critical way of rendering the realities of the time. That was the first time I have read the book, but after a while I have read it again, and again, and each time I have discovered other new aspects, I have tried a different perspective, never getting bored.

In conclusion, I believe *Pride and Prejudice* is a fascinating book, one worth reading, not only if you are a romantic person, but also if you want to discover and understand a different era, with proud, witty gentlemen and intelligent, high-spirited women ready to face the entire world in order to be true to their ideals and values.

Words of Wisdom

*Elev: Susan Andrei-Iulian,
Prof. Toader Diana,
Colegiul Economic „Mihail Kogălniceanu” Focșani, Vrancea*

Words can tell different types of stories, spoken or written, thus managing to spread pieces of information from generation to generation. They carry the weight of previous generations encapsulating wisdom within them obtained from the depths of human consciousness. Through storytelling, we embark on a journey to unravel the profound connection between words and wisdom as a whole.

Firstly, the stories passed down carry a meaning, a situation from which we can learn something, for example. Whether it is shown directly or indirectly, while reading or hearing such stories, the listeners or readers catch a glimpse of wisdom through what they witnessed. The more and more words with meaning behind them, passed on to others manage to create a base from where they could judge situations that they may encounter, or maybe even take part in changing the outcome of future events. Although it is normal to fail or make a wrong decision in life, through experiencing the said thing, you can pass on to others what happened and where your decision-making or actions took a turn for the worse. As an example from my life, I have been finding myself trying to steer my friends away from bad things through my own experiences, knowing the outcome of said things, such as smoking, and other bad habits, and while doing this I like to point out the negative side of things, in order to present them the consequences during the long run, even trying to help them when they are having problems with their mental health, telling them that time will pass and everything will be alright in the end. Such words can make a difference between life and death in some scenarios.

Secondly, words have power beyond that of oral tradition, finding refuge in the pages of literature. In the pages of "To Kill a Mockingbird" written by Harper Lee, the author imparts profound insights on empathy and justice, resonating with readers across generations. In the poetry of Rumi, for example, we find comfort in the whispers of divine wisdom transcending the barriers of language and culture. Through the written word, authors immortalize the essence

of wisdom, offering refuge to those who seek it. In the digital age, the internet has become a vast repository of written wisdom, where blogs, articles, and online forums serve as a platform for the exchange of ideas and insights, from self-help literature to scholarly journals, written words continue to shape our understanding of the world and ourselves.

Therefore words, either written or spoken carry an immense amount of wisdom within them. In the park with friends, or in the quiet solitude of libraries and bookstores, those who seek wisdom, will manage to find it, unearthing gems of enlightenment, for in words lies the power of transcending time and space, bridging the chasm between past, and future, and offering glimpses into the eternal truths that bind humanity together.

Festivals in Great Britain

Elev: Șurubaru Theodor Sebastian,

Prof. Istrate Vlad,

Seminarul Teologic Liceal Ortodox „Sfântul Ioan Iacob” Dorohoi, Botoșani

Great Britain boasts a rich tapestry of festivals, each steeped in tradition, history, and cultural significance. These celebrations not only showcase the country's diverse heritage but also serve as vibrant expressions of community spirit and collective joy. From centuries-old rituals to contemporary gatherings, British festivals offer a glimpse into the nation's soul.

One of the most iconic festivals in Great Britain is the Notting Hill Carnival, held annually in London. Originating in the 1960s as a celebration of Caribbean culture, it has evolved into Europe's largest street festival, attracting millions of visitors. Vibrant costumes, pulsating music, and mouthwatering food characterize this event, embodying the spirit of unity and diversity.

In stark contrast, the solemnity of Remembrance Day underscores the nation's reverence for its military history. Observed on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, this memorial pays homage to the soldiers who sacrificed their lives in conflicts. Poppy wreaths laid at war memorials across the country symbolize a collective remembrance, fostering a profound sense of national identity and gratitude.

For lovers of literature, the Hay Festival in Wales is a pilgrimage. Set amidst the picturesque countryside, this gathering of literary minds celebrates the written word in all its forms. From book readings to panel discussions, it offers a platform for intellectual exchange and creative inspiration, reinforcing Britain's status as a literary powerhouse.

Meanwhile, music aficionados flock to Glastonbury Festival, a mecca for live music enthusiasts. Nestled in Somerset's rolling hills, this legendary event showcases an eclectic lineup of artists spanning genres from rock and pop to electronic and folk. More than just a music festival, Glastonbury embodies the ethos of counterculture, sustainability, and communal living.

In rural communities, traditional festivals like the Highland Games in Scotland and the Cheese Rolling Festival in Gloucestershire hark back to ancient customs and rituals. These events, characterized by feats of strength, quirky competitions, and local delicacies, offer a glimpse into Britain's rustic charm and timeless traditions.

What unites these diverse festivals is their ability to bring people together, transcending boundaries of age, background, and belief. Whether celebrating heritage, creativity, or simply the joy of being alive, British festivals serve as reminders of the beauty and resilience of human spirit, weaving a vibrant tapestry of culture and community across the land.

Words of Wisdom that Changed my Life

Elev: Toma Denisa,

Prof. Caragea Carmen,

Școala Gimnazială Plosca, Teleorman

If there's one thing I've learned over the past few years, it is that absolutely anything is possible. This isn't something I was taught at school, I'm not sure about you but my school years weren't exactly spent being told I could become a blogger or travel the world. We were encouraged to do things like go to University and become doctors, lawyers and other similar things.

My favourite subjects at school were English, history, art and drama. I was never any good at math, science or any of those kinds of things. By the time I left school, I had really big doubts in my mind about my abilities and felt, to be honest, a bit dumb. I figured because I hadn't received good grades for certain subjects at school I must be a bit stupid and not capable of having a good job like the dream jobs sold to us by career advisors. This way of thinking made me feel really down on myself and I couldn't choose what to commit to studying at University, so I started working instead, just waiting for the right job or sudden vision of what I wanted to appear.

Education is important, of course, but you shouldn't ever feel limited by it. I've never gone to 'Blog School' or taken writing courses at University. I just found something I love and that makes me happy and I share it with other people. The way things are now, the rules have changed completely and while you probably need to go to University if you intend on changing careers to become a Doctor, for example, there may be ways you can share your talents and passion with the world without having to study too.

I guess what I'm trying to say is, you have control over your destiny and you can change your life and circumstance any time you choose. If I had stayed in my post-school mindset for the rest of my life, I would have had really low self-esteem about my writing abilities and my intelligence. Since I learned to trust my instincts and abilities, I've built that self-confidence back up. It has taken years and I was terrified when I first started sharing my

writing with people, but now I feel comfortable with my writing and creativity and that's more valuable than anything else.

You can always make something from nothing, trust me. Little Grey Box started as a tiny little blip on the radar and now it's my biggest passion in life. It is always possible to take the things you love and turn them into something valuable, it just takes time and dedication. But, if you want it badly enough, it's possible. Anything is possible.

One of the first motivational quotes I ever came across was shared by my eldest Uncle. He switched his mobile phone on, one of those really old Nokia slide phones, and he'd programmed a welcome message for himself. As the phone lit up it displayed the phrase, "Fortune favours the bold." He didn't go into detail explaining to me what it meant, he just left it up to me to decide for myself what it meant to me.

Those words have changed meaning a lot over the years as I've grown and changed. At this point in my life, I feel like it's about having the confidence to put yourself out there and go after what you want. Ask and you shall receive.

All you have to do is make the decision to start, make the decision to change. Commit your mind to it and just begin. There's no pressure to achieve absolutely everything at once. From there, things will grow organically and before you know it you'll find yourself in a place where you look back and wonder why you weren't doing this sooner.

People talk a lot about regrets they have, I know I've done it too. We question why we didn't take that job we were offered, why we didn't call the cute girl at the coffee shop or the nice guy from the party. We regret not travelling when we could have or not making changes to our life path. But here's the thing, if we keep putting these things off we'll find ourselves standing in the exact same spot a year, two years, 10 years from now... asking the exact same questions.

Crowning Glory: The Monarchy's Role in Shaping Britain

Elev: Tangerică Daria Maria,

Prof. Dorobanțu Andreea,

Colegiul Național „Mihai Viteazul” Ploiești, Prahova

Once upon a time, amidst the vibrant streets of London, there was a powerful monarch ruling the kingdom with unwavering dignity and determination. Every citizen showed a profound admiration for the monarch, as he was a legendary figure, representing the historical achievements of British society. It was a realm where the influence of the monarchy was undeniably important.

At the heart of this majestic realm stood Buckingham Palace, an architectural wonder that symbolised the monarch's prestige. From the reign of the Tudor dynasty to the current Windsor family, the monarchy has had both positive and negative effects on British society.

One of the key aspects of the monarchy's impact on society is its ability to bring about a sense of unity and national identity. The royal family acts as a symbolic representation of the nation, providing a sense of stability in an ever-changing world. It also plays an important role in supporting and encouraging the public and charity sectors. About 3000 organizations list a member of the Royal Family as patron or president, bringing attention to important issues.

Additionally, the monarchy has played a significant role in shaping British politics. While the monarchy itself is largely ceremonial, the influence it wields in the political world cannot be understated. The monarch's approval is required for many pivotal decisions, including the appointment of key government officials. In this way, the monarchy serves as a check on the power of the government, ensuring that decisions are made in the best interest of the country as a whole.

Moreover, the royal family currently attracts millions of tourists each year, generating billions of pounds in revenue for the country. Various landmarks not only generate income from ticket sales but also sell souvenirs. Thus, the monarchy has played a significant role in promoting British culture and heritage, helping to preserve and promote traditional customs and

values. The members of the royal family also serve as ambassadors for Britain, spreading positive messages about the nation and helping to strengthen international relations.

Notwithstanding these benefits, the monarchy has also faced criticism and controversy over the years. Some argue that the monarchy is outdated and disconnected from modern society, questioning the relevance and necessity of the institution in a democratic society.

In the end, the monarchy's impact on British society is as complex and multifaceted as the nation itself. It is a story of tradition and change, of continuity and evolution, and its influence will likely continue for generations to come. And as the monarch reigns over the kingdom, the royal family has the power to shed light on the complexities of power and privilege in the modern world.

The Legacy of the Anglo-Saxons

*Elev: Tomozei Andrei- Ștefan,
Prof. Mandrea Teodora,
Liceul „Ștefan Procopiu” Vaslui*

The Anglo-Saxons emerge as proof of resilience, toughness and honour. They shaped the very beginning of what would eventually become England. Standing as architects of a vibrant culture that left an indelible mark on the world, they made great impact on the language, the laws and architecture.

The Anglo-Saxon society was built on developments in the writing domain. The many advancements made landed them a place as one of the most important nations in history. Settling on inhabiting what is now England, back in the Middle Ages, the Anglo-Saxons were great warriors with deep reverence for valour and honour. The Anglo-Saxons, bound by oath to their lord, dressed in chainmail and wielding mighty swords fought bravely, having many later to be famous heroes prove themselves, such as king Egbert, Alfred the Great, Offa of Mercia, Athelstan, Edward the Elder and so on.

The Anglo-Saxons were masters of craftsmanship as well, making ingenious jewellery, musical instruments, toys and so on. They stood as pagans in the early ages, converting to Christianity at the end of the 6th century and completely embracing a new era of spiritual enlightenment at the half of the 7th century. During the late era of the Anglo-Saxons various evolutions on scholarship based on influences from Ireland. Bede, a great historian with timeless work, also regarded as a theologian throughout the Middle Ages. Athelstan was the first king to rule over all of England. After hereditary possession of Northumbria, he received the submissions of the king of Wales and Scotland, this way becoming the first ruler over all of Britain. This wouldn't last long, as after Athelstan's death in 939 Olaf Guthfrithston would seize all of the state. Later, in 944 Athelstan's younger brother Edmund would regain control and conquer Strathclyde, lose Northumbria to the Norse king Erik Bloodaxe and Olaf Sihtricson. After the Norse king's death Northumbria became a permanent part of the kingdom of England. Thus, the kingdom of England took the mantle of a sovereign state in the 10th century, emerging

from a variety of Anglo-Saxon kingdoms, proving them to be a crucial part in what has been for the last 11 centuries the United Kingdom of Great Britain All in all, the legacy of the Anglo-Saxons in not one to be forgotten, as their culture, language of old English, architecture and kingdom brought to life by them still contribute to who we are and what land we occupy today.

A Symbol of Grace

*Elev: Topilă Teofana,
Prof. Drăgușanu Ana,
Școala Gimnazială Borlești, Neamț*

Queen Elizabeth, a symbol of grace,
With a kind smile upon her face.
Her reign was long, her spirit strong,
A queen beloved, her legacy lives on.

Queen of elegance, a regal sight,
Her grace and wisdom shining bright.
With dignity and strength, she leads,
A symbol of unity and noble deeds.

Queen Elizabeth, a majestic sight,
Her reign shines with grace and might.
Her dedication to duty, unwavering and true,
A symbol of strength, for me and you.

Queen Elizabeth, a noble name we hold dear,
Her reign, a testament to strength and cheer.
With grace and wisdom, she leads the way,
A symbol of hope in every single day.

Christmas Traditions from the U.K

*Elev: Tudosie Cristina,
Prof. Muşat Simona-Marilena,
Liceul Teoretic „Traian Lalescu” Orşova, Mehedinţi*

The U.K has lots of Christmas traditions, which are beautiful and fun.

For example, Christmas Dinner. Christmas Dinner is a traditional dinner which in the U.K typically includes roast, turkey with stuffing, roast potatoes, Brussels sprouts, and more.

Another tradition is Carolling. Carol singing is a cherished tradition in the U.K, with groups of singers going door to door performing in public places to spread Christmas joy. If you go to the U.K during Christmas time, I recommend you to go to a church and hear the wonderful Christmas Carols sung by the children.

There is also a really fun tradition that starts on the first day of December: Advent Calendars. Children in the U.K often have advent calendars to countdown the days until Christmas. It's like a normal calendar but with prizes or treats behind each door.

Some other traditions are: Christmas Pudding, Christmas Crackers, Decorating Christmas Trees, Sending Christmas Cards and the Queens Speech.

Christmas pudding is a rich, fruity dessert often prepared months in advance, then steamed or boiled and served with biscuits.

Christmas Crackers are colourful paper tools filled with small gifts and jokes. They are opened during Christmas dinner making a cracker sound.

Decorating Christmas Trees is a tradition not only found in the UK, but also in other countries. People bring trees indoors and decorate them with Christmas lights, globes and other decorations.

Christmas cards are some cards that people exchange festive wishes for friends and family members.

And last but not least The Queens speech. The Queens speech is, of course, a speech held by the Queen on TV and radio, on Christmas day.

There are only a few traditions from the UK, but there are others more!

Celebrity Culture in Great Britain

Elev: Țigănescu Anisia Ioana,

Prof. Istrate Vlad,

Seminarul Teologic Liceal Ortodox „Sfântul Ioan Iacob” Dorohoi, Botoșani

Great Britain has long been a breeding ground for iconic celebrities who capture the imagination of the world. From the silver screen to the music charts, British stars have left an indelible mark on popular culture, shaping trends, inspiring millions, and embodying the essence of fame.

At the forefront of this cultural phenomenon stands Harry Styles, a modern-day Renaissance man whose meteoric rise to fame has captivated audiences globally. Emerging from the British boy band One Direction, Styles transitioned seamlessly into a solo artist, actor, and fashion icon. With his distinctive style, soulful voice, and charismatic persona, he embodies the epitome of contemporary celebrity.

In the realm of acting, British talent shines brightly, with luminaries such as Sir Anthony Hopkins, Dame Judi Dench, and Daniel Day-Lewis gracing both stage and screen with their unparalleled prowess. Their performances have garnered critical acclaim and accolades, cementing their status as cultural treasures.

In music, the influence of British artists reverberates around the world. From the legendary rock bands like The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, and Queen to modern-day sensations like Adele, Ed Sheeran, and Dua Lipa, British musicians continue to dominate the charts and redefine genres. Their melodies resonate with audiences across generations, transcending borders and languages.

Beyond entertainment, British celebrities wield considerable influence in realms such as fashion, sports, and philanthropy. Figures like David Beckham and Victoria Beckham are synonymous with style and elegance, while athletes like Lewis Hamilton and Andy Murray inspire millions with their sporting prowess. Meanwhile, humanitarians like Sir Elton John and Sir Ian McKellen use their platforms to advocate for social justice and LGBTQ+ rights, leaving a lasting legacy of compassion and activism.

However, fame in Great Britain is not without its pitfalls. The relentless scrutiny of the media, coupled with the pressures of celebrity, often takes its toll on individuals' mental health and privacy. Nevertheless, British stars navigate these challenges with resilience and grace, using their platforms to spark conversations, challenge norms, and effect positive change.

In essence, celebrities in Great Britain embody the multifaceted nature of fame, blending talent, charisma, and cultural resonance to leave an indelible imprint on the world stage. And at the forefront of this illustrious lineage stands Harry Styles, a shining example of British star power in the 21st century.

The Role of Women in Anglo-Saxon Society

*Elev: Vasilcu Sabina-Lavinia,
Prof. Cucoreanu Gianina-Magdalena,
Colegiul Național „Grigore Ghica” Dorohoi, Botoșani*

Women's roles in Anglo-Saxon culture were varied and intricate, reflecting the era's broader cultural norms and ideals. In their communities, women held great power and influence despite being frequently restricted to household responsibilities and viewed as less valuable than males in terms of social standing. In addition to taking care of the home and raising the children, women also had important responsibilities as mothers, spouses, and carers. To demonstrate their agency and autonomy, individuals were also given the chance to engage in economic activities like running businesses or managing estates.

Understanding the place of women in this framework requires an understanding of the historical background of Anglo-Saxon society. Women were usually restricted to domestic tasks throughout the Anglo-Saxon era, taking care of the home and children. Despite having certain legal rights, such as the ability to inherit property, women's agency was far more restricted compared to men. Gender inequality was reinforced by the Anglo-Saxon society's hierarchical structure, which placed kings and lords at the top and promoted the idea of male dominance and female subservience. Whether as daughters, wives, or mothers, women's position was frequently established by their relationships with men, emphasising the importance of patriarchal ancestry in determining social standing.

Women's responsibilities and social standing in Anglo-Saxon society were significantly shaped by their marriages and familial roots. Women did not really have freedom; rather, their status was essentially based on their relationships to well-known male figures, such as husbands, fathers, or sons. Their responsibilities were mainly restricted to running the family, raising the kids, and helping out their male relatives.

Nonetheless, a few women did have some sway, especially when it came to religion and resolving conflicts between families. Even though these were exclusions, the general patriarchal structure of the society was not changed because they were not the rule.

Despite being crucial, women's contributions were sometimes disregarded in historical narratives that emphasised the accomplishments of males.

The economic roles that women played in Anglo-Saxon civilization were numerous and significant. Although women have historically played important roles in trade, textile manufacturing, and agricultural production, the majority of historical attention has been on male positions in the economy. Farming, estate management, and textile manufacture were all actively carried out by women, who also oversaw the production of these highly prized commodities. Women also frequently traded regionally and across large distances, exchanging items like jewellery, food, and textiles.

In Anglo-Saxon civilization, women were powerful and influential, particularly in the home. Women were important in running houses, supervising farming activities, and maintaining social order, while men were generally in charge of war and governance. Rich women, like queens or noblewomen, had significant power because of their connections, wealth, and control over resources. Women also often played the role of peacemakers, forming alliances through marriage and resolving conflicts between various families. They use their diplomatic abilities and strategic thinking to preserve stability and guarantee the prosperity of their families and communities. So, despite limitations imposed by gender rules, women were essential in creating and maintaining the Anglo-Saxon social structure.

In conclusion, women played plenty of complicated roles in Anglo-Saxon culture. Despite being restricted to household tasks and seen as inferior to men, women held important positions in the social, religious, and economic fields of society. In addition to being respected for their skills as landowners, healers, and weavers, women also possessed an amount of independence and power that is frequently ignored in historical accounts. Despite the limitations of patriarchal social norms placed on them, women in Anglo-Saxon society were able to influence society and make significant contributions to their local communities. We can better comprehend the specifics of gender relations in early mediaeval England by looking at the numerous aspects of female roles in Anglo-Saxon culture.

Shopping in London

Elev: Vîrlan Ana-Maria,

Prof. Istrate Vlad,

Seminarul Teologic Liceal Ortodox „Sfântul Ioan Iacob” Dorohoi, Botoșani

Diversity in Shopping Offerings

London boasts a diverse range of shopping options, catering to all tastes and budgets. From the most luxurious boutiques on Sloane Square and Bond Street to traditional markets like Borough Market and Portobello Road Market, the city offers a rich variety of shopping experiences for all its visitors.

Iconic Shopping Destinations

Among London's most iconic shopping destinations are Knightsbridge, home to the famous Harrods department store, a temple of luxury and opulence, and Oxford Street, which hosts some of the largest and most well-known high street stores. Additionally, Covent Garden draws crowds with its designer shops, street performances, and vibrant atmosphere.

Unique Shopping Experience

Shopping in London is not just about shops and markets; it's about unique experiences. For example, Carnaby Street is renowned for its bohemian atmosphere and independent and vintage shops, offering an insight into alternative and eclectic fashion. Similarly, Camden Market is known for its variety of products, from clothing and accessories to art and souvenirs, all amplified by its artistic and alternative vibe.

Conclusion

London is much more than a historic and cultural city; it is also a haven for shopping, attracting millions of tourists each year in search of the unique shopping experiences it offers. From its historically rich and elegant streets to its traditional markets and bohemian districts, London remains a benchmark for shopping enthusiasts worldwide, influencing and inspiring modern urban shopping cultures.

How Languages Help Bring People Together

*Elev: Vraciu Cristina Maria,
Prof. Militaru Nicoleta Marilena,
Liceul de Arte „Ionel Perlea” Slobozia, Ialomița*

Languages provide as a bridge between individuals from various cultures, backgrounds, and walks of life in a world marked by diversity and interdependence. Languages are much more than just instruments for communication; they are essential for promoting empathy, understanding, and collaboration between people and communities all over the world. Language has the potential to bridge gaps, build relationships, and fortify friendships, illustrating the significant positive influence that linguistic diversity has on fostering intercultural understanding.

Simply put, language is a means of conveying ideas, feelings, and stories to others, enabling them to share their experiences, opinions, and stories. Language provides a mode of communication that cuts beyond national and cultural barriers and allows individuals to connect with one another on a profoundly human level, whether through spoken discussions, written texts, or gestures. In this sense, languages act as links between strangers, encouraging a feeling of unity and belonging in a world growing more interconnected by the day.

In addition, languages promote intercultural interaction by offering an insight into the norms, values, and traditions of many cultures. By studying language, people can better understand the diverse range of viewpoints that exist among cultures and develop an appreciation for the complex tapestry of the human experience. People can extend their perspectives, confront their preconceptions, and gain a more complex knowledge of the world by interacting with diverse linguistic communities. Languages thus serve as catalysts for intercultural communication and mutual comprehension, opening the door to meaningful encounters and cooperative efforts between people with different backgrounds.

Furthermore, languages play a vital role in promoting social cohesion and harmony within communities. By embracing linguistic diversity and celebrating multiculturalism, societies can create inclusive spaces where people of all backgrounds feel valued and respected.

Language diversity enriches the fabric of society, infusing it with a sense of vibrancy and dynamism that fosters creativity, innovation, and mutual respect. Through initiatives such as bilingual education programs, language exchange events, and cultural festivals, communities can come together to celebrate their shared humanity and build stronger, more cohesive bonds.

In a nutshell, languages are powerful tools that have the capacity to unite people and promote empathy, understanding, and collaboration among people and communities everywhere. Through embracing linguistic diversity and encouraging intercultural communication, society may build more peaceful, welcoming settings where individuals from different backgrounds can prosper. Let us acknowledge the significant influence that languages have on mending rifts and creating bonds of friendship and solidarity across national boundaries as we continue to negotiate the complexity of a globalized world.

SECȚIUNEA



**Tower Bridge London**

Elev: Broască Andreea Daniela,

Prof. Tudose Irina,

Liceul Teoretic Murfatlar, Constanța



Near Big Ben

Elev: Popescu Irina,

Prof. Tudose Irina,

Liceul Teoretic Murfatlar, Constanța

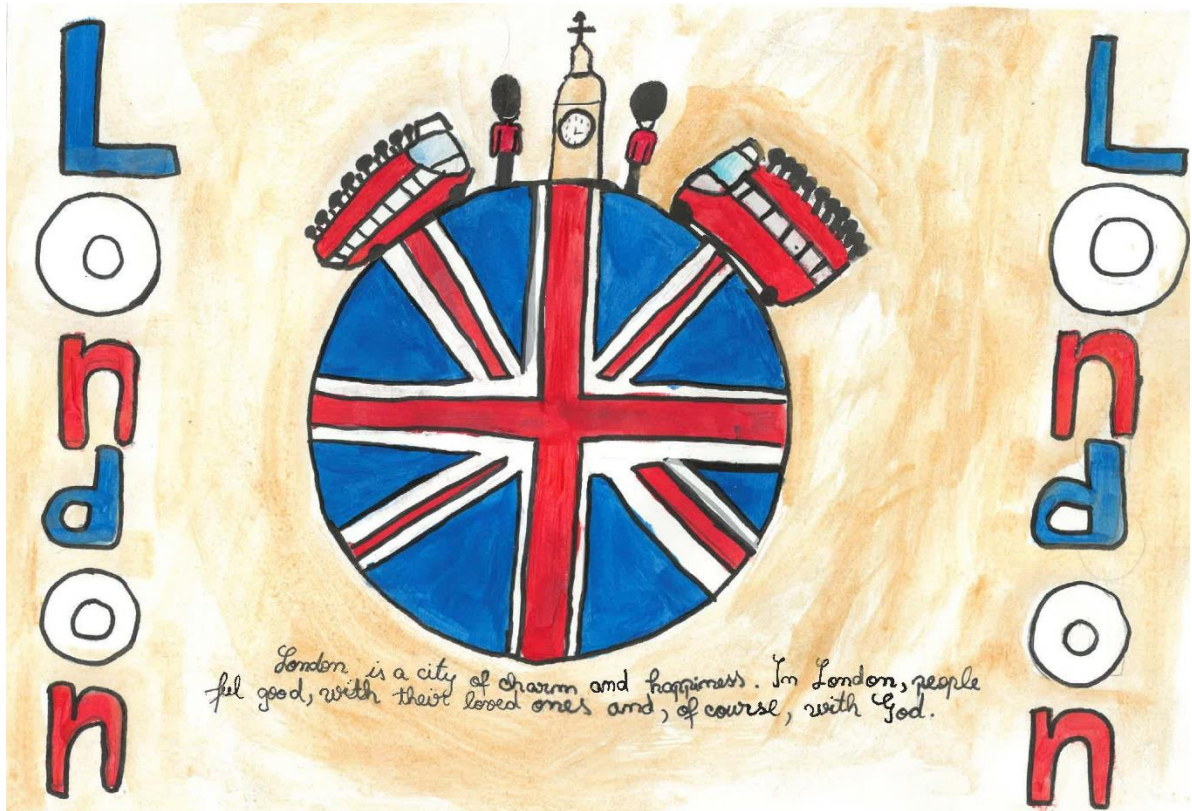


River Thames

Elev: Iliescu Maria,

Prof. Tudose Irina,

Liceul Teoretic Murfatlar, Constanța

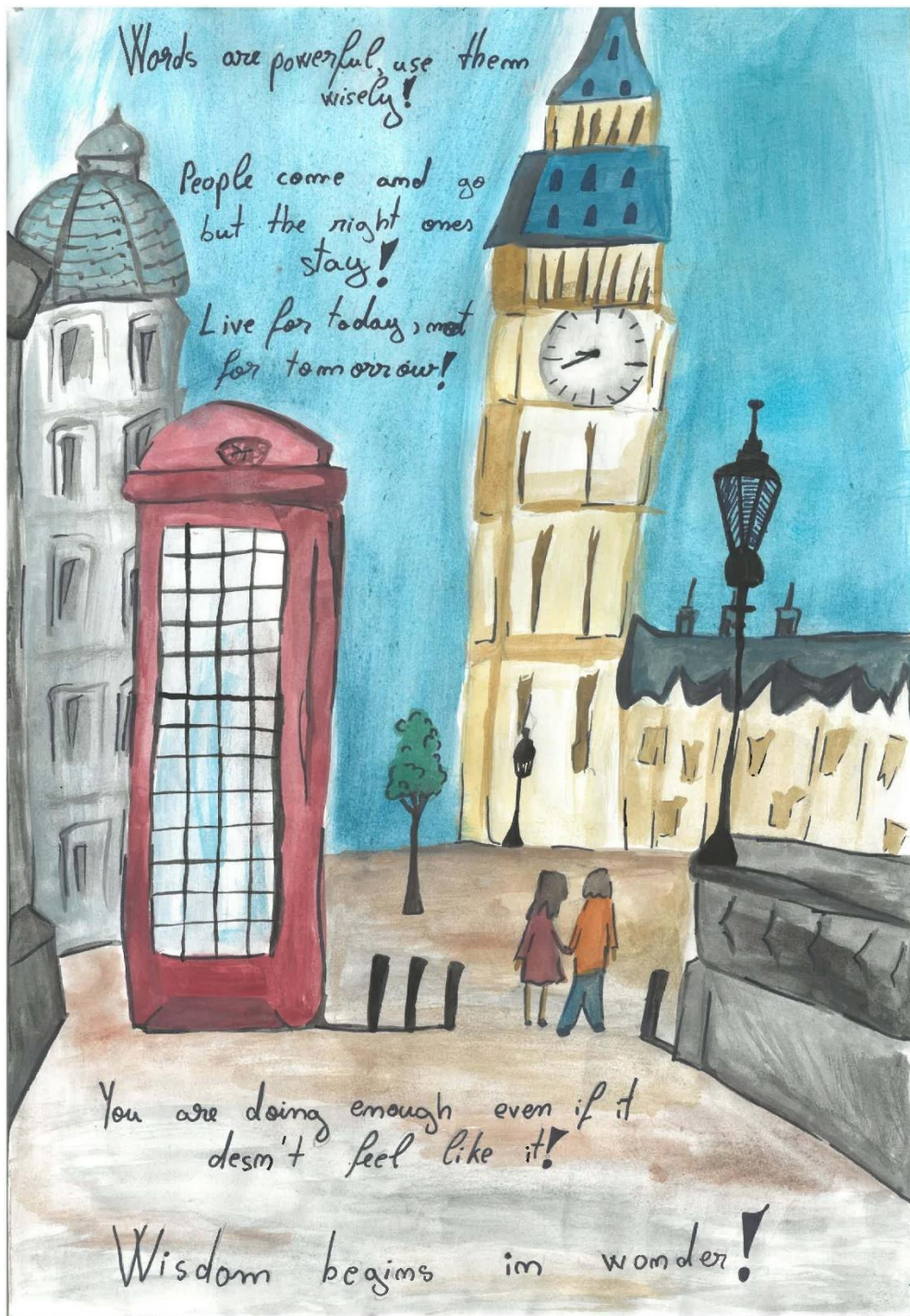


Beauty of London

Elev: Morsoacă Lorena,

Prof. Tudose Irina,

Liceul Teoretic Murfatlar, Constanța



A Walk to Remember

Elev: Craiu Anastasia Gabriela,

Prof. Tudose Irina,

Liceul Teoretic Murfatlar, Constanța



The King's Wives

Elev: Buzilă Denisa-Dumitrița,

Prof. Istrate Marta-Raluca,

Școala Gimnazială nr. 1 Lunca, Botoșani

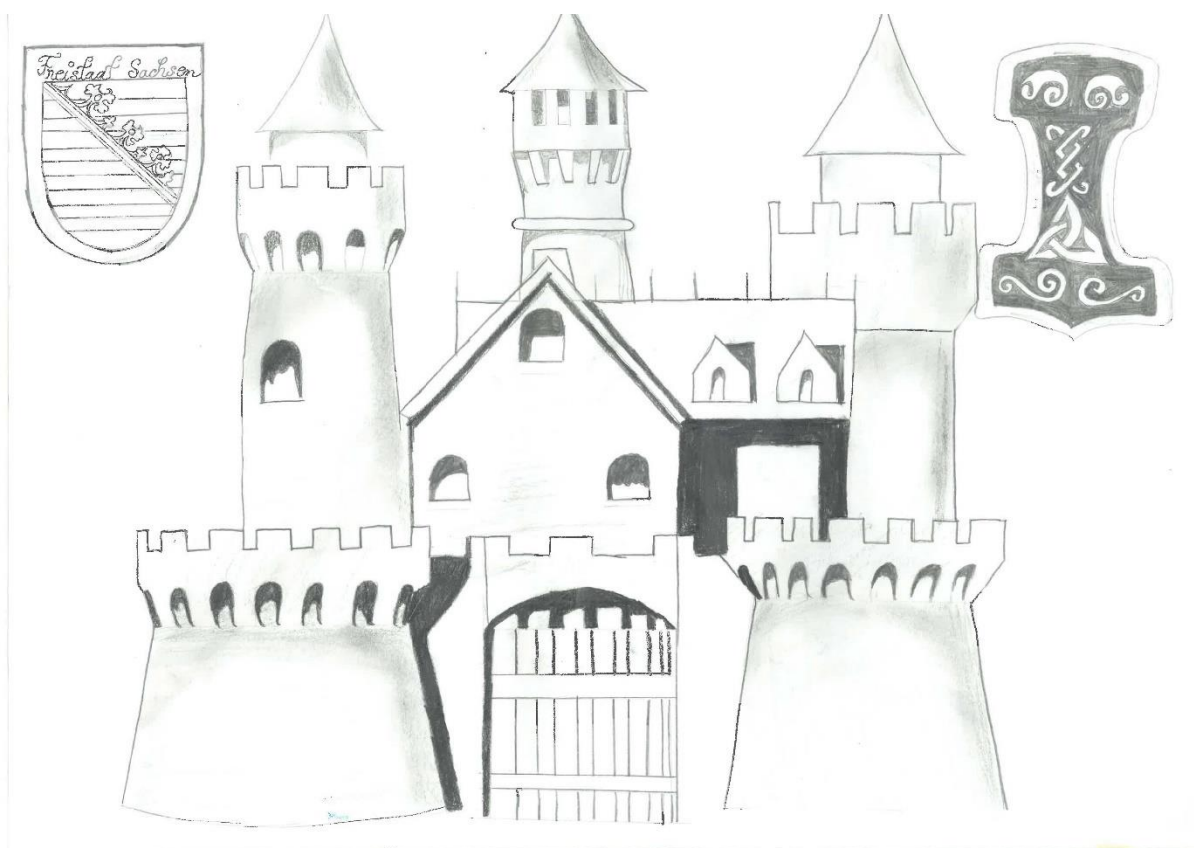


Lest We Forget

Elev: Buzilă Denisa-Dumitrița,

Prof. Istrate Marta-Raluca,

Școala Gimnazială nr. 1 Lunca, Botoșani

**Arhitectură anglo-saxonă**

*Elev: Condrea Crina-Ștefania,
Prof. Cristea Florina-Nicoleta,
Liceul „Danubius” Călărași*



Echoes of Anglo-Saxon Heritage

Elev: Ivanciuc Georgiana Bianca,

Prof. Cristea Florina-Nicoleta,

Liceul „Danubius” Călărași



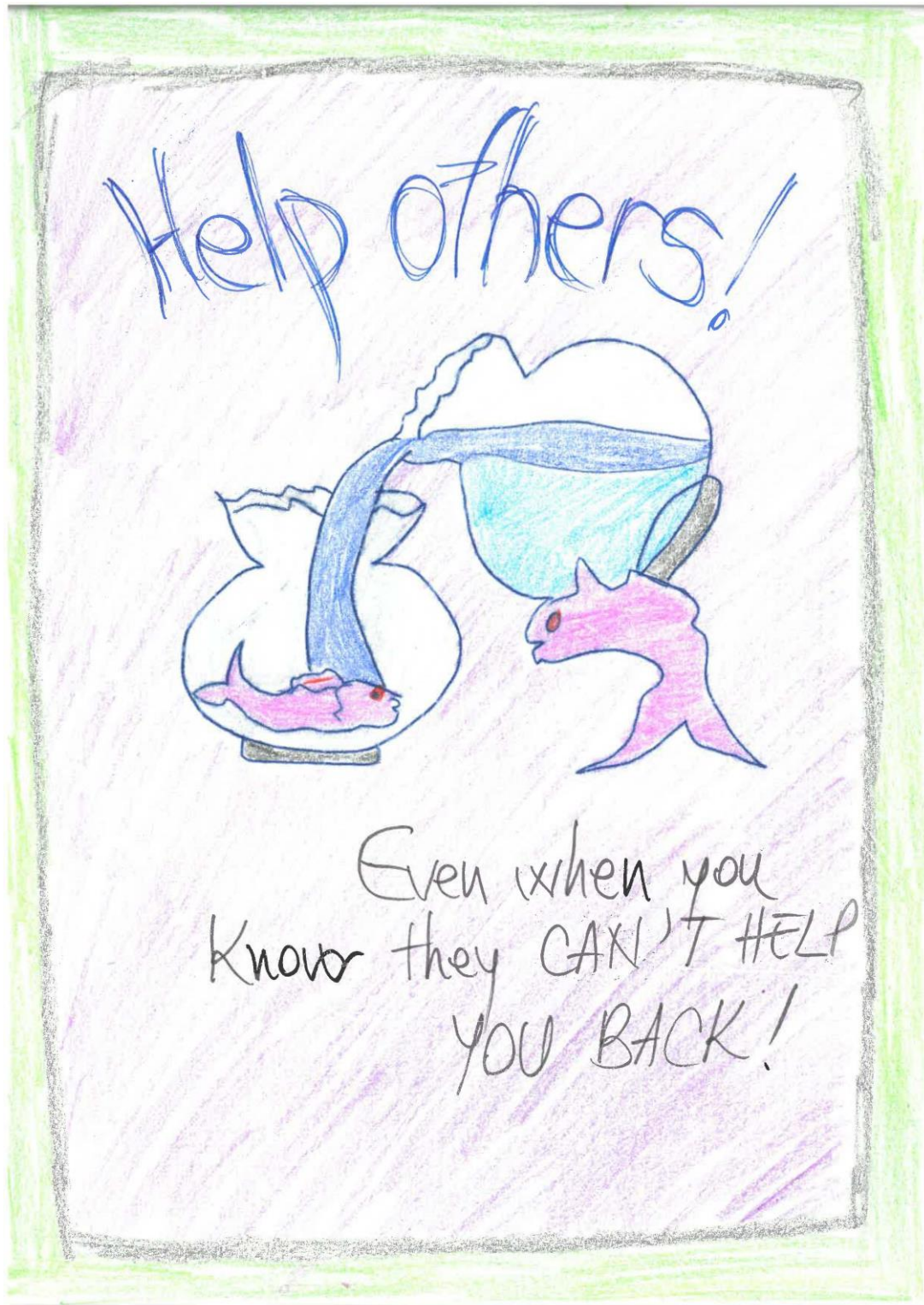
Cavaler anglo-saxon

*Elev: Vasilescu Denisa Gabriela,
Prof. Cristea Florina-Nicoleta,
Liceul „Danubius” Călărași*



Queen Elizabeth

*Elev: Beja Erika Maria,
Prof. Cristea Florina-Nicoleta,
Liceul „Danubius” Călărași*

**Help Others!***Elev: Popa Alexandra,**Prof. Caragea Carmen,**Școala Gimnazială Plosca, Teleorman*

**Connections**

*Elev: Văduva Denisa,
Prof. Caragea Carmen,
Școala Gimnazială Plosca, Teleorman*



Anne Boleyn – the Queen of England

*Elev: Sofrone Maria,
Prof. Anuței Angela-Georgeta,
Școala Gimnazială „Aron Vodă” Aroneanu, Iași*

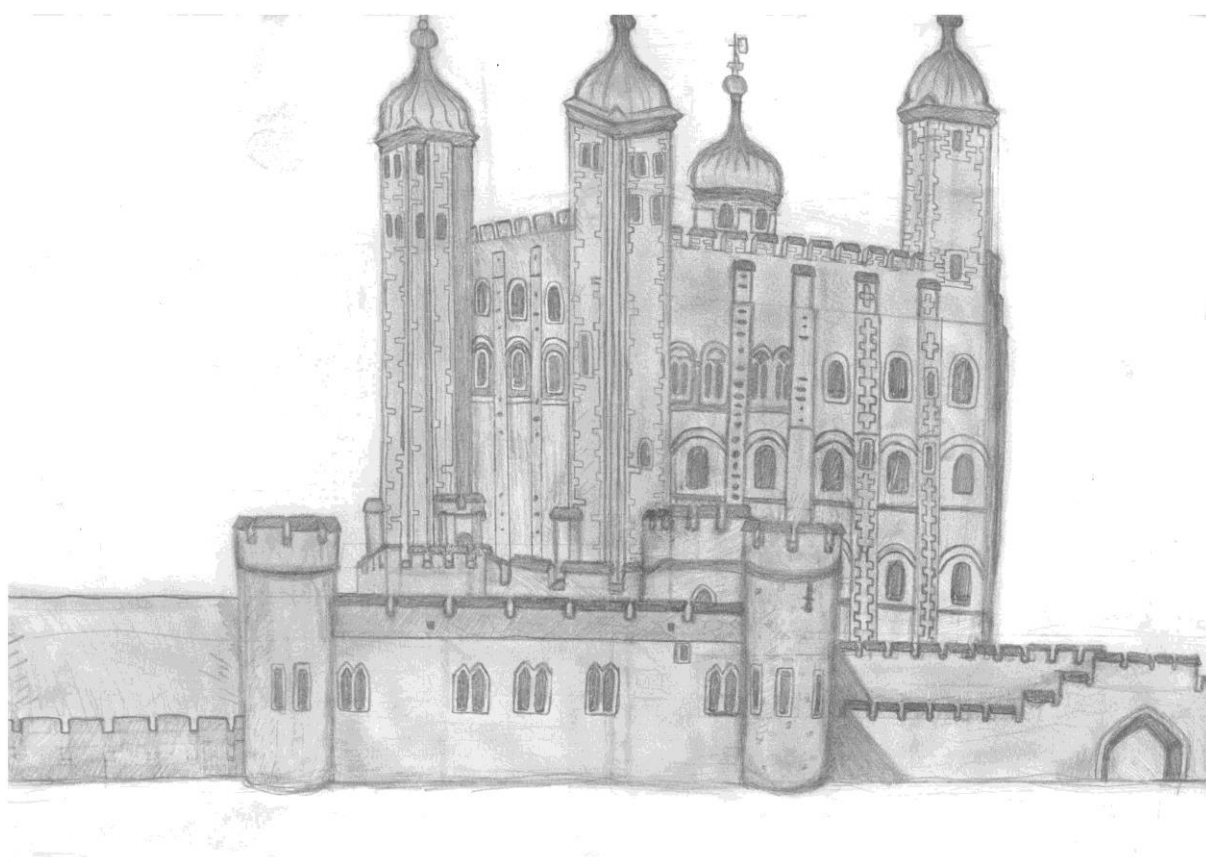


Big Ben. Londra

Elev: Rusu Bianca Elena,

Prof. Anuței Angela-Georgeta,

Școala Gimnazială „Aron Vodă” Aroneanu, Iași

**Turnul Londrei**

Elev: Neică Daria-Emilia,

Prof. Anuței Angela-Georgeta,

Școala Gimnazială „Aron Vodă” Aroneanu, Iași

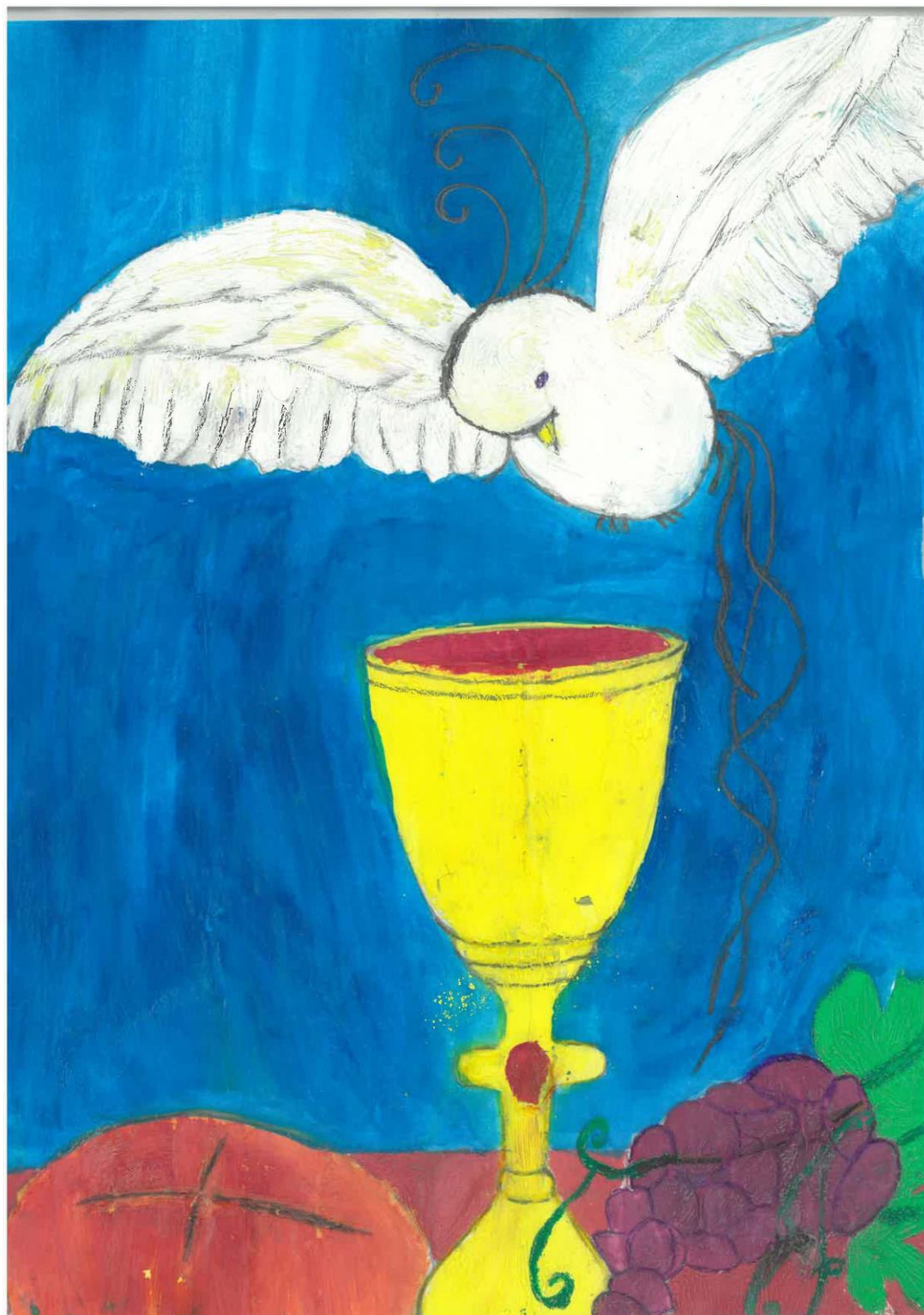


Tower Bridge – fascinantul pod al Londrei

Elev: Constantin Alexandra Diana,

Prof. Ceapă Svetlana,

Școala Gimnazială „Miron Costin” Galați



Cuvântul care unește

Elev: Cîrneleagă Ana Maria,

Prof. Enache Mihaela,

Colegiul Tehnic „Edmond Nicolau” Focșani, Vrancea



Cuvântul care zidește

Elev: Corjov Serghei,

Prof. Enache Mihaela,

Colegiul Tehnic „Edmond Nicolau” Focșani, Vrancea



Plămădirea prin Cuvânt

Elev: Cuciuc Mihaela,

Prof. Enache Mihaela,

Colegiul Tehnic „Edmond Nicolau” Focșani, Vrancea



Libertatea cuvântului

Elev: Iordache Andrei,

Prof. Enache Mihaela,

Colegiul Tehnic „Edmond Nicolau” Focșani, Vrancea

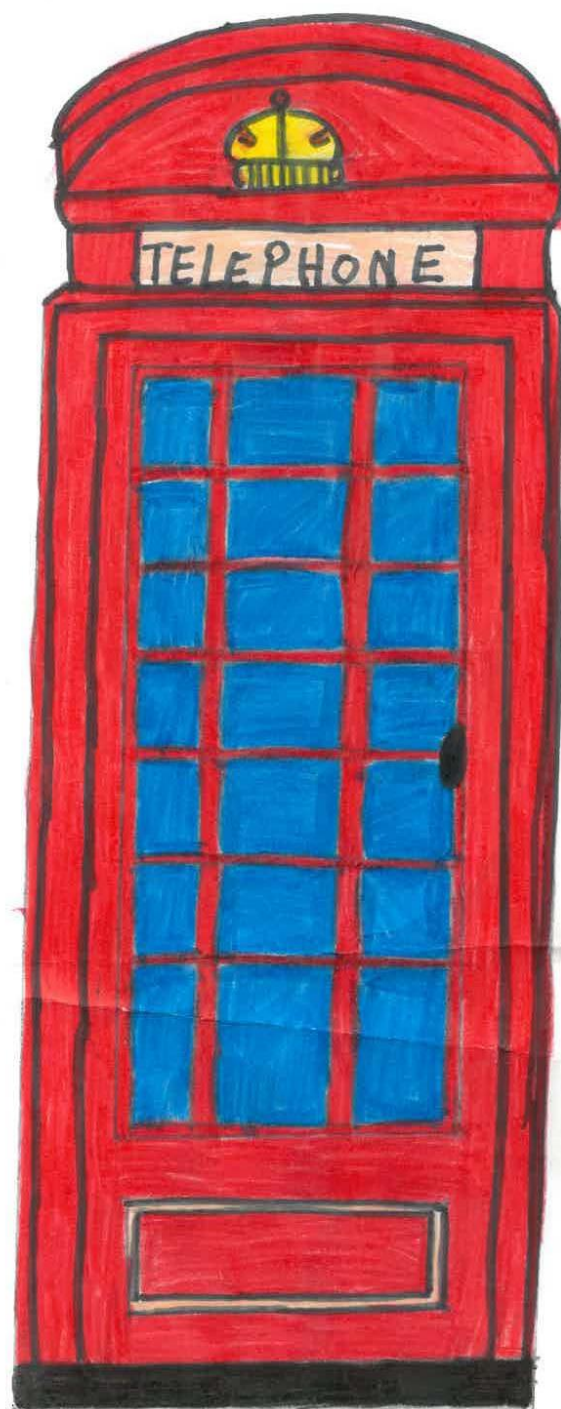


London, My Dream

Elev: Banaru Luminița,

Prof. Gonciar Marina,

Liceul Teoretic „Vladimir Maiakovski” Bălți, Republica Moldova

**The Telephone Box**

Elev: Turc Nicoleta Petruța,

Prof. Gherlea Diana Eliza,

Școala Gimnazială nr. 1 Roșia, Bihor



5 O'clock tea

Elev: Coprean Simona,

Prof. Silaghi Valentina Gela,

Școala Gimnazială nr. 1 Roșia, Bihor

**Double Decker**

Elev: Lupău Mario,

Prof. Silaghi Valentina Gela,

Școala Gimnazială nr. 1 Roșia, Bihor



Big Ben

*Elev: Pupe Maria,
Prof. Gherlea Diana Eliza,
Școala Gimnazială nr. 1 Roșia, Bihor*



In London

*Elev: Petrache Anastasya,
Prof. Mușat Simona-Marilena,
Liceul Teoretic „Traian Lalescu” Orșova, Mehedinți*



Tourist Attraction

Elev: Gheorghe Iasmina,

Prof. Mușat Simona-Marilena,

Liceul Teoretic „Traian Lalescu” Orșova, Mehedinți



Big Ben

Elev: Firoi Darius,

Prof. Mușat Simona-Marilena,

Liceul Teoretic „Traian Lalescu” Orșova, Mehedinți



Big Ben

Elev: Duță David,

Prof. Mușat Simona-Marilena,

Liceul Teoretic „Traian Lalescu” Orșova, Mehedinți

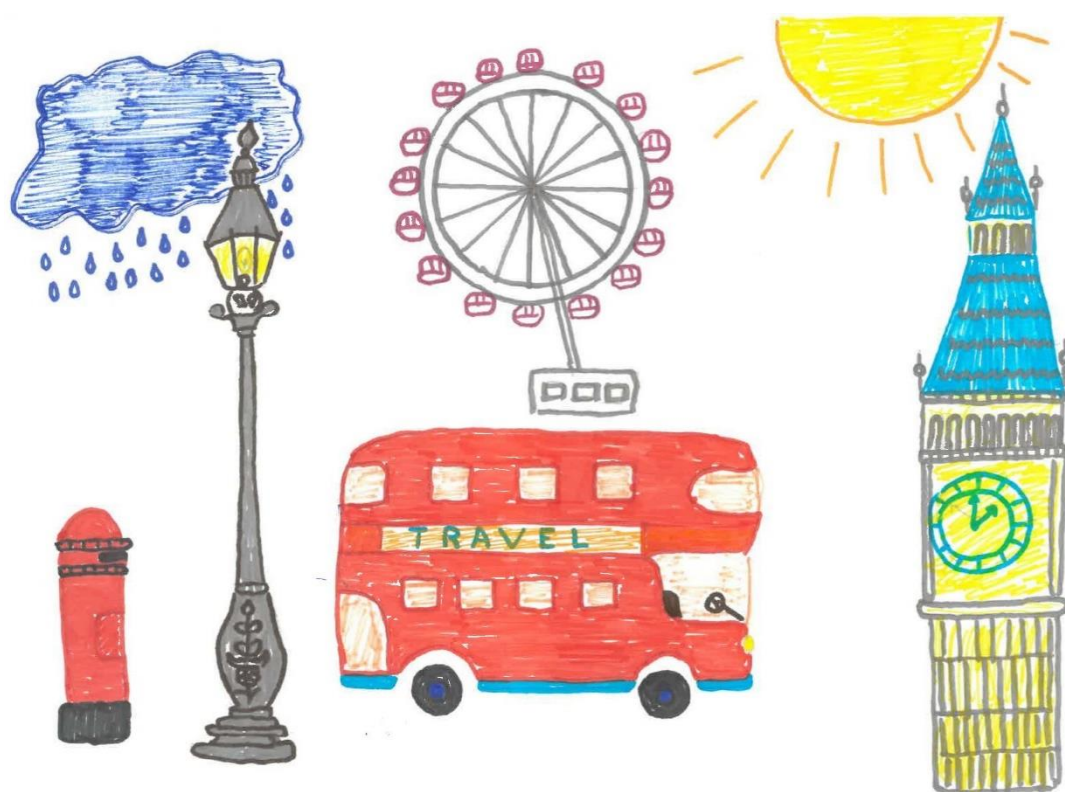


About England

Elev: Mocan Andreea,

Prof. Mușat Simona-Marilena,

Liceul Teoretic „Traian Lalescu” Orșova, Mehedinți

**Welcome to London**

Elev: Dăscălescu Sofia,

Prof. Drăgușanu Ana,

Școala Gimnazială Borlești, Neamț



Big Ben

Elev: Constantin Daniela,

Prof. Drăgușanu Ana,

Școala Gimnazială Borlești, Neamț



Turnul Big Ben din Londra

*Elev: Hrimiuc Elena,
Prof. Dobrinu Alina,
Liceul „Dimitrie Cantemir” Darabani, Botoșani*



Marele Ben al Angliei

Elev: Tanasă Laurențiu-Casian,

Prof. Dobrincu Alina,

Liceul „Dimitrie Cantemir” Darabani, Botoșani

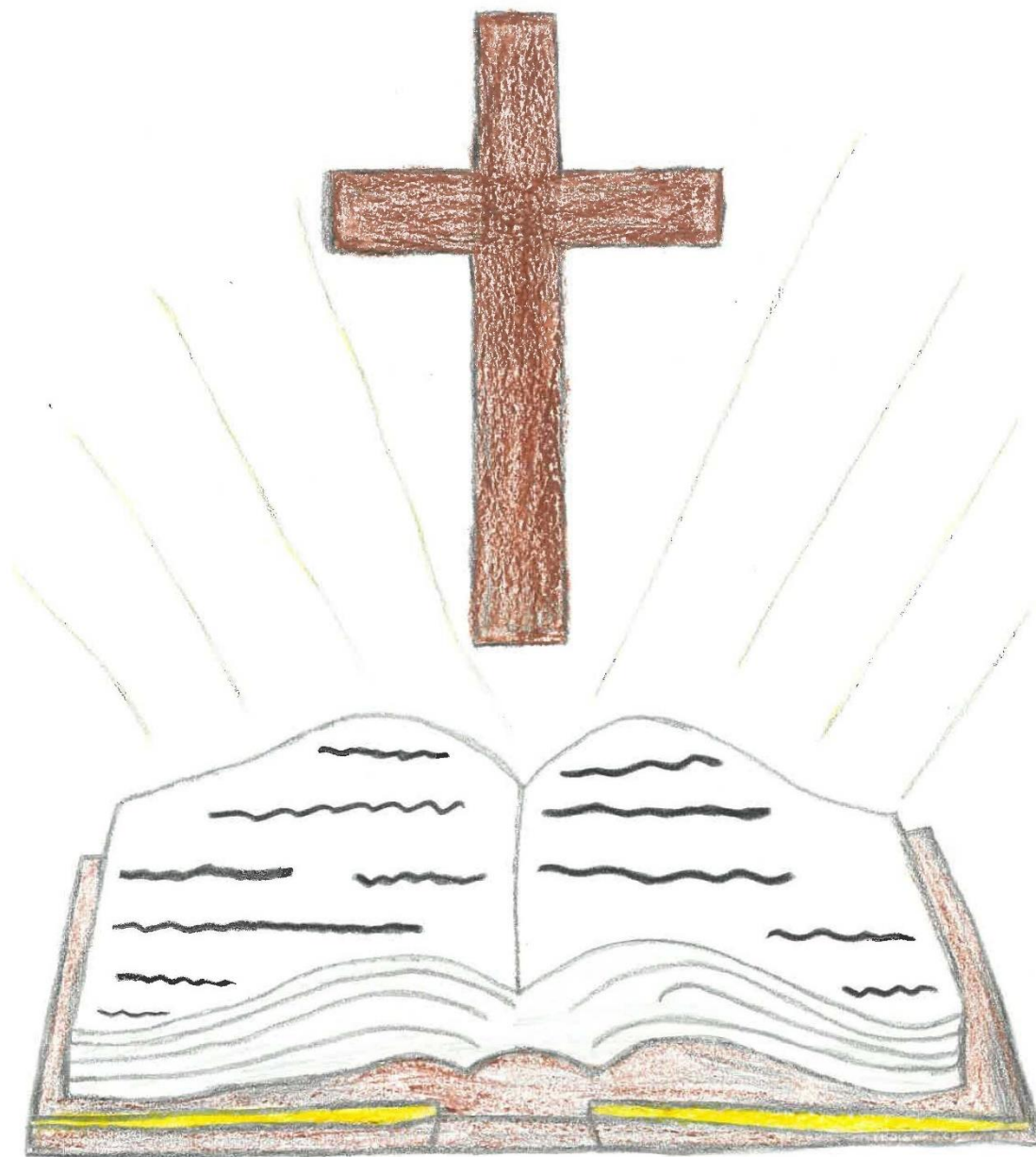


Regina Elisabeta a Angliei

Elev: Tanasă Alice-Iuliana,

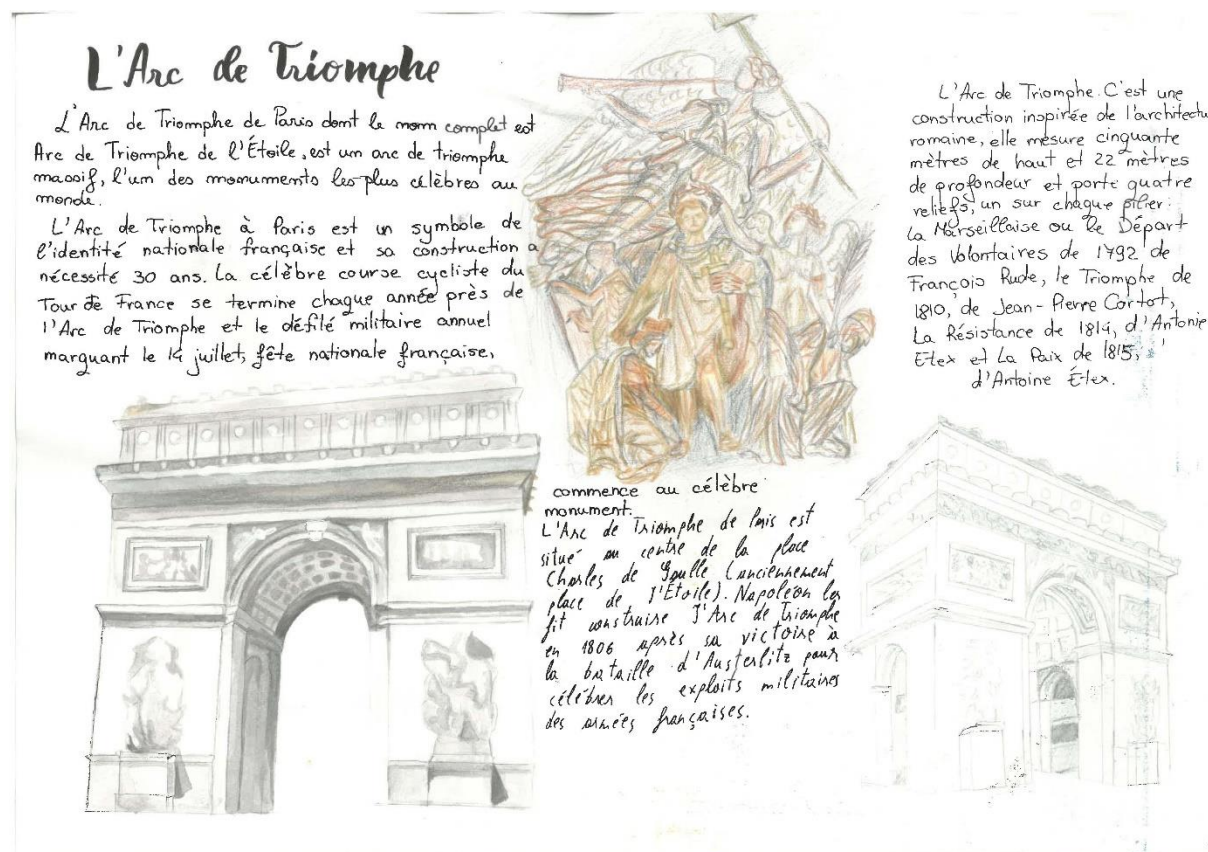
Prof. Dobrincu Alina,

Liceul „Dimitrie Cantemir” Darabani, Botoșani



Sfânta cruce

*Elev: Mottese Angela Ștefany,
Liceul Tehnologic „Alexandru Vlahuță” Șendriceni, Botoșani*

**Arcul de Triumf**

Elevi: Lepădatu Anamaria, Moldoveanu Mara, Oprea Ana,

Prof. Avram Veronica Georgiana,

Liceul de Arte „Hariclea Darclée” Brăila

**Turnul Eiffel**

*Elev: Ionel Sabina Ștefania,
Prof. Avram Veronica Georgiana,
Liceul de Arte „Hariclea Darclée” Brăila*



Bate vânt de primăvară

Elev: Tarcan Daria,

Prof. Vizitiu Valentina, Ichim Ana-Maria, Blânda Fulvina

Colegiul Tehnic „Ion Holban” Iași

**Floarea de cireș**

Elev: Gorovei Bianca,

Prof. Vizitiu Valentina, Ichim Ana-Maria, Blânda Fulvina

Colegiul Tehnic „Ion Holban” Iași



Livada înflorită

Elev: Tabără Anastasia,

Prof. Vizitiu Valentina, Ichim Ana-Maria, Blânda Fulvina

Colegiul Tehnic „Ion Holban” Iași



Ghiocelul înfloarește

Elev: Amarghioalei Boanca,

Prof. Vizitiu Valentina, Ichim Ana-Maria, Blânda Fulvina

Colegiul Tehnic „Ion Holban” Iași