

**SEMINARUL TEOLOGIC LICEAL ORTODOX
„SFÂNTUL IOAN IACOB” DOROHOI**



*Words and Thoughts
of Wisdom*

REVISTĂ

a

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DE EDUCAȚIE EXTRAȘCOLARĂ
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Cuvânt introductiv

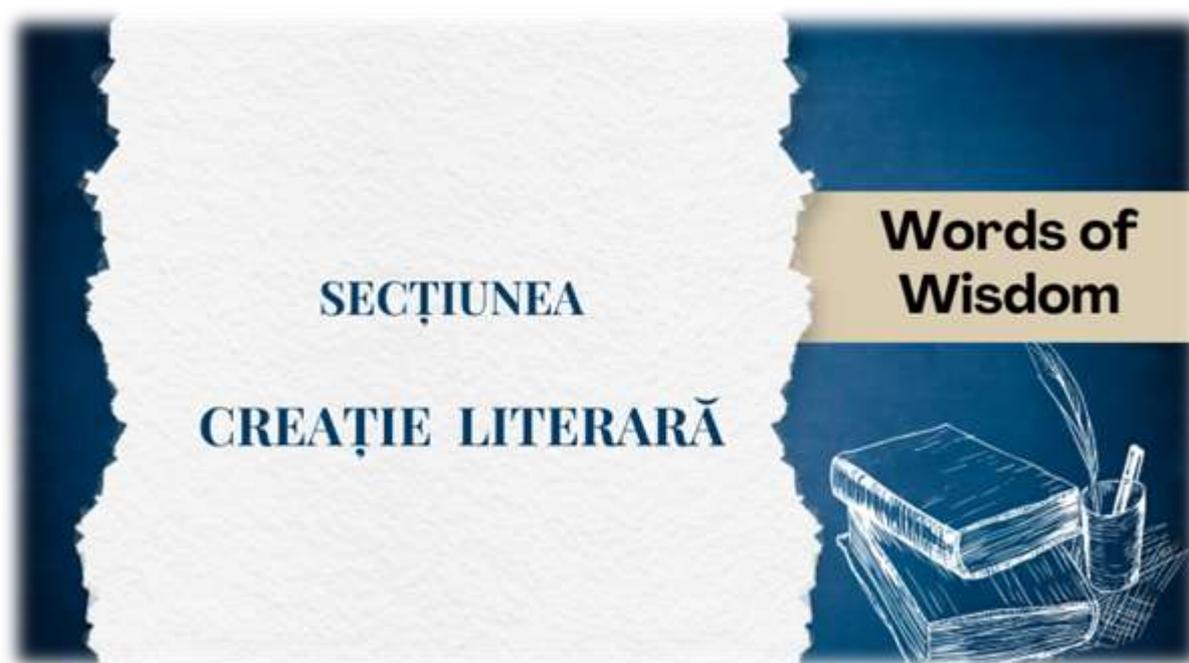
În anul școlar 2024–2025, *Seminarul Teologic Liceal Ortodox „Sfântul Ioan Iacob” Dorohoi* a derulat cu succes ediția a treia a proiectului educativ „**Words of Wisdom**”, activitate înscrisă în Calendarul Proiectelor de Educație Extrașcolară Regionale și Interjudețene nr. 24380/20.01.2025, poziția 212.

Inspirat de dorința de a cultiva interesul adolescenților pentru limbile europene moderne și de a încuraja contactul elevilor cu diversitatea culturală, proiectul și-a propus să creeze un cadru atractiv pentru explorarea valorilor și tradițiilor britanice și europene.

Participanții din ciclul gimnazial sau liceal au explorat teme variate care le-au oferit prilejul să se exprime liber în limba engleză, să își exerseze abilitățile de comunicare orală, dar și să își valorifice creativitatea prin lucrări scrise, artistice sau multimedia. Activitatea a avut un caracter interdisciplinar, provocând elevii să abordeze reflecții personale din perspective lingvistice, culturale și etice. De asemenea, participanții au fost invitați să contribuie prin creații literare și reprezentări grafice care să reflecte elemente definitorii ale civilizației britanice, în mod autentic și original, în acord cu tematica oferită.

Proiectul continuă să fie un demers educativ dedicat aprofundării și valorizării culturii britanice și europene, în paralel cu recunoașterea rădăcinilor latine și a capacității limbii române de a integra și reflecta influențe culturale diverse.

Director,
Pr. prof. CHICHIOACĂ Petru-Georgel



The Proverbs of Solomon

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

Introduction

The **Proverbs of Solomon** is one of the most important biblical writings, offering practical advice for a wise and virtuous life. The author, King Solomon, is renowned for his wisdom, and this book reflects the depth of his thinking.



Context and Author

Solomon, son of David, was the third king of Israel and is considered one of the wisest men in history. His proverbs were written to guide people toward a righteous and wise life.

Main Themes

1. Fear of God – Considered the beginning of wisdom and the key to a fulfilled life.
2. Justice and Integrity – The book emphasizes the importance of moral and balanced behavior.
3. Work and Diligence – It encourages responsibility and warns against laziness.
4. The Power of Words – Solomon cautions about the dangers of reckless speech and praises the wisdom of those who speak thoughtfully.
5. Family and Education – Respect for parents and the importance of solid education are essential themes.

Impact and Relevance

The Proverbs of Solomon have been regarded as a spiritual and moral guide, used for education and reflection over the centuries. They remain relevant today, offering valuable principles for a balanced life.

Conclusion

The book Proverbs of Solomon is a treasure of wisdom, providing practical and moral advice for a righteous life. Through its teachings, it urges us to live with respect, justice, and love for God and our fellow human beings.

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Teaching Writing as a Tool for Thinking

Prof. Puiu Otilia-Mariana,

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In the age of fast communication, teaching writing must go beyond spelling rules and grammatical accuracy. Writing is not just a skill, it is a process of thinking, shaping ideas, and expressing voice. If we want our students to become confident and effective writers, we must shift our focus from mere correctness to meaning-making.

First, writing should be taught as a process, not a product. Many students believe that good writers simply sit down and write perfect texts in one go. In reality, writing involves brainstorming, planning, drafting, revising, and editing. Teachers must model this process in the classroom and emphasize that rewriting is not a failure, it is a part of thinking clearly.

Second, we need to teach writing with purpose. In many cases, students write to fill a page, not to communicate something meaningfully. Instead, we should give them real audiences and authentic reasons to write: blog posts, letters to the school, book reviews, or opinion articles. When students see that their writing matters, they engage more deeply with the task.

Third, feedback must be formative and focused on growth. Instead of marking every single error in red, we should highlight patterns and guide students to improve their clarity, structure, and style. Peer feedback sessions, writing conferences, and portfolios can help learners reflect on their progress.

In addition, writing should be integrated across the curriculum. Integrating writing into various subjects such as history, science, and religion enables students to engage more deeply with content by analyzing ideas and constructing well-reasoned arguments. This not only improves their literacy but also deepens their understanding of content.

Finally, we must foster a classroom culture where writing is seen as a personal and creative act. Free writing, journals, and creative prompts can reduce the fear of the blank page and encourage students to experience with the language.

Teaching writing is not about checking boxes, it is about helping students find their voice and think critically. If we want a generation of thoughtful, articulate individuals, we must teach writing as a living, breathing process, not just a school requirement.

Education: A Journey Illuminated by Words of Wisdom

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In the vast landscape of human experience, education stands as perhaps the most transformative journey one undertakes—a path not merely of knowledge acquisition, but of becoming. It is a pilgrimage that extends far beyond classroom walls and formal institutions, continuing through the entirety of one's existence. What guides this journey, what illuminates the path when darkness falls, are the words of wisdom passed down through generations, offered by mentors, discovered in texts, or born from personal revelation.

The Dawn of Learning: Wonder as the First Teacher

The educational journey begins long before formal schooling—it starts with the first moments of consciousness when a child gazes at the world with unfiltered wonder. The ancient Greeks understood this profoundly. Aristotle's observation that "All men by nature desire to know" speaks to this primordial curiosity. The first word of wisdom that shapes the educational journey is perhaps the simplest: "Ask." These imperative drives human development, from an infant pointing at objects to scientists probing the mysteries of the cosmos.

In this dawn of learning, the words that guide us are those that encourage exploration rather than certainty. The wisdom here is not in providing answers but in nurturing the capacity for questioning. The child who hears "Let's discover together" instead of merely "This is how it is" receives an invaluable gift—the understanding that education is not passive reception but active discovery.

The Forests of Knowledge: Navigating Complexity

As the journey progresses, the traveler encounters increasingly dense forests of knowledge. Information multiplies exponentially; disciplines branch and intersect. The once-clear path becomes a labyrinth of possibilities. In this terrain, different words of wisdom become essential.

"Knowledge is not merely accumulation, but discrimination," cautioned the philosopher William James. This wisdom becomes crucial in an age of information abundance. The educated mind is not one that knows everything but one that can distinguish between the significant and the trivial, between evidence and assertion, between wisdom and mere information.

Here too emerges the wisdom captured in Einstein's observation that "The more I learn, the more I realize how much I don't know." Paradoxically, advancing in education often means growing more comfortable with uncertainty. The truly educated recognize the provisional nature of knowledge—that today's certainty may become tomorrow's outdated theory.

The Mountains of Challenge: Perseverance and Resilience

Every meaningful educational journey eventually leads to seemingly insurmountable obstacles—concepts that resist understanding, skills that defy mastery, questions that elude answers. In these moments, different words of wisdom become beacons.

"Fall seven times, stand up eight," advises an ancient Japanese proverb. The educational journey is inevitably marked by failure, by moments of inadequacy and doubt. What distinguishes those who continue from those who abandon the path is not innate ability but resilience—the capacity to extract learning from failure and to persist despite difficulty.

In this terrain, one also encounters the wisdom in Samuel Beckett's words: "Ever tried. Ever failed. No matter. Try again. Fail again. Fail better." Education is not about achieving perfection but about continuous improvement, about approaching challenges with both humility and determination.

The Crossroads of Purpose: Finding Meaning in Learning

Perhaps the most challenging terrain in the educational journey is the crossroads where knowledge meets purpose. Here, the traveler must confront essential questions: What is this journey for? What does it mean to be educated? How does learning serve life?

The words of wisdom that illuminate this territory often remind us that education finds its highest expression in service. As Martin Luther King Jr. observed, "Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education." Knowledge divorced from ethical consideration, from compassion, from social responsibility, is incomplete at best and dangerous at worst.

At these crossroads, one also encounters the wisdom in Howard Thurman's reflection: "Don't ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive, and go do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive." The journey of education ultimately leads toward authenticity—toward the intersection of knowledge, passion, and purpose.

The Horizon of Wisdom: From Knowledge to Understanding

The most mature stage of the educational journey transforms knowledge into wisdom, information into understanding. This terrain is characterized not by the acquisition of new facts but by a deepening appreciation of patterns, contexts, and meanings.

"The years teach much which the days never know," wrote Ralph Waldo Emerson, pointing to this gradual crystallization of wisdom from experience. Education in its fullest sense is not measured in degrees or accolades but in the capacity to see connections, to recognize universal patterns in particular cases, to extract principles from experiences.

In this territory, one encounters the profound wisdom in T.S. Eliot's observation: "We shall not cease from exploration, and the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started and know the place for the first time." The journey comes full circle—from the wonder of the child to the wonder of the sage, but now informed by understanding.

Beyond the Individual Journey: The Transmission of Wisdom

The deepest dimension of education as a journey is its cyclical nature—how those who have traveled the path turn back to guide others. In this sense, education is never merely personal; it is always part of a greater human project.

"A teacher affects eternity," observed Henry Adams. "He can never tell where his influence stops." Those who have been guided by words of wisdom have a responsibility to become sources of wisdom for others—not through dogmatic pronouncement but through thoughtful questioning, not through imposing certainty but through modeling curiosity.

The final wisdom that illuminates the educational journey may be this: that education is not something one completes but something one passes on. The true measure of learning is not what one knows but what one helps others to discover. As the Roman philosopher Seneca noted, "When we teach, we learn." The journey of education, at its best, transforms the traveler into a guide, the student into a teacher, continuing an ancient human conversation across generations.

Conclusion: The Unending Path

Education, viewed through the lens of wisdom, reveals itself as not merely a means to an end—a job, a degree, a social status—but as one of life's defining journeys. It is a path without a final destination, for as long as one remains curious, as long as questions outnumber answers, the journey continues.

The words of wisdom that guide this journey remind us that education at its best is not about conformity but transformation, not about certainty but exploration. They remind us that true learning changes not just what we know but who we are.

In a world increasingly characterized by complexity, polarization, and rapid change, perhaps the most valuable words of wisdom are those that encourage us to embrace education not as the filling of a pail but as the lighting of a fire—a fire that illuminates the path ahead while warming the human spirit. For in the end, as the poet William Butler Yeats suggested, "Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire." May that fire burn brightly, guiding countless journeys through the landscapes of learning, illuminating not just individual lives but our collective human future.

The Transformative Power of Language in Education

*Prof. Chicoș Elena,
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The Alchemy of Words in Teaching

"The limits of my language mean the limits of my world," wrote philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein. Nowhere is this more evident than in education, where teachers expand worlds through vocabulary, concepts, and narratives. The words chosen by educators do not simply convey subject matter; they reveal horizons previously unimagined. A biology teacher who describes cellular respiration as "the dance between molecules" transforms a potentially dry process into a choreography of life. A literature instructor who calls a poem "a time machine made of words" invites students to travel across centuries through text.

The most effective teachers understand that language is not just functional but foundational. They recognize that explaining photosynthesis as "plants breathing" to young children creates a conceptual bridge to more complex understanding later. They know that describing mathematical patterns as "nature's secret code" might ignite curiosity in ways that formulas alone cannot. In this way, the teacher's vocabulary becomes a palette from which students paint their understanding of the world.

The Echoes of Our Words: Influencing Behavior Through Language

"Watch your thoughts, they become words; watch your words, they become actions," goes an ancient wisdom that resonates powerfully in classroom dynamics. The language teachers use shapes not just what students learn but how they perceive themselves as learners. Research in educational psychology has consistently demonstrated that language-based expectations significantly influence performance - a phenomenon known as the Pygmalion effect.

When a teacher tells a struggling student, "This is challenging, but I've seen how persistent you are," they are not merely offering encouragement; they are constructing a narrative of capability. Conversely, casual remarks like "Math just isn't your strength" can become self-fulfilling prophecies. Students internalize these verbal mirrors held up to them, often carrying these reflections long after they've left the classroom.

The behavioral influence of language extends beyond direct feedback. The questions we ask shape the thinking we receive. A teacher who consistently asks, "What evidence supports your conclusion?" cultivates very different cognitive habits than one who asks, "What's the right answer?" The former nurtures analytical thinkers; the latter, memorizers. Language thus becomes the invisible curriculum beneath the curriculum, teaching students not just what to think about but how to think.

The Wisdom in Words: Choosing Language with Intention

The true wisdom in educational language lies not in eloquence but in intentionality - the thoughtful selection of words that serve greater purposes than mere communication. Consider the difference between "You failed this test" and "You haven't mastered this concept

yet." Both acknowledge the same reality, but the latter embeds the growth mindset philosophy that transforms setbacks into stepping stones.

Wise educators understand that language should be calibrated - neither patronizing nor impenetrable. They recognize when technical terminology empowers students with precision and when it becomes jargon that obscures understanding. They know when metaphors illuminate and when they confuse. This discernment comes not just from knowledge of subject matter but from knowledge of students themselves.

Perhaps the deepest wisdom in educational language is recognizing when words should give way to silence. The thoughtful pause after a question that gives students space to think. The respectful quiet that honors a student's emotional moment. The attentive listening that communicates more value than any praise could. In these wordless intervals, some of the most profound teaching occurs.

The Responsibility of Linguistic Stewardship

Every educator serves as a linguistic steward, modeling not just the mechanics of language but its ethical dimensions. The teacher who addresses controversial topics with nuance demonstrates that complex ideas deserve careful articulation. The instructor who acknowledges multiple perspectives shows that language can embrace diversity rather than diminish it. The mentor who apologizes for a verbal misstep teaches that our words carry responsibilities we must honor.

This stewardship extends to fostering linguistic agency in students themselves. When teachers create environments where students feel empowered to question, challenge, and reformulate ideas in their own words, they nurture not just subject mastery but intellectual sovereignty. In encouraging students to find their voice, educators help ensure that wisdom doesn't end with one generation but evolves with the next.

Conclusion: The Ripple Effect of Wise Words

Long after mathematical formulas fade from memory and historical dates blur, the words of wise teachers remain. "You have something important to say." "I believe you can figure this out." "Your perspective matters here." These phrases may seem simple, but they contain the power to alter life trajectories. They are not just expressions of educational philosophy but investments in human potential.

The wisdom of words in education lies in recognizing that language is never neutral. Every phrase either builds or diminishes, includes or excludes, empowers or subjugates. The teacher who understands this approaches language not as a mere tool of the profession but as its very essence - the medium through which minds connect and futures take shape.

In classrooms across the world, countless conversations unfold each day. Within them lies the potential for transformation. For in the space between speaking and hearing, between writing and reading, something miraculous happens: understanding dawns, confidence grows, and wisdom takes root. This is the enduring legacy of words wisely chosen - they continue to teach long after the lesson ends.

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The Role of the Monarchy in British Politics and Tourism

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Introduction

The British monarchy is one of the oldest political institutions in the world, having a significant influence on the history and identity of Britain. Although the role of the monarchy has changed considerably over time, it continues to be a symbol of national unity and an essential factor in the tourism industry. However, its existence in a modern democratic system raises questions about its relevance and associated costs.

Monarchy as a national symbol

The British monarchy is seen as a symbol of stability and continuity, playing an important ceremonial role. Although the sovereign does not have direct executive power, it performs essential functions such as the official opening of Parliament and the approval of laws. Internationally, the monarchy contributes to the image of Britain, being an element of diplomacy and prestige.

Impact on tourism

One of the most obvious benefits of the monarchy is its contribution to the tourism industry. Attractions such as Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle and the Tower of London attract millions of visitors each year. Royal events, such as weddings, jubilees and coronations, generate global interest, stimulating the economy and the hospitality industry. According to some estimates, the tourism revenues associated with the monarchy exceed the maintenance costs of the Royal House.

Critics and challenges

Although the monarchy has a symbolic role, many critics consider it an anachronistic institution, incompatible with modern democratic principles. Also, the maintenance of the monarchy implies a significant cost to taxpayers, which raises questions about the efficiency of the use of public funds. In addition, there are debates about transparency and the influence that the royal family can exercise in some political decisions.

Conclusion

The British monarchy remains an essential element of national identity and an important factor for British tourism. However, in the modern context, there is much debate about its future and how it can evolve to adapt to new social and economic realities.

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PONDERING

*Prof. Anuței Angela-Georgeta,
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In memory of maternal grandparents.
When longing fiercely overtook you,
Wishing, not wanting you give up, you.
And the Creator takes you.
Where does longing hand you!
Chip of –mmatched not them,
That destiny, his disposition.
Don't let him know, don't let him.
That you still have a duty, not to make a theory.
Of that which was and will be.
Today and yesterday, as well as tomorrow.
He the full master remains.
Over the poor ants, the.
Big people and little people, when a longing foe caught you!

CHEMISTRY, CULTURE AND THE QUIET BRIDGES BETWEEN BRITAIN AND ROMANIA

*Prof. Gheorghescu Mariana,
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There are moments when science stops being a collection of formulas and becomes a mirror - one in which we see not only the world, but also ourselves. As I reflect on the legacy of British chemistry, I find myself unexpectedly moved. The discoveries of figures such as Sir Humphry Davy, Michael Faraday, or Dorothy Crowfoot Hodgkin are not merely milestones in scientific history; they are windows into a culture that has long valued curiosity, precision, and the courage to explore the unknown.

When I think of Davy isolating sodium and potassium, or Faraday revealing the deep connection between electricity and magnetism, I feel a quiet sense of awe. These discoveries were not just scientific triumphs - they were acts of cultural expression. They spoke of a Britain that embraced experimentation, intellectual freedom, and the belief that knowledge should illuminate the world.

And somehow, across the continent, their echoes reached us too.

Growing up in Romania, a country whose language carries the warmth of Latin roots, I often felt that science belonged to a distant world - one shaped by laboratories, universities, and traditions far from my own. Yet chemistry has a way of dissolving boundaries. The periodic table is the same in London as it is in Bucharest. The laws of thermodynamics do not change when crossing the Carpathians. And the spirit of discovery - this universal human impulse - connects us more deeply than geography ever could.

As I read about British chemists, I realize that their stories resonate with my own cultural identity. Faraday, a self-taught scientist from a modest background, reminds me of the Romanian belief that greatness can emerge from humility (“omul sfințește locul”). Dorothy Hodgkin’s perseverance in unraveling the structures of penicillin and vitamin B12 echoes the Romanian spirit of patience and tenacity.

And then there is the language itself. English, shaped by centuries of cultural exchange, carries within it traces of Latin - just as Romanian does. When I encounter scientific terms like solution, molecule, or structure, I feel a subtle familiarity, as if the words themselves are tiny bridges between our cultures. Chemistry becomes not only a science, but a shared linguistic heritage.

In this sense, British chemistry has taught me more than reactions and equations. It has taught me that knowledge is a cultural thread - one that weaves people together across borders, histories, and identities. It has reminded me that Romania, with its Latin heart and European spirit, is part of a larger tapestry of scientific and cultural exchange.

As I write these reflections, I feel gratitude. Gratitude for the British scientists whose discoveries shaped the modern world. Gratitude for the Romanian teachers who nurtured my curiosity. And gratitude for the quiet, invisible bonds that connect us - bonds made not of atoms, but of ideas, language, and shared human wonder.

Chemistry, after all, is the study of connections. And perhaps the most beautiful connections are those that unite people, cultures, and stories across time.

WINDERMERE LAKE

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I have never been looking for it, that place itself has found me. It found me in my hardest times, when I wasn't able to think anymore. It was like a path with no other branches, it was a place where all your wishes might explore.

All the way to the Windermere Lake made me hold my heart, struggling to not break it in sorrow, otherwise I wouldn't have thought about you.

The first moment to arrive took over and over to finish, it was moving endlessly. By surprise, nothing has changed since the last time we went there, in England, at the Windermere Lake, when we were catching butterflies and feeling our second home.

The feeling that all those surroundings were stopping myself from worry - could never stop as well. I was questioning myself many times to times, I was searching for nothing but still in amazement.

"But I still can't see you here? How can I be so blind? How can I still smell your presence?"

I was walking and trying to not make a single wrong step, as I would fall on the sharp framed stones.

The mountains facing the lake have always reminded me of you, how they were always above everything. No one could ever reach their top, not even me.

They were all covered in the whitest snow, in the strongest glow, blinding all behind my eyes. Those mountains were the tallest we have ever seen, the strongest and lovely ones.

The lake itself has seemed to be there since forever, living everlong. I wished I could just swim in it, swim through the whirling water and not even feeling its coldness. Its bright blue shade was messing with my mind, as well as its uneven reflection.

"No matter how much I had swum, I still wouldn't have found the love. It just keeps hiding from us."

The lake was the only and impossible way to get to you. Unfortunately, it had no bottom. "Am I swimming for you or are you swimming in my mind, like a distant memory?" The lake was pulling me down.

"Would you please raise me up?"

As I was exploring more and more around me, the sun was shining harder on my cheeks. It just wouldn't go back, behind the mountains. Instead, it was sneaking among the trucks of the forest. Who would have made it better, if not the sun?

The forest was another story where all our memories were scattered throughout it, hiding from us, fading slowly..

Its trees were nothing but painted in a gloomy sage green, with its leaves old enough to never fall. I always get lost in its delight.

The sound of all the birds flying over and over were blessing my ears. They were invincible. could never forget them. They were singing for you.

All those views and goods remained, but you? I tried and tried to no lose my mind, it was harder than I would ever expect. Although you left, you are still in it, you are still in my mind.

All I have left is the lake.

THE BRITISH MONARCHY -WISDOM AND BALANCE

*Prof. Mandrea Teodora,
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The British monarchy is a system of government in which the head of state is a hereditary monarch, inheriting his or her title from his or her ancestors. The first king of England, Alfred the Great, began to reign in 871. Since then, a series of kings and queens have ruled England, and later the United Kingdom. The British monarchy has survived many crises over the years, including wars, revolutions, and changes of regime. Since 1721, the role of the British monarchy has been mainly symbolic and diplomatic. The King does not have much political power, but he does have an important role to play in the public life of the United Kingdom. Thus, the King is the head of state and the representative of the United Kingdom abroad. The king has important symbolic and ceremonial functions, such as awarding decorations, receiving ambassadors, he is the commander-in-chief of the armed forces and he represents the country on the international stage. The political powers of the country are exercised by Parliament. The Prime Minister is the head of government, at the head of the executive branch.

King Charles III has been the head of the Windsor family since the death of his mother, Queen Elizabeth II, on September 8th, 2022. Apart from the king, the most famous members of the royal family are his wife, Camilla Parker Bowles, Duchess of Cornwall, his children, Princes William and Harry, and their wives, the Duchesses of Cambridge and Sussex. The new monarch is chosen according to the British royal family's rules of succession. Since 2013, succession has been carried out by order of birth, regardless of gender. Thus, women and men are equal in terms of succession. Previously, men were privileged. Thus, after King Charles III, the future successor is his eldest son, Prince William, then his children in order of birth: George, Charlotte and Louis.

The British monarchy is a very important institution in the hearts of the English. Many British people are very proud of the royal family and its traditions, part of their cultural heritage. In the United Kingdom, the King is largely a ceremonial figure who is not expected to intervene in political affairs. But as head of state, he retains certain constitutional power. Parliament is the highest legislative authority in the United Kingdom and consists of the House of Commons, the House of Lords, and the Crown - another word for monarchy. The Crown is the oldest part of the British system of government, but its powers have waned over time and are now largely ritualized. The day after the general election, the monarch invites the leader of the party that won the most seats in the House of Commons to be prime minister and form a government. The monarch opens Parliament each year in a traditional ceremony called the Speech from the Throne, and reads out the government's plans for the next 12 months. This grand annual event usually begins with the monarch arriving in Westminster, in procession from Buckingham Palace. Wearing the ceremonial Imperial State Crown, the king or queen enters the House of Lords. The Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod then summons the members of the House of

Commons, where the door is symbolically slammed in his face, a sign of independence from the monarchy. The Crown also formally dissolves Parliament before a new general election.

The United Kingdom is an essential partner for all the countries both economically and in terms of defense and foreign policy, despite the referendum of 23 June 2016 which gave the majority to supporters of leaving the European Union. The British economy is mainly driven by services. As the City of London is one of the world's major financial centers, financial and insurance services are particularly important. However, the industrial sector remains important and relies on the aerospace, chemical, pharmaceutical and automotive sectors. The energy sector is marked by the exploitation of oil and natural gas in the North Sea. The United Kingdom intends to continue developing nuclear energy, and, the government has been developing an ambitious policy on renewable energy for several years, particularly in the area of offshore wind power. The Starmer government, which has placed the energy transition at the heart of its political and economic program, is expected to strengthen this ambitious policy by targeting, among other measures, the complete decarbonization of the electricity system by 2030.

To conclude, younger people have always been less enthusiastic than elderly people to believe in the idea that Britain should have a monarchy, but the support for monarchy increases as one gets older, and, despite the essentially ceremonial role of the British monarch, the royal family of Great Britain is still popular all over the world.

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TEACHING JOHN FOWLES' NOVELS TO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

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John Fowles' theory of history, his belief that self-awareness is the key to the development of the human beings, and that one's personal freedom should be impenetrable. It is important to understand the meta-fictional subjects related to his novels, the nature of authority as Fowles notices it and the writer's relationship to his reader's freedom. It's not easy to explain Fowles' idea that the art of reading is similar to the art of living. While the reader searches his way through the various deceptions of his novels, his activity illustrates the strategies in which he has to invade his own and others' roles and games in real life. His novels develop new themes and initiate their own connection with life. His critics share a reticence to handle the novels as a whole. Fowles, indeed, writes sophisticated novels, but his aim is to portray the complexity of life, the powerful experience of everyday living. Maybe his most important theme is the idea that the reader can be coherent about his or her life only through understanding clearly and comprehensively all the apparently contrasting elements of our lives, as individuals and social animals, as well. All his protagonists are urged to see what is real by seeing his life and the history of humanity plentifully. The reader must acknowledge what is fiction and offer strength to the fluidity which is the usual sequence of any day. He has to discover what is real and consistent, if he wants to see beyond the roles we all have to play. To attain this faultless of the whole, he is due to undertake a process of intense self-deconstruction and self-reconstruction. The effort is compensated by self-actualization that only some obtain. In his novels Fowles brings near the act of reading and the act of living. He demands the reader, usually together with the protagonist, to reconcile with a very impenetrable text, to carry out the same operations on the text as the protagonist carries out on his life.

So, as for the reader to see whole, he has to attain freedom from the author's vision which can be so deceptive and is also characterized by the theme reading. Most of Fowles' themes are repeated in almost all his novels. The consequence of his idea of the whole is his idea of individualism, idea which belongs to existentialism. He thinks that introspection, and its related authenticity, is the answer to most of human beings' problems, personal and social, as well. Introspection, as Fowles so often indicates in his novels, is the key to the evolution of the species, to "charting the voyage," in the words of Lily de Seitas. Introspection can also improve the harsh love conflicts between men and women. Fowles' protagonists prefer to project all their disillusionments onto the women they love, changing them into a dark embodiment of their soul, and making unfeasible any real relationship. The sexual element in his novels is a symbol for how human relations are destroyed by dishonesty. Sex suggests physical parallels to existential conditions. When the protagonists discover their true nature and then act according to it, the relationships will not be influenced by dishonesty, by each partner's reflection on the partner's disposition or masks.

One of Fowles' most repeated themes is the power of mystery. "Every answer is a death," says Conchis. Fowles thinks that modern consciousness is shattered. We are self-conscious rather than conscious, alike his protagonists, we live as if someone were watching, we are careful to obey our behavior to norms.

Furthermore, the protagonists also attempt to understand and restore experience by codes of rational deduction. Fowles highlights that the codes are untrustworthy and that intuition is above intelligence, concerning its ability to infer truth. The masques which are created for each character's well fare are created to test and clarify the power of intuitive perception. As Fowles states mystery offers energy, because a mystery pushes us to search for answers and opposes to what he calls "collector-consciousness", the urge to constrain, classify, objectify. Collector consciousness contradict intuition, and like photography (the collector is one of Fowles' favorite symbols), it forces attitudes upon its object. It is an egotistical impulse because it tries to hold up and preserve the existing condition. Collecting ruins the mystery. These are some of Fowles' most important themes.

Nevertheless his creativity is as important as his philosophy. Actually, Fowles has often been accused of using an excessiveness of details and metaphorical expression which almost never meet and materialize. Fowles is undoubtedly a master of the language and an inquirer of the appropriate words. While writing *The French Lieutenant's Woman* he kept a reminder on his study wall: "Remember the Etymology." Being an admirer of the English language (he is as well a French and German philosopher), Fowles also loves to use metaphors. The novels are full of cryptic details. In every novel Fowles constructs a subtext of remarks which he intends to imitate life. In the novels he illustrates that language and behavior are extremely metaphorical. In the characters' attempt to acquire knowledge and individuality, as well as in the readers' attempt to understand the text, the metaphors and symbols are guidelines that we probably have to learn to discover and interpret them. Fowles once more shows a connection between living and reading, as they both depend on our ability to acknowledge.

Fowles also deals with the thematic aspects of structure. He assigns the materials in his novels to emphasize the idea that life acknowledges its meaning from the chaos only if the character (and the reader) can understand the connections, the unchanging factor. There are several other ways in which Fowles engages in the subtle interplay of thought and language.

The most discussed aspect of Fowles' art is the connections he uses between the author and the reader. According to Fowles, reading is a test of one's values, perceptiveness, and authenticity. The readers try to find his way through the duplicity of his fiction just as Nicholas has to find his way through the masque. The writer has to allow the reader the freedom to choose, since Fowles considers that the notion of author-as- god has to be corrected to read author-as-fellow. In *The French Lieutenant's Woman* he states that "fiction usually pretends to conform to reality: the writer puts the conflicting wants in the ring and then describes the fight-but in fact fixes the fight, letting that want he himself favors win." By leaving the story open-ended, Fowles tries to allude fight-fixing. He declines to collect either his characters or his readers. His wish, through his novels, is to authorize the reader the same psychoanalytic, reconstructive experience as the protagonist.

Fowles' novels are, nevertheless, participatory fictions, and if we acknowledge them according to their conditions, our feed-back will always be mostly personal and certainly enlightening.

Teaching Cultural Traditions Through Language: The Case of Five O’Clock Tea

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Languages Incorporating cultural traditions into language education is a powerful way to enhance both linguistic development and cross-cultural understanding. One such tradition rich in history and social nuance is the British custom of Five O’Clock Tea. Originating in the 19th century, this elegant social ritual continues to symbolize British etiquette and refinement. When integrated into the language-learning classroom, Five O’Clock Tea offers a unique opportunity to improve vocabulary, conversational fluency, and cultural awareness.

The tradition of Five O’Clock Tea is widely credited to Anna, the 7th Duchess of Bedford, who in the 1840s began taking tea and light refreshments in the late afternoon to bridge the long gap between lunch and dinner. What began as a personal habit soon evolved into a fashionable social gathering among the British aristocracy, complete with carefully arranged snacks, formal service, and polite conversation.

A traditional Five O’Clock Tea setting typically includes black tea (often Earl Grey or Darjeeling) served with milk and sugar. Accompanying the tea are finger sandwiches with fillings such as cucumber, egg salad, or smoked salmon, as well as freshly baked scones with clotted cream and jam, and an assortment of small cakes and pastries. The ritual also emphasizes refined table manners and courteous dialogue, making it an ideal context for teaching language related to politeness, requests, and social expressions.

There are several effective strategies for incorporating this tradition into the language classroom. One is vocabulary building, where students learn key terms such as “teapot,” “scone,” “saucer,” “steeping,” and “tiered tray.” Another approach is role-playing: students can simulate a tea party, practicing how to offer refreshments, ask for items politely, and engage in small talk. History and culture lessons can also be woven in, exploring the Victorian era, class distinctions, or comparing British tea customs with those from other countries, such as the Japanese tea ceremony or Moroccan mint tea. Furthermore, project-based learning activities can allow students to plan their own tea event—designing invitations, choosing a menu, and researching etiquette.

The benefits of teaching cultural traditions like Five O’Clock Tea are substantial. Such lessons promote experiential learning and help develop key language skills in a meaningful context. They also foster intercultural competence, giving students insight into values, behaviours, and customs different from their own. Perhaps most importantly, they create memorable, enjoyable learning experiences that make language come alive.

In conclusion, the tradition of Five O’Clock Tea provides more than a glimpse into British culture—it serves as a rich educational tool that blends language learning with history, social norms, and cross-cultural understanding. By bringing this tradition into the classroom,

educators can offer students a deeper, more holistic way to engage with the English language and the world it inhabits.

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The Crown in Modern Britain: A Double-Edged Jewel

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In the heart of the United Kingdom, the British monarchy remains one of the most iconic and enduring institutions in the world. From the grandeur of Buckingham Palace to the stately ceremonies of Parliament, the monarchy plays a unique role in both British politics and tourism. To many, it is a symbol of national unity, tradition, and continuity. To others, it is an outdated and expensive relic of the past. As Britain moves further into the 21st century, the monarchy continues to walk a fine line between relevance and tradition, admired by millions and yet questioned by many more.

While the political power of the monarchy has greatly diminished over the centuries, the monarch still plays an important constitutional role. The reigning king or queen serves as the Head of State, carrying out ceremonial duties such as opening Parliament, granting royal assent to legislation, and meeting regularly with the Prime Minister. These acts, though largely symbolic, serve as reminders of the country's long-standing traditions and provide a sense of stability and continuity in times of political division or uncertainty.

The monarchy often serves as a unifying figure in British society, standing above the partisan battles of politics. For example, during times of national mourning or crisis—such as the death of Queen Elizabeth II or the COVID-19 pandemic—the royal family often offers messages of reassurance and solidarity. These moments reinforce the idea of the monarchy as a constant presence in the lives of British people, one that binds the past to the present.

Beyond its political symbolism, the monarchy has a significant impact on the UK's tourism industry. Royal landmarks such as Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle, the Tower of London, and Kensington Palace are among the top tourist attractions in the country. Each year, millions of visitors from around the world travel to the UK hoping to experience a piece of British royal history. Ceremonies like the Changing of the Guard or major royal events—weddings, coronations, jubilees—attract enormous international attention and boost local economies.

The monarchy also contributes to Britain's global image and "soft power." The royal family is often seen as a living symbol of British identity, history, and culture. Iconic moments like Prince William and Catherine's wedding or Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee were watched by millions and brought significant tourism revenue. In fact, studies suggest that the royal family generates far more money through tourism and media attention than it receives in public funding.

However, despite these benefits, there is growing debate about whether the monarchy still has a place in a modern, democratic society. Critics argue that in a world that values equality and meritocracy, the idea of a hereditary head of state feels increasingly outdated. Positions of influence and privilege being passed down by birth rather than earned by merit challenges the principles of democracy and fairness.

The financial cost of the monarchy is also a key concern. Although the royal family is funded in part by income from the Crown Estate, the Sovereign Grant—which covers expenses such as travel, staff, and maintenance of royal properties—still comes from taxpayers. In times of economic hardship, many Britons question whether these costs are justifiable, especially when public services are under pressure and inequality is rising.

Public opinion on the monarchy is also shifting, especially among younger generations. While older Britons may view the monarchy as an essential part of national identity, younger citizens are more likely to question its purpose and express support for reform or even abolition. Scandals involving royal family members and debates around race, privilege, and media treatment have also influenced public perception, making it harder for the monarchy to maintain a consistently positive image.

Nevertheless, the monarchy has shown a degree of adaptability over time. The royal family has made efforts to modernize, become more transparent, and engage with issues important to the public, such as environmental conservation and mental health. King Charles III, in particular, has long been vocal about environmental issues and sustainability—subjects that resonate with a modern audience.

In conclusion, the British monarchy remains a powerful symbol of tradition, unity, and national identity. It plays a significant role in the UK's political culture and tourism industry, attracting millions of visitors and contributing to the country's international image. However, it also faces valid criticism regarding its cost, fairness, and relevance in today's world. As Britain evolves, so too must its monarchy—balancing centuries of tradition with the expectations of a modern democracy. Whether admired or questioned, the Crown continues to be a defining feature of British life, for better or for worse.

Live to the fullest!

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Have you really stopped and asked yourself what does life mean? What does it really mean? What is the purpose of life? And what if I die? What if I don't have enough time to do everything I set out to do? What if I don't have the job I want? Or the family? Or maybe I won't have enough money. Or what if I stay alone my whole life? There are so many questions, but my answer is simple: STOP AND DANCE! Yeah, maybe you think I'm crazy or maybe you think „What is she doing there? but let me explain.

Most people are like you or.. most people are like her or maybe not... but most people are the same, they do the same things, they wear the same clothes, because society wants it, right? Just think about it. All the girls are the same, they straighten their hair, they put on makeup, they wear the same little black dress to parties, but many times they don't do it because they like it , they do it because they want to feel accepted or maybe they want to be popular or liked by boys. That's what society wants, the same people with the same bad thinking, but then you see the different girl, the one that feels good about herself and doesn't care what other people think and is who she wants to be. Many would think "oh, I don't want to talk to her, she's weird" that's how society teaches us, to lose our individuality, ourself just to feel accepted. But let me tell you something, we are society, we built this, these limits that many people don't want to cross and don't want to step out of their comfort zone. But I don't want to be part of this community of people, I want to be myself. That's why when i feel like i am part of it, i just say: STOP and dance. like a deep breath.

Because we spend so much time waiting — waiting for the right moment, the right day, the right feeling. We wait all week for Friday, all winter for summer, all life for happiness. We keep saying “tomorrow”, but often that tomorrow never comes. And in the end, time passes, and we realize we've forgotten to actually live. So live now. Enjoy the good and face the bad because tomorrow is not promised and today is a gift, because every moment we waste waiting is a moment we lose forever. And sometimes, when I feel that pressure of time slipping away, I don't panic — I just say STOP and dance!!

Because in those moments, I feel truly alive.

Maybe you might think „why is she doing this?” because that's what I've done all my life. When I feel sad , when I feel like I'm losing my mind, I just dance and feel the music in my whole body.

From a simple passion, I started to discover my life. No matter what I went through, no matter how lost I felt, no matter who came in my life or left me, I always knew that at the end of the day I could give all my energy into a solo. Dancing gives me a sense of well-being, joy and happiness and shows me that life is worth living to the fullest and enjoying the present. Whenever I want just to say STOP and dance!

And you know what? I don't care if I don't fit in the majority, because life is not about conforming. It's not about following other people's opinions. It's about feeling. It's about loving. So, the next time you feel like you're getting lost in the crowd, that you're becoming a copy of others, remember: STOP! And dance. Stop living just to exist. Live to feel. Life is not just about days passing by one after another. It's not about checklists, goals imposed by others, fears that hold you back. Life is a dance - sometimes smooth, sometimes chaotic. A rhythm that only you can truly feel. Remember that living is more than just existing. Living is listening to your heart. Allowing yourself to be different. Living your own truth, even if others don't understand it. Living is the rarest thing in the world and I choose to live. What do you choose? Do you want to live or just exist? What are you thinking about?

Flowers in the United Kingdom

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Have you ever wondered what would be the connection between a rose, a thistle and a daffodil? Could it be a special bouquet created by a talented master florist or maybe a garden where the three beauties delight the eyes and the olfactory sense of visitors? In fact, the three plants share their place in the "Royal Garden" of Great Britain, being the floral symbols of England (the Rose), Scotland (the Thistle) and Wales (the daffodil). The traditional Irish symbol, the Clover, could not miss from this interesting floral arrangement as well.

A Greek legend says that the Rose was created from the body of a dead Nymph, by the goddess of flowers, Chloris. Thus, in order to be the most beautiful in the world, at his birth, Rose received from the God of wine, Dyonisos, the dizzying fragrance, then cheerfulness, brightness and charm were given to her. Ares, The God of War, gave her Thorns. The War of the Roses fifteenth-century England was stained by bloody conflicts between two families of the English nobility of those times, the House of York, which had as its emblem the White Rose, and the House of Lancaster, whose blazon was the Red Rose. The war of the roses (1455-1487) broke out due to the rivalry of the members of the two dynasties, aimed at the succession to the throne of England. After 30 years of conflict, Henry Tudor of Lancaster became King Henry VII of England, establishing the Tudor dynasty. He chose to combine the red and white roses into a common Emblem – The Rose of The Tudors, which symbolizes the reconciliation of the two great powers.

The national flower of Wales is the daffodil. It grows up to 30 cm tall, attracts with its intoxicating scent of white or yellow-orange flowers. How the daffodil came to be named as Wales' national flower has always been a hot topic of debate. Up until the 19th century, the leek was actually the traditional emblem of Wales, and there may have been confusion around this because the Welsh name for daffodil is Cenninen Pedr, which literally translates to 'Saint Peter's Leek'. The daffodil is traditionally worn on St David's Day, which commences on the 1st March every year and celebrates Wales' patron saint, David. The fact that daffodils bloom in early spring, coinciding with St David's Day, makes this flower a recognizable symbol of Wales.

The thorny Thistle is widespread in fields, fallow places or at roadsides, where it can be seen blooming in summer. The stem is branched and spiny, growing up to 1.50 m, and the red flowers have a spiky appearance. The thistle is one of the symbols with which Scotland is identified, along with whiskey, bagpipes and kilt. Legend has it that this plant, which some scoundrels call simply "weed", was the one that in times of war defended the Scots. Thus, during a battle, trying to take the Scottish camp by surprise, one of the Viking fighters stepped on a cockerel, the screams of pain of the enemy caught the attention of the Scots, who decreed this plant as the national emblem.

Clover, luck of Ireland Clover is said to bring good luck, and if we also count the fact that the famous green leaf is the symbol of Ireland, then we can only think of this country as the most "lucky" in the world. The Irish celebrate every year, on the 17th of March, St. Patrick's day, the national holiday of Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland dedicated to its spiritual patron. According to Irish folklore, Saint Patrick used the leaves of the clover to explain the Holy Trinity to people. Each year, on March 17, Queen Elizabeth II, the former Sovereign of Great Britain, gave the symbolic bouquet of clover to her Irish Regiment (The Irish Guards). They used to wear the traditional clover on the buttonhole of the uniform.

So, flowers, nature's most refined creatures, played an important part in British history, being closely connected to intricate moments in the fight for power over the years They became the symbol of an entire area, bearing the power and the essence of an entire nation inside their delicate petals.

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The Battle of Hastings

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Languages One moment in the English history that captured my imagination was the famous Battle of Hastings. It was a significant moment, one that was about to change the future of England. It took place on October 14, 1066, in East Sussex, on the fields near Hastings and it is considered the last successful conquest of England.

The battle was fought between the Anglo-Saxon King Harold II and William, the Duke of Normandy. The conflict began because of a fight over the English throne. When King Edward the Confessor died in January 1066 without leaving a direct heir, several men claimed the throne, including Harald III of Norway and Harold Godwinson's brother, Tostig. Harold II, the leader of the Anglo-Saxons, was crowned king, but William of Normandy argued that he had been promised the throne by Edward and that Harold had broken an oath to support his claim.

William was determined to take the throne, so he gathered a large army and a fleet of ships to invade England. On the other side, Harold's army had just fought an important battle against another invading force, the Vikings, at Stamford Bridge in northern England. This made Harold's troops exhausted and unprepared for the invasion that William was about to bring.

On the day of the battle, both armies faced each other on the fields near Hastings. Harold's forces were positioned on top of a hill, giving them a strong defensive advantage. However, William's army used clever tactics to break through Harold's defense. One of the most famous strategies was the so called retreat. William's soldiers pretended to run in fear and the Anglo-Saxons followed them, which then allowed the Norman forces to turn around and counterattack.

In the fierce battle Harold was struck in the eye by an arrow and this image has been immortalized in the famous Bayeux Tapestry, detailed embroidery that depicts the events before and during the battle. Because of Harold's death, William's victory was final, and he was crowned King of England on Christmas Day, 1066. This was the beginning of Norman rule over England, which had lasting effects on the development of the country.

One of the most significant changes was the introduction of the feudal system. William offered lands to his Norman supporters in exchange for military service, changing the structure of English society. This new system of land ownership was recorded in a famous manuscript, known as the Domesday Book. He also introduced new military strategies, which included building many castles across the country as defensive measures.

The English language was significantly affected by the Norman Conquest. The Anglo-Saxon language, Old English, was greatly influenced by Norman French, especially in terms of vocabulary related to government, law, art, and culture, food. As a result, modern English

developed with a rich blend of Anglo-Saxon and Norman words, which is one of the reasons why English is such a diverse language today.

In conclusion, The Battle of Hastings was not only a military triumph of William the Conqueror but also a moment that symbolized the transformation of England. It reshaped the English society, land ownership having a significant impact on the development English language.

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Words of Wisdom

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A wise man once said it is easy
To behave like a fool all year round;
But the difficult part comes in showing
Some restraint, deep insight and good will.

There are plenty who boast on their courage
To debate and bring arguments forth,
It is hard not to talk and help people
Be the one that they need with your actions.

People say world is hectic and we need to adapt
But the process is sometimes not worth it
If you lose all the values that keep you afloat
And you sink in the compromise hell.

So, be happy, do good to your best,
Keep it silent and keep all your values,
World is crazy, you don't need to be wise,
Just be true to yourself and your hearth.

The Balance of Youth

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Bright-eyed dreams and fleeting days,
A heart that races, a soul ablaze.
Yet in the fire, wisdom grows,
Like steady rivers where patience flows.

Not reckless storms, nor careless flight,
But measured steps in dawn's soft light.
A mind that listens, hands that build,
A voice that speaks when truth is willed.

For youth is not just wild and free,
But strength with thought, a steady sea.
To hold the world, yet know its weight—
To shape tomorrow, not just wait.

Faith: a guiding Light

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In youthful days of boundless dreams,
Where hope shines bright in golden beams,
The path ahead seems vast, unknown,
Yet faith will whisper, *You're not alone.*

Through trials fierce and storms that rise,
It lifts our hearts, it clears our eyes.
Not just a word, but strength within—
A steadfast light when days grow dim.

It teaches kindness, love, and grace,
A steady hand in life's fast race.
Not chains that bind, nor walls that close,
But open doors where wisdom grows.

So walk with faith, both bold and true,
Let courage rise in all you do.
For though the road is long and wide,
With faith, you'll always stand with pride.

Ann`s adventure

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Ann squeaks as soon as she sees her parents coming home. "You`re finally home! We can go to the pub now! Ann and her parents, Hannah and John, recently moved here from Japan. The little girl was in love with the history of the Anglo-Saxon period even since she found out about them moving in the eastern part of London. "Our reservation is at 7 o`clock. We will have to wait another 2 hours, ok?" . "Yeah, mom" said Ann, seeming a bit disappointed.

It`s the first time they`ve been to a pub ever since they`ve arrived in London. Around one and a half hours later they`ve left home. Since they were staying in the East, the closest one was 20 minutes from their place After they`ve finished eating the classic fish and chips, the drive back home was a blast! "I loved that pub! From the outside it was old and had spider web everywhere, but the inside was clean and everybody was really nice. I love it here, although I really miss my nana", said Ann.

Once they got home it was pretty late, so Ann went to bed. The night went by fast, but Ann was shocked the next morning when she opened her eyes: "THIS IS NOT MY ROOM". Indeed, that wasn't her room, but if it wasn`t, then what could it be?

The girl slowly got out of bed. The room she woke up in was small, and very old looking. There was a folded note on the desk, next to her bed, stating: „Look in the drawers, under your desk, if you don`t see it you`ll miss the task." Ann put the note down, and imediatley started looking for some kind of clue, then she found it: „The horses at the museum might say something, but don`t forget about the people horse-riding"

„What....." Ann murmured. „Let me think about a horse-I know it! It`s Royal Armouries Museum." Her favorite museum in whole Great Britain was her first destination! She has been bugging her parents to go there for a while.

She took one more look around the room before leaving. This was the start of her adventure; the magic that will take her home. The magic that will make her see her parents again, and the most important one, the magic that will help her earn a lifetime adventure.

As soon as the girl realized what the next place was, everything went black, and she heard 6 knocks. She felt dizzy, but after waking up she found herself wondering around the hundreds of horses which were there. „So, from the clue they gave me I am sure it`s about a knight, riding a horse, so that means it should be about a special one, but let me think.....Henry the 8th, which was a former king of England. She goes there and finds the next riddle: „It`s a forest, a really magical one. It`s a quiet, beautiful place which is known for its myths."

„It`s a forest, a magical one. I should think about something like the forest of Ashdown." Ann said the words but that dizzy sensation wasn`t there, so it shall be another one. „The Epping Forest?" Ann closed her eyes hoping for a miracle. The words left her mouth and the dizziness came back. But this time only 5 knocks.

The forest was beautiful, full of the sun shining between the tall and green trees. In front of Ann was a note: „Cross the bridge”. „This is easy”, Ann said. The bridge was frail, but the first few steps were ok, but then Ann saw it; the bridge was starting to collapse, the planks, one by one. She started panicking as the end keeps getting further away each step she takes. Only when she thought she was going to fall, the bridge seemed to finally come to an end.

The girl managed to cross the bridge safely. Then it happened. The dizziness kicked in and everything went black, but this time no riddle. And with that there were only 4 knocks left.

„I'm made of stone, I'm big so you'll notice if I'm gone
I can't touch the sky but I still try
For you to find my origins, though no clue of the solutions”

„So, I know its tall, it is made of stone and has weird origins. I know I've studied this, I'm very sure my teacher has told me, it's Stonehenge. And again the room went black, and there were only three knocks remaining. „I only have three tasks left, I wonder how difficult they are” said Ann while wandering through the enormous stones, trying for another clue.

She looked everywhere for a clue, maybe a note or anything that could help her „The tasks got really harder, it seems like I've been here for hours.” Then she notices that every stone had a number on it. The difference was that the number was a bit lighter than the stone. You could barely notice it.

The little girl started counting, and then everything clicked. „Every stone looks like a...shape... this means there should be a hidden word, or meaning . The stone with number one looks like a lantern, number two like an owl, number three like something round, maybe an apple, number four like a king's crown, number five has no shape, one out of the ordinary so maybe it means space. Perhaps there are two words. And the last two are U and P.

Lantern
Owl
Apple
King's crown
U
P

„Loak up? That makes no sense. Wait - LOOK UP. And everything got black, and only two knocks left. „Two left, but where am I?” Ann studied the room she was in - it was her room, from home. Everything looked exactly the same. But the note said: „The mistake is your next clue...”. „What could be wrong with my room?” - the girl looked around for a bit, but realized that the last number from the statue she was keeping in her room was changed. A small detail, that I'm glad she didn't miss – „It should be 1978, not 1976. That was close.”

Finally, the last one. She was almost home. It was a simple and easy question: „Who was the first king of Great Britain?”. Ann froze. She had one try left, she couldn't mess this up. After a few minutes of thinking, she said it – Athelstan, called the Glorious. The right answer that will take her home. She opens her eyes to find herself in her bed, exactly 6 minutes before sunrise.

The brave but tricked young soul

*Elev: Solomon Alessia Maria,
Prof. Masgras Alexandra,
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As the warm breeze tangled her dark brown hair , Aaliyah let her thoughts float away by the comfort of the giggles of her family , letting her long legs get hugged by the playful waves as they collide with the shore in a crystalline rhythm. A mesmerizing shell caught the attention of her burnt-almonds eyes , trapping them like a lion in a cage. Her shadow intertwined with the resting seagulls as she was slowly approaching , in featherweight steps , the mysterious shell. She bent over so that her caramel hands can reach it but her fingertips got scratched by the rough texture. But suddenly , the crystal clear waves stormed up , the golden sand that was slowly burning her toes was now dancing around her in a fast rhythm , hugging Aaliyah like a tornado. Before she could even process what was happening , she was eaten by the earth that was collapsing beneath her. There was no turning back now. Who would have known that such an inoffensive , guiltfree piece of creation could be in possession of this amount of power ?

When she finally woke up , Aaliyah was still feeling dizzy and her vision was quite blurry. She slowly opened her eyes , realizing she was lying in the middle of the floor. As she stood up , she noticed the big room she was in. It had space for everything that you could need: a fire pit used for cooking and as a source of warmth and light , a wooden bed and one made from straws, a few benches and a table. Aaliyah took a peek through the window : the peach tinted sun just let it`s sunrays bath the village with light.

-What happened? Am I dreaming ?

She tried to pinch her cheek , hoping she`ll wake up.

-Ouch!! Where am I ?

A sudden noise can be heard in the room. Aaliyah turned around in a blink of an eye. The ordinary pot that was on the center of the table somehow turned into a mysterious fox with dazzling red fur , thick tail and alluring eyes. Aaliyah let out a gasp.

-How did this fox get here ? Aaliyah said to herself.

-Well , greetings Aaliyah , my dear

You`re wondering how did I get here

I need to introduce myself though

So you , Aaliyah , get to know

Tricky is my name

To not be friends would be a shame ! said the red fox.

-You`re a talking fox ?? Amazing !! Nice to meet you , Tricky. How did I end up here though ?

-Well , since I have the superpower to shapeshift , I changed into that shell to get you to help me. You see , I`ve been cursed and for a really long time I`ve tried to escape this place but no one was brave enough. Dear Aaliyah , I`ve chosen you to help me get out of this place . All you need to do is answer three riddles . Can I trust you ?

-Of course , Tricky , I'll try my best !

-Right now , we are in an Anglo-Saxon village from the fifth century. You will discover more information as you resolve the riddles. Good luck ! Here is your first riddle :

Everyone cheers and laughs when I'm here

You always know the fun is near

People love telling the stories

About the heroes` glories.

-I'm pretty sure I've read about this place in an article on my way to the beach. It's a mead hall , right ?

-You are correct !! Here is the second riddle :

I speak the truth that you`re given,

The future that`s already written

When I will hit you is unpredictable

And if you try to change me , I'm inevitable.

-Oh! That`s "WYRD" : The concept of fate that the Anglo-Saxons believed in !

-Good job ! The last riddle :

I tell a hero`s tale

That wouldn`t be afraid to fight a whale

His mind full of courage and wisdom

Got him wins and even a kingdom

But the battle wounds put him to rest

Now everyone mourns and cries at his chest.

-I remember this ! I learned this at history - it`s a poem about a hero of the same name : Beowulf ! says Aaliyah happily.

-Incredible !! Dear Aaliyah , I'm proud to say that your courage and knowledge has undone the curse.

The world collapsed just as it happened at the beach. Suddenly , Aaliyah was standing with her feet covered in the warm sand , gazing at the ocean. But she noticed the keychain that had appeared in her hand – a red fox. Her rose tinted lips formed a smile full of gratitude. Her family`s giggles were even louder , as she was approaching them in rhythmic steps.

Words Of Wisdom

*Elev: Antohi Nikolas Mario,
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Year 1960, on a sunny day in Scotland. A boy named James was playing with his friends when all of a sudden he sees a purple portal (about 2 meters in diameter) then he gets pulled inside of it. He quickly started panicking, whilst trying to maybe get a grip on something but no chance - not knowing what to do, he started praising for impact but then... he stopped falling.

James- Where am I?

Entity- You are in 1940s England!

James- Why am I here?

Entity- You're one of the chosen ones!

James- What do you mean?

The unknown entity has dissappeared before his eyes, then James started exploring his location.

(A very dark room with little to no light from outside).

Apparently he was in a house - wanting to go outside, he opened the main door, which to his surprise actually worked.

The voice wasn't lying, he was indeed in 1940s England because there weren't that many cars. Thinking it was safe outside, he started walking on the sidewalk theorizing what the mysterious voice meant by "You're one of the chosen ones", but while he was thinking, an English army general spotted him then he started shouting:

-”He’s here!!!”

Not knowing what was happening, James started running towards a tank’s cupola but when he got there, he realized it was too heavy for him to open so he started going on foot again. While he was running, he saw a hidden portal and, having no other choice, he jumped inside it.

10 minutes before the chaos:

Entity- I must capture him and explain why he’s here. He can change the history. I need to create another portal, but it will take some time. I hope he won’t get into trouble.

Back in the present:

James- You again!

Entity -Calm down! I'm going to explain everything! I’m one of the chosen ones; however I’m limited. You on the other hand aren’t. You have so much power that you need to discover but you have to stop the war.If you stop it,your name will be honoured forever and you will save so many lives but when you travel in the future,your powers will be taken away. The good part is that you’ll remember everything that you did. Good luck!

James- Can you teleport me to the general’s office?

Entity -Yes, but i will not be able to help you from now on. I've used up almost all my power!

James was teleported to the general's office to get information about the enemy.

James-Hello!

General-we have gathered information on where the next enemy attack will take place, the attack will be in Scotland, city Edinburgh. Destroy the ships and the bomber planes associated with the enemy as soon as possible. Our country will be in big trouble if you don't do so!

James then travelled by car to city Edinburgh (It wasn't that far only 5 km)

When James arrived in the city he suddenly started to fly and gained a never-seen strength.

James- Oh no! They are about to drop bombs on my city!

When he saw this, he started flying at lightspeed towards a plane, when he got there he picked it up AND THREW IT INTO THE SEA, then did the same with the rest of the bombers but one managed to drop a bomb, when James saw this he thought of a shield that reflects attacks, instantly a very, very long shield appeared on top of the entire city. When the bomb was about to hit the ground, it reflected and it travelled back to the plane destroying all of it and leaving no debris falling on the city. As for the ships, they were destroyed by the British army while James was holding the shield.

James, drained of energy made the shield disappear and collapsed to the ground.

Entity -He did it! I knew he had the power! But the war isn't over.

Entity -We may have won the battle, but not the war.

2 hours later.

James woke up and started walking.

James-That was so exhausting, hopefully I destroyed all of them. I wouldn't want any more enemies on our land. I should go check if there are any more ships or planes.

James started to walk towards the sea, to see if the plane that he threw was still there and surprisingly it disappeared in fact everything that he destroyed disappeared.

James- What happened? Where did the plane go? I remember perfectly that I threw one here.

James, frightened by what he didn't see, started to fly to the general's office hoping that maybe he has an idea about what happened to the rest of the planes.

James- General!

General-Ahh I see that you finally woke up. I assume you want to know what happened while you were asleep, right?

James- Yes. And I also want to know what happened to the planes that I destroyed and why they disappeared.

General-While you were asleep our crew went in to check on you but you were unconscious so they let you sleep; also our crew destroyed all the ships, as for the planes that you have mentioned, they disappeared when you destroyed the last plane, the one that dropped the bomb made all of the debris and planes disappear

James-Thank you for answering my question. I never realized that I had this much power.

General-We thank you for saving our city. But the war isn't over we need to defeat the enemy as soon as possible, in order for them not to cause any more chaos!

General-What we need you to do is, you need to-

Assassin-Not so fast!

The assassin is pointing a gun at James.

General-Who are you?!

Assassin-The enemy's assassin. I am here to take James with us.

James-Us?

Suddenly 10 soldiers barge into the generals office.

Assassin- Yes, us!

The assassin has grabbed James by his hand and took him to their car where they escaped in southern England(London)

James-TELL ME WHAT, DO YOU WANT AND WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS!?

Assassin-Just shut up, you are being annoying!

James-Annoying?! I'll show you what annoying means!

James started thinking of a roadblock with 10 spike strips in front of it.

ASSASIN-What?

Soldier-Sir our tires are losing air fast, what do we do? Also there's a massive roadblock with tanks in front of us.

Assassin-You did this!

James-Yeah and you can't do anything about it, I'll let the British army take care of you!

The assassin tried shooting James but he teleported just in time to the general's office.

James-Now, tell me, what do I need to do?

General-We need you to create war machines for the rest of Europe(except for the enemy of course) like: helicopters, tanks and something of your own but it needs to be powerful !

James-Will do ! But I need some time to think!

General-Think fast, the enemy's getting more destructive!

James went on and created 300 helicopters, 1000 tanks and the most powerful of them all: 30 fighter jets equipped with 20 guided missile launchers, two very big turbines, impenetrable hull and 2000 liters of fuel inside of it. It could travel at about 800 km/h if it was pushed to its limits.

General-James, you outdid yourself in every way possible, you have all of the world's „Thank you!” every country in this world will build statues of you with your name carved on them!

James- I thank you all for helping me do all of this; after all, you were the ones that protected me from the enemy while I was unconscious!

Entity - James, it's time for you to go, your powers are giving up, you will have to jump through this portal to go back in the present year of 1960.

James- thank you for everything!

James started to travel through the same portal that he had a bumpy ride in.

James-Ooooooh, I'll miss this so much!

James is in the real world now, the general didn't lie there are statues of him with his name carved on them.

James went on and lived a happy life ever after!

Remember! You, the one reading! „Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery and today is a gift - that's why it's called the present”

Ode to My Lost Juliet

*Elev: Dinu David Constantin,
Prof. Călinescu Amalia,
Colegiul Național „Tudor Vladimirescu” București*

„... a rose by any other name would smell as sweet” – Shakespeare

I sit here writing this
 Because I chose to make the same mistake
 I told myself that I don't like you,
 Yet I know our brain works the opposite way,
 But did I make the same mistakes?
 Because this time I knew about it
 Somehow, I didn't,
 I chose to see the rose, not just its name
 Your flaws are just something I ignore.
 Just the other day
 I said you looked good in red
 And the next day I saw you wearing it,
 It gave me a bit of hope
 That maybe it'll all work out,
 But it didn't.
 I had to reach through my ribs
 To revive my heart just for you,
 I gave up things
 That I never knew I was ready to,
 You were there every time I had a problem,
 You were there
 To hear me rant about my friends,
 My soul aches in your absence
 I would hand you the world in a necklace.
 We had it figured out,
 Yet you chose not to go through with it,
 Maybe it was your lack of self-esteem,
 Or just the cruel society,
 Maybe it was just the way you see yourself
 Even though it's subjective
 And the worst part is that I still know you,
 I still pickup my phone to text you
 About what happened today

And then I remember,
We're no longer what we used to be,
And my mood changes,
Like each step I take is over glass.
I find you beautiful,
I love you
And if you don't believe me,
Why do I look for you in everything I do?
Why do I tell everyone about you?
Soon just a distant memory
That I will remember about in the future,
Yet I'll never be able to fully forget,
A memory that will hurt less over time
Yet never fully stop bleeding,
A part of me still believes our story isn't over
How foolish!
But now, now you're gone,
Now only the brightest stars shine
Yet you somehow outshine all of them,
But just behind the moon,
I want to talk about my feelings
But I can't,
I know them, but at the same time I don't,
Just hearing your name makes my heart ache
The moon is beautiful, but so are the stars,
We had the chemistry, but not the timing,
Yet somehow, I don't regret it
Because erasing all of your mistakes
Would erase you,
I killed that little boy a long time ago
Yet he was still alive for a little bit,
But now, now he's gone again
In the graveyard of my mind.
The rose is beautiful not just for its name
But for its smell,
I ignored the labels put on you by this harsh society
I knew they were just that, labels,
Even though it ended with a heartbreak
I knew I made the right choice
To look beyond the labels
And I'm glad I did
Because they couldn't have been more wrong,
Maybe in another universe

We are something beautiful
A rose by a different name
That would smell just as sweet,
The rose is as beautiful as its thorns are dangerous
A high price to pay for most pleasant scents.

The Transformative Power of Travel: Exploring the Journey within

*Elev: Paraschiv Mihnea,
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„The world is a book, and those who do not travel read only one page.” – Saint Augustine

Traveling beckons not merely as a means to traverse geographical distances, but as a transformative odyssey wherein individuals unearth the depths of their souls. Beyond discovering new landscapes, cultures, and customs, travel serves as a profound catalyst for self-exploration and personal evolution. Human beings possess an innate curiosity that compels them to venture beyond the familiar and delve into the unknown. This primal desire for exploration and discovery has fueled countless expeditions throughout history, driving individuals to seek out new horizons and expand their understanding of the world. The allure of unfamiliar cultures, landscapes, and experiences captivates the imagination and beckons the adventurous spirit. From the bustling streets of foreign cities to the tranquil beauty of remote wilderness, each new encounter promises a wealth of discoveries and insights waiting to be uncovered. Travel serves as a gateway to diverse cultures, traditions, and perspectives, offering people the opportunity to expand their horizons beyond the confines of their own worldview. Through encounters with people from different backgrounds, exploration of unique customs, and immersion in unfamiliar environments, travelers gain invaluable insights into the rich tapestry of human experience.

Empathy and understanding play pivotal roles in bridging cultural divides and fostering meaningful connections between individuals from disparate backgrounds. By stepping into the shoes of others, travelers cultivate a deeper appreciation for the complexities of the human experience, nurturing empathy and compassion that transcend linguistic and cultural barriers.

During their travels in other countries, people have the privilege of participating in traditional homestays in cities or villages. Living among the local communities, they immerse themselves in their daily routines, customs, and rituals, gaining a firsthand understanding of the foreigners' way of life. Through shared meals, conversations, and cultural exchanges, they forge genuine connections with their hosts, breaking down barriers of language and culture to find common ground. This immersive experience not only enriches people's travels but also broadens their perspectives, fostering a deeper appreciation for the diversity of our world and the bonds that unite us as human beings.

I remember my first journey abroad with my parents, and the whirlwind of anticipation and excitement coursing through my veins. The prospect of immersing myself in a world vastly different from my own filled me with a sense of exhilaration and wonder. With each step

towards the departure gate, I felt the weight of expectation and the promise of adventure propelling me forward into the unknown.

However, traveling can also inevitably bring forth a myriad of challenges and obstacles, from missed flights and language barriers to cultural misunderstandings and unforeseen emergencies. These trials test the mettle of travelers, pushing them beyond their comfort zones and into the realm of resilience. The importance of adaptability in overcoming adversity cannot be overstated. In the face of setbacks, travelers must summon the strength to persevere, embracing uncertainty with courage and determination. Flexibility and resourcefulness become invaluable assets, allowing people to navigate unfamiliar terrain and find creative solutions to unforeseen challenges.

During backpacking trips, travelers can often encounter a series of unexpected setbacks that test their resilience in ways they never could have imagined. From getting lost in unfamiliar cities to grappling with language barriers and transportation mishaps, each obstacle presents a new opportunity for growth. Through perseverance and adaptability, such brave travelers emerge from each challenge stronger and more resilient than before, armed with the knowledge that every setback is an opportunity for growth.

In one particularly memorable instance, my family and I found ourselves stranded in a remote village after missing the last train of the day. With no available accommodations in sight, we had no choice but to improvise, spending the night in a local hostel and relying on the kindness of strangers to guide us on our journey.

Travel therefore serves as a catalyst for self-reflection and introspection, providing people with the space and freedom to explore their innermost thoughts and emotions. Removed from the familiar routines and distractions of daily life, travelers are encouraged to confront their fears, aspirations, and beliefs, fostering a deeper understanding of themselves and their place in the world. The opportunities for personal growth and development that arise from travel experiences are boundless. Whether embarking on a solo adventure or navigating unfamiliar cultures with companions, travelers are constantly challenged to step outside their comfort zones and embrace the unknown. These challenges spark a process of self-discovery, empowering individuals to cultivate resilience, adaptability, and empathy in the face of adversity.

Through their own travels, people have discovered that the most profound lessons often lie beyond the beaten path. From trekking through remote mountain ranges to volunteering in underserved communities, each experience has offered them invaluable insights into the world and themselves. They have thus learned to embrace uncertainty with open arms, recognizing that growth often arises from moments of discomfort and vulnerability. Travel has subsequently taught them to approach life with curiosity and humility, embracing the journey of self-discovery with an open heart and an adventurous spirit.

Ultimately, travel holds within it the transformative power to bridge cultural divides, cultivate resilience, and foster personal growth. Through immersion in unfamiliar landscapes and encounters with diverse cultures, travelers embark on a journey of self-discovery that transcends geographical boundaries. Embracing new experiences and embarking on journeys, both physical and metaphorical, is essential for personal development and fulfillment. By venturing beyond the confines of familiarity, individuals open themselves up to a world of

possibilities, enriching their lives with invaluable experiences and insights. As one reflects on the journey of travel and self-discovery, one should remember that the path forward is not always clear, but it is in the journey itself that one can find meaning and purpose.

Humans should embrace the unknown with courage and curiosity, for it is through exploration and introspection that we uncover the true depths of our humanity. So, whether you find yourself traversing distant landscapes or navigating the complexities of your innermost thoughts, may you embark on the journey of a lifetime with an open heart and an unwavering spirit of adventure!

These thoughts have been emerging from the depths of my open heart! I feel relieved! I feel the power of an unexpected catharsis! Thank you!

Words of Wisdom

*Elev: Asiminicesei Mădălina-Elena,
Prof. Tănase Anamaria,
Colegiul Tehnic „Gheorghe Asachi” Botoșani*

Words are whispers, soft yet strong,
Echoes that guide us when roads seem long.
They shape our dreams, they light our way,
A spark in darkness, a voice that stays.

They tell us to rise when we stumble and fall,
To stand for the truth, to listen, to call.
To cherish the moments, to learn from the past,
To hold onto love, for only it lasts.

In pages once written, in voices now still,
In stories that linger beyond human will,
Wisdom is waiting, like stars in the night,
Silent, yet burning, forever in sight.

And when we are gone, when time moves ahead,
Not wealth, not power, not words left unsaid
But those we have spoken, those honest and true,
Will stay in the hearts of the ones that we knew.

Get up and fight

*Elev: Brândușe Denis Valentin,
Prof. Ancuța Lorina Antonela,
Școala Gimnazială „Elena Farago” Craiova, Dolj*

Many people are inclined to give up a task, objective or activity whenever they do not immediately feel comfortable or like they're any good. People who give up too quickly because they feel invalidated or feel they'll never get better, WILL never get better.

Other people might seem more talented, but in reality that "talent" only gets you so far. When people think of "talent" they usually picture the meaning of superiority or a natural gift of just being better. But that's not talent. Talent is not reserved to an individual group of people who are just born with it, talent actually means perseverance, talent isn't the gift of being good, it's the gift of being able to become better and evolve through your own hard work.

The legendary actor and martial artist Bruce Lee had minimal and brief martial arts training but became a legendary fighter who even has his own Kung Fu based martial art. How did he become so good in such a short time? Was he just good? No. Bruce Lee picked up Kung Fu at the age of 16 because he used to live in a bad neighbourhood and wanted to make sure he could protect his family. Bruce Lee trained in that short amount of time as long as others would in their whole lives. He was able to beat and humiliate martial artists who had as many years of experience as he had years of living. He once said "I don't fear a man who has practiced a thousand kicks once, but I fear a man who has practiced one kick a thousand times".

Another example is Alex Pereira. He picked up kickboxing when he was young, but due to living in Brazil, he didn't have many opportunities, so he was forced to give up kickboxing tournaments to work as a mechanic. After giving up on his dreams, Pereira became addicted to alcohol and lived miserably, he recalls sometimes not having enough money to buy his children diapers.

That was until a former kickboxing rival Israel Adesanya who had freshly become a champion called Pereira out on an interview one day, "Yeah, that guy beat me up twice, but right now, he's a nobody probably sitting at a bar somewhere in Brazil and getting drunk".

When Pereira heard this, it made him pick his fighting career up again, this time in mixed martial arts.

This time he didn't give up and kept fighting, he won multiple tournaments until eventually, 2 years later, at the age of 33, which was old for a fighter of his level, he got accepted into the ultimate fighting championship, where he defeated Israel Adesanya, the champion who mocked him, and took his belt.

All that because he got up even though he had previously given up.

Some shorter examples are:

Charles Oliveira, when he was a kid, was diagnosed with a terrible illness and was told he would never walk again. He is now one of the greatest fighters in the world and an ex ultimate fighting championship champion.

Angel Di Maria came from a modest family that was situated somewhere in the more unfortunate parts of Argentina. A family so modest in fact that at 17, his father gave him a choice: Start working to help the family, or pursue his football dreams.

He chose football, but his father told him if he didn't get a professional contract by 18, he would still have to work. Even though he was one of the worst players there, he trained so much that by 18, he got the contract and is now a football legend.

Romelu Lukaku lived in poverty, he never knew if he would get to eat every night when he got back home. When he was a teenager he asked his father what's the earliest he could possibly get a football contract, his father said it would be impossible to get one while he was still a minor. But Lukaku worked so hard that by 16 he was a player for the best team in Belgium while most of his other teammates were 10 or more years older than him.

In an interview he once said "My first world cup match I played with anger, anger for my family's condition and suffering, angry for the rats that were always in our apartment growing up. I knew what I wanted; I wanted to be the best. Not great, not excellent, the best."

These are just a few examples. Many people, who did not have a chance to become as famous as for us to know anything about them, kept fighting the same battles. Some have won, others have not. But the important thing is to, at least, give it a try.

Do not let faith decide for you. Have the courage and determination to overpass all the obstacles that might appear along the way and rise above it all.

Keep fighting

Let's be vocal about better choices

*Elev: Ifrim Mario,
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As individuals, we all have the power to make a positive impact on the world around us. One of the simplest ways we can do this is by adopting a more environmentally friendly lifestyle. This can include things like reducing our energy usage, using public transportation, and reducing our waste. By doing so, we not only help to protect our planet, but we also set an example for others to follow. In this essay, we will explore the theme "Don't be mean, be green," and how we can set an example for others to follow.

First and foremost, it's important to understand the impact that our actions have on the environment. Every time we use energy, we are contributing to greenhouse gas emissions, which contribute to climate change. Every time we throw something away, we are adding to the growing pile of waste that is polluting our oceans and landfills. By understanding the consequences of our actions, we can begin to make more informed choices about how we live our lives.

One way we can set an example for others is by making small changes to our daily routine. For example, we can make an effort to turn off lights and electronics when we're not using them. We can also choose to walk or bike to our destinations instead of driving, or use public transportation if it's available. By doing these things, we not only reduce our carbon footprint but also demonstrate to others that it's possible to live a more sustainable lifestyle.

Another way we can set an example is by reducing our waste. This can involve things like using reusable bags and water bottles, composting our food scraps, and buying products with minimal packaging. By doing so, we not only reduce our own waste but also show others that it's possible to live a more minimalist lifestyle.

It's also important to be vocal about our choices and encourage others to join us in our efforts. This can involve talking to friends and family about the importance of sustainability, sharing tips and tricks for reducing waste, and participating in community events and initiatives. By being a positive influence in our communities, we can inspire others to make changes in their own lives and help to create a more sustainable world for future generations.

In conclusion, setting an example for others by adopting an environmentally friendly lifestyle is one of the simplest and most effective ways we can make a positive impact on the world around us. By making small changes to our daily routine, reducing our waste, and encouraging others to join us, we can create a ripple effect that leads to a more sustainable future. So let's remember the theme "Don't be mean, be green" and work together to create a world that is healthier and more vibrant for all.

The Difference

*Elev: Tănăsie Daria Gabriela,
Prof. Ancuța Lorina Antonela,
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This is not an easy thing to write about. There are so many things that I could choose from, that I don't know which one I should hold my breath for and ponder.

Actually, now that I think about it better, the one thing I would really like change in this whole world, is mankind.

Let me explain myself.

Firstly, humans are the cause of almost everything bad that has arisen so far: from climate change and cutting trees to shattering worldwide disputes. If I had the power to change the people, I would make them nicer, kinder and smarter.

Although it is true that not all people are bad, I believe we can all agree that most of them are not the best versions of themselves.

Secondly, let's take a class of students for example. Some of them are people of the best quality and some of them are not. Because of that, the probability of fights between them will increase and so the environment will become more tense and stressful for both sides. Now, imagine that all the students are nice and respect one another. The class will lack stress and will be a better space for the students to grow and develop in mind, in body and in heart. I personally prefer the latter.

So, to sum up everything I have considered putting into words, the one thing I would change in this entire world are the human beings that live in it.

The Power of Wisdom

*Elev: Anghel Maria Daria,
Prof. Dorobanțu Andreea Mădălina,
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Words of wisdom, soft and clear,
Fall like rain when skies are near.
They come with age, or sudden pain,
In loss, in love, in quiet gain.

They say “You should be brave”,
“To face fear and not misbehave”
So listen carefully, and let them grow,
In every yes, in every no.

“You should be good with the others,
And have lots of brothers.”
They whisper to those who seek,
Not loud in voice, but strong to keep.

Wisdom of a Feathered Cusp

*Elev: Călugăreanu Tabitha,
Prof. Dorobanțu Andreea Mădălina,
Colegiul Național „Mihai Viteazul” Ploiești, Prahova*

Was it morning, early dawn
When three beaks curiously rose
In wait for all world's warmth,
From their nest so high above.

One of them was slightly blunt
And its feet were tangled up.
The storkling's eyes were slightly closed
And its feathers, still not grown.

Up and down as they all jump
Reaching for their mother's prize
Little one is left behind.
Suddenly, the day has stopped.

In a dance of cold survival,
Mother's beak shoves bird around -
The others are safe and sound.
What confusion? What despair?
For the stork it's all that matters:
Bigger ones to once fly out.

On the edge of twigs and hay,
Mother bird pushes around.
Little stork stands not one chance...
Oh, but how tall is the sky!
Look at how so many fly!

Towering towards the ground
On its own to be at last
Was it morning, early dawn
When the three beaks
Were not anymore.

Wise Sayings in The Anglo-Saxon World

*Elev: Dumitrescu Corina,
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The Anglo-Saxons, who lived in England between the 5th and 11th centuries, developed a unique culture shaped by war, loyalty, religion, and the struggles of daily life. In their world, wisdom was not about philosophy or intellectual achievement. Instead, it was a practical, lived experience, something that helped people survive, lead, and behave with dignity. Their “words of wisdom” were short, powerful statements that expressed essential values such as courage, self-control, and loyalty. These words formed the moral foundation of Anglo-Saxon society.

To be considered wise in Anglo-Saxon culture meant more than just being clever or educated. Wisdom was deeply connected to behavior. A wise person was expected to act honorably, speak carefully, stay calm in difficult situations, and show strength in the face of danger. Traits like discipline, loyalty, and resilience were seen as signs of true wisdom. The ideal man was not only brave in battle but also thoughtful, controlled, and respectful of the community’s values.

One of the most important ideas in Anglo-Saxon thinking was the concept of fate. People believed that many things in life were outside their control, but they could choose how to respond. Accepting one’s destiny with courage was a sign of strength and wisdom. For the Anglo-Saxons, it was not shameful to die, but it was shameful to run away from one’s responsibilities or break an oath. “Words of wisdom” often reflected this way of thinking, encouraging people to live with honor, no matter how difficult life became.

Wisdom in this culture was mainly passed down through verbal tradition. Most people could not read or write, so they learned through listening, especially to the elders, warriors, or community leaders. These respected figures would often share life lessons through simple but meaningful sayings. These sayings were easy to remember and were used to teach values from generation to generation. For example, a phrase like “A man must hold his word” carried deep meaning- it emphasized the importance of loyalty and keeping promises.

Although some of these ideas appear in Anglo-Saxon poetry, they were not limited to literature. Wisdom was part of everyday life. People learned it in their homes, in battle, around the fire, or in the king’s hall. It was not something to be studied but something to be practiced. It helped people know how to deal with grief, how to be brave, how to treat others, and how to lead.

Several key values were repeated again and again in Anglo-Saxon wisdom. One of the most important was loyalty- especially to one’s leader, family, or tribe. To break a promise or betray your people was one of the worst things someone could do. Another major value was courage. Life was full of danger- wars, diseases, and natural disasters- and a wise person needed to face these things bravely. Self-control was also a sign of wisdom: someone who lost their

temper or panicked was seen as weak. A wise man was expected to be calm and focused, even in the most difficult situations.

As time went on, Christianity became more important in Anglo-Saxon life. After the 7th century, the old pagan beliefs started to mix with Christian ideas. This changed the way people thought about wisdom. New values such as humility, forgiveness, and faith in God became part of the moral code. Even so, many of the old ideas remained. Wisdom was still closely connected to behavior- how you lived your life, how you treated others, and how you accepted the challenges given to you. In Christian Anglo-Saxon texts, wisdom often included preparing the soul for the afterlife, while still honoring values like bravery and loyalty.

The wisdom of the Anglo-Saxons did not disappear after their culture ended. In fact, many of their ideas still influence English-speaking societies today. We can see it in the language itself- in common proverbs like “Don’t make promises you can’t keep” or “Stand your ground”, sayings that reflect the same focus on loyalty, responsibility, and strength. These values also appear in Western ideas about leadership, hard work, and personal responsibility.

Today, when we think of wisdom, we might imagine a quiet thinker or a philosopher. But for the Anglo-Saxons, the wise person was active. He was a warrior, a leader, a protector, someone who chose to live with honor and faced difficulties with courage. Their world was different from ours, but their values continue to inspire. In conclusion, the Anglo-Saxon idea of wisdom was simple, practical, and deeply tied to how a person lived. Their “words of wisdom” were real tools for surviving and thriving in a hard world. These words helped people remember what mattered: loyalty, honor, bravery, and respect. Even today, long after their time has passed, we can still learn from their code of life and understand that wisdom is not only about knowing the right thing, but having the strength to do it.

Every View, a Story

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From crowded cities to silent shores
We forever explore,
The world's wonders, old and new
And we appreciate every view.

Through winding paths and magical nights
We are astonished by the sights,
And we enjoy our flights
Through the ski's heights.

Tall mountains and green valleys,
Make us walk on all alleys.
Fragrant flowers and blue butterflies,
Show us how the summer flies.

The Last Letter from Oxford

*Elev: Jarnea Justin Ioan,
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When I was selected for a student exchange program in England, I was very excited because I had never been to the UK before, and therefore, I was curious about how the people from there speak, what they ate, are they as polite as people say they are and how much does their culture mean to them.

I was a quiet and curious teenager, always asking questions and paying attention to the little things around me. I loved reading and writing, because they helped me escape reality. This exchange program felt like more than just a trip or a holiday, it felt like the start of a story that I had been waiting to live and one that will change the way I see literature.

I was assigned to a small town called Kennington, very close to Oxford, just a few kilometers away. It was a quiet town, that had lots of narrow streets, small shops and beautiful cafes. My host family was kind, and they lived in a big, old gothic house near a forest that was next to the town. "The house has been in the family for generations," Mrs. Blackwood explained as the oak door groaned open, releasing the smell of old books and furniture polish. "It creaks sometimes, but don't let it frighten you. Old houses speak in their own way."

I was staying in the attic, a small and warm room that had only a wooden bed, a small desk to rest my glasses on and a bookshelf. At night, the shadows on the wall created distorted figures that freaked me out at first, but I eventually got used to them and could sleep in peace.

One evening, after finishing my homework, I looked at the bookshelf next to the bed. Most books were really dusty and damaged. I picked up an old book by George Orwell, though I don't remember the name of it. When I opened it, something fell out of it, a piece of folded paper. It was a letter, written in cursive and beautiful handwriting, signed "G.O."

The letter said something strange, it talked about "a story that was never published," and ended with a sentence that stayed in my mind ever since: "Where the stone lion lies, the next word will be seen" At first, I didn't understand what it meant, but I remembered seeing a statue of a sleeping lion near the church in the center of the town.

The next day, after school, I went there. I walked behind the statue and looked around for a while. There was a weird-looking stone in the wall. I took it off carefully, and behind it I found a wooden box. Inside, there was another letter, more like a poem, and again signed "G.O.". It said something about imagination and places that are between the real world and the world of books, like a portal between worlds.

I still don't know who put those letters there. Maybe it was part of a game or a prank. Maybe I wasn't the first one to find them. But for a moment, it felt like I was inside a story. It was the first time I had ever been so touched by English literature, not just in books, but in the real world. It made me feel like I was the main character in somebody's story or that I possess some kind of power.

That's what I will always remember about Kennington. Not just the people or the town itself, but that strange moment when I found something completely unexpected, something that made me believe that fiction and reality sometimes meet if you're curious enough to look.

Words of Wisdom

*Elev: Mănescu Carmen-Alexandra,
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Whispers flowing through the air,
From wrinkled lips and shiny silver hair,
With words kissing the earth and sky,
Falling like tears on the youth's mind.

Not all wisdom can be seen,
Sometimes found in quiet grace,
In laughter shining across the face,
Or a steady light that can't be seen.

Through joy and pain, through storm and still,
Words can be the one to help,
“Speak with care, but listen more,”
And wisdom walk the path with you.

A Cup of Tea in London

*Elev: Olteanu Andra Maria,
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A rainy lunch period roughly corresponds with the timing of the afternoon in London. There, the rain has a strange tendency to come down in almost invisible droplets that gently mist all over the roads, transforming everything to metallic hues. I aimlessly strolled through the narrow streets of Covent Garden in search of a peaceful location, or perhaps some tea.

While looking for tea, right between two bookstores, I noticed a dusty sign scribbled with “Eleanor’s Teas – Est. 1889” in bright pink letters. In some shape or form, the place felt friendly. Upon entering, the sound of the small bell placed there rang majestically.

The sweet scent of dusty tins and porcelain teapots filled the air along with old books. It looked as if wooden shelves had been stacked with a treasure trove. I was met by an elderly woman with her hair tightly wrapped up in a silver hair band. A small smile crept over her lips the moment she spotted me.

“First time here, dear?” her ridiculously warm voice inquired.

Nodding my head seemed to work as confirmation and she continued to say, “Then you must try the house blend,” before disappearing behind some flimsy curtain. She came back holding a delicate cup and saucer, almost a minute later.

When I took my first sip, I found an envelope underneath the saucer. No one had written anything on it. With a puzzling curiosity, I opened the envelope. My eyes were immediately caught by the letter, written in a flowing script:

"To the one who finds this:

I once sat in this very shop, full of dreams and doubts. I was 18, unsure of everything. I came here to escape, to think. And this cup of tea helped me breathe again.

I don’t know who you are, but I hope this moment brings you peace. Whatever worries you carry, let them go. Trust the journey.

– Eleanor, 1954"

After reading the letter twice, I noticed that I was touched in a way I couldn't explain through words. I did not know who she was but something made me feel as though she was addressing me.

The woman at the counter offered a knowing smile.

“She left dozens of those,” she said. “Eleanor used to write letters to strangers. She thought a cup of tea had the potential to uplift someone’s spirits. And sometimes, it did.”

I started soaking in the flavors of the tea while feeling a warmth like never before. Not only was the beverage warming me, but the realization that, contrary to what I had thought, I was not the only person in this universe.

When I stepped out into the rain for the first time, the feeling was surprisingly different. Everything felt smooth and lighter, like the universe was waiting for me to exhale all the stress.

THE ANGLOPHONE WORLD

*Elev: Pitcă Andreea Maria,
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The Anglo-Saxon cultural space refers to the group of countries where the dominant spoken language is English and who have many common cultural values, as they all have been part of the British colonies a some point in their history. This sphere includes: The United Kingdom, The United States, Australia, New Zealand and Canada.

Since there are so many countries that speak English, this language has become one of the most spoken languages worldwide. Most people, while in a foreign country, as they do not know their national language, use English to communicate with others. This is because the English language is heard almost everywhere: in movies, in songs and there are also many great British or American writers known worldwide, such as Charles Dickens, Mark Twain and others.

People are also drawn to their social and cultural values, such as freedom and identity. They also believe that one's success is made through a lot of work. A very important part of their culture is multiculturalism. They are very tolerant of other people and accept diversity.

The Anglo-Saxons are influential with their cinematography, literature and music. There are many great films of different genres made by them and when we think of a certain musical genre, such as rock, you must be thinking of an American band first. As for literature, some of the best-selling books were written by English writers, for example: "Harry Potter" and "Lord of the Rings".

They also offer great education, as they have some of the best universities in the world, such as Oxford and Cambridge, in the United Kingdom, and Harvard and MIT, in the United States. These universities have so many great opportunities, such as important experiments and studies, but also big competitions in different fields.

The English and the American people have many traditions that almost everyone, even though their culture is very different, have heard of, such as drinking tea at 5 o'clock, Thanksgiving, and many others. Another influential part of their culture is their gastronomy. Everybody eats french fries, hamburgures, pancakes and many more.

The Anglo-Saxons have also been very important in the history of the world. For example, they were an important part of the two World Wars took place, they changed the economy of the world and they influenced the history of many other countries, such as India and South Africa.

In conclusion, the Anglo-Saxon cultural space is very diverse and very appreciated all around the world.

The Wisdom of the Wild

*Elev: Stoica Mara Daria Valentina,
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In the heart of a forest, where tall trees grow,
Where rivers murmur and soft winds blow,
A council of creatures, with wise advice to share,
Gathered together with stories and care.

The owl, with feathers as white as the snow,
Spoke with a voice both deep and slow:
"Patience," it hooted, "will show you the way,
For wisdom and learning will light up your day."

The fox, so clever, with its sharp eyes,
Smiled and said, "Stay quick and unseen.
Adapt to the moment and stand unafraid,
With courage, not fear, your path will be made."

The lion then roared, standing proud and tall,
"Bravery matters, in great things and small.
Defend those you love, stay strong in a fight,
Honor and courage will lead you to light."

The squirrel, so nimble, with energy bright,
Chattered, "Work hard, and things will go right.
Prepare for the future, don't waste what you find,
Perseverance leads to a life well-designed."

As morning light touched the tree branches high,
The council agreed with a satisfied sigh.
Each had a lesson, a truth to be shared,
Together they thrived, alert and prepared.

So listen, dear human, to nature's wise song,
These lessons will guide you, steady and strong.
Through patience and kindness, through courage and might,
The wisdom of nature will be your guiding light.

The royal family's controversy

*Elev: Gherla Alexia Elena,
Prof. Iaut Ionela Carmen,
Școala Gimnazială „Alexandru Ioan Cuza” Bacău*

As many of you may know, the UK has the most famous royal family at the moment. Isn't that cool? Well, for most of you it probably is, but what do British people think of it? Is it beneficial for the country?

Well, what do we know about the royals? The monarchy is the oldest form of government in the UK. The King is the UK head of state, nevertheless he remains politically neutral. Even though his power is mostly ceremonial and symbolic, he still has some official roles such as appointing a government.

Many people believe it is beneficial to have a royal family because, for example, the royal family brings tourism to the UK. A study done in 2011 found that 60% of the visitors are more likely to visit places related to the royal family. Then we can say that "Soft" power benefits UK – the King's status makes him a source of power and diplomatic influence. Next there is the idea of national unity. Supporters of the monarchy claim that it represents "a long-lasting connection with the past". The monarchs provide a focus for national unity, give a sense of stability and continuity. Also, their neutrality means The Crown can help secure smooth handovers of political power.

Studies show that over a half of the British people think it's "very" or "quite" important for the UK to have a monarchy. Despite that, there are still some people that are unsatisfied with the monarchy. For one, we can talk about the cost to taxpayers because the monarchy is supported financially by UK taxpayers. People are mad as taxes increase to cover expenses for the monarch's household, palace maintenance, etc. Some people claim that there is no place for monarchy in an equal society. Monarchy critics say the royal family is just "a symbol of privilege and inequality". Moreover, many traditional monarchies favor male heirs over female heirs, perpetuating gender inequality.

I think that having a royal family is a good thing. A lot of people complain about higher taxes, but I think that, in contrast with the income the royal family generates, taxes are irrelevant. People say it generates money for the UK, they don't receive any money. Well, this is not exactly correct. Every sale, which is made, is subject to the UK tax. These taxes also go toward the welfare of the Britons. They fund schools, health services among other things. So, the people of the UK do benefit from those sales, just not in a direct way. "Higher taxes" is usually brought up in arguments just to motivate the termination of the monarchy.

In my opinion, the UK is extremely lucky to have such a popular royal family. If our country would have such an active royal family it would be much better. It would generate a lot of income, helping Romania's economy.

The British Monarchy in Modern Diplomacy: Influence, Criticism, and Relevance

*Elev: Olariu Andrei Bogdan,
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The British Royal Family has a special place in the world, both in the UK and internationally. Many people think of the monarchy as a symbol of British history, but it actually plays a big part in diplomacy and global relationships. While royal duties often seem like formal ceremonies, the monarchy's work in international relations goes much deeper. They help connect countries, show off the UK's soft power, and even work on important issues like climate change. However, the monarchy is not without its critics, who point out its cost, political neutrality, and ties to Britain's colonial past. This essay will explore the monarchy's role in diplomacy, the challenges it faces, and how it can stay important in the future.

One of the main reasons the monarchy matters is because of its ability to bring countries together. Royal visits and public appearances aren't just fancy traditions—they help build stronger international relationships. For example, when Queen Elizabeth II visited China in 1986, it wasn't just about a friendly meeting—it helped improve trade and made the UK's relationship with China stronger. Similarly, her visit to Ireland in 2011 helped heal old wounds between the two countries. Even though royal visits can be expensive, they help the UK in the long run. In fact, royal visits in 2017 brought an extra £1.2 billion to the UK's economy. So, even though there's a high cost, the benefits of these visits often make it worthwhile.

Another big advantage is the fact that the monarchy has its ability to stay neutral in politics. Because the royal family does not take sides in elections or political parties, they can be a symbol of unity. This allows them to form good relationships with leaders from all over the world. For example, Prince William's Earthshot Prize, which focuses on solving environmental problems, has been supported by many countries because it is a non-political cause. The royal family's neutrality lets them focus on global issues without getting caught up in the politics of any other country. This shows how the monarchy can use soft diplomacy to bring people together and make a positive impact on the world.

However, staying neutral can also be tricky. During Brexit, when the UK was deciding whether to leave the European Union, some people thought the monarchy should have done more to help bring the country together. The royal family decided to stay out of it to remain neutral, but that also showed how hard it can be to balance neutrality with leadership, especially during national crises. Moving forward, the monarchy might need to find ways to get involved in important issues, without taking sides, in order to make a difference during tough times.

The monarchy also faces criticism because of its historical connections to British colonialism. Although Queen Elizabeth II has made some efforts to apologize for the effects of colonialism, many people feel that more action is needed. One way the monarchy could address this is by leading projects that support countries that were once part of the British Empire. For example, the royal family could set up a foundation that focuses on education and economic

development in these countries. Taking real steps to help these nations move forward would show that the monarchy is serious about making up for past mistakes and building stronger, more meaningful relationships.

One of the monarchy's greatest strengths is its soft power. Soft power means influencing others through trust, culture, and goodwill, instead of using force or politics. The royal family can use their popularity and public image to draw attention to big issues like climate change and mental health. Prince Harry's work on mental health awareness and Prince William's Earthshot Prize are examples of how royals can get people talking about important topics. Soft power is effective because it doesn't try to force anyone to do something; it inspires change by encouraging people to care about important issues. The monarchy's ability to use soft power makes the UK stand out on the global stage.

To stay relevant in today's world, the monarchy needs to continue to be transparent and involved in global issues. One way to do this is by publishing reports that show how royal visits and projects are helping the UK in trade, culture, and the environment. This would help people understand the positive effects of the monarchy's work. The monarchy should also keep addressing its colonial past and find ways to support countries affected by British rule. By doing this, the royal family would show they are committed to making the world a better place.

In conclusion, the British monarchy still has an important role to play in global diplomacy today. While people may criticize the monarchy for its cost, neutrality in politics, and colonial history, the monarchy's soft power and ability to bring countries together are key strengths. By continuing to adapt to the modern world, the monarchy can stay relevant and continue to make a positive impact. In my opinion, the monarchy can keep its place in diplomacy by being more transparent, addressing its past, and focusing on important global issues that affect everyone.

Even After Everything, It's Still You

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In a loud and bright flash of light, I slowly woke up. Memories started to flood my mind...

"Where am I?" I asked myself. "Who... are you?"

I looked up at the figure standing before me. He certainly wasn't human, but neither was he something entirely inhuman.

"There was a truck... on the highway... I crashed," I said, looking down at my hands, baffled by my own thoughts. "What is this place? Is this the afterlife? Are you... God?"

"Yes."

I paused, admiring the being before me. It didn't really look like a god, but it surely didn't resemble anything average from Earth either. It lacked the powerful features I imagined a god would have—more like an unfinished sketch, a being still taking shape.

"Am I dead?" I asked, my voice trembling.

"From your perspective, yes. You have died."

"..." I hesitated for a few seconds. His tone... It was so... empty.

"And what now? Is that it? I lived through hell just to be rewarded by... you?"

"No." The being paused, as if thinking. "You are not here to interact with me."

I couldn't believe my ears. Back when I was alive, I felt pain. Every lover I had eventually left, every friendship I started somehow crumbled, every good deed I tried turned against me.

I suffered all of that... just to be told it meant nothing?

I felt anger boiling within me. Whether he was God or not, I had suffered—and I deserved something for lasting so long without giving up.

"And is that it?!" I exclaimed, furious. "I lived through all of that just to die by some random truck?!"

"No."

"T-Then what?" I stammered, enraged by his lack of answers. "Will I rot in hell? Will I be greeted by the warm hands of heaven?? HAVE I DONE SOMETHING WRONG?!"

"No."

This guy... He was really pushing it at this point.

"Then what was the meaning of all of this?! Why did you let me suffer just to be told it didn't matter in the end?" Tears of pent-up anger streamed down my face.

Even God himself didn't seem to care about me.

But then, his next answer made me stop.

"I didn't do anything."

I froze, not quite understanding...

"What...?" I looked up at him, disbelief flooding my chest. All that pain... For what?

"Then... what did I just live through?! What was the point of all that worthless suffering?"

"WHAT WAS THIS?!"

I screamed in anger, my voice cracking under the weight of my rage. But instead of harsh punishment, God looked down at me with calmness.

I paused for a moment—was I finally going to get an answer? One that would explain everything? Would I finally understand why?

He slightly leaned towards me and simply said:

"Your life."

I remained frozen, no longer making a sound. I slowly fell to my knees, flabbergasted. Was this... truly all my fault?

"But it's not a bad thing," he continued, suddenly showing me flashes of happy memories.

"You may have suffered, yes. Your choices led you through pain and even into madness. But... you were born yourself and you died yourself. Even after everything you did, everything you thought you had done, every act of kindness, anger, and sin towards yourself and others... it's still you."

THE INFLUENCE OF CELTS ON BRITISH CULTURE

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The early Celts didn't really write about themselves. The only way we learned about them was through the Greeks, where they were known as Keltoi, Keltai or Galatai, and through the Romans, where they were known as Celti, Celtae and Galli.

The first mention of the Celts was made by Greek authors between 540 and 424 BC. However, the most important information came from the Romans, since their empire expanded and made direct contact with the Celts on their northern borders. Sadly, many of these texts were incomplete, as they were copied long after the events happened. Therefore, the information we have offers, at best, occasional glimpses of the Celts.

In 279 BC, the Celts were known to have looted Delphi, the sacred Greek site. Strabo, a Greek geographer, recorded a meeting between the Celts and Alexander the Great in 335 BC, in the Balkans.

The Celts settled in Britain during the Iron Age. They lived there for so long that their influence is still visible in British civilization.

For example, in clothing. During Celtic times, their clothes were made of wool—bright and colorful. Today, traditional British fabrics like Tweed, Cashmere, Flannel, Gabardine, and Corduroy are made from wool or cotton! British traditional clothes are also quite colorful, just like the ancient Celtic ones.

Regarding food, the Celts relied on wildlife. Their diet consisted of cereals, cheeses, eggs, and meat from hunting. One traditional British dish, Yorkshire pudding, uses these simple ingredients—it is made only with eggs, flour, and milk or water.

When comparing Celtic architecture to modern British architecture, we can see that the Celtic style was preserved over the years, although slightly altered. Original Celtic designs used sharp lines and heavy detailing on relatively small structures. Today, British architecture features larger structures but retains the same sharp edges and heavy details.

The Celtic people were not the only influence on British culture. Religion was also a major factor, as in many other cultures. For example, the days of the week are named after celestial bodies and gods:

- Sunday comes from the sun – Dies Solis in Latin, later Sunnon-dagaz in Old Germanic.
- Monday is dedicated to the moon – Dies Lunae in Latin and Monandæg in Old English.
- Tuesday was originally named after Mars, the Roman god of war (Dies Martis). In English, it honors the Germanic god Tiu (Tiwesdæg → Tuesday).
- Wednesday was named after the god Woden, originally Woden's day.

- Thursday honors the god of thunder: Jupiter (Dies Iovis in Latin), but became Thor's day in Germanic mythology.

- Friday comes from Dies Veneris (Latin), dedicated to Venus, goddess of love.

- Saturday is named after Saturn (Dies Saturni), the Roman god of fun and feasting.

British culture is not only rich but also full of unique traditions that attract people worldwide.

One example is the Cheese Rolling Festival. This tradition is so old that its exact origins are unknown—it is believed to date back even before Roman times! In this event, a 9lb Double Gloucester cheese is rolled down a hill, and participants race after it. Although injuries sometimes happen, people are so proud of this tradition that they refuse to give it up!

Britain probably has one of the richest cultures in the world, and even a thousand words would not be enough to describe it all.

Iron & Patience

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In a small village surrounded by thick forests and hills, there lived an old blacksmith named Aelfric. His hands were full of scars but strong and his forge used to burn from dawn till dusk. Everyone said he could shape iron perfectly.

One day, a proud and impatient boy named Leof came to him.

“I want to learn to be a great blacksmith,” he said. “Teach me your secret!”

Aelfric nodded and said, “Take your time and start by watching!”

For two weeks Leof only swept the floor and carried coal. “When will I touch the hammer?” he asked angrily.

“When your hands are ready,” Aelfric replied calmly.

One morning, Aelfric gave him a piece of raw iron. “Shape this into a sword,” he said.

Leof hit the metal fast and hard but it cracked. Then, he tried again and again but he failed.

After a while, frustrated, he shouted, “What am I doing wrong?”

Aelfric patted him on his shoulder and said, “You strike with strength, but not with care. A sword is not made by force but by fire, time and wisdom.”

Thus, Leof learnt the blacksmith’s secret.

The Seer's Gift

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A long time ago, a young prince named Edric was about to become king of Mercia. It is said that he was brave in battles but proud and short-tempered.

An old seer came to him before the coronation and offered him a grey stone with runes carved into it.

“This stone holds ancient words of wisdom,” the seer said. “Keep it close to you when you have to make hard choices.”

Edric laughed and asked inquisitively “What can a rock teach me?”

Still, he kept the stone in his pocket.

Over the following years, he faced many trials, wars, hunger as well as betrayal. Each time, he used to touch the stone's smooth surface and remembered the old seer's words: “Wait, think and listen!”

One day, a rival king offered peace, but Edric's warriors demanded war. Edric held the stone in silence.

Finally, he said, “Wisdom does not shout. It whispers. And today, it whispers peace.”

He accepted the truce and saved his people.

The Broken Promise

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Oswin had always been a proud young nobleman, respected for his skill with the sword and his promises of bravery.

One autumn evening, the chief of the village gave him an important job: to guard a secret forest path that led to the food stores, a path that only a few trusted knew of. "Guard it well," he said. "It must not fall into the wrong hands."

But Oswin, young and eager to impress Elswyth, was torn between duty and desire. That night, as the cold winds were howling and the village was quiet, Oswin made a decision. He left his post, sneaking away to meet Elswyth under the stars. They walked and talked, and he forgot his promise to guard the path.

The next morning, the village was in noise and confusion. Criminals had discovered the path, and had broken into the food stores. The villagers were extremely angry and Oswin knew he would be blamed. He rushed back to the village, but when he arrived, he saw the damage: bags of grain and products that were meant to last through the winter were gone.

The villagers called for a meeting. Oswin stood before them He could have lied and said that the criminals had come unexpectedly, but instead, he spoke the truth.

"I broke my promise," he confessed. "I left my post to be with Elswyth and the village paid the price. I am so sorry."

The villagers looked at him silently. After a long pause, the chief spoke.

"You broke a serious promise," he said. "But you chose honesty over pride. That takes more courage than any sword."

Oswin was forgiven and learnt that true honor was not in making promises but in keeping them. Telling the truth was the greatest act of courage.

A Symbol of Unity and Heritage

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The British coat of arms is one of the most recognizable symbols of monarchy, authority, and national heritage in the United Kingdom. Rich with symbolism and steeped in centuries of history, it represents not only the British monarchy but also the unity and traditions of the nations that make up the UK: England, Scotland, Northern Ireland, and historically, Wales. At the heart of the Royal Coat of Arms is a shield divided into quarters. The first and fourth quarters show three golden lions on a red field, representing England. The second quarter contains a red lion rampant on a gold field for Scotland, while the third displays a gold harp on a blue field for Ireland. Although Wales is not directly represented in the main shield due to its historic status as a principality, the Red Dragon of Wales appears in separate royal symbols and emblems. Flanking the shield are two powerful supporters: the English lion on the left and the Scottish unicorn on the right. The lion, crowned and fierce, represents courage and strength. The unicorn, chained due to medieval beliefs that it could only be tamed by a virgin, stands for purity and power. Their presence together emphasizes the unity between England and Scotland under the crown. Above the shield sits the royal helmet and crown, topped with a lion standing guard.

The motto above the crown, “Dieu et mon droit” (French for “God and my right”), refers to the divine right of the monarch to govern. This motto has been used by English and later British monarchs since the reign of King Henry V in the 15th century. Around the shield is the Order of the Garter’s motto: “Honi soit qui mal y pense,” meaning “Shame on him who thinks evil of it,” which reflects the honor and chivalry of the most senior order of knighthood in Britain. Beyond its decorative and ceremonial value, the coat of arms has practical uses. It appears in British passports, on official government documents, and in courtrooms to signify the authority of the Crown. Each part of the coat of arms tells a story about the development of the United Kingdom and its institutions. The design changes slightly depending on whether it is being used in England, Scotland, or by members of the Royal Family. For example, in the Scottish version, the lion and unicorn switch sides, and a different crown and motto appear to reflect Scottish traditions. The British coat of arms is more than a symbol of monarchy—it is a living emblem of history, unity, and identity. It connects the present with the past, reminding citizens of their shared legacy and the principles of governance, justice, and duty. While modern Britain is a multicultural democracy, the coat of arms continues to serve as a unifying national symbol, bridging centuries of royal heritage with the contemporary values of the United Kingdom.

Holidays

What do the British do?

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Holidays are periods of leisure and recreation time spent away from home or work. How British people holiday with their families has changed radically over time and is very much connected to social history.

In Britain, holidays began as religious festivals – holy days. Hundreds of years ago, people travelled for a variety of reasons but not for holidays as we know them today. Holidays based around religious festivals such as Christmas, Easter and the saints' days were an opportunity for people to meet together and celebrate. These festivals usually began with a church service and the rest of the day would be spent with feasting, music, parades, dancing and drinking. They were special days to look forward to and enjoy.

Whilst certain people had always travelled, it was not common across all social classes. For example, pilgrims travelled to worship at holy Christian sites, such as Canterbury. The nobility and their households regularly travelled to London from their country houses and castles. Later, wealthier people would have travelled to stay with family members or friends who had moved to other parts of the country. However, most people couldn't take more than one or two days away from their work on the land, travelling was slow, and why would they need to travel?

The idea of going to the seaside grew out of the eighteenth century theory that seawater was good for you. Sea bathing as a treatment was thought to be most effective in the mornings, so that left the rest of the day to fill. Halls, theatres and libraries were soon built in seaside towns to entertain their visitors. However, although coastal resorts grew in popularity, it was only people from the upper social classes who had the time and money to visit them initially. The Industrial Revolution and the new railway network that spread across Britain in the 1840s, enabled the middle classes to take daytrips to seaside towns around the coast. Later, seaside towns became popular not only for their fresh air but also for their holiday entertainment. Towns such as Blackpool opened piers which attracted people from towns across the north west of England, particularly the Lancashire cotton workers.

During the twentieth century, the concept of holidays evolved further. The right to holiday leave became a legal right for workers in 1939, and by 1975 most workers had two weeks or more paid holiday. After the Second World War and up until the 1970s, the holiday camp industry thrived. Thousands of families enjoyed affordable holidays at resorts such as Minehead and Skegness. In 1975, 40 million British people travelled to the British seaside. Car ownership enabled people to travel independently to the coast and led to an increase in camping and caravan holidays. The value of spending quality time as a family away from home was recognised and encouraged. Things continued to evolve and by the late 1970s, British people

were actually found to be spending more on overseas holidays than they were on British seaside holidays.

Thoughts of traditional British summer holidays evoke images of caravan sites, beach huts, bed and breakfast accommodation, amusement arcades, rainy days, buckets and spades, deck chairs, windbreaks, fish and chips and windswept sandy beaches.

Over the last 50 years, holidays have changed considerably. The most popular holiday destinations for British people now include Spain, France, Greece and the USA. Package holidays now attract many British people to fly to warmer countries, to enjoy seaside holidays abroad.

However, despite Britain's unpredictable weather, British beaches are still very popular, particularly during the summer months. Many of them have beautiful golden sand, impressive pebbles or tall cliffs. Children in particular love to play on the beach, whatever the weather. It is not uncommon for children to wear waterproof coats and Wellington boots to protect themselves from the elements.

Life of a Child

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The life of a child is a beautiful and innocent journey filled with joy, discovery, and growth. Childhood is often described as the best and most carefree time in a person's life, and for good reason. It is a stage where the world seems magical, every day brings something new, and the smallest things can bring the greatest happiness. The life of a child is not only about playing and laughing, but also about learning, forming relationships, and developing the values that will shape the adult to come.

From the very beginning, a child depends on their family for love, care, and guidance. Parents and caregivers are the first teachers in a child's life. Through them, children learn how to speak, behave, and interact with the world. These early years are critical, as a child's brain is developing rapidly, and their experiences during this time will deeply influence their personality and future. A warm, supportive environment helps a child feel secure and confident, encouraging curiosity and creativity.

Education also plays a major role in the life of a child. School is not just a place for academic learning, but also a social space where children make friends, learn to work in teams, and begin to understand the rules of society. Teachers become important figures in a child's development, offering not only knowledge but also emotional support and encouragement. The excitement of learning to read, solving math problems, or exploring science helps children to grow intellectually and emotionally.

Play is another essential part of childhood. Through games and imagination, children explore the world around them. Playing with others teaches cooperation, patience, and problem-solving skills. Whether it's running in the park, building with blocks, or role-playing with dolls or action figures, play helps children understand themselves and others. It also provides a healthy outlet for energy and emotions.

However, not all children experience a happy and safe childhood. Sadly, many face challenges such as poverty, violence, neglect, or lack of access to education and healthcare. These hardships can leave deep scars and affect a child's ability to trust, learn, and grow into a confident adult. Society has a responsibility to protect children and ensure that they have access to everything they need to thrive: love, safety, education, and opportunities.

In conclusion, the life of a child is a precious and delicate time. It is the foundation on which the future is built. A happy childhood filled with love, learning, and play leads to strong, kind, and successful adults. We must cherish and protect this special stage of life, because every child deserves the chance to grow up in a world that supports and values them.

As children grow, they begin to form their own identity. They discover their likes and dislikes, build dreams for the future, and start to understand the world beyond their home and school. This stage is full of questions—about life, people, and even difficult topics like fairness

or loss. It is important that adults listen to children and help them find answers in a kind and honest way. Open communication helps children feel valued and understood, and it gives them the courage to speak up and express their feelings.

Another important part of a child's life is emotional development. Children experience a wide range of emotions, sometimes without fully understanding them. They may feel joy, fear, anger, sadness, or jealousy. Learning to deal with these emotions is not always easy, which is why emotional support is so important. When adults teach children how to manage their feelings and resolve conflicts in a healthy way, they are helping them build emotional intelligence—a skill that will benefit them for life.

Family traditions and cultural background also shape a child's world. Celebrations, language, food, and values passed down through generations help children feel a sense of identity and belonging. Being proud of who they are and where they come from gives children confidence and respect for others' differences. Diversity enriches childhood and teaches children to appreciate people from all walks of life.

Technology and media now play a growing role in childhood. While digital tools can offer fun and learning, they also bring risks such as screen addiction or exposure to harmful content. It is essential that parents and teachers guide children in using technology responsibly. Real-life experiences, like playing outside or reading books, should still be a big part of every child's day.

Finally, we must remember that childhood is short, and each moment matters. The love, attention, and time we give to children today shape the adults of tomorrow. A child who feels loved, supported, and encouraged will grow up with confidence and empathy. As a society, we should always invest in children's well-being, because they are not just our future—they are our present.

Houses of Parliament

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The UK Parliament has two Houses that work on behalf of UK citizens to check and challenge the work of Government, make and shape effective laws, and debate/make decisions on the big issues of the day.

The Parliament Houses, more formally referred to as the Palace of Westminster, are an internationally famous icon of democracy, government, and British heritage. Located in Westminster, London, this marvel of architecture is where the House of Commons and the House of Lords, the United Kingdom's two Houses of Parliament, convene. Its political significance, architectural beauty, and storied past make it one of the globe's most iconic landmarks.

The Palace of Westminster is renowned for its intricate design and iconic landmarks. It stretches along the River Thames and houses more than 1,100 rooms, 100 staircases, and over three miles of corridors. Its skyline is overseen by two prominent towers: the Elizabeth Tower, also called Big Ben (even though this is in fact the name of the bell inside the tower), and the Victoria Tower, which houses precious parliamentary records.

One of the oldest surviving parts of the complex is Westminster Hall, which dates back to 1097 and is notable for its vast wooden roof and its connection with great trials, including those of Sir Thomas More and King Charles I.

House of Commons officially elected lower house of the bicameral British Parliament. Although technically the lower chamber, the House of Commons actually predominates the House of Lords, and "Parliament" is often used as a synonym for the House of Commons.

The origins of the House of Commons date to the latter half of the 13th century, when landholders and other property owners in the towns and counties began sending representatives to Parliament to present grievances and petitions to the king and to secure commitments to the payment of taxes. The knights' and burgesses' representatives (i.e., the commons) in the 14th century began to sit in a separate chamber, or "house," from that used by the nobility and higher clergy (i.e., the lords).

The House of Commons is the effective legislative authority in Great Britain. It alone has the right to impose taxes and to vote money to, or withhold it from, the various public departments and services.

House of Lords, Great Britain's bicameral legislature's upper house. Going back to the 11th century when Anglo-Saxon kings received advice from religious officials and the king's ministers that formed witan (councils), it emerged as an independent branch of Parliament during the 13th and 14th centuries. It now comprises the following: (1) the Lords Spiritual, that is, the archbishops of Canterbury and York and the bishops of Durham, London, and Winchester, and 21 other bishops who hold sees in England, (2) since November 1999, 92

hereditary peers, (3) since January 1980, all life peers and peeresses under the Life Peerages Act of 1958. The fourth element, the Law Lords, comprising the judges of the Supreme Court of Judicature (the Court of Appeal and the High Court of Justice), acted as Britain's final court of appeal (except for Scottish criminal cases) until 2009, when the Law Lords were abolished and the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom was created. The number of people who qualify to sit in the House of Lords is more than 670.

The authority of the modern House of Lords is extremely limited—necessarily, as the permanent and substantial majority enjoyed there by the Conservative Party would otherwise be incompatible with the principles of representative government.

The Parliament Houses are much more than a stunning architectural complex; they are the record of democratic evolution in Britain and the world. Under centuries of change and reform, the Palace of Westminster has been a powerful reminder of the enduring principles of debate, representation, and governance. As a functional political center and permanent cultural icon, it continues to inspire awe in visitors and constituents alike through beauty, history, and importance.

History of London

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A small Roman settlement called Londinium was established around AD 43, becoming an important port and commercial hub on the River Thames. Its strategic location helped it grow quickly under Roman rule, with roads, walls, and public buildings built to support a population that likely exceeded 60,000 by the 2nd century. However, after the Romans withdrew from Britain in the early 5th century, the city declined significantly.

London regained importance during the early medieval period. King Alfred the Great reoccupied and fortified the city in the late 9th century to protect it from Viking invasions. By the 11th century, it was a thriving trade and political center. The Norman Conquest in 1066 further cemented London's importance; William the Conqueror built the Tower of London to assert control, and Westminster began to grow as the seat of government.

During the Tudor and Stuart periods, London expanded rapidly in size and influence. The population surged, trade flourished, and the arts thrived, particularly during the reign of Elizabeth I. However, the 17th century also brought tragedy: the Great Plague of 1665 killed a significant portion of the population, and the Great Fire of 1666 destroyed much of the city. London was rebuilt with improved architecture and planning, including the construction of St. Paul's Cathedral by Sir Christopher Wren.

In the 18th and 19th centuries, London became the center of a growing British Empire. Industrialization and global trade helped it become one of the largest and most powerful cities in the world. With this rapid growth came challenges like overcrowding and poor sanitation. Landmark infrastructure projects, such as modern sewer systems and new bridges, improved public health and transportation.

London endured heavy bombing during World War II, especially during the Blitz of 1940–41. The city was rebuilt in the post-war era and saw waves of immigration that shaped its modern multicultural character. Today, London is a global capital known for its history, finance, culture, and diversity, continuing to evolve while preserving its rich past.

The History of London

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London, the capital city of the United Kingdom, is one of the most historic and influential cities in the world. With a history that spans over 2,000 years, London has played a central role in the development of British culture, politics

London was founded by the Romans in AD 43 and named Londinium. It quickly became an important trading port due to its location on the River Thames. The Romans built bridges, walls, and public buildings, many of which influenced the city's future development.

After the Romans left in the 5th century, the city declined but was later revived by Anglo-Saxons. In 1066, William the Conqueror invaded England and built the Tower of London, which became a royal fortress and prison. During the Middle Ages, London grew as a center of trade, and guilds and markets flourished

The Black Death in 1348 killed nearly a third of London's population. In 1666, the Great Fire of London destroyed much of the city, including St. Paul's Cathedral. This tragedy led to a major rebuilding effort, including the work of architect Sir Christopher Wren.

The most important event in London's recent history was the UK's departure from the European Union. Although the referendum on leaving the EU took place in 2016 the process took some time. The UK officially left the EU on 31st January 2022 A transition period was then established, during which final trade agreements were reached, which ended on 31st December 2020.

London expanded rapidly during the Industrial Revolution, becoming the largest city in the world by the 19th century. It was the heart of the British Empire, and innovations such as the world's first underground railway (the Tube) began here. During World War II, London was heavily bombed in the Blitz, causing massive destruction and loss of life. After the war, the city was rebuilt with modern infrastructure. In the second half of the 20th century, London became a multicultural city, with people arriving from all parts of the former empire. Greater London's population declined in the decades after the Second World War, from an estimated peak of 8.6 million in 1939 to around 6.8 million in the 1980.

London took over as a major financial centre shortly after 1795 when the Dutch Republic collapsed before the Napoleonic armies. This caused many bankers established in Amsterdam to move to London. Also, London's market-centred system grew more dominant in the 18th century.

Today, London is a global city known for its culture, finance, politics, and tourism. It is home to landmarks such as Big Ben, The Houses of Parliament, The London Eye, and Buckingham Palace. With over 300 languages spoken, it is one of the most diverse cities in the world.

From a small Roman settlement to a leading global capital, the history of London is rich and dynamic. Each period, Roman, Medieval, Industrial, and Modern, has left its mark, making London a city full of history, stories, and cultural significance.

King Arthur: The The initial and Prospective Monarch

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A hero emerged long ago to restore hope in Britain throughout a time of war and anguish. His tale became one of the most renowned legends in English history, and his name was King Arthur.

The genesis of Arthur's story is mysterious. According to some, he was the son of Uther Pendragon, a legendary ruler. The kingdom was in shambles after Uther's death. Merlin, a shrewd wizard, concealed Arthur to keep him safe. Arthur was raised in a modest household and was unaware of his uniqueness. He was a typical boy who learned to ride horses, wield swords, and be kind to others.

Greatness was evident in Arthur even as a little youngster. He was wise beyond his years, fair, and courageous. He never turned away anybody in need and showed kindness to strangers. Knowing that Arthur would one day alter the course of British history, Merlin kept a close eye on him.

King Arthur constructed Camelot, a powerful castle. His knights sat as equals at the Round Table, which he created. No one was more significant than the others. His knights were faithful and fearless. They set off on heroic adventures in order to protect those in need and identify charmed riches. Arthur's values of honor, bravery, and kindness were defended by renowned knights among them Sir Lancelot, Sir Gawain, and Sir Galahad.

The sorcerer Merlin was Arthur's beloved companion and mentor. Merlin was powerful as well as smart. He supported Arthur ascend to the throne and shielded him from harm through his divine abilities. Merlin is said to have possessed visions. Following Merlin's assistance, Arthur made an effort to lead in a fair and compassionate manner. However, the threats he faced from within his own country were too significant for magic to stop.

Finding the Holy Grail, or Jesus Christ's cup, was one of Arthur's greatest dreams. The Grail was meant to bring bliss and tranquility to the country. Several knights braved perils, monsters, and magic in their hunt for it. Some claim that Sir Galahad, the purest knight, was the only one who in the end located it.

Arthur's life, however, was not entirely glorious. Camelot entered an era of despair. He had been betrayed by a couple knights. Mordred, his own nephew, revolted against him. At Camlan, a dreadful battle was fought. Numerous knights perished. Arthur bravely opposed, but he endured severe injuries.

The magical soul who had given him the sword, the Lady of the Lake, received Excalibur back from Arthur before he passed away. According to some, Arthur did not actually pass away. Rather, he was transported to the enchanted island of Avalon, on which he rests until Britain calls for him once more. He is referred to as the "Once and Future King" for this reason.

There is a lot of magic, courage, and sorrow in King Arthur's narrative. It demonstrates that even the most heroic people may falter. However, it also tells us that desires for dignity, righteousness, and serenity never quite die. Arthur's spirit endures as long as his tale is spoken.

The teenager's Diary: A Hidden World

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More than just a notebook with scrawled words, an adolescent's diary is a private haven where secrets, frustrations, feelings, and dreams can be revealed without worrying about being judged. A diary serves as a mirror reflecting their innermost thoughts and a trusted confidant for many teenagers navigating the challenging years between childhood and adulthood.

Teens frequently experience a range of emotions. Life can feel too much, from the demands of school and shifting friendships to the expectations of family and the perplexing process of self-discovery. One way to process these experiences is to keep a journal. Teens may express their happiness over a minor academic triumph, their heartbreak following a falling out with a friend, or a crush they would never dare to discuss out loud in its pages. The writer is able to make sense of their feelings thanks to the clarity and emotional relief these entries offer.

Additionally, keeping a diary aids in the development of self-awareness in teenagers. Patterns show up as they consider their everyday lives. They start to identify what brings them joy, what stresses them out, and how they respond to particular circumstances. Emotional intelligence and personal development are fostered by this awareness. Many teenagers observe how their writing changes over time, highlighting the subtle shift from fear to confidence and from confusion to understanding.

Additionally, a diary provides a creative outlet. Some teenagers include lyrics to songs, poems, or sketches in their entries. Others create fictional characters that reflect their own experiences, write letters to their future selves, or envision future events. The diary is still a place where teenagers can be unabashedly themselves in a world where they are frequently under pressure to fit in.

Naturally, one of the most important aspects of this experience is privacy. Teenagers can be more honest than they might otherwise be because they know that no one else will read what they have to say. In a time when social media frequently promotes carefully manicured perfection over genuineness, this candour is freeing.

But the value of a teen's journal goes beyond introspection. These diaries can act as time capsules years later, documenting a period of life that was intense, vulnerable, and transformative. A person may feel proud of their progress or laugh at their previous anxieties when they look back. Now, what seemed like the end of the world might turn out to be a worthwhile lesson.

In summary, an adolescent's diary is more than just a compilation of pages; it serves as a record of the struggles and victories of maturing. It supports young people's self-discovery, problem-solving, and creative expression. Above all, it gives them a voice, a voice that counts, even if it is only heard in the silent pages of a personal journal.

Britanic Rock Culture

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Languages A music revolution

Rock music has profoundly shaped the cultural landscape of the United Kingdom, reflecting its social changes and artistic evolution over decades. Often referred to as Britannic rock, this rich musical heritage has a wide range of styles, from the raw energy of early rock 'n' roll to the experimental tones of modern indie rock. It has given birth to some of the world's most influential bands and artists, shaping global music and youth culture in the process.

From the rebellious sounds of the 1960s, when bands like The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, and The Who redefined pop and rock, to the rise of punk and new wave in the late 1970s, British rock has consistently pushed boundaries. The 1990s saw the emergence of Britpop, a distinctly British response to the grunge movement, with bands like Oasis, Blur, and Pulp dominating the charts and defining a generation. Today, the UK remains a hub for innovative sounds, from the post-punk revival to cutting-edge indie and electronic acts, proving that its rock heritage is as vibrant as ever.

Origins and Early Influence

Britannic rock traces its roots back to the 1950s, drawing heavily from American rock 'n' roll, rhythm and blues, and the skiffle craze that swept through Britain. Early pioneers like Cliff Richard and The Shadows brought this electrifying sound to British audiences, setting the stage for a cultural revolution that would soon take the world by storm. Richard, often referred to as Britain's answer to Elvis Presley, introduced a polished, homegrown rock style that blended upbeat tempos with the smooth harmonies of traditional pop, while The Shadows' instrumental surf-rock sound became a defining feature of the era.

The early 1960s marked a turning point as British musicians began to reshape and reinterpret these American influences, giving birth to a distinctly British rock identity. This era, known as the "British Invasion," saw bands like The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, The Animals, and The Kinks rise to global prominence. They didn't just emulate American styles but transformed them, blending blues, skiffle, folk, and even classical elements to create a fresh, groundbreaking sound. The Beatles, in particular, redefined pop songwriting with their innovative use of harmonies and studio techniques, while The Rolling Stones leaned into the raw, rebellious spirit of Chicago blues, crafting a grittier, more provocative style.

The British Invasion and Cultural Explosion

The mid-1960s marked a seismic shift in the global music landscape as British bands began to dominate the American charts, signalling what became known as the "British Invasion." At the front line of this cultural phenomenon were The Beatles, whose infectious melodies, innovative studio techniques, and charismatic performances revolutionized pop music. Their groundbreaking albums, such as *Rubber Soul* and *Revolver*, showcased a new

level of artistic ambition, blending rock, folk, and experimental sounds in ways that captivated audiences worldwide.

Meanwhile, The Rolling Stones offered a grittier, blues-infused counterpoint to The Beatles' polished pop sensibilities. Their raw energy, rebellious lyrics, and swaggering stage presence set them apart, carving out a niche as rock's edgier, more confrontational voice. Songs like "Satisfaction" and "Paint It Black" resonated with a generation seeking authenticity and attitude, reinforcing their status as icons of rock rebellion.

This dynamic era also saw the rise of bands like The Who and The Kinks, both of whom captured the spirit of a rapidly changing society. The Who's explosive sound, epitomized by tracks like "My Generation," became anthems for youth rebellion, while The Kinks' sharp social commentary explored themes of working-class life and British identity. Their distinctive storytelling and melodic craftsmanship added depth to the rock genre, making their mark as both musical innovators and cultural commentators.

The Psychedelic and Progressive Rock Movements

By the late 1960s and early 1970s, British rock had transformed into a bold, experimental force. Bands like Pink Floyd and Led Zeppelin shattered musical conventions, blending intricate compositions with groundbreaking recording techniques and introspective, often enigmatic lyrics. This era also saw the rise of progressive rock, a genre defined by its sweeping soundscapes, complex song structures, and philosophical themes. Groups like Yes and Genesis elevated rock to a more theatrical, intellectual art form, turning albums into immersive journeys that stretched the boundaries of popular music.

Punk, New Wave, and the DIY Ethos

As the 1970s progressed, a backlash against the perceived excesses and self-indulgence of progressive rock sparked a musical revolution. The punk explosion, led by bands like The Sex Pistols and The Clash, stripped rock back to its raw, visceral roots, emphasizing three-chord simplicity, aggressive energy, and a fiercely anti-establishment ethos. These bands channeled the anger and frustration of a disillusioned youth, blending provocative political lyrics with a defiant, chaotic sound that shattered the polished veneer of mainstream rock.

This DIY attitude reshaped the music landscape, inspiring a new generation of artists who sought to push the boundaries even further. The intense emotional darkness of Joy Division laid the foundation for post-punk, while bands like The Cure and Depeche Mode fused the raw edge of punk with emerging electronic sounds, crafting a moodier, more introspective style that would come to define the new wave movement of the 1980s. Together, these bands transformed punk's initial burst of energy into a lasting cultural shift, setting the stage for alternative rock and countless subgenres that would follow.

Britpop and the Modern Revival

The 1990s marked a vibrant resurgence of British rock, fueled by the Britpop movement, which emerged as a direct response to the dominance of American grunge. At the forefront of this cultural revolution were bands like Oasis, Blur, and Pulp, who not only redefined the sound of British rock but also celebrated a distinctly British identity, drawing inspiration from the country's rich musical history and social culture. Britpop's infectious melodies, sharp wit, and working-class ethos resonated with a generation, offering an alternative to the darker, more introspective tones of grunge.

While Oasis brought anthemic, stadium-filling rock with their swaggering, Beatlesque tunes, Blur blended quirky, experimental sounds with catchy hooks, and Pulp's witty, observational lyrics captured the essence of British life with a mix of humor and melancholy. As these bands clashed with the grunge movement, which was centered around the angst and rebellion of American youth, they revitalized mainstream interest in British music, giving rise to a new era of homegrown rock stars. The Britpop era produced countless iconic anthems, from "Wonderwall" to "Parklife," many of which continue to define the soundtrack of British pop culture to this day.

Legacy and Global Influence

Today, the legacy of British rock remains a vibrant and dynamic force, echoing through modern music while constantly evolving to reflect new sounds and ideas. Bands like Arctic Monkeys, Radiohead, and Florence and the Machine continue to push the genre into uncharted territory, blending elements of rock with electronic, indie, and experimental influences. Arctic Monkeys have transformed from raw, rapid-fire indie rockers into masters of moody, cinematic soundscapes, while Radiohead have redefined the boundaries of rock with their ever-shifting, genre-defying explorations of sound and technology. Meanwhile, Florence and the Machine have brought a lush, baroque quality to the genre, infusing their music with sweeping orchestration and raw, emotive power.

Beyond just the music, British rock continues to shape broader cultural landscapes, influencing fashion, visual art, and the very language of youth rebellion. From the mod style of the 1960s to the swagger of Britpop in the 1990s, each wave of British rock has left its mark on fashion and popular culture, creating looks and attitudes that have become inseparable from the music itself. Today's British rock artists continue this tradition, merging their sound with striking visual aesthetics and powerful live performances, keeping the spirit of innovation alive.

In summary, British rock is far more than just a musical genre – it is a cultural phenomenon that has continually reinvented itself over decades, reflecting the shifting social, political, and artistic tides of the United Kingdom and beyond. Its impact on global music is profound and enduring, making it one of the most influential cultural exports of the modern era, with a legacy that will likely inspire future generations for decades to come.

Song of the Lone Shield

*Elev: Pribeagu Selma-Adelina,
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Lo, I have wandered the waste of the world,
Silent and shadowed, a sword in the dusk.
Battle-born brotherhood, broken and gone,
Fallen to fire, or the fang of the sea.

Hearth-fires flicker where heroes once feasted,
Mead-halls now hollow, the harp-song is stilled.
Cold is the council of kings under stone,
Their glory forgotten, gold buried deep.

Wyrd weaves her will, relentless and grim,
No man may master the march of her thread.
Though shield may shatter and spear may splinter,
The brave heart bears what fate has begun.

Faith I now find not in fame nor in treasure,
But in bold bearing when battle-clouds rise.
Better to fall with a firm-fisted cry
Than to live long with no lord to defend.

So, sing, O scops, of the steadfast and true,
Let names not vanish like smoke on the wind.
Though death be certain and doom ever near,
Honor shall echo in halls yet to come.

The influence of the Monarchy on British society

*Elev: Pintială Anamaria-Florina,
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In a monarchy, a king or queen is Head of State. The British Monarchy is known as a constitutional monarchy. This means that, while The Sovereign is Head of State, the ability to make and pass legislation resides with an elected Parliament. Although The Sovereign no longer has a political or executive role, he or she continues to play an important part in the life of the nation.

The monarchy has played a significant role in British society for centuries, influencing the nation in various ways. Throughout history the royal family has been a symbol of stability and continuity, while also acting as a catalyst for positive change. Among the most notable impacts are its support for numerous charitable causes and its representation of national identity.

The encouragement of charitable causes is a prominent feature of the monarchy's influence on British society. The royal family has a long-standing tradition of supporting various charitable organizations and causes, both through personal involvement and through the establishment of charitable foundations. For example, Queen Elizabeth II is known for her patronage of numerous charities, such as the Royal British Legion and Save the Children.

The royal family's involvement in charitable work serves to raise awareness of important social issues, mobilize resources for charitable initiatives, and provide a platform for advocacy on behalf of marginalized and vulnerable populations.

Furthermore, the royal family's support for charitable causes has a ripple effect, inspiring individuals and organizations across the country to get involved in philanthropic activities. The royal family's endorsement of specific charities can help to increase public awareness of those organizations, boost fundraising efforts, and attract new volunteers. For instance, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge's patronage of mental health organizations has contributed to a greater openness and understanding of mental health issues in British society, championing organizations like Heads Together. Their efforts have contributed to a greater openness in discussing mental health issues, helping to dismantle the stigma that often surrounds them.

Moreover, the royal family's endorsement of specific charities can significantly enhance public engagement and fundraising efforts. When a royal patron supports a cause, it often leads to increased visibility and credibility for that organization. This can translate into greater public participation, whether through donations, volunteer work, or advocacy. The ripple effect of this royal endorsement is profound; it inspires individuals and organizations across the country to engage in philanthropic activities, creating a more compassionate and active society.

In addition to its charitable endeavors, the monarchy plays a crucial role in representing and shaping national identity. The British royal family embodies a sense of

continuity and tradition that resonates deeply with many citizens. For centuries, the monarchy has been a symbol of stability, particularly during times of social upheaval and political change. Events such as royal weddings, jubilees, and state ceremonies serve not only as spectacles of grandeur but also as moments of collective national pride.

The monarchy's representation of national identity is particularly evident during significant national events. For instance, the Queen's annual Christmas broadcast is a cherished tradition, offering a moment of reflection and unity for the nation. In these broadcasts, the monarch often addresses current issues, fostering a sense of connection between the royal family and the public. Such moments reinforce the monarchy's role as a unifying force, transcending the divisions that may exist within society.

This symbolic role of the monarchy as a source of national unity is especially important in a society marked by diversity and rapid change. The royal family provides a shared point of reference, a connection to the country's historical roots and traditional values, without being directly involved in political disputes. In this way, the monarchy helps maintain a clear and stable national identity, offering citizens a sense of belonging and continuity. Royal events thus become moments of unity, where people come together around a collective narrative that transcends social and cultural differences.

At the heart of this unifying role lies the monarchy's ability to serve as a shared point of reference. In a world where identities are continually reshaped by globalization and demographic shifts, the royal family embodies a narrative that is deeply intertwined with the nation's history. From the pomp and circumstance of royal ceremonies to the quiet dignity of state visits, these events evoke a sense of pride and collective identity. They remind citizens of their shared heritage, providing a tangible link to the past that can be especially comforting in times of uncertainty.

Royal events, such as weddings, jubilees, and national celebrations, serve as focal points for collective engagement. These occasions draw people from all walks of life, inviting them to participate in a shared experience that transcends individual differences. For instance, the wedding of a royal couple can become a national spectacle, watched by millions, as citizens gather in homes, streets, and public squares to celebrate. In these moments, the monarchy acts as a unifying thread, weaving together diverse narratives into a cohesive tapestry of national pride.

Take, for instance, the recent royal weddings and public celebrations. Events like the wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton in 2011 captivated millions, drawing people together in a shared experience. Princess Kate, in particular, has played a pivotal role in modernizing the image of the monarchy. She embodies the balance of tradition and modernity, reflecting the values of a contemporary society while honoring the historical significance of the royal family. Moreover, Kate's involvement in charitable initiatives, particularly those focused on mental health, early childhood development, and the arts, exemplifies how the monarchy can engage with pressing societal issues.

In conclusion, the British monarchy influences society in meaningful ways, particularly through its promotion of charitable causes and representation of national identity.

By supporting various charities, the royal family encourages a spirit of giving and social responsibility among the population. Furthermore, the monarchy serves as a symbol of

shared heritage, fostering unity and pride among citizens. While some may question the relevance of the monarchy in contemporary society, its positive contributions to charity and national identity indicate that it still plays a crucial role in British life today.

Whispers of Wyrd

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The Anglo-Saxon period in English history, spanning roughly from the 5th to the 11th centuries, was a formative era that deeply shaped the English language, literature, and cultural identity. Central to this time were themes of heroism, loyalty, fate, and the tension between pagan and Christian values. These themes are most vividly preserved in the literature of the period, especially in epic poetry such as *Beowulf*, which offers a window into the mindset, values, and social structures of early medieval England.

One of the defining characteristics of Anglo-Saxon literature is its celebration of heroism. In *Beowulf*, the eponymous hero represents the ideal warrior—brave, loyal, and strong, willing to risk his life for the good of others. The hero's fame (or *lof*) was not just personal glory; it was the means to ensure immortality in a world where death was inevitable and the afterlife uncertain. This pursuit of lasting fame was deeply rooted in a warrior culture where strength, courage, and honor defined a man's worth.

Another major theme in Anglo-Saxon thought is the role of *wyrd*, or fate. Unlike later Christian doctrines emphasizing divine providence and free will, early Anglo-Saxon belief leaned toward fatalism. Warriors fought knowing that death was preordained, and their bravery lay in facing it with dignity rather than trying to escape it. Over time, however, as Christianity spread across England, the concept of *wyrd* began to blend with Christian ideas of divine will and moral responsibility, creating a rich and sometimes conflicting spiritual landscape.

Loyalty and kinship were also foundational elements of Anglo-Saxon society. The bond between a lord and his warriors, or *comitatus*, was sacred. This mutual loyalty is reflected in many literary works where characters sacrifice themselves for their leaders or avenge their deaths. Such values underscored the importance of community and honor in an often brutal and uncertain world.

The fusion of pagan and Christian elements in Anglo-Saxon literature also highlights the transitional nature of the era. While early poems contain references to Norse gods and heroic myths, later works are suffused with Christian themes, biblical allusions, and moral teachings. *Beowulf* itself is a hybrid, portraying a pagan hero whose story is told by a Christian narrator, thus illustrating the coexistence—and eventual dominance—of Christian ideology.

In conclusion, the Anglo-Saxon period laid the groundwork for English literature and culture through its powerful themes of heroism, fate, and faith. Its poetry not only entertained but also conveyed the values and struggles of a people caught between the old world and the new. Though the age of the Anglo-Saxons has long passed, its legacy endures in the stories we still read, study, and draw inspiration from today.

Within and Without

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The British Empire relied heavily on two interlinked systems of control—internal colonization and slavery—to expand and maintain its global dominance. Internal colonization refers to the subjugation of regions within or near Britain itself, especially Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. These areas experienced cultural suppression, land confiscation, and legal domination. In Ireland, for example, the English imposed Protestant settlers through plantation systems and marginalized the native Catholic population with restrictive laws. Similarly, in Scotland, the Highland Clearances and suppression of Gaelic culture reflected imperial tactics of displacement and control.

Internal colonization refers to the control and transformation of regions within the British Isles, particularly Ireland, Scotland, and Wales, to align them with English political and cultural norms. This process involved military conquest, economic restructuring, and forced assimilation. In Ireland, English rulers implemented "plantation" systems from the 16th century onward, seizing land from native Irish owners and redistributing it to English and Scottish settlers. The result was the marginalization of the Irish Catholic population, legal discrimination through the Penal Laws, and deep socio-political divisions that lasted for centuries. Similarly, in Scotland, especially in the Highlands, the British state dismantled traditional clan structures and forcibly removed people during the Highland Clearances to make way for capitalist land use, reflecting colonial strategies used elsewhere in the empire.

Slavery, meanwhile, was central to Britain's overseas empire, particularly in the Americas and the Caribbean. The transatlantic slave trade forcibly transported millions of Africans to work on plantations, enriching Britain through the production of sugar, tobacco, and cotton. British cities and industries thrived on the profits from slave labor, and racial ideologies were used to justify this exploitation. Even after slavery was abolished in 1833, former slaveholders were compensated, and new systems of labor control replaced slavery.

What ties internal colonization and slavery together is a shared logic of domination—through land seizure, cultural suppression, economic exploitation, and racial or religious justification. Both systems were tools of imperial control and helped create a global order in which Britain remained dominant by subjugating others. The techniques used to pacify the Irish and Scots—legal discrimination, forced relocation, economic dependency—were replicated in colonial settings from Africa to the Caribbean.

These two systems were deeply connected. The methods of control used internally were exported abroad, and both relied on hierarchies of race, religion, and civilization. Together, internal colonization and slavery structured the empire's power, wealth, and identity. Their legacies continue to affect former colonies and Britain itself today through economic inequality, cultural trauma, and ongoing debates over historical accountability.

The role of the Royal Family in Modern Diplomacy

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The role of royal families in today's diplomatic landscape is a topic that often invites debate, especially as more nations lean toward republican ideals. Supporters believe monarchies still hold significant value, acting as enduring symbols of national identity and offering diplomatic advantages that elected officials sometimes can't access. They argue that these families bring a sense of tradition and unity, which can be especially powerful in international settings.

Royal figures often stay above the fray of everyday politics, which gives them a unique kind of influence. Their involvement in global events, state visits, and ceremonial occasions can serve as a form of soft power—strengthening international relationships and creating goodwill. Because they usually aren't seen as politically divisive, royals can help open lines of communication in tense diplomatic situations. Their presence alone can elevate a country's image and foster both cultural and economic partnerships.

Still, this diplomatic role comes with challenges. The distinction between symbolic and actual political influence can get murky, leading to concerns about unelected individuals swaying foreign policy. Critics argue that royal input, while often respected, lacks the accountability that comes with democratic institutions.

Ultimately, the royal family's influence in diplomacy is a double-edged sword. On one side, they offer a unique blend of tradition, unity, and non-political representation. On the other, their role must be carefully defined to avoid overstepping democratic processes. Going forward, their continued relevance will hinge on their ability to evolve and clearly demonstrate how they add value to the modern diplomatic effort.

BRITISH MUSIC

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For centuries, British culture has had a major around the world influence; among its most basic components is music. British music has ceaselessly progressed and persuaded people all over the world, from early individuals traditions to progressed pop. All through the 20th and 21st centuries, the Joined together Kingdom has conveyed a couple of of the preeminent well-known and innovative specialists, influencing entirety classes and making social advancements that extended removed past its borders.

Beginning with what is known as the “British Invasion,” British music started to pick up around the world affect inside the 1960s. In the midst of this period, British bunches such as The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, and The Who entered the American music publicize. The Beatles, in particular, changed well known music with their songwriting, harmonies, and experimentation. Their triumph set up the UK as a major social exporter and cleared the way for numerous other British acts.

British music kept on challenge stylish boundaries inside the 1970s and 1980s. Ruler made ever-enduring tunes like Bohemian Tune by combining musical drama and pompous components with shake. Within the cruel time, David Bowie tended to ordinary considerations of sex and identity with his alter egos and persistently progressing melodic mold. The punk shake improvement besides begun in Britain, driven by bunches similar To the Sex Weapons and The Clash. Punk music was disorderly, disobedient, and political, communicating the disappointments of a total period.

At the same time, sorts like reggae and ska were grasped and changed by British masters, especially in cities like London and Birmingham, where working-class and specialist communities influenced the melodic scene. This blend of societies made a distinction shape a curiously British sound.

Inside the 1990s, Britpop risen as a national wonder. Bunches like Forsake plant, Darken, Calfskin, and Pound combined catchy tunes with verses around normal British life. They brought a reestablished sense of pride in British culture and promoted an elective to the darker tones of American grunge. Adjacent Britpop, the electronic music scene thrived, with acts rather Like the Ponder, Fatboy Lean, and Gigantic Ambush picking up all inclusive affirmation.

In afterward decades, British masters have remained at the leading of around the world music charts. Adele is praised for her competent voice and energetic significance, while Ed Sheeran blends pop, society, and hip-hop components in his music. Aces like Stormzy and Dave have brought UK rap and grime to a around the world gathering of people, utilizing their verses to conversation

British music could be a energetic and ever-evolving portion of worldwide culture. It reflects not as it were the inventiveness of its craftsmen but moreover the changing values and stories of British society. From classic shake and punk to cutting edge pop, rap, and electronic music, the UK has reliably been at the cutting edge of development. As unused specialists rise and sorts proceed to advance, British music is certain to stay a worldwide drive for a long time to come.

The Colours of my Soul

*Elev: Jugaru Ilinca-Maria,
Prof. Ciobanu Laura-Daniela,
Școala Gimnazială „Vasile Alecsandri” Roman, Neamț*

From the palette of my heart
A bright red is leaking
It's the fire that burns in the stars
It's the longing that hasn't faded in time.

Blue catches my hand, man
It takes me through cold dreams
He teaches me to cry out, to stay
A shadow on the water forever.

Green flows through the branches
Hope rises on the hill
In the old wood, among the flams
Breathe in ideal silence.

And so, my colors
He sits on the canvas of his mind
I create from light and stars
And my soul takes a turn.

Stories at Sunset

*Elev: Doru Sara Maria,
Prof. Ciobanu Laura-Daniela,
Școala Gimnazială „Vasile Alecsandri” Roman, Neamț*

Have your grandmothers ever told you stories? My dear grandmother used to tell me stories at every sunset, in the shade of the cherry tree, which never ran out of fruit. I can promise you that the sunset stories are the most beautiful and wonderful trips in a world of your own!

My grandmother was reading me from a big book, with so many pages, that we could not finish it. You may wonder what his title is? I don't have the faintest idea! Who was it written by? I don't know that either! Nothing was written on the cover of the book. It had the golden pages, a red ribbon tied to the cover, and on the corner, it said gilded: 'Year is history, tomorrow is a mystery, but today it is a gift.' I always wondered what this quote meant, but my grandmother always tried to change the subject, telling me that she got it from her grandmother when she was my age. I stopped asking because I never got an answer.

I think my grandmother is very different from my other grandparents. He loves to travel and this desire was cultivated by his mother. Today, he set off on a journey. He didn't tell me where he was going, but he entrusted me with the precious storybook, and at that moment I felt a drop of confidence that made a difference.

The sunset has arrived, so the time for the stories has come. As always, I sat in the shade of the cherry tree and started the following story. After I went through the first lines, I fell asleep, but when I woke up, I was in a library, and the book was gone.

I read the titles on the covers of some books, but also the years of printing, and they were all published in 1860. I was shocked that I went back in time and didn't even have my grandmother to help me.

I took a deep breath and began to decipher how I got to the largest library in Milan in the year 1860. The library was built in Gothic style. It had three bodies, each with two floors, with shelves filled with books. The rays of the sun entered the library through the small oval windows and created a painting that could be described in a storybook. Y'know? The stories need not be just about the princes who rescued the princesses from the claws of some dragons. The most beautiful fairy tales are those that allow the reader to write his own story. The stories that teach us how to write our imagination on paper.

At that moment, I remembered what my grandmother called me. There is a Book of Books, and it is in the Land of Stories and Time, and it is easy to get there, but we humans are so concerned about our worries that we can no longer afford to dream! We do not help each other to fulfill our dreams, we just trample on each other's hopes! I wasn't very careful when my grandmother told me this, but it seems it will be useful to me.

We went in search of the Country of Stories and Time. I knew that there was a map in the library I was in because I was told about it and at that moment, I was really paying attention.

I took off the pen I always carry in my pocket from my polka-dot shirt and started writing the only thing I knew about the book, namely: the inscription on the corner. At that moment, the paper I was writing turned into an old map.

I gained confidence again, took the map, the pen and rode on horseback to the Land of Stories and Time.

After traveling for three sunrises and three sunsets, I decided to stop to rest. On my way, I found an old cabin and decided to see if anyone was home. When I knocked on the door, a nice old man opened and welcomed me into the house. He didn't say much. I told him how I got to him, but I didn't say a word about what I was looking for. We were going to have dinner, but first, he led me to my room to drop off my stuff. It was a simple and welcoming room. After I walked in, I heard how the door was locked. I tried to open it, but I got stuck. Finally, something strange happened. I turned around, and the whole room turned into a forest where trees were the shelves of thousands of books. Books I've never seen before and no one's ever done before. If you picked a leaf and told yourself your most burning desire, it could be fulfilled. The lighted houses smiled at me and I did not exaggerate. In some places I could see some scenes from the stories of my childhood, such as: 'Red Wife', 'White-like-Snow', 'Ciresarii', 'Fram, polar bear'. The characters in the story books walked the paths of the city, but none of the books in which these beings were characters could be found in that magical library. Fairies, goblins, even gnomes happily roamed the roads between the shelves. It was a dream world, and the sky was painted in my favorite colors. I admired the wonders around me, but someone greeted me. He was the old man who welcomed me into the house, but he was a little changed, he seemed to be happier and more dreamy as a child. Introduced himself. He was the guardian of the Land of Stories and Time. I couldn't believe it! I finally found the world I was looking for. It led me to the center, where, guess what? It was my grandmother's book of stories. She used to tell me how my grandmother came to be the keeper of the book when she was my age. I stopped for a moment and asked, 'The Keeper of the book?', and he told me that this book, at a certain time, chooses a new keeper to tell the stories and other children dreamers at sunset. Why at sunset?', I asked him puzzled and he replied that the sunset is the portal to the world of dreams, he said that is why we dream at night and not during the day, and all these dreams, happenings and dreams are written in the book. For a moment I did not believe him, but I saw on the cover the name of each keeper, including that of the grandmother. Did you know that the idea of creating a new story of each writer comes from that book? I didn't know this until then! The book gives birth to imagination. Ideas, dreams, events, dreams and hopes are born from that book, and nothing is lost. All this remains in the Land of Stories and Time.

I understand you! There are many things to understand, but the main idea is that the sunset is the entrance to the world of dreams, and every dream of ours is written in the book. If you ever write a story, poetry, play, they will never be lost, they will be eternal in the Land of Stories and Time, where every living thing will be able to enjoy them.

I remained seven more sundays in the Land of Stories and Time for my story to be written in the book, and then I returned home, in the shade of the cherry tree, at dusk, with the book in hand and my grandmother beside me, for she had just returned from the journey.

The years passed, I grew up, but the book with me. I went on long trips, where I read to children, from the book, stories at sunset by the sun. I had little and I reached mine.

A Story for Big Children

*Elev: Jugaru Ilinca-Maria,
Prof. Ciobanu Laura-Daniela,
Școala Gimnazială „Vasile Alecsandri” Roman, Neamț*

Hey, you! Look here!
Get down, stop hanging
Of plush clouds
Faster, if possible!

I don't want you to mind my words
I'll tell you from the beginning
So as not to create distortions
Look for every unpleasant word in the dictionary.

As you can see from the title
I've written a story to you, big children
Those who do not deserve the name of adults
For one simple reason:

Have you ever gotten lost on the road?
On the road to your consciousness?
You seem lost and panicked
But you prefer not to react!

You great titans of nature
You scared?
The near future or a possible failure
Say, be honest and direct!

Here, the problem is small and big.
You better throw yourself into the arms of the unconscious
It's safer than complaining all day
Of nonsense fireworks that are pointless!

Start on the secret road, towards you, towards infinity
Leave behind fear, the dusty past.
For the soul is reborn, and knows how to walk
Not among cold shadows, but in natural light.

I'll leave you a thought, now in closing
This is your story.
It's not about fairy tales and embers, but
It's about you, the big kids, lost in your own life.

Letter for a Cup of Coffee

*Elev: Jugaru Ilinca-Maria,
Prof. Ciobanu Laura-Daniela,
Școala Gimnazială „Vasile Alecsandri” Roman, Neamț*

Honey, I know I haven't written to you in a long time
So I'll tell you
How I came to live in a high dumpster
Full of mice that honor me.

I'm not some cup anymore, either
I am nonconformist now
She's quite optimistic
Since they threw me out without any remorse!

I suppose you're busy, though
But you know that Parisian cafe
It's nothing like my kingdom
Where to drink Colombian coffee.

I can't imagine you're still holding out
In the hands of a sophisticated lady
Dressed in Crepe-de-Chine
What genuine solid gold jewelry wears.

In a way, I miss it, too
Especially the black coffee maker in the corner
What he dreamed of becoming a composer
And with whom I saw a future.

I wish I could relive those moments again
When coffee flowed in waves of foam
And the seconds were full of flavor
While I was listening to the gum commercial.

Then, as the minutes passed,
I felt myself getting cold easily.
We measure time in the elevations
And the descents of the hands that held me.

Now they're useless, now
My porcelain is scratched, my
And I no longer have –
I was defeated by the time I measured.

Who needs a scrap, though
Burned by chronic mice,
With a deep gouge
As a sign of past years in vain?

This letter I sent you
To tell you what happened to me
A pessimistic cup
What she deludes herself that she is well.

A Crescent Moon as a Fish Tail

*Elev: Ivasciuc Alesia Nicola,
Prof. Ciobanu Laura-Daniela,
Școala Gimnazială „Vasile Alecsandri” Roman, Neamț*

From the window of my window, located on the fourth floor of a central block, I look at the spoiled moon in a dark, crescent moon, shaggy and gilded. Usually, at this hour I was sleeping, especially because next to the windowsill where I sat there is the warm radiator, gnawing, as I like. I suddenly become attentive, Ela and Miti, Lady Georgescu's cats are still outside. What would I go!! But the can of fish that Rucsandra served me for dinner molested me so much!! It was so good, with a delicious sauce and juicy bits! Too bad I can't eat that every day!! Rucsandra is very attentive to everything related to my diet and sweets never gives me!!

Eh, yes! Love sweets! I'm atypical, I'm sure of it! But unique! That's what Rucsandra calls me when she admires my eyes. I am careful, I never destroy things around me, I do not walk by the crystal vases and especially I do not eat all over the house!

But I have a blemish. When the moon's out, I like to play before I fall asleep through the button box. Those with pearly pearly pearly pearly pearlescent are my favorite, because to the touch they make an old treasure noise. Their rattle, along with the heat, slowly put me to sleep.

This is how Sara put her thoughts in order – a Norwegian forest cat before falling asleep and about which I, Rucsandra or Ruxi, as my friends call me, a sixth grade student, I thought to write at least one sketch. Do not rush to ask me why! No, not because I'm debording talent but because the diriga asked us "to the talented" to write stories and stories for a literary contest. There was nothing I could do and I said to my mother when I came home from school;

But it's formidable, Ruxi! You need to select something from your journal! Because he saw with the tail of my eye the crooked nose, he rushed to add:

- You know very well that to enter the college in Bucharest that you want so much, you need as many diplomas and prizes as possible! Do you want me to repeat that so far you have only gathered four?!? One from tennis, one from singing and two from modeling! But serious activities, prizes and mentions at Olympiads and competitions, volunteering activities, when do you start?! You know very well that the activities and diplomas in the portfolio weigh very hard! Do something too!! We, every month, put money aside in your special account, intended for school tax payments, we gave up concerts ,festivals , parties and holidays! More what can we do?

Ready up! What's too much spoils! I better go over to the office and write my project. Ruxi understood! At least, so I think, it will give him the speech to think! You should perfect like I saw in the last parenting book you read

Should I include it in my new project? Oh, but I didn't tell you about it! Last week a collaborator of writer Cristina Andone, who recently launched the Book of Kindness", wrote

me an e-mail inviting me to continue the project. But this time not with 'Story of Dobrogea', but from Maramures. I don't see much of an approach to this style of storytelling at Port Euxinus and Enisala anywhere else. However, I do understand the reason for apples and hospitality is to be exploited! Tomorrow I will make a list of strengths, weaknesses, threats and opportunities and will analyze the project! The sighs of the Univers publishing house also delight me.

Also, the Chimpex project and the Ameropa Group will provide me with logistics! I also know what to start with: with a story about Ruxi, from the summer vacation when he was five years old in Borsa! When she gave up all her money from the kitty to feed the cats next to the hotel. I could no longer detach her from small chicks aged in yellow and orange like miniature panthers! Shortly after, his big dream was fulfilled and he received Sara as a Christmas gift 'a splendid specimen of competition.

Yeah, it's good! I'll think tomorrow about what I'm going to do next!.

The moon, guided like a fish tail struggling with the last powers in the net of the early fisherman, seemed more fascinating to us than ever! I am not going to write lyrics now?!

Echoes of Tomorrow

*Elev: Antofi Eliza,
Prof. Bilitz Veronica,
Colegiul Național „Nicolae Iorga” Brăila*

Time and Regrets - A Dialogue Between Two Versions of the Same Person
(Introspective, moving drama with intense moments and an open ending.)

Concept:

Two versions of the same character - one young and idealistic, the other older and full of regrets - meet in an abstract space (perhaps a dream, perhaps a window between times). The two discuss choices, mistakes, hopes and disappointments.

Structure of the play:

1. Introduction - The Meeting Moment

(The scene opens with the Young Character in the middle of a dilemma. It could be an important decision or an existential crisis.)

◇ The Young Man sits alone and ponders, “If I could see the future, I would know what to do...”

◇ A voice replies, “Would you really want to know?”

◇ The older version of the character appears, looking tired but with a nostalgic smile.

◇ The young man is confused but curious: “Who are you?”

◇ The future smiles bitterly, “I am you, only I've already lived everything you're about to live.”

2. Conflict - Regrets and reproaches

◇ The young man asks what happened, what he did right and what he did wrong.

◇ Future hesitates, then says hurtful things:

- “You let fear rule you.”

- “You loved but didn't say it in time.”

- “You dreamed, but you procrastinated. You always thought there was time.”

◇ The young man becomes furious: “That's not true! I won't be like that! I'll do it, I'll do it differently!”

◇ Future laughs sadly, “That's exactly what I used to say at your age.”

3. Peak Moment - Fighting the inevitable

◇ The young man tries to convince Viitor that he will change things.

◇ Future holds out his hand and shows him (through a monologue or stage effect) memories of bad decisions.

◇ The young man is shocked, “But I can still change something, can't I?”

- ◇ Future: "Maybe.... But will you have the courage?"
- 4. Conclusion - Hope or Destiny?
 - ◇ The young man vows to make better choices.
 - ◇ Future smiles, but doesn't answer clearly if destiny can be changed.
 - ◇ Before he disappears, he leaves one last message: "Remember: time doesn't forgive, but sometimes it offers a second chance. It's up to you if you take it."
 - ◇ The lights go out, leaving the audience wondering if the Young Man will truly change his future.

THEATER PLAY -Echoes of Tomorrow

Setting: A symbolic space - an empty room where past and future mingle. In the center, a desk with a lamp, a diary, a stack of letters and a mug of iced tea. To the side, an old chair. In the background, a large, slightly cracked mirror. The light is warm and soft, but tonal shifts bring shadows and reflections. A faint ambient sound (like a clock or a steady wind) fills the silence.

(Spotlight on YOUNG ANNA, sitting at her desk. She has a letter in her hand, but does not open it. She looks at it, turns it over. She speaks to herself.)

YOUNG ANNA (Monologue): Everyone keeps telling me I have time. Time to decide. Time to become. Time to live a thousand lives and still be okay.

But they never talk about how heavy time feels when you're standing still.

Everyone paints the future like it's a canvas waiting for my touch—but what if I don't know which color to choose? What if every stroke feels like it could ruin the whole picture?

University brochures, entrance exams, job expectations, love confessions half-written in my mind. I keep waiting for a version of myself that's braver. More certain. More... worthy of being seen.

I don't know what I want to study. I don't know if I'm smart enough, or good enough, or even just... enough. Everyone else seems to have a map. A plan. A voice. I have doubts, noise, and a thousand open tabs in my head.

And there's Alex. I love the way he says my name like it matters. But I'm terrified to tell him. Because once you say something out loud, it can be lost. Or worse, ignored.

I scroll through people's lives online and feel like I'm already behind. Like I should've done more. Been more. But I don't even know where to start.

Sometimes, I wonder if life is just a series of almos... Almost said something. Almost tried. Almost lived.

(He picks up the letter, hesitates, puts it down again, walks towards the mirror.)

What if I could just skip ahead? Get a glimpse of how it all ends. Would I still be scared? Or would I finally breathe?

(A silence. Then, a warm but slightly cynical voice comes from behind her.)

OLDER ANNA (off-stage): Even if you knew the ending... you'd still doubt the first step.

(OLDER ANNA slowly enters the scene. She looks at the younger version of herself like an old photograph.)

YOUNG ANNA: Who... who are you?

OLDER ANNA: I used to be you. Before the regrets. Before the silences that turned into scars.

YOUNG ANNA: No. You're not me. You're tired. You're... sad.

OLDER ANNA: I'm not sad. I'm just... honest. Finally.

(Approaches the desk. Takes a letter and puts it back.)

OLDER ANNA: You think the world waits for clarity. It doesn't. It moves. And if you don't speak, act, choose... someone else will choose for you.

YOUNG ANNA: So what did we become?

OLDER ANNA: A master of postponing. A queen of second-guessing. Brilliant at almost loving. Almost living.

(OLDER ANNA sits in the chair. OGLINDA lights dimly. An echoing sound fills the scene. Fragments of memories whisper: laughter, a name, a sigh, a closed door.)

OLDER ANNA: You didn't tell Alex. You didn't apply for the writing scholarship. You started therapy... then quit. You said yes to a job that made you disappear piece by piece. You let friendships fade because you didn't know how to say "I need you."

You thought pleasing others would save you. You thought shrinking made you easier to love. You were wrong.

YOUNG ANNA (angry, but trembling): Why are you telling me this? Just to hurt me?

OLDER ANNA: To wake you up. To tell you: not all pain is bad. Some pain is a sign that you're growing. And some silences become cages.

(She approaches the mirror. She puts her palm on it. YOUNG ANNA does the same.)

You still have time. But only if you stop waiting for permission to live.

YOUNG ANNA: You talk like it's too late.

OLDER ANNA: It's not. But it will be. Not in a tragic, movie-ending way. No. In a quiet Tuesday afternoon kind of way. When you realize you're a stranger in your own life.

YOUNG ANNA: So what do I do?

OLDER ANNA: You risk. You write. You tell him. You fail. You get back up. You live.

(The light moves on the mirror. OLDER ANNA slowly withdraws into the shadows. YOUNG ANNA remains in front of the mirror.)

YOUNG ANNA: Maybe I won't be you. Maybe I'll change something.

OLDER ANNA (off-stage): Then go. Begin. But don't wait for courage to feel easy. It never does.

(A long silence. Then YOUNG ANNA tears up the letter. She picks up the diary and begins to write. Soft music in the background.)

(Spotlight on OLDER ANNA, alone, looking at the audience. In the background, empty mirror.)

OLDER ANNA: I spent so many years trying to be liked. To be useful. To be invisible in the right ways. To be soft-spoken, agreeable, non-threatening. To be enough for everyone except myself.

But you can't live your life for applause that never comes. And you can't build a home in a place where you constantly hide your true voice.

I stayed in rooms that drained me. I smiled through conversations that killed a part of me. I loved people who loved the idea of me. And I lost years... not in tragedy. But in hesitation.

I said "maybe" when I meant "no." I said "I'm fine" when I was breaking. I said nothing when I should have screamed.

But here's the truth: it's never too late to change the ending. Not if you're willing to rewrite the middle.

And rewriting is messy. It hurts. It means confronting the versions of you that never had a voice. It means forgiving yourself for who you had to be to survive.

So to the younger me, to anyone listening: Speak. Try. Fall. Begin again. Again and again and again.

Silence is comfortable. But life never grows there. And growth is never quiet.

(The light slowly dims. The last thing visible is the open diary on the desk.)

To live is the rarest thing in the world, most people just exist

*Elev: Antofi Eliza,
Prof. Bilitz Veronica,
Colegiul Național „Nicolae Iorga” Brăila*

Phone ringing

“Oh hi my dear. Hope everything goes good.”

Ok I’m listening”

“A vacation?? In only 2 weeks? On the other side of the globe?? Nahhh, definitely a no for me. I have projects to work on, I have assignments to deliver on time, I really need to focus on myself, you know...with all the university stuff. I really hope I didn’t pay 80 dollars register fee for nothing 😊 sorry...I really need to work on my application. In fact, you know how hard it is to keep up with the schedule...everything needs to happen at a specific time in the day.” Maybe after all this stress I will finally be able to get a vacation...I know I need one, but it’s important for my future to get into Harvard.”

MAYBE AFTER ALL THE STRESS YOU WILL GET A VACANTION, ELIZA?? Get yourself together, there was never the “after all the stress..” you are always stressing yourself with unimportant things.

I keep saying that to myself yet everytime I wonder if I really live the life that I dreamed about when I was seven, blowing in my candles. So let’s raise a question which we are going to be able to answer in the end of my monologue. “Are we pretending to be living, or do we really live our life to the fullest?”

I’m getting into the subject by mentioning the silence that keeps following me. And no, I’m not talking about the silence which solves all your problems, clear your head and so on and so forth. I’m talking about the silence that stops everything unless my heartbeats. Is this normal?? Is it ok for me to get up in the morning, go to school, smile when I have to, nod when teachers are asking questions, but deep inside to not feel a thing? To arrive home devastated and tired but not because of the classes but just because nothing inside me feels like living anymore? That can’t be all life is! Wake up. Go to school. Smile. Nod. Pretend everything’s fine. Fine?! What does that even mean? Does it mean numb? Does it mean quiet? Does it mean... dead? Because if that’s what “fine” is, I don’t want it. They say, “Be responsible, stay safe, follow the rules.” And I have. I followed every. Single. Rule. And look at me. Here I am, the perfect picture of control... and I feel absolutely nothing.

Here's who I am a nice, beautiful girl who seems happy all the time and likes to dress nice. But what if(get off the shirt, remaining in my Harvard hoodie) I get this off and now you see my dream. Yes, about this 80 dollars fee I am worried about, but not about the money, about the dream itself. What if now I’m presenting you my dream and in a few months I forget completely about it? Is this what life is about? Stressing for things you can’t even feel or know are real? WHAT IF I JUST WANT TO BE JUST A SIMPLE GIRL?? An unrecognizable one. The one that lives her life in silence without parents, teachers and friends opinions.

And isn't that the truth? Most of us are just drifting, like ghosts, clinging to routines, scared to dream, terrified to feel. We hide behind our screens, behind our calendars, behind... whatever it is that makes us feel safe. But you know what? Safety isn't life. Safety is the lie we tell ourselves to avoid living. Does anyone here believe I will be one step behind because I haven't got accepted to Harvard?

The point of all this is just.. I'm tired of waiting for the perfect time. What if I waste my whole life waiting for the right moment, only to realize it's gone?

Do you hear me? I don't want to just exist. I don't want my life to be a checkbox. I want it to burn. Bright and fierce, for however long it lasts. Because at least then I'll know it was mine.

But let's be honest. Existing is cheaper- no stress, no pain, no risks, no failures. But LIVING? Oh, that's exhausting. Climb mountains, chase dreams, follow your curiosity. FINDING YOURSELF. I get tired just thinking about it

Concluding, you can exist by doing all this pathetic stuff like worrying what to wear tomorrow to school to get a good impression, or planning that vacation just because "you need a pause". NO, wroooong! Wake up, brush your teeth, wear what you want, talk with who makes you really happy and do what makes you, YOU. Stop searching for validation, eventually you will find it, but it will appear useless. If you want to start a project in your school but not even the professors believe in it, just do it. Take the risk, do what makes you able to say "I have lived an extremely nice life", not what make others say: mmm yes it might work but..it s kind of embarrassing. If I'm not convincing enough, take your phone, search it on Youtube and find out what other people believe about living. It's not that hard, right? You're used to use your phones like 7 to 12 hours a day, plus a five minute video about how to change your life...pff, piece of cake. It's not like you or me will actually learn something for it. In fact, we're going to continue with surfing online and forget about the theories that a random man exposed. But this is where I wanted to end up. This (shows the phone) , this is what keep us away from succeeding to live our personal life, not Kendall Jenner's life, not Justin Bieber's . Live for you, exist for others, that's the conclusion. Oh and...be careful not to...exist for you and live for others.

So to answer the earlier question "Are we pretending to be living, or do we really live our life to the fullest?"- it only depends on learning when to listen to the heart, and when to the brain. It can be that hard of course. Just.... CARPE DIEM.

Living isn't about how many years you have, but how much life you put into those years. Live even if it's messy or hard. What about you? Are you living? Or are you just existing?

We know what we are, but not what we may be

*Elev: Mustață Răzvan,
Prof. Bilitz Veronica,
Colegiul Național „Nicolae Iorga” Brăila*

Hey there! My name is Razvan, and I'm a proud student of Nicolae Iorga National College. Today, I am planning to state my opinion on this matter, and discuss the profound idea encapsulated in William Shakespeare's words "We know what we are, but not what we may be". First of all, I'd like to detail the origins of the phrase. Let us take some step into the shadowed halls of Hamlet, a play teeming with existential musings. These words are spoken by Ophelia, a character whose journey embodies both fragility and strength. In her moment of despair, the phrase reflects the duality of human existence—a poignant acknowledgment of who we are now and an unanswered question about who we might become.

Through Ophelia, Shakespeare captures the tension between self-awareness and potential, a timeless struggle that transcends his era. His words act as a mirror, reflecting not only the characters' inner turmoil but also our own. What lies ahead for each of us? Are we bound by our present, or are we the architects of our future? Such questions we have all pondered upon, so, let us dive into what each of these questions represents for me, since, I should really stop bragging about the fact that I've read Hamlet. (I haven't).

Moving from the realm of literature to the stage of life, we find this question embedded in the choices and uncertainties we all face. Each day, we wrestle with the balance between what we know and the infinite unknown that is facing us. On the subject of "Unknown", I must inform you, that this year's theme stands particularly close to home, as I once too struggled with the uncertainty of what tomorrow had to offer. About one year ago, doubt quite literally loomed over me, whispering fears of failure and inadequacy. I struggled with social anxiety, an obstacle more and more children face every day. I did my best to get out of the bubble surrounding me, but I simply felt incapable of breaking free. Despite all of my efforts, going out of my way to try new things, putting myself in new and challenging situations, I just didn't find the confidence I was searching for. I knew who I was—a student, a speaker, a dreamer, an artist—but I feared the unknown of who I might become. I didn't even trust in myself, how could I have trusted in what the future held. Yet, it was in those moments of uncertainty that I found strength. No matter where you find yourself, it's important you don't give up. With the right people, mindset and a lot of sweets, you can break past any barrier life places in front of you, and change into a better and better version of yourself.

Now, if you aren't bored enough already, I must warn you to hold on tight, because the next part will surely put you to sleep. It may seem like a leap into the abstract, but bear with me, it's all connected! Let's talk about Schrödinger's cat. Yes, a cat. For the people unfamiliar with the experiment, if you were to place a box, containing poison, over a cat, that cat is simultaneously alive and dead until observed. This quantum conundrum highlights the coexistence of multiple possibilities until one is realized. In life, we too are a myriad of

potentials. Each choice we make, each action we take, determines which version of ourselves comes to fruition. (Can you tell I'm excited?)

And then there's the theory of branching realities, which states, that every decision we make creates a new branch of existence. Imagine for a moment: a version of you chose a different path this morning. What does their life look like? No, for real, imagine it: Let's say you had pancakes this morning, what if, instead, you chose to... Prepare a fresh batch of Guacamole. Imagine how that could have changed the course of your day. In short, there could have been an infinity of other versions of you, but despite all of the bad experienced you've faced, you wouldn't be yourself without them! If you were to meet a version of yourself who hadn't made half of the mistakes you have, you might not even recognize them. So, don't hold back—go for that expensive shirt, go to that party! The worst that could happen is that you learn from it. All of these theories, though complex, echo the essence of Shakespeare's phrase. The present is fixed, but the future is a web of possibilities, limited only by the courage to act.

In conclusion, Shakespeare's words remind us of the delicate interplay between the known and the unknown, between certainty and potential. From the poetic connotations of Hamlet to the uncertainties of everyday life, and even to the perplexing realms of quantum theory, we see a common thread: the future is not just a mystery to solve but a masterpiece to create. So, what does this mean for us and future generations? It is a call to action. To embrace uncertainty with curiosity, to approach choices with intentionality, and to view every challenge as an opportunity for growth. Let us teach ourselves and those who follow to dream boldly, to act with conviction, and to believe that the unknown is not to be feared but celebrated. In the words of Shakespeare, "We know what we are, but not what we may be." And perhaps, that is the greatest gift of all.

Words of wisdom about the world around us

*Elev: Apostol Andreea-Maria,
Prof. Bilitz Veronica,
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Being authentic means acting in alignment with your true self—your values, beliefs, and personality—rather than conforming to external expectations or societal pressures. This involves understanding your emotions, intentions, and actions, and ensuring they reflect your genuine identity. Authenticity fosters deeper connections with others, as it encourages transparency and vulnerability. It also contributes to personal happiness, as living authentically reduces inner conflict and promotes self-acceptance. However, it's important to note that authenticity doesn't mean disregarding social norms or being unkind; rather, it's about expressing your true self in a respectful and considerate manner. Being true to oneself involves understanding and embracing your authentic identity, including your values, beliefs, and desires. This self-awareness guides your decisions and actions, leading to a more fulfilling and meaningful life. Philosopher Søren Kierkegaard emphasized that realizing one's true self is a vital life endeavor, essential for both ethical living and spiritual understanding.

Similarly, self-acceptance—acknowledging both strengths and weaknesses—is crucial for mental well-being and personal growth. Living authentically not only fosters inner peace but also cultivates genuine relationships, as others are drawn to your honesty and transparency. Moreover, embracing your true self empowers you to make choices that align with your goals, rather than succumbing to external pressures or expectations. In essence, being true to yourself is foundational to a life of integrity, happiness, and personal fulfillment. Believing in your heart signifies embracing beliefs and convictions with deep sincerity and commitment, transcending mere intellectual acknowledgment. This concept is prevalent across various religious and philosophical traditions. In Christianity, for instance, Romans 10:9 emphasizes that salvation comes from confessing Jesus as Lord and believing in one's heart that God raised Him from the dead. This belief is not just intellectual assent but a profound trust in God's promises and actions.

Similarly, in Islam, the heart (referred to as "qalb") is considered the center of one's faith and intentions. The Quran highlights that God is more concerned with the motives of one's heart than external actions, underscoring the importance of genuine belief and sincerity. In Judaism, the concept of "kavanah" pertains to the intention and devotion behind religious rituals and prayers. It emphasizes directing one's heart and mind sincerely toward God during worship, ensuring that actions are performed with genuine intent and focus.

Therefore, believing in your heart involves a wholehearted commitment, where your deepest convictions guide your actions and interactions, fostering authenticity and integrity in your spiritual and daily life.

Words of Wisdom

*Elev: Cucu Lidia Joanna,
Prof. Gimbir Lavinia-Valentina,
Colegiul Național „Mihai Viteazul” Ploiești, Prahova*

“Never forget, dear, a stitch in time saves nine!”.

Over the course of my life, I have faced many problems and difficult situations in which it was hard to know how to proceed. The only way I managed to overcome them was through the many words of wisdom my grandma told me over and over again when I was a child. They have stayed in my mind to this day, even though such a long time has passed. My parents always said she should teach me something else, something “actually useful”, but she would insist that these life lessons would help me more than they could ever imagine – and she was definitely right.

At that young age I didn't understand any of her sayings, but over time, as I started growing, they slowly but surely revealed their meaning. Only after I understood them did I truly realise their worth. I started thinking of them as my hidden treasure, the secret key that had the power to solve any problem. They guided me through the struggles of life, and not once were they wrong. “Knowledge is power”, as my grandma would always say.

Her absolute favourite English proverb was “Where there's a will, there's a way”. If your desire to accomplish something is strong enough, you will always find a way to do it. This has even helped me get into my dream school. I personally believe that your grades are a reflection of your dedication, not your intelligence. Consistency and hard work will always pay off.

Another phrase which I will never forget is “Two wrongs don't make a right”. I know for sure that if someone wrongs me I should never take revenge. I believe that although revenge may be sweet and almost always comes naturally, it never works out in the long run. I've seen so many times how an unexpected act of kindness in response to an offence can work wonders over time.

I never used to understand the well-known phrase “The grass is always greener on the other side”, until I realized how much it applied to my life. I have always struggled with comparing myself to other people and only recently did I realise that their life is just as imperfect as mine is, they just choose not to show it. Comparing myself to others always manages to steal my joy. Instead, I try to be grateful for everything I have at all times.

As you can see, every proverb teaches us a valuable lesson about how to live a better and more peaceful life. Why doesn't everyone base their life on wise sayings? Now, that is a question I still haven't found the answer to.

Spirituality and Culture Across Time

*Elev: Draghiceanu Matei,
Prof. Gimbir Lavinia-Valentina,
Colegiul Național „Mihai Viteazul” Ploiești, Prahova*

Culture and spirituality are two very important elements of human life. They help us understand who we are, what we believe in, and how we live. Even though they differ from each other, culture and spirituality are closely connected and have a tendency to influence one another.

Culture is the way people live in a community. It includes characteristics like language, dress, food, music, art, and traditions. There is a different culture in every nation or community of people. For example, there is tea ceremony and the Diwali, which is the festival of lights in India. Culture also teaches a person how to act, what is important, and how to treat people. It is passed on from parents to children and this way from one generation to another.

Spirituality is all about our internal life and connecting to who we are and what energy we give out in the world. It could be a belief in God, or nature, or the desire to lead a good and kind life. Others are part of a religion like Christianity, Islam, Hinduism while others are exercising spirituality in their own way, through prayers, or simply spending quiet time in nature. Spirituality gives people strength and peace, especially when times are difficult.

Culture and spirituality do tend to go hand in hand. For example, in India, people would begin the day by praying and doing religious practice. Muslims practice daily rituals and fasting for Ramadan. Festivals are also another very good example. Holidays like Christmas, Diwali, and Eid are religious, but they are also accompanied by cultural practices like preparing holiday foods, decorating houses, and celebrating with families. Even music, dance, and art can show both culture and spirituality. People in African communities sing and dance to feel near to their ancestors or the spiritual world.

Both spirituality and culture are important because they make people feel like they belong. They bring people together and give life meaning. They teach people values like love, trust, and kindness. When people understand their culture and spirituality, they become stronger, happier, and more confident in who they are.

Today, most people live in places with different cultures and desires. Learning about other people's traditions and religious practices can help us understand and respect each other more. It can also remind us that, even though we are different, we are all people with cultures and that we all deserve to love ourselves for who we are.

Culture and Spirituality

*Elev: Mihai Andreea Florentina,
Prof. Gimbir Lavinia-Valentina,
Colegiul Național „Mihai Viteazul” Ploiești, Prahova*

Culture and spirituality are important parts of our lives. Culture means the way people live, their traditions, beliefs, food, music, and more. Spirituality is about our thoughts and feelings, and how we understand life, ourselves, and the world around us. These two are connected because our culture often shows how we think about spiritual things.

Many traditions and holidays have both cultural and spiritual meaning. For example, Christmas is a Christian holiday that celebrates the birth of Jesus, but it is also a cultural event with music, food, and family time. In India, Diwali is a festival of lights that has both cultural and spiritual importance. These special days bring people together and help them feel closer to their beliefs.

Spirituality is not the same for everyone. Some people follow a religion, while others feel spiritual in different ways, like spending time in nature, helping others, or thinking about the meaning of life. Even if people come from different cultures, they can have similar spiritual feelings, like love, peace, and kindness.

As time goes on, both culture and spirituality can change. Today, many people use phones and the internet to learn about spiritual ideas, to meditate, or to join online groups. Some mix different spiritual beliefs together. This shows that spirituality is still important, but people find new ways to explore it.

Spirituality can also help people understand each other better. In places where many cultures live together, it is good to learn about different spiritual beliefs. This helps us be kinder and more respectful. When we talk and listen to each other, we can find things we all care about, like being good people and helping others.

It is also true that some people do not follow a religion, but they still feel spiritual. They might feel peace when they walk in the forest, look at the stars, or create art. Spirituality is personal, and each person can find their own way to feel connected to life and the world.

Another important thing to remember is that spirituality can help people during hard times. When someone is sad, confused, or worried, spiritual practices like prayer, meditation, or quiet thinking can bring calm and hope. In many cultures, people come together during difficult moments to support each other and to find strength in their shared beliefs.

Also, learning about other cultures and their spiritual traditions can make us more open-minded. It helps us see the beauty in different ways of thinking and living. Even if we do not agree with everything, we can still respect others and learn from them. This makes our world a kinder and more peaceful place.

In school, at home, or in the community, we can all try to understand and appreciate both culture and spirituality. They help us grow into better people and remind us that we are all connected, no matter where we come from.

In conclusion, culture and spirituality are both very important. Culture helps us show our spiritual beliefs, and spirituality gives deeper meaning to our culture. When we understand both, we can live better lives and treat others with respect and love.

The witch of England

*Elev: Pescaru Livia,
Prof. Gimbir Lavinia-Valentina,
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Once upon a time, in a land long since forgotten, there lived a young princess who loved her kingdom. Her name was Astra, for her golden hair shone brighter than any star and her blue icy eyes brought every mighty knight to his knees. Everyone in the kingdom knew of her striking and unreal beauty, but few knew of her courage and love for her home.

On her fourteenth naming day, Astra came across a secret passage in her father's castle. At first, the dust, cobwebs and rats that hunted the tunnel frightened her, but curiosity got the best of her and she wandered through the passage until she came across an old dusty book.

Her fingers traced the cover and flicked through the pages. The dust that had flown everywhere made her cough, but she couldn't stop admiring the old writings, the drawings, made by a fine hand and scarlet cover that read in yellow ink: 'The witch of England'.

She took a few steps back to look around. Suddenly, a quiet hum rippled through the air. She raised her heavy skirts and hid behind a cold stone from the passage. She peeked over it, only to see a young woman, carrying water from the well. She recognized this girl, for she had seen her in the palace multiple times before. Astra wondered if she was one of her mother's ladies of the Bedchamber. No one else sang with such beauty or even walked with such confidence. Her dress was sweeping the muddy floor but it sat perfectly around her bodice.

Astra dared to scooch forward until her cheek was pressed completely on the cold rock. The girl turned in her direction and smiled warmly. Astra's heart began to race; her knees were tempting to give out. She knew extremely well that she was not allowed to explore these parts of the castle. She wished now, more than ever, to run to her mother's warm embrace and to have her father here, even if he was to scold her.

'You can come out now' the strange girl called, her voice smooth and silky, it warmed Astra's body.

She came from behind her stone, her little fingers clutching the skirt of the dress with such intensity, her knuckles had turned white. Suddenly, her corset felt too tight and she was struggling to breathe properly.

'Don't be afraid, little star; no harm will come to you.' The stranger said.

'Who are you?' Astra couldn't keep the words from escaping her mouth and she regretted it terribly.

She watched the stranger chuckle before she sat down on one of the rocks and patted it down, signaling Astra to join her. At first, she contemplated taking advantage of the moment and fleeing the cavern like a mouse. However, the girl's warm brown eyes called to her and she moved close and closer, until she sat down next to her.

'My name', the stranger began, 'is Anne Cliffland, and I am the ghost and protector of this castle.'

Could it be true? If her histories were right, than Anne Cliffland was her great-great-great grandmother. She noticed, now, the similarities between them. The slight slope her nose, her fine cheekbones as well as her charming voice and elegance. She had been, without a doubt, true princes of England.

‘But...but how can this be? Why you, of all people, must serve like this?’ Astra snapped.

‘I cannot answer all of your questions now little star, but you must promise me this’ she held up a hand and stroked her cheek, ‘you must always be brave, kind and true to your people. You will make a fine queen and you will go on to do greatness.’ She pressed a small necklace, made of gold, to one her palms. It was a small star. ‘Whenever you feel scared or small, hold on to this memory and remember who you are. When the time has come for you to leave this world, you will become the next guardian of our castle and a small princes will wonder this halls as well. You must tell her what I told you, but you should keep this secret from your family.’ Her eyes shone one las time, before she traced an invisible mark on Astra’s forehead.

She kissed the top of her head and whispered. ‘Fly high, little star.’

Astra closed her eyes and when she opened them, there was no sign of Anne, the book or the bucket of water. However, the necklace now hanged from her neck gracefully.

She would rise and she would do what Anne had begged her to. Her words were echoing in her head. Be brave, kind and true. Astra touched her pendant and walked out of the cave, back in to the comforts of her castle.

The influence of monarchy on British society

*Elev: Petre Andreea-Ștefania,
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The monarchy in Britain has historically been a strong supporter of charitable causes, which has had a noticeable impact on society. Members of the royal family often advocate for various charities, shining a light on pressing social issues and encouraging public involvement. Their presence at charity events not only raises awareness but also inspires citizens to contribute to causes that benefit the community. This engagement fosters a sense of social responsibility, as the monarchy uses its influence to promote acts of kindness and generosity across the nation.

Through various initiatives, the monarchy has partnered with organizations that focus on health, education, environment, and social welfare. For instance, royal patronages often draw attention to less-known charities, allowing them to gain support and funding. This connection between the monarchy and charitable organizations cultivates an environment where giving back becomes a shared value among citizens, strengthening community ties and fostering a culture of philanthropy.

As the monarchy encourages charitable actions, it reinforces the idea that helping others is a collective responsibility. This focus on social good naturally leads to discussions about the national identity, as charitable involvement reflects the values and priorities of the society. By addressing the needs of various communities, the monarchy not only reinforces its own relevance but also shapes the collective consciousness of the nation, seamlessly connecting the idea of philanthropy to the broader narrative of British identity.

The monarchy serves as a powerful symbol of continuity and tradition in British society. Over centuries, it has become intertwined with the nation's cultural identity, representing stability amidst change. Ceremonial events such as royal weddings, state openings of Parliament, and national celebrations are not just occasions for fanfare; they reflect shared values and historical narratives that unite citizens. These events remind the public of the long-standing traditions that form the backbone of national identity, reinforcing a sense of belonging among diverse communities.

The royal family embodies cultural representations that resonate with different segments of society. Their involvement in national events and charitable initiatives fosters a collective pride that enhances the spirit of unity. This connection to historical traditions helps to shape how people perceive themselves within the larger context of British society, often leading to a renewed interest in heritage and customs.

However, this focus on tradition can also have its drawbacks. While the monarchy can promote unity, it can simultaneously highlight divisions within society. The celebration of historical legacies may inadvertently uphold class distinctions and reinforce existing inequalities. As the royal family continues to influence national identity, it becomes essential to recognize how these traditions can shape public perceptions of social hierarchies, setting the

stage for discussions on the monarchy's role in potentially perpetuating such inequalities and political interference in contemporary governance.

The monarchy in Britain, while often celebrated for its charitable contributions and role in national identity, also has negative aspects that cannot be ignored. One significant concern is its ability to reinforce class distinctions within society. The royal family symbolizes a social hierarchy that can perpetuate feelings of inequality among citizens. Events and traditions associated with the monarchy often highlight the divide between the privileged and those who are less fortunate. This can create an environment where certain segments of society feel marginalized and disconnected from the national narrative, contributing to a broader sense of social inequality.

Moreover, the monarchy can interfere with political discourse. Although the royal family is expected to remain politically neutral, their influence can subtly shape public opinion and even political decisions. When members of the royal family express opinions on social issues, it can sway the public and politicians alike, often overshadowing the voices of ordinary citizens. This potential for political interference raises questions about the true nature of democracy in Britain. If the monarchy holds such sway, it challenges the idea that all citizens have an equal voice in shaping the nation's future.

All in all, while the monarchy has positive influences on charitable efforts and national unity, it also plays a role in maintaining class divisions and can interfere with political processes. Recognizing these negative aspects is essential in evaluating the overall impact of the monarchy on British society. As discussions about the relevance of the monarchy continue, it is important to consider both its contributions and its drawbacks in shaping contemporary life.

What is the actual purpose of life?

*Elev: Popovici Ștefania,
Prof. Gimbir Lavinia-Valentina,
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Many of us, probably restlessly ponder on this question everyday, and I sincerely admit that sometimes I do find myself doing the same thing. Although it seems like a difficult yet controversial subject which can have multiple personal views and opinions, I personally consider that the answer to it is quite obvious if not oblivious to us.

We, humans, have most certainly found some alternatives to this enigma, and I am not trying to impute any standard by saying that some answers are right and some are wrong. It is actually the opposite. We may have different perspectives due to our life experiences as well as our persona and influences, but that does not imply anything related to correctitude or accuracy. For instance, if I were to ask my grandmother and my mother this, I would most definitely get parallel feedbacks. For somebody who has witnessed communism, lived in poverty and knows how harsh life's payments can be, in contrast to someone who has paved their own way to success through hard work and persistent determination and is aware of this world's challenges, the most evident reply would be that "The purpose of life is to ensure someone continues your legacy".

Of course, as times have changed, our mentality has also suffered some alterations, starting to develop gradually with the fall of both communism and former dictators, and we have gained more access to information once considered only worthy of those who held power. Additionally, during socialism, many of us were denied rights that now are impossible to live without, which emphasizes the bold differences between generations. Due to the rapid and vast passing of time, we will continue to notice more and more changes in our future's judgemental thinking as well as our behaviour and attitude towards modern evolution.

Likewise, the people we choose to surround ourselves with also play a great part in determining the motive for our existence as they subtly shape who we are. Nevertheless, it is indeed crucially important to attentively consider who we are engaging into our personal lives and who we aren't. Learning from my own mistakes and imperfections has not only immensely helped me improve intellectually but also spiritually, granting me enough wisdom to carefully analyse before anything else.

Furthermore, taking into account all of the aspects stated before, the purpose of life itself is a mystery, an intricate maze which doesn't seem to have a beginning nor an end. However, for me, one thing is certain, the motive for our creation and development is none other than living it at its maximum capacity, not ignoring the ephemeral moments which drag us down, but using them as a shield against harsh times. To me, life is full of both pleasant and irritating surprises, and this is what makes life liveable. As long as you have a reason for progressing further and an indestructible will, then the purpose is clear. Living is the key to all riddles, the endless paradox which still clouds our minds to this day, and as long as you are happy doing it, that means you've found the answer.

Big Ben

*Elev: Bocoiu Raluca,
Prof. Gherlea Diana-Eliza,
Școala Gimnazială nr. 1 Roșia, Bihor*

In London's heart, so proud and tall,
Big Ben resounds above it all.
A timeless chime, both bold and clear,
It marks each hour, year after year.
Through fog and sun, it stands with grace,
A steadfast guard of time and place.
Though towers rise and empires bend,
The bell still tolls — time's faithful friend.

Words of Wisdom

*Elev: Zăvoianu Ligia-Sara,
Prof. Gherlea Diana-Eliza,
Școala Gimnazială nr. 1 Roșia, Bihor*

Take risks and be bold;
You only live once, no more.
Accept what is, let go of what was...
That's how you'll find the joy you're looking for.

Asking for help is a sign of strength,
Not the weakest point in your plan.
Be kind to yourself, and forgive your past...
Failures are just lessons in progress.

Think before you speak;
You're not a god who knows it all.
"No" is a full sentence...
So breathe, and just have patience.

Everyone has a purpose in life,
So when something goes wrong,
Just say, "This too shall pass"...
It's always a good place to start.

Don't chase - attract
What's meant for you.
Will simply find you,
That's the greatest move.

May your pockets always be full,
And your wishes all come true.
Learn to dance in the rain,
And let go of the heartbreak too.

The Lantern's Last Flicker

*Elev: Bahrin Rareș-Sorin,
Prof. Dobrinu Alina,
Liceul „Dimitrie Cantemir” Darabani, Botoșani*

In the midst of an English village, where rolling hills and whispering willows competed with one another in gentleness, stood a very old cottage whose weathered timbers were steeped in the legends of the past. In its ivy-covered walls lived Eleanor Whitmore—a woman of stern dignity, whose judgment had been tested and tried by the inexorable march of time.

The vil that she brought. She had been a governess once before, her head an ocean of poetry and of prose, and words that appeared to linger, like embers in a fire that's about to burn out.

She was to the children a fount of stories derived from the fibers of history; to the suffering, a fountain of solace, her advice a healing salve to the wounds of the soul.

As the fields turned autumn shades in autumn, there arrived at the village a young student, Thomas Ainsley.

Afraid of ambition, he had come seeking a truth that eluded him all this while—a wisdom that wasn't in the pages of a book but within the texture of life. Having heard whispers about Eleanor's prudence, he approached her residence one evening with questions in his heart. The old woman sat beside the fire and gazed at the young man with gentle but piercing eyes. "Wisdom, child," she whispered, "is not birthright, nor is it in the book. It is in the silence, the suffering, the love. Listen to the wind, the ring of the children's laughter, the last gasp of the dying man.

Thomas snorted softly, nudging his glasses higher up the bridge of his nose. "But surely, madam, illumination is the road of wisdom?" Eleanor smiled—a wistful, knowledgeable smile. "Knowledge is naught but a lantern; wisdom is the light. One to the exclusion of the

Thomas came back for weeks, attracted by the voice of the old woman like a moth to fire. He listened to her recite the poem of Keats, the sermons of Emerson, the wails of damned souls. With every return, the rough edges of his mind softened and their space was taken up by a sense of awe at the universal in what she revealed.

One evening, when the winter tempest rattled the shutters, Thomas encountered Eleanor, emaciated, her body parched, her voice a sigh. She seized his hand, and in her eyes burned a flickering spark of passion. "Go out, dearest child, and behold—wisdom is not gained by inquiring but action." With dawn breaking and pulling its golden fingers over the village, Eleanor Whitmore's light was extinguished, an eerie hollowness, filled with the sound of her voice. Years passed and Professor Thomas lectured his students in a grand lecture room. He lectured theory, he lectured history, he lectured literature.

But before him, though, he noticed the faces of all those boys and girls who sat there, he laid his papers aside. For at this time, he promised not to get knowledge but wisdom—the old woman's village wisdom, that long ago he learned from her when she told him: to know is to feel. And so with a silent smile, he unleashed a flood of words that had become characteristic of him: "Knowledge is but a lantern; wisdom is the flame."

The Guardian of Echoes

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

The fog twined itself around the Cornish cliffs like phantom fingers, cloaking the horizon in a lacy embrace of silver and black. The ocean, relentless and unforgiving, snarled against the rocky shore, its mysteries confided only to the wind that dared to bear them. Alone at the shore's edge stood one man, his silhouette etched against the gathering shadows.

Nathaniel Graves was known as the Guardian of Echoes. His name was forgotten by everyone save the most devoted students, for he had lost it to history in trade for his duty. He was not a keeper of knowledge merely—he was its custodian, its guardian. His cottage, a refuge of crumbling stone and ivy-clad wood, was weighed down with centuries. Inside the walls of this darkened room were pieces of lost knowledge—hastily written poems of Keats, the musings of Locke, the despondent confessions of Byron. It was not merely acquired here, but experienced, imbibed.

This night, a surprise caller materialized—a young man enveloped in a cloak of charcoal wool, his auburn locks tousled by the salt breeze. He introduced himself as Julian Hawthorne, an insatiable learner of antiquity, his eyes burning with the irrepressible hunger of the curious.

"You have seen the unfolding of countless lives," Julian drew a ragged breath, wonder infusing every syllable. "Tell me, Guardian, what secrets survive the passage of time?" Nathaniel let out a sigh, his breathing thick with the weight of years. He gestured toward the endless wave, where waves battled and ebbed in perpetually shifting waltz.

The pride of man is in his vanity," he went on, voice as heavy as the depths beneath them. "He wants time to be his to conquer, his to command. He builds monuments and inscribes words, believing them to be permanent, but the sea claims everything. Wisdom lies not in defiance of time, but in homage to its lessons."

Julian remained silent, the wind sending its fingers through his cloak, Nathaniel's words sinking into the marrow of his bones. "And love?" he finally spoke, his voice little more than an echo. "Does love endure?"

A flicker of something unspoken crossed Nathaniel's storm-grey eyes. "Love," he said quietly, "is the one force unbound by time. It exists in the spaces between moments, unmeasured and unbreached. It doesn't wane, or dissipate. It simply is."

There was silence between them, broken by the enraged thrum of the sea. Julian stood staring out to the water, the awful weight of realization pressing down into his chest, altering him in ways he couldn't yet fully understand.

As dawn painted the horizon rose and amber, Nathaniel Graves, Guardian of Echoes, watched the young man disappear into the morning mist. He knew that the knowledge he had

shared would continue from this place, not through ink or parchment, but through the hearts of those courageous enough to listen.

For wisdom, like love, was never meant to be held. It was meant to be given, to be woven into the fabric of life, to flow on the streams of eternity.

The Last Song of Ealdor

*Elev: Tanasă Alice-Iuliana,
Prof. Dobrinu Alina,
Liceul „Dimitrie Cantemir” Darabani, Botoșani*

The village of Ealdor cradled in the lap of an ancient forest, where giant oaks conversed with one another in voices too old for mortal ears to discern. The river, ever watchful, wound through the scenery like a silver thread, binding past and present with its eternal whisper. Few had any desire to wander from the narrow tracks, for the forest was said to remember—every footfall, every word, every sin.

At the edge of this world stood Alden, the final one of his kind. A storyteller by birth, he was the guardian of remembrance, with the voices of the long dead within him. Each night, beneath the boughs of the oldest tree, he sang the songs of his people, their victories and sorrows entwined in melodies that danced on the breeze. It was said that as long as he sang, Ealdor would survive.

One evening, when the sunset bled into the sky, a visitor arrived—a girl not older than sixteen, with eyes that were both wonder-struck and grieving. No name was given, nor did Alden ask. She sat rather on the roots of the old tree, never taking her eyes off the storyteller.

"Why do you sing?" she at last questioned, her voice little louder than the rustling leaves. Alden gazed at her with eyes like smoldering coals. "Because memory dies," he answered simply. "And the world forgets too easily."

She listened as he sang—of loves lost and gained, of wars waged for causes long since buried, of hands coarsened by toil, of laughter echoing across green fields. And as his voice swooped and dived, the trees quivered, the river quieted itself, and the stars awakened to listen.

As the final note faded, they were surrounded by silence. The girl wiped at her eyes, though she did not cry. "And when you are gone?" she whispered. Alden smiled, albeit sadly. "Then another must remember."

The girl put a hand on the old tree, feeling the stories in its bark. And then she knew. Not everything was written down in books, or all history carved in stone. Some things existed only as long as there were mouths to tell them, hearts willing to pass them on.

As morning painted the sky with golden and amber strokes, Alden rose, his voice spent, his task completed. The girl remained beneath the ancient tree, and when the wind blew, it carried upon its breath the seeds of a new song. For wisdom, like music, must never perish.

ODE TO ARWAN OF ANNWN

*Elev: Burlacu Darius-Nicolae,
Prof. Dulgheru Anca Luminița,
Colegiul Național „A. T. Laurian” Botoșani*

He walks the hills at break of day,
Where mist and shadow love to play.
No hoof nor hound betrays his pace,
Yet all who meet him know his face.

In Annwn's halls, so still, so deep,
The rivers hum, the forests sleep.
No pain can reach beyond that shore,
Where Arawn keeps the ancient lore.

The hearth grows cold when he is near,
The songs fade out, the air turns clear.
Yet peace he brings, not wrath or flame,
A crownless king with none to name.

He waits by gate and winding lane,
In field and glen, through sun and rain.
Not doom, but rest, he offers kind—
The end of toil, of thought, of mind.

No fate decides, no priest can stall,
His hand shall come to one and all.
Both lord and shepherd share one bed,
When Arawn calls the quiet dead.

So lift a cup, and do not mourn,
For all are from the same earth born.
To Annwn's halls we'll ride in time,
Our stories sung in fading rhyme.

Sisters at the Palace

*Elev: Zmău Daria Teodora,
Prof. Dulgheru Anca Luminița,
Colegiul Național „A. T. Laurian” Botoșani*

A ray of sunshine was tenderly touching my face, helping me get out of bed. It was a warm morning when, surprisingly, my nanny was in a good mood helping me get ready for breakfast. That morning, while dining with my older sister Feodora, I found out the reason why my parents weren't present and that was because my grandma, Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, the current Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, had never dined with us even though we lived in the same palace. Before I could say anything to my sister, my nanny rushed me to my geography lesson.

At dinner my father, the Duke, told me that there was a surprise waiting for me in my bedroom, it was as if he felt how upset and angry I was at my tutor's because of how severe they were with me in comparison to how they acted towards my sister. On the duvet cover of my bed I found a beautiful oak wooden box with a note saying that he was proud of me, along with a shiny pair of colbat coloured diamond earrings. That was the only time when he sent me a gift with such a meaningful note next to it. I rushed to my sister's bedroom to show her the box, and she seemed impressed, shocked even.

My sister was the only one who knew how I really ever felt, she used to be the person I liked the most, but it all changed after she got married and betrayed me. She is very sensitive, but acts strong in front of others. The worst yet, at the same time, the best thing about our relationship is the fact that we know all of our deepest secrets and strongest weaknesses.

When I was twelve and she was twenty-four, I had a horrible piano tutor; he was truly cruel, he used to yell at me if I got anything wrong. Strange thing was that he was quite nice with my sister, almost too nice. He would only make me play his favorite music parts which were the only ones that reminded me of how bad my family thought of me. One of Bach's music parts was being played during a tea party where I accidentally heard my father telling my mother how disappointed he was because I was born a girl. Oddly enough the only person whom I told this detail to was my elder sister.

I quickly caught what was going on between my sister and my tutor, so I confronted her and she told me not to be so sensitive and to play the partitures because after all they are only a piece of paper with notes written on it. I was furious, but I kept my calm, just like my mother had taught me, and changed the subject.

My sister was so foolishly in love that she was blind to the fact that I too could play such games. I knew that her dream was to get married to a man as beautiful and as artistic as her and Mr. Williams fitted that description perfectly. Unfortunately, he wasn't of royal descent, he was just a piano tutor with a huge ego and a future broken heart.

She hated all the men that courted her, she found them either boring or hideous. Our parents, on the other side, disagreed, especially my father who used to get mad at her whenever she refused to even give the ones he found suitable to our family a chance. Knowing all of that when the Prince of Hohenlake-Langeburg, who didn't even look half as good as Mr. Williams' reflexions on the shiny piano, came to visit, I knew that was the only moment I could take revenge for their cruelty.

The Prince was kinder than my tutor, I liked him and, fortunately for me, so did my father. Even though I knew that that marriage was probably set by my father, I decided to give my sister and Mr. Williams the false hope that the Prince was there only for political issues. Every day I sat down with my sister and told her that I heard my father speaking only about politics with the Prince.

They had high hopes that their relationship had a bright future, so bright that it wasn't real. At the ball, while the Prince was courting my sister, my father sat next to them the whole time making it impossible for Mr. Williams to talk to my father about his relationship with my sister.

In the next morning my sister found out about the marriage at the breakfast table, and I could feel her trying her best to act as polite as she could, to follow the rules, the protocols everything. But that is a very hard thing to do when you feel like your heart is being pulled apart by many strings which are held by your dearest and closest people whom you love and trust.

That night after dinner she came storming into my room and just sat there and cried on the edge of my bed. She didn't let me comfort her, but she didn't leave either. I wish we had fought because that meant I would still have the only thing that I loved and cared about the most, the wooden box with the note and the earrings inside, she cold heartedly threw it the fireplace, I kept the remaining ashes in a small bottle and the earring in a steal box hidden away from her anger.

We hadn't spoken for two whole weeks until her wedding in Germany. I didn't have the heart to tell her that Mr. Williams quit being a tutor and became a servant in the horse stalls. I made her laugh by telling her that she was beautiful enough for the both of them, slowly we started trusted each other again and I felt better than I had two weeks before without her. That was the moment when I realized how much she meant to me and how important it was to have someone you can trust in your life, I didn't feel good after she had burned the box, but that was because I realized how hurt she must have been. I concluded that night that just simply having her in my life was the best thing for me.

Words of Wisdom

*Elev: Câșlariu Bianca-Maria,
Prof. Dulgheru Anca Luminița,
Colegiul Național „A. T. Laurian” Botoșani*

In the quiet village of Veritas, nestled between rolling green hills and dense forests, lived a humble blacksmith named Azrael. He was known not only for his visionary crafts but also for his kindness and willingness to help anyone in need. Yet, despite his content life, he felt an emptiness, a sense that his life lacked greater meaning.

One evening, as the sun sank beyond the hills, an old traveller arrived at the forge. The man had an air of mystery about him.

Azrael greeted him warmly. “Good evening, traveller. You seem exhausted. Would you like to rest here for a while?”

The old man nodded, his tired eyes glinting with gratitude. As Azrael handed him a cup of water, the stranger spoke in a low, grave voice.

“I’ve walked many miles and seen many things, young man. I can sense that your heart carries a burden. Would you like to hear a story?”

Curiosity sparked in Azrael’s eyes. “I would like that,” he replied, pulling up a wooden stool.

The old man leaned closer, his voice dropping to a whisper.

“Once upon a time, in a vast and prosperous kingdom, there was a king named Jawad who had everything a ruler could desire: wealth, power, and loyalty. Despite his riches and influence, King Jawad found himself engulfed by a heavy, suffocating emptiness. Nothing seemed to bring him joy or purpose, and the more he thought about it, the more he questioned the meaning of his existence and he was troubled by one question: ‘What is the most important wisdom to carry through life?’ To find the answer, he summoned the greatest minds from across the kingdom: philosophers, scholars, warriors, and poets.

The philosophers spoke of logic and reason, claiming that knowledge itself was the key to wisdom. The scholars recited ancient texts and riddles, proposing that only through study could one understand the nature of life. The warriors declared that strength and honour were the ultimate truths, while the poets sang of love and passion as the heart of wisdom. The king listened to each, but his heart remained restless and unsatisfied.

One day, a simple gardener approached the king and offered one sentence: ‘Wisdom lies not in knowing all, but in understanding what truly matters.’ Intrigued, the king asked him to explain.

The gardener smiled and said, ‘A garden flourishes not because one knows every plant, but because one knows what it needs: water, sunlight, care, and patience. Likewise, life’s wisdom is not about knowing everything but about understanding what truly matters to one’s heart and soul.’

The king pondered this deeply, realizing that his endless quest for answers had led him away from the simplicity of living with purpose. He began to observe his people: farmers tending their crops with dedication, artisans crafting with passion, and families sharing laughter at the marketplace. Gradually, he understood that wisdom was not about gathering knowledge but about nurturing what gave life meaning.

Inspired by this revelation, king Jawad changed his ways. He focused on compassion, justice, and kindness rather than conquest and ambition. He encouraged his people to seek fulfilment not through power, but through purpose and unity. Under his guidance, the kingdom thrived, known far and wide for its harmony and peace. When the king eventually passed, his legacy was not one of dominance, but of wisdom and grace: a ruler who had learned to cherish what truly mattered.”

Azrael remained silent for a moment, the weight of the story sinking in. “So... you’re saying that I’m searching for meaning in the wrong places?”

The old man nodded. “You forge weapons and tools, but your heart longs for something more. Perhaps it is not the work itself that matters, but the purpose behind it.”

Azrael looked at his forge: the tools, the anvils, the weapons he had crafted. He thought of the farmers who depended on his ploughs, the warriors who wielded his swords, and the families warmed by his iron stoves. A realization dawned upon him.

“I’ve been too focused on my craft as a duty, not as a gift to help others.”

The traveller smiled, his eyes sparkling with approval. “Remember, young smith: wisdom is not in endless searching but in understanding the value of what you already possess.”

As dawn broke over the village, Azrael felt a renewed sense of purpose. He would continue his work, but now with the intention of bringing hope and warmth to those around him. Stepping to the kitchen to get some water, he returned to find the room empty. The traveller had silently slipped away, leaving only the empty stool behind. His words remained, etched into Azrael’s heart like the iron he shaped each day. From that morning onward, his forge became not just a place of labour, but a haven of kindness and purpose, where each strike of the hammer echoed with newfound wisdom.

Human potential in British and European thought

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In both the British and European traditions, the concept of human potential has been approached from multiple perspectives – from philosophy to literature, from ethics to education – reflecting a constant concern for what man could become, not just for what he is. This idea has been understood and valued in British and European thought, having as its starting point Shakespearean reflection on identity and possibility.

The famous quote “We know what we are, but we know not what we might be”, attributed to William Shakespeare, the national poet of the United Kingdom and one of the greatest playwrights of all time, captures the essence of one of the deepest questions of European thought: What is the true nature of man and how far can he go through development, reflection and aspiration? At the heart of this fragment is the idea of human potential – that unseen but present inner dimension in every individual, which transcends the current condition and opens the way to self-transcendence and transformation.

These words of wisdom provide a profound starting point for philosophical and existential reflection on the human condition. In essence, this statement captures one of life’s most powerful and universal realities: the certainty of our present identity is always accompanied by the uncertainty of our future potential. Through this duality, Shakespeare invites us to contemplate the boundaries of self, of choice, of becoming, but also of the fear that often prevents us from discovering what we could truly become.

The first part of the quote – “We know what we are” – expresses the awareness of our own existence and personal identity. Every person, at a certain stage of life, acquires a sense of self: he knows what profession he has, what values define him, what relationships he maintains, what goals he pursues. This knowledge is the result of a complex process of socialization, education, experience and reflection. In other words, we know who we are in relation to the present – a static photograph of the self at a given moment.

This certainty is often a refuge. It offers stability and clarity in a chaotic world. But, at the same time, it can become a limitation. Knowing who you are can induce the illusion that that “someone” is fixed, immobile, predestined. Thus, people risk closing their horizons, conforming to a self-imposed or socially imposed identity, ignoring the fact that the self is a process in continuous evolution.

The second part of the quote – “but we know not what we might be” – reveals a disturbing perspective: human potential is unlimited, but fundamentally unknown. This ignorance is not a defect, but a characteristic of the human condition. We cannot accurately anticipate what we will become, what internal or external forces will shape our future, what decisions we will make and how we will react to the unknown.

In this context, Shakespeare's quote takes on an existentialist nuance: man is a being in the making, an open project. Not knowing what you could be actually means that your possibilities are unlimited. It is an invitation to courage, to exploration, to overcoming your own barriers and conditioning. But, at the same time, it is also a source of anxiety, because the unknown causes anxiety. One of the biggest obstacles to discovering your potential is fear. Fear of failure, of judgment, of losing security or of losing your current identity. Many times, people remain anchored in a version of themselves that no longer brings them fulfillment, precisely because it is familiar. The comfort zone becomes a narrow circle in which identity is protected, but potential is stifled.

Not knowing what you could be can also mean an escape from the destiny that society, family or even your own mind have designed. It is a form of freedom, but a frightening freedom, which requires assumption, risk and giving up old structures. Thus, Shakespeare's quote can also be read as a call to action, to boldness in the face of the unknown.

Education plays an essential role in understanding and capitalizing on potential. Not only formal education, but also self-education – introspection, reflection, the desire for self-improvement. Traditional educational systems tend to emphasize what the student "is", less on what "could be". Thus, many people grow up with a limiting perception of themselves, convinced that they are "good at math" or "weak at sports", without exploring their own abilities in depth. Education should become a process of discovering and cultivating individual potential, a form of guidance towards the unknown of their own being. Mentors, teachers, and communities play an important role in this, supporting and encouraging individuals to push their limits and take risks in the name of personal growth. Human history is full of examples of people who, despite knowing what they were at a certain point, chose to discover what they could become. Thinkers like Socrates, who stated that "I know that I know nothing," embraced the unknown as a source of wisdom. Artists like Van Gogh or Frida Kahlo created extraordinary works despite (or because of) personal uncertainty and inner pain. In literature, characters who choose to discover their potential become emblematic. For example, Raskolnikov in Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment* embarks on a moral journey from the conviction that he is a superior man, only to eventually discover the complexity of his humanity. Similarly,

Elizabeth Bennet from *Pride and Prejudice* overcomes her own prejudices and becomes an example of maturity and openness to unexpected possibilities.

Shakespeare's quote also has a deep spiritual dimension. In many religious traditions or Eastern philosophies, the idea of potential is linked to the divine nature of man. In Christianity, for example, man is seen as a bearer of the image of God and called to a continuous inner transformation – "to be perfect" is an eternal mission.

In existentialist philosophy, the idea of becoming what you are (Nietzsche) or choosing what you want to be (Sartre) perfectly reflects the meaning of the Shakespearean quote. Not knowing what you can be is a form of radical freedom – you are responsible for your own formation.

In a constantly changing world, where professions disappear and appear at an astonishing speed, and identities diversify, Shakespeare's quote is more relevant than ever. Current generations are called to constantly reinvent themselves, to explore new ways of being, to redefine their goals and values. This fluidity can be frightening, but also liberating.

Technology, globalization and digital culture have expanded individual possibilities for affirmation, but have also accentuated the confusion related to identity. In this context, knowing who you are is increasingly difficult, but also more important. And being aware that you do not yet know everything you can become is the first step towards an authentic, creative and deeply human existence.

The quote “We know what we are, but we do not know what we might be” is, in essence, a poetic meditation on the open nature of the human being. Shakespeare captures in a few words an essential link in life: the certainty of current identity is always accompanied by the mystery of unexplored potential. This reality challenges us, inspires us and frightens us at the same time. It invites us to courage, reflection and action. True maturity lies, perhaps, not in settling into a rigid identity, but in living with dignity and lucidity the endless process of becoming.

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A Royal Dream

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Since she was old enough to dream, Emma dreamed of the British royal family. Like a moth to a blazing flame, she fantasized walking through the decadent halls of a palace, awed by the glittering chandeliers that twinkled like stars and the gilded gold trimmings that cried out majesty. She imagined herself standing outside Buckingham Palace, where tourists in their hundreds from all corners of the globe swarmed, eyes wide with wonder, as hers would be.

While her friends idolized movie stars and pop icons, Emma idolized kings and queens whose lives were drenched in grand tradition. Her parents would often find her glued to the television set, fascinated by royal events that unfolded like flawlessly choreographed ballets. She marveled at the formal dresses, the stirring national anthems that raised the spirits, and the hushed deference that hung about the monarch like a benevolent hug.

Her father would tease, "Maybe you'll become the Queen's assistant one day!" Emma would smile at the thought; yet, in her heart, she longed to be more than a spectator in history—she yearned to be an active participant in its unfolding narrative.

On one sunny afternoon, Mrs. Collins, her teacher, dropped a bombshell announcement that set the class on tizzy. "We are having an essay competition," she announced, bubbling over with enthusiasm. "The topic is 'A Modern Role Model.' Choose a person you admire, and the best essay wins a prize." Emma's heart thudded like a galloping horse as she knew at once her topic—the Queen herself.

Over the next few nights, Emma delved into reading, recalling the Queen's life and work from its origins. She observed how the royal family was the defense of British tradition, always representing the country to the world in their unique elegance. The resilience of the monarchy, enduring centuries through reform, filled her with profound inspiration, bearing witness to change's potential even in old anchorages.

Emma discussed it at school with her closest friend, Mia. "I believe the monarchy is totally vital," she declared, her eyes filled with conviction. "It connects us to our past and gives Britain a unique identity." Mia wasn't quite convinced, her uncertainty lingering like a cloud. "I don't know." The monarchs do not rule the country, and they take lots of money from taxpayers. Do we require them? "Emma pondered Mia's words, understanding that not everyone was as enthusiastic as she was. But she was certain, firmly, that the monarchy contributed something unique to the nation. "Yes, they do not create legislation," Emma clarified, "but they symbolize stability and continuity. And think about tourism! They come from all over the globe to tour royal castles and see ceremonies.

"That supports our economy!"

Mia sighed, still not convinced.

"Perhaps, but I think the government should spend that money on something else that would be more useful."

The following week, Mrs. Collins announced the winner of the essay in class. Emma's ears couldn't believe what she heard—it was her! She would have the opportunity to visit Buckingham Palace with a group of students as part of her reward. Her heart brimming with excitement, she phoned Mia the moment she was told.

"You simply had to go with me!" she insisted. "You had better get to know the monarchy through different eyes after you've seen things for yourself!"

Finally, the visit day had arrived. Emma looked up at Buckingham Palace, with eyes wide and full of amazement and awe. Golden trimmings on the entrance gates sparkled resplendent in the sunshine, and majestic architecture loomed above her, a sentinel over the past. She imagined there were royal pageants held there, solemn summits of world leaders, and glorious fêtes that boomed through annals of history.

Mia stood beside her, snapping photos with her camera.

"I have to say, this is really cool," she said in awe. "It looks like something out of a movie."

As they entered the palace, Emma couldn't help but be awed by the elegant furniture, the huge portraits of past monarchs, and the long, regal corridors that whispered of Britain's rich past. She listened to every detail as the guide explained to them the significance of various rooms, the grandeur of ceremonies, and the position of the monarchy in contemporary society.

After the tour, Mia confronted Emma with a thoughtful expression.

"You know, I didn't ever really think about the monarchy myself," she admitted.

"But now I see why people appreciate it. It's not just about ruling; it's about tradition, history, and culture."

Emma smiled gladly. To her, the monarchy was more than an abstract institution; it was a living, breathing representation of Britain's history and destiny.

Standing outside the palace, with the burden of history draped around her like a warm blanket, she knew that her passion for the monarchy would always be an anchor in her life. This experience only served to reinforce her belief that the monarchy, with its many-layered detours, was a necessary strand in the rich tapestry of British identity.

A Royal Reflection

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Sophie had always been a fan of Princess Diana, just as a flower is drawn to the sun. She read the pages of books and newspapers for years, captivated by Diana's life, how she had touched the hearts of millions with her beauty, kindness, and tireless commitment to charitable causes. As a child, Sophie had fantasized about being a palace resident, waving to adoring fans like a star bathed in the light of a spotlight and being more than she was. But most intriguing about Diana was her remarkable humanity, her ability to connect with people, above the frills of royalty, as if they were wisps of smoke.

On a quiet evening, Sophie snuggled in her cozy bedroom, reading from an old, worn magazine full of Diana's stories and photographs. Glossy pages highlighted the princess dressed in exquisite gowns, each dress like a silk river, as she talked to the people, comforted sick children, and strolled across landmines with courageous determination. Sophie ran her fingers lightly over the photographs, speculating what it would feel like to walk in Diana's footsteps, whose shoes seemed to radiate with the hope of a thousand possibilities.

Would she ever be as courageous as Diana?

Could she sample the thrill of being royal without being adored for being a sweetheart?

With that idea still on her mind, Sophie slipped into a profound, dreamful sleep, her heart beating like a butterfly in a gentle wind. When she finally opened her eyes, she did not find herself in her bed but facing the grand foyer of a majestic palace, a gilded mirror showing her standing in front of a lovely gown that seemed to whisper secrets of beauty. Sophie lifted her hands, stroking the smooth material, and gasped as the figure staring back at her was not just Sophie, it was Princess Diana, a living vision.

"Is this happening?" she gasped, her heart racing with excitement and disbelief, like a runaway horse thundering across an open plain.

A light knock on the door startled her, like a gentle stroke on a drum. A royal servant entered, a smile on their face.

"Your Highness, the car awaits. You have an appointment at the children's hospital this afternoon."

Despite the bewilderment, Sophie, now taking shape as Diana, felt a surging interest. She followed the assistant through palace corridors, dazed by the opulence around her. The ceilings stretched unbelievably above her like the wings of an eagle, adorned with grand gold embossments that sparkled with the soft light. The walls were lined with portraits of her former rulers, their eyes heavy with history, and each step echoed across the marble floor, creating a symphony of noise in the otherwise serene setting.

"Was she living the dream in the monarchy? Was she Diana?"

Sophie boarded a gleaming black car, and as they navigated the busy streets of London, she was welcomed by throngs of people standing outside like a blooming garden full of flowers that gently sway in the wind. They waved to her in appreciation and excitement, their faces beaming like sunflowers exposed to the sun. She automatically waved back at them, becoming aware of the heavy responsibility on her shoulders. This wasn't about gracing gorgeous gowns or strutting to fabulous parties, it was about making people's lives better for real.

At the hospital, Sophie welcomed the smiles of children who glowed when they saw her, their joy spilling like an oasis of hope. Diana had been renowned for her compassion, and as Sophie walked through the vibrant corridors, holding the frail hands of sick children, she began to see why everyone admired her so dearly. The kids weren't jubilant that she was a princess; they were jubilant because she cared. She saw them, heard them, and treated them with affection greater than titles and wealth. It was about kindness, about making every individual feel valued and heard, like precious gems in a treasure chest.

After leaving the hospital, Sophie attended an international charity event, where leaders from around the globe gathered to discuss humanitarian efforts. Engaging with these influential figures, she found herself passionately speaking about landmine victims—a cause Diana had championed with fervour. Phrases flowed effortlessly off her lips, as if she had indeed stepped into Diana's heart, mind, and soul, each syllable a brush mark on the canvas of compassion. She understood for the first time the weight of responsibility that Diana bore—not only as a princess, but as an individual upon whom the world awaited goodness, transformation, and hope.

But before she could begin to make a fiery speech, a crash of sound recalled her to the real world, like thunder in an empty sky. Sophie awoke to discover herself again in her bedroom, the magazine open on her bedside table. The palace, the adoring crowds, the children—had all been a living dream, as ephemeral as morning mist.

But as she sat up, she felt transformed. The dream had shown her something valuable. Being a royal was not about being famous; it was about being powerful for the benefit of all. She might never get to wear a crown, but she could still make the world a better place. Kindness, compassion, and bravery were not exclusive to royal blood; they were universal keys to unlock the hearts of others.

Spurred on by her dream, Sophie began, as a volunteer at a local shelter, serving alongside those who felt worthless and voiceless. She devoted her time, her heart, and her compassion exactly as Diana had done. In her way, she attempted to keep the spirit of the princess she had long looked up to alive all these years.

Because true royalty wasn't about crowns or palaces—it was about love, humility, and kindness. In a troubled world, Sophie realized that every good deed, no matter how minor, was a thread in a tapestry of hope. In every encounter, she did everything she could to be Princess Diana-like, telling herself and others that nobility is in what one does, like a warm flame that could light the darkest night.

The Crown of London

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In the heart of London, tales merge,
Through cloudy air and ancient stone walls,
The queen or king stands, a robust companion,
A beaming light never declines.

The halls are radiant with glistening gold,
Like sunny rivers, banners flutter high,
Guarded gates where tales are shared,
Whispers of history pass by.

From Windsor Castle to the Tower's tall,
Where kings and queens once lived and played,
A rich story, both big and small,
In time's whispers, dreams are made.

The bells of Westminster ring so clearly,
Their deep sounds, like thunder's might,
A hope we cherish, so very dear,
That shines through day and night.

But winds of change, like a gentle breeze,
Flow through the palace, where dreams can grow,
Tradition changes but never leaves,
A future bright in the evening glow.

The scepter shines, like stars up high,
The crown sits proudly, heavy on the head,
While voices sing, reaching the sky,
In new songs, fresh dreams are spread.

What is to come? We cannot see,
Like fog that hides the morning light,
Yet London's heart, a melody,
Will always shine, steady and bright.

The Wyrd Stone

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I never thought I'd spend part of my summer digging holes in the English countryside, but there I was knee-deep in mud and midges, supposedly helping out with a local heritage dig. Technically, I'd signed up to "experience early medieval history firsthand," but mostly I just needed the volunteer hours for school. And I guess... I was a little curious.

The site was near a tiny village no one outside Lincolnshire could point to on a map. It was called something like Wescot or Westleya honestly, I still can't remember. The sort of place that only gets a phone signal when the wind's in a good mood.

They said we were working near an old Anglo-Saxon burial mound. The head archaeologist a wiry guy with tired eyes and a voice that made everything sound vaguely profound talked about "preserving the memory of forgotten lives." I nodded like I got it. I didn't, not at first.

We found bones. Charcoal. A brooch, maybe? Someone claimed it was 1,200 years old. That number didn't really hit me until I held the thing. It was small and lopsided, with a kind of stubborn ugliness. Or maybe "weathered dignity" is a nicer way to put it.

Then I found the stone.

It was buried shallow, like it had moved or been moved. Just a fist-sized piece of slate with symbols scratched into it. Runes, I think. Or, well, someone said they were runes. Others said maybe they were just marks from plowing or water erosion. It didn't matter. I felt something when I touched it not mystical or spooky, just... aware. Like I was touching a decision.

I kept it, which maybe I wasn't supposed to do. I told myself I'd report it later. I didn't. It's still on my desk now, next to my headphones and a coffee-stained notebook. Sometimes I pick it up when I'm stuck on homework. It's smooth and cold and somehow heavier than it looks.

I like to imagine someone carved it out of boredom. Or fear. Or just because they could, in a world where writing wasn't something everyone did. Maybe it meant something, once. Or maybe it never did, and I'm just projecting because I want it to.

That's the strange part about digging into the past you think you're uncovering facts, but more often you end up unearthing questions you didn't know you had.

Were the Anglo-Saxons really so different from us? I mean, sure, they didn't have electricity or oat milk or anything, but they still mourned, fought, wondered, hoped. At least I think they did. Probably.

Some days, I stare at that stone and feel absolutely certain it was left there for someone like me to find. Other days, I feel ridiculous for thinking that.

But I keep it anyway.

Words of Wisdom

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The Anglo-Saxon cultural space has always fascinated me. From literature to education, from values to everyday customs, this culture has influenced the world in many ways. As a high school student from Romania, I've discovered that exploring Anglo-Saxon culture means more than learning English – it means understanding a set of values that can help us grow into better human beings.

One of the most powerful ideas that comes from this cultural space is the importance of integrity. In Anglo-Saxon literature, such as the famous poem Beowulf, the hero is not just strong, but also brave, loyal, and fair. He fights not for personal glory, but for his people. This teaches us that being a hero is not about being famous – it's about helping others and standing for what is right. In my opinion, this kind of wisdom is more important than ever in today's world, where people often care more about popularity than honesty.

Another value I admire in Anglo-Saxon culture is the respect for education. Universities like Oxford and Cambridge are more than just schools – they are symbols of tradition, excellence, and curiosity. They show us that learning is a journey that never ends. I believe that knowledge gives us the power to make better decisions, to understand the world around us, and to become independent thinkers. In my own life, I try to learn not only from books, but also from people and experiences. This is also a form of wisdom – knowing how to listen, reflect, and improve.

Language is also a very important part of the Anglo-Saxon legacy. English has become a global language, and it connects people from different countries and cultures. Through English, we can read Shakespeare, understand global news, watch international films, and make friends from around the world. I think this is a great gift – the ability to communicate and share ideas. For me, learning English has opened many doors, both in school and outside it. I feel more confident and more connected to the world.

The British cultural space also teaches us about resilience – the strength to go on even when things are difficult. During World War II, the British people, guided by leaders like Winston Churchill, showed the world what it means to stay strong and united in hard times. Churchill's speeches are full of wisdom that still inspires people today. One of his quotes that I really like is: "Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts." This idea reminds me that I don't have to be perfect – I just need to keep trying.

In conclusion, the Anglo-Saxon cultural space is full of valuable lessons. It teaches us to be honest, to keep learning, to respect others, and to stay strong. These "words of wisdom" are not just old ideas – they are tools that we can use to build a better future. As a student, I feel lucky to learn from this culture and to apply its values in my own life. I hope that more young people will discover its richness and find their own inspiration in it.

WORDS OF WISDOM

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Every person gains wisdom by prolonged years of research and knowledge of various domains, furthermore, gaining the gift of sharing their wisdom simply by their way of speech and sharing their thoughts about the world. Without wisdom people would tend to savagery and primal instincts. The constant urge to seek knowledge, which drastically increases with age, by some people creates the world as we know it now. People learn to adapt and not repeat certain dangerous scenarios, and they tend to wish for the greater good of their people and surroundings.

All throughout English literature and culture this concept can be seen in different stories as “King Arthur and The Knight of The Roundtable” where the main character, Arthur, an unknown peasant boy which one day stumbled upon the magical sword, Excalibur. This sword was special because only the one who was meant to rule over the kingdom was the one who was able to pull the sword out of the hardened rock. To his own surprise, Arthur was able to pull the sword out of the rock, which meant he was to become the King of England. The boy swore to rule with righteousness, courage and most importantly wisdom.

It is important to mention all the different ways wisdom is pursued throughout this story.

Merlin, the Grand Wizard who instructs Arthur on his way to glorify the kingdom through deep thoughts about destiny and leadership. He convinces Arthur that wisdom is overall more useful than brute force. In addition, the roundtable is used to enforce beliefs of equality through the lines of duty, fully entrusting in the wisdom of the king. Another section which thickens the purpose of wisdom in this story is the search for the Holy Grail, referencing the importance of belief in times of need.

In conclusion I believe that wisdom should be passed on from generation to generation, strengthening the grip of knowledge upon people and creating a world of peace and prosperity. All problems and hardships can be passed much easily by finding a simpler solution and not trying to avoid or rush through. Kings have won many battles with patience and confidence granted by their wisdom. Everyone should learn new things on a daily basis, it is our duty as human beings .

Words of Wisdom

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Can you create, Can you debate,
Something deeper than the gate?
The gate of knowledge that you see
Through the vast eyes of the sea.
An ocean full of thoughts
That swim without any doubts.

We are one of a kind,
Some creatures that decide
That they have a mind.
A mind that they can use
To ascend even further than the views.

We must know, We must respect
The catharsis of the self.
We must avoid the dissonance
And have a circumstance with elegance.

From history, family and friends,
Humans have created different lands.
Lands of words, of phrases and of texts,
Preserved in our minds, annex.
From the greatest horrors of all time,
There emerged another prime...

We are destined to adapt,
Even in the darkest trap.
We can devour paradoxes,
Even with the void-like boxes.

That's who we are,
And who we'll be.
Some birds of freedom,
That master the art of Words of Wisdom.

The Role of the Monarchy in British Politics and Tourism

*Elev: Prisacariu Diana,
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The British monarchy has existed for hundreds of years and, even though it no longer holds much political power, it remains a fairly important part of the country's identity. Some people see it as a symbol of national pride and unity, while others believe it is somewhat outdated and unnecessary in today's democratic world. When it comes to politics and tourism, however, the monarchy still plays a major role whether this is good or bad depends on who you ask.

From a political standpoint, the monarchy is now largely ceremonial.

The King, currently Charles III, does not actually make laws and does not govern the country. That's done by Parliament and the Prime Minister. The king only takes care of formal matters, such as opening Parliament, signing laws (although it's more symbolic), and the official appointment of the Prime Minister. It's all tradition, and honestly, it doesn't have much real power. However, many people see the monarch as a figure of stability, someone who represents the country but stays away from politics.

There is also the idea that the monarchy helps unite people. For example, when Queen Elizabeth died, the entire country took a pause. Even people who weren't fans of the monarchy showed respect. She had been present for so long, and in a strange way, people felt connected to her. The royal family also does a lot of charity work and talks about important issues like mental health and the environment, which I think is actually useful because people listen to them.

But, at the same time, there are many things that seem strange about the monarchy. I mean, in a country that should be all about democracy and fairness, why do we still have a system where someone is born with that kind of privilege and influence? They are not elected, and yet they live in palaces and represent the entire country. It just seems a bit wrong when you think about it that way. And, although they don't have political power, they still have a huge platform, and that matters.

Another thing is the cost. The royal family receives money from taxpayers through something called the Sovereign Grant, which is used for things like maintaining royal buildings, travel, and staff. I know they bring in money through tourism, and yes, that helps, but I still think we should ask ourselves if it's all really worth it. Especially when the country is facing issues in healthcare, education, and the cost of living. It's hard to justify spending millions on people who already have

so much. That being said, the monarchy is a huge tourist attraction. Places like Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle attract millions of visitors each year, and major royal events weddings, coronations, anything always receive huge attention. Tourists love these things. It's part of what makes the UK unique for many people around the world. And I won't lie,

I too become a bit curious when there's some royal drama or a celebration. But even if the monarchy no longer existed, I believe people would still come. History, the buildings, the culture everything is still there. The Tower of London doesn't stop being interesting if there isn't a king or queen living nearby. So, although royalty might add something extra, I don't think they are the only reason people visit.

Personally, I'm kind of torn. I understand the tradition and why people are concerned about the monarchy, but I believe it needs to change. Maybe the royal family could remain as a symbol, but with less public funding and more transparency. Or maybe we need to rethink everything completely. What matters most is to ensure that whatever system we have truly reflects the values we claim to believe in fairness, equality, democracy. In short, the British monarchy still matters, especially when it comes to politics and tourism. But that doesn't mean it should remain exactly as it is. There are real questions about its cost, its fairness, and whether it fits.

The Journey of My Dreams

*Elev: Cășăneanu Amalia Maria,
Prof. Zaharia Luminița Mariana,
Liceul Teoretic „Sfânta Maria” Galați*

Everyone dreams of exploring and going on exciting and fun journeys. A person's journey of their dreams could be a trip to a foreign country they'd always wanted to visit, or a few relaxing weeks spent by the sea, or a fascinating voyage to the South Pole. For many people, this journey represents a life goal, something a person deems they have to do before they kick the bucket. I have one such journey too. Or, well, had.

Truth be told, I've already completed the journey of my dreams. It's nothing grand compared to those of others, but it made me so happy that I'd do anything to do it again. A couple of summers ago, after walking the trail towards Toaca peak on the Ceahlau massif, I gained a love for an activity I never thought I'd adore: hiking. After hiking numerous peaks alongside my family, I couldn't help but set my sights on the ultimate goal - the highest peak within our beautiful country: Moldoveanu.

At first, I laughed it off, saying to myself that there'd be no way someone who gets tired as easily as me could hike this giant. However, after having done trails of similar difficulty, it started to seem more and more possible. And before I knew it, my family and I were on our way to Arges, prepared to go on the journey of our dreams the following day.

The first part of the plan was fairly simple and required little effort: wake up early, leave by 5 a.m., and drive to the starting point, which was around 2 hours away by car. After having completed that part, the real challenge began: the hike itself. It could be separated into 3 sections, each portion with its own unique challenges.

The initial sector was fairly simple, to be honest, but that doesn't mean it wasn't enjoyable. On the contrary, the trail proved itself to be quite a fun challenge, a serpentine foot path along the face of the mountain, beautifully illuminated by the morning sun and sprinkled with the hearty chats of adventurers. Along this portion we were kept company by a waterfall, its crest representing the start of the 2nd sector.

After around 2 hours of continuous but gradual ascent northbound and after having reached that waterfall's crest, we were greeted by a shockingly cold wind that nearly toppled me over. However, when I looked up to see where we were going, I saw one of the most beautiful places I've ever seen. It almost moved me to tears. The picture of the calm icy-cold water of the stream weaving through a vast emerald plateau, hugged by the intimidating and everlasting mountains, still remains etched on my retinas. Located in such a remote place, it was akin to the Garden of Eden. With a giant rock to sit on perfectly situated within that valley flanked by peaks, you could easily find yourself tempted to stop dead in your tracks and take in the scenery for a few hours while enjoying the sounds of nature. It was truly otherworldly.

As we continued our climb, which was more like a stroll on the beach at that point, we spotted a crushed metal structure, a mangled mess of wires and steel. It was a shelter which had

been utterly destroyed by an avalanche the previous year. It was a grim reminder, a call back to reality that this is nature's home, not ours, and that we should always be careful and respectful of it while hiking.

Once the plateau portion reached its end, the most difficult one began. Almost immediately after passing the marker, a glacial lake in the shape of a triangle, the trail drastically transformed from a gentle path to an abrupt, rocky, and undefined one. This scramble across the vertical rocks of the mountain ridge proved to be incredibly challenging. We could never let our guard down, not even for a second, for fear we might tumble down, hitting the jagged stones in the process. However, determined to reach the summit, we kept pressing forward. One step at a time, we conquered the mountain, and we reached the peak.

Reaching Moldoveanu felt surreal. For a while, I couldn't believe I'd actually managed to do it. In my mind, it was the ultimate challenge. I used to tell myself that if I could hike it successfully, I could do anything I put my mind to, no matter how difficult.

Despite all the challenges and hardships, I prevailed through sheer carefulness and perseverance. In a sense, this journey of my dreams changed me as a person. It gave me a new-found hope and greatly helped my self-esteem. I hope that some day, in the near future, I can hike it again.

Being a Teenager

*Elev: Cristea Matei Maximilian,
Prof. Zaharia Luminița Mariana,
Liceul Teoretic „Sfânta Maria” Galați*

Being a teenager is not always a walk in the park, because, you know,
Despite the young age, downsides may come by the dozens.
Apart from raging hormones, yearnings and high hopes,
Some of us may feel, and even display, for that matter,
Many other inner conflicts and changes of mood like:
Extasy, at some point, when the heart has learned to sing,
Possible anguish and despair, more often than not,
And a deluge of tears flooding into restrictive and harsh parents' ears.
Those who haven't experienced or lived such feelings,
May find this difficult to understand...
And they'll obviously grind their teeth
Or show disapproval, over and over again...
„You'll never learn! You're such a waste!”
„You're nothing but a loser, a worthless scum!”...
Hmmm... To them, that's all I'll say:
„I fear you haven't exactly lived your lives,
Let alone approach that magical dream-like sensation
Of trying hard to never conquer the “Mount Everest”,
That our mysterious life is... and will forever be.

The Most Wonderful Dream

*Elev: Șutiu Elena,
Prof. Zaharia Luminița Mariana,
Liceul Teoretic „Sfânta Maria” Galați*

Last Saturday I was lying in bed inside my dimly lit room, staring at the ceiling that I had personally decorated with fairies, since I had always been fascinated by them. I was bored and therefore decided to go out to the clearing just near our little house to pick up some flowers. Mom was cooking and just told me not to be late or I would eat my food cold. I nodded and happily ran out the door.

The sun was setting. That is my favorite time of day, when the skies are painted in shades of orange, red and pink, when the animals are lazily walking through the bushes, getting ready to sleep. I have always loved living near the forest. Being so close to nature is the best thing I could ever wish for. I sat down on the emerald grass, welcomed by flowers of all colors and their heavenly scent. I was happy. I was at peace and in sync with everything around me.

Suddenly, I spotted a tiny ball of light in the corner of my eye. I turned thinking it was a firefly, but when I looked closer, the little being seemed almost human. It immediately flew away towards the trees, scared. As if entranced, I leaped up and ran towards the light. The forest got even darker and there were branches in the way so it was a bit hard to see, but I kept going. In the end, I reached a big tree that looked very old. The little being seemed to have hidden inside the big hole at the base of its trunk. I got closer and stuck my head inside the hole, only to be left utterly speechless. In front of my eyes, there was what looked like an entirely different world, a world that seemed to belong to one of my fairytale books. I was flabbergasted and instantly pulled away. I was now back in the forest, my heart pounding, dumbfounded by what I had just seen. Millions of thoughts were racing through my mind, and I couldn't find any sensible explanation for what I had just witnessed. I couldn't resist the temptation and I hesitatingly pushed my hand through the hole this time. And then it dawned on me... It was a portal!... The greyish hole now had some sort of a blurring effect and all of a sudden my hand was gone. I did not know if what I was about to do was safe or not, but either way, I shut my eyes and jumped into the portal, hoping for the best.

I fell on something soft, and when I opened my eyes, there I was, yet again, in that magical place. The sky was purple, the grass a bright blue, while the trees were all white with pink leaves. There was some kind of glittery dust in the air and, only when I started looking closer, did I notice that on the tree barks there were very small lit houses, and flying about... some creatures that looked like... tiny humans... „Fairies?“, I thought... „Get off it! Seriously?“... „It can't be!“...

I was so amazed that I just stood there staring for a couple of minutes. Then I noticed that the little beings started „detecting” me and, while some ran and hid into their houses, others, more curious, stayed put and stared right back at me with the same confused gaze I must have had. It took me a while before I was even able to stand up again, but then I approached them. They were backing up, and by the time I reached them, only one little girl remained behind,

motionless, as if frozen. She was looking at me, but she didn't seem scared. I raised my finger and she flinched, but did not back away, so I gently patted her head. I quietly said „Hello”, not to scare her, and she looked up at me and smiled. I did not know if she could understand me, but suddenly I heard a high-pitched voice coming out of her mouth saying „Hello”, too. I asked her what her name was and she said it was Pixie. I also introduced myself and we started chatting and getting to know each other. I told her how I got there and she said that the tree hollow had always been the way to get to their enchanted realm and that I was not the first who discovered it. They had always been scared of humans, since every single one that came there started greedily catching fairies to take them back to the human world, and so they held a big grudge against them. I said that I completely understood their reasoning and apologized for people's mistakes. She said I was not to blame for their actions.

We talked for what felt like hours and eventually, seeing that I was harmless, more fairies got closer and started talking to me. One of them began talking about her family and friends and that was when I remembered... I had to go home for dinner. I told the fairies I had to go back because my mother had to be very worried by then, so they quickly took me back to the portal. I cried sad tears and told them I would miss them. They smiled and said I was always welcome to come back, but that I could never tell anyone about their existence. I promised I wouldn't and then Pixie handed me a tiny shining gem, saying that I should keep it to remember them. I thanked everybody and then jumped into the hollow tree for the last time.

Back into the forest, I started running, desperate to reach my house as quickly as possible. My mother was already worried sick, asking around and looking for me. I told her I fell asleep on the meadows. After she scolded me for a couple of minutes, we went inside. I was looking at that bright shimmering gem in my hand, smiling ear to ear, thinking about the unforgettable incredible journey I just had.

THE BRITISH MONARCHY

*Elev: Dăscălescu Antonia,
Prof. Bursuc Adina,
Colegiul Național „Petru Rares” Piatra Neamț, Neamț*

The British Monarchy is a symbol of national unity and tradition. It is represented at the moment by King Charles the 3rd. Ruling is done by his government, but as head of state in the UK the King must follow the government's advice. Even if he doesn't have direct political power, he has a symbolic, constitutional and representative role.

The monarchy is known all around the world and for many people the monarchy is a symbol of stability in a world that changes very fast. A lot of people are looking at it with respect and admiration. The events organized by the family, such as weddings or coronations are drawing everyone's attention and they are seen as parts of history.

The members of the family are usually admired for their charitable events. One of the most known acts of charity in the history of the royal family is Princess Diana's work with landmines and HIV/AIDS. This act had a big humanitarian and political impact. In 1997 Diana visited Angola with a charity that works to clear landmines in former war zones. The photos that were made with her in the minefields traveled the world and played a huge role to the 1997 Ottawa Treaty, a treaty that banned the use of anti-personnel landmines and was signed by more than 110 countries. Diana has also helped those suffering from HIV/AIDS, by shaking hands with AIDS patients without gloves. This simple act, yet very meaningful has changed the global perception over the people who have these diseases. Princess Diana died in a car crash on 31 August 1997. Her death brought grief in the United Kingdom and in the whole world, and her televised funeral was watched by an estimated 2.5 billion people.

Researchers found out the fact that 60% of the people that visit UK are likely to visit places that are associated with the royal family. This indicates that the British Monarchy is playing a huge role in the tourism industry.

Queen Elizabeth II ruled longer than any other Monarch in British history and became a loved and respected figure across the globe. Her reign of 70 years and 214 days is the longest of any British monarch, the longest of any queen regnant in history and the second-longest of any sovereign state. Over the years she modernized the monarchy by adapting it to the changing world. She also strengthened ties between nations and played an important diplomatic role in global affairs.

In conclusion the British Monarchy has a big diplomatic and charitable impact, representing the country globally and supporting numerous causes.

THE DANCE OF COLOURS

*Elev: Voineagu Cătălina,
Prof. Necula Angelica Iulica,
Liceul Tehnologic „Victor Frunză” Râmnicu Sărat, Buzău*

In fields where golden sunbeams play,
The flowers wake to greet the day.
Petals soft in hues so bright,
A dance of colours, bathed in light.

The roses blush in crimson hue,
Their fragrance lingers, sweet and true.
The lilies stand with grace so tall,
A silent song, a whispered call.

The daisies laugh in meadows wide,
Their faces turned where hope resides.
And violets, shy in shaded glen,
Hold secrets known to earth and men.

Through every season, wild and free,
They paint the world for eyes to see.
A fleeting gift, yet ever near—
A bloom of joy, a love sincere.

THE DROP, A NEW BEGINNING

*Elev: Zotoiu Sergiu,
Prof. Necula Angelica Iulica,
Liceul Tehnologic „Victor Frunză” Râmnicu Sărat, Buzău*

Softly it falls, a silver sigh,
Brushing the earth as it passes by.
A whispered song upon the breeze,
Dancing through the swaying trees.

Each drop a story, each drop a dream,
Rippling softly in puddles that gleam.
Tapping windows, tracing trails,
A lullaby in misty veils.

The thirsty ground drinks deep and slow,
As rivers wake and start to flow.
Petals glisten, leaves rejoice,
Nature hums with a gentle voice.

And when the clouds drift far away,
And sunlight melts the skies to gray,
A rainbow rises, bold and bright,
A promise painted in golden light.

THE ETERNAL LONDON

*Elev: Postolache Idris,
Prof. Necula Angelica Iulica,
Liceul Tehnologic „Victor Frunză” Râmnicu Sărat, Buzău*

Beneath a sky of shifting gray,
Where Thames winds slow in silver spray,
A city stands with ancient grace—
Time etched in every cobbled face.

From Tower's stone to Westminster's chime,
It cradles ghosts of every time.
The whispers of a thousand kings
Float through the fog on raven wings.

Its red bus hum, its black cab glide,
The markets roar on either side.
In Camden's pulse, in Soho's gleam,
It lives between the past and dream.

Big Ben ticks on with steady might,
While London Eye surveys the night.
And rain or sun, her streets unfold
With stories new and legends old.

She wears her crown of grit and gold,
Both fierce and weary, young and old—
A city born to rise and bend,
A poem that will never end.

THE SYMPHONY OF NATURE

*Elev: Cîrîc Andrei,
Prof. Necula Angelica Iulica,
Liceul Tehnologic „Victor Frunză” Râmnicu Sărat, Buzău*

The morning sun on dewdrop's gleam,
A golden touch, a waking dream.
The breeze that hums through ancient trees,
Soft-spoken songs upon the leaves.

Mountains rise with silent grace,
Time-worn giants in their place.
Rivers carve their endless way,
Silver threads in light's ballet.

Petals dance with colors bright,
Drinking in the warm sunlight.
The quiet hush of falling snow,
A whispered tune the cold winds know.

Oh, nature speaks in gentle tones,
In rustling leaves and hollow stones.
A symphony both wild and free,
Forever sung in harmony.

WESTMINSTER'S BREATH

*Elev: Baciú Ionuș,
Prof. Necula Angelica Iulica,
Liceul Tehnologic „Victor Frunză” Râmnicu Sărat, Buzău*

Where river bends and waters gleam,
Lies Westminster in royal dream.
A cradle of command and creed,
Where stone and silence intercede.

Beneath the gaze of ancient towers,
Parliament holds its measured hours.
Within those halls, the voices rise—
Debate and duty under skies.

Big Ben, steadfast in his tone,
Marks every hour in solemn stone.
A bell that binds both past and now,
A monarch's oath, a nation's vow.

The Abbey stands with hallowed grace,
A resting place, a sacred space.
Kings were crowned and poets laid,
Their memory in shadow stayed.

Here history walks in tailored suits,
With polished shoes and legal roots.
But also crowds with phones in hand,
Who marvel at this stately land.

So still she breathes, this storied place,
With noble heart and weathered face—
Where old and new together spin
The living thread of Westminster within.

Great Britain – the Land of Legends

*Elev: Buliga Mădălina Gabriela,
Prof. Istrate Marta-Raluca,
Liceul Tehnologic Bucecea, Botoșani*

On misty isles, where cold winds blow,
Beneath the sky's eternal glow,
There lies a land of ancient lore,
Of kings and knights from times of yore.

London shines in midnight's gleam,
Beside the Thames a whispered dream,
Big Ben tolls its steady chime,
Like echoes lost in halls of time.

Through rolling hills in mist so thin,
The past still breathes, it dwells within,
Stone castles stand with secrets deep,
Where armoured knights their watch still keep.

Scotland sings in wistful tune,
Its bagpipes crying to the moon,
Granite peaks and lakes so wide,
Where legends walk at eventide.

And Wales, where myths and magic hide,
With dragons fierce and hearts of pride,
Old stories carved in rock and song,
A land where echoes linger long.

Ireland dances beneath the night,
To harp's soft tune and fairy light,
Emerald fields, lost tales retold,
Of spells once cast in day of old.

Great Britain stands so proud, so grand
Through storm and sun, a timeless land,
A story writ in blood and lore,
A place of wonder evermore.

The British Army's Pride

*Elev: Dumitraş Petronela Alexandra,
Prof. Istrate Marta-Raluca,
Liceul Tehnologic Bucecea, Botoşani*

Through misty dawns and battle cries,
The British Army stands so wise.
With courage strong and hearts so bold,
Their stories through the years are told.

Across the seas, on land and sky,
They march with honour, never shy.
Through peace or war, they stand as one,
Defending all till fights are done.

Their duty calls, they heed the sound,
With steadfast feet upon the ground.
Through trials tough, they hold their line,
A legacy that shines divine.

With sword or shield, with mind or might,
They fight for freedom, truth and right.
Through history their name will stay,
A force of strength in night and day.

The song of Elf-Shot

*Elev: Stoleru Elena-Daniela,
Prof. Istrate Marta-Raluca,
Liceul Tehnologic Bucecea, Botoșani*

In the deep forest, where the naked eye can't see,
Them elves hide, waiting to set their arrows free.
And strike with wrath, with secret spite,
Vanishing then in the silent night.

Invisible, the sharp shafts fly,
Through flesh and bone, they pierce and pry.
With crashing pain, they all would fall,
To weakness and madness, they lost to all.

The farmers found on the land of the theft,
Small sharp darts the elves had left;
They whispered charms and sung their pleas,
To guard their homes and fields and trees.

And if stuck down by elvish might,
The healer came by day or mostly night,
A song was sung,
A wicked spell to cast when the night is still young:

'Out, little spear, if there is one here within!
I stood under the shield, under the bright shield,
Where mighty women made their cries,
And sent their spears, screaming fiercely.
I will send them back another way,
Flying through the air like arrows of iron!'

Thus feared and loved, the unseen world,
Where ancient power softly swirled,
The Anglo-Saxons, bold and wise,
Gave honour and praise to the hidden skies.

Where the Silence Gathers

*Elev: Barbălată Roxana Daria,
Prof. Istrate Marta-Raluca,
Liceul Tehnologic Bucecea, Botoșani*

Not every song from Scotland sings,
Not every stone recalls a name,
And mountains, proud, forget in time
The voices once that called them home.

Beneath the tartan's woven pride,
Beneath the rise of pipes and drums,
There lies a hush, a buried weight
The quiet grief no anthem hums.

The battle's not in field or fire,
But in the soul's slow, aching fold
Between the clan that fades in shadow
And a world too fast, too cold.

The forest sons now walk on stone,
The hearths are cold, the mills undone,
Ana grandmothers who spoke in lore
Are silenced by a newer tongue.

We praise the brave, the blood, the steel,
But seldom speak of loss and yield –
The generations made of silence,
Swallowing what time concealed.

Scotland weeps in other ways
In moss that climbs on nameless graves,
In birds that pass her hills in spring
But never land, nor choose to stay.

Windsor Castle

*Elev: Szabo Cristina Marina,
Prof. Istrate Marta-Raluca,
Liceul Tehnologic Bucecea, Botoşani*

On the smooth, ancient hill,
Where the clouds intertwine,
Stands a castle with sacred towers,
Windsor, proud, ancestral.

The stone is cold, but it speaks
Of kings and knights,
Of fairy-tale times
And courtiers in heavy armour.

Beneath its silent vaults
Old echoes still echo,
Footsteps of lost queens,
Whispers on the moonless night.

The flag waves far
When the monarch is at home,
And the gardens are in bloom
Tell England's destiny.

Hours pass, millennia flow,
But the castle stands,
A gentle witness to a world
With splendor and honour.

A WISDOM EMBRACE

*Elev: Bors Bianca Miruna,
Prof. Mandrea Teodora,
Liceul „Ștefan Procopiu” Vaslui*

In the garden of life, where colours entwine,
Each petal a story, each hue a design
Diversity dances in the whispering breeze,
A symphony vibrant, a chorus of trees.

In the heart of the world, where cultures collide,
A tapestry woven, where differences abide.
Acceptance embraces our shadows
Whilst every identity finds its rightful place

From mountains to valleys, from rivers to skies,
Cultures converge, where the heart never lies
No room for poor judgement
For love knows no borders, it shatters the past

Let echoes of laughter, the warmth of our gaze
Illuminate pathways through life's winding maze
We learn from the others, we discover our might,
A world free from hatred, where darkness meets light.

Equality stands tall, a pillar of grace,
Each voice a note in this beautiful place,
Receive and embrace, a vow we renew,
To honour each story, both old and anew.

So let us plant the sweet wisdom seeds,
In the hearts of the young, in the world that has needs
Tradition, diversity, we rise above strife,
Creating a world where all flourish in life.

A CULTURE OF TOLERANCE-Stand up together

*Elev: Ilie Thomas Daniel,
Prof. Mandrea Teodora,
Liceul „Ștefan Procopiu” Vaslui*

Liam was the new kid. He had moved in the middle of the year to Maplewood Elementary, and, as he entered the classroom, full of expectations and slight trepidation, maybe he would make new friends, he flashed a big smile at everyone. A few of his classmates smiled back, but the boy named Jason did not. He was known as the bully.

During break, Liam sat on the bench as everyone else was playing and running around. "What's a nice new kid like you doing all by himself?". He recalled the face from earlier, but this time was accompanied by a few other boys. "Are you too scared to play with us?", the boys erupted into laughter and Liam felt his face turn red.

The next day was just as bad. Jason mocked Liam for his shoes. In Maths class, Jason shoved Liam's book bag to the floor. Liam remained discouraged and alone, still unable to figure out a way he could help himself.

After school, Liam was on his way home when he saw Emma, one of the nice girls in his class. "Liam!" she yelled, sprinting to catch up to him as he strolled down the sidewalk. "I saw what happened with Jason today. That was not cool. Are you okay?". „I'm fine.", Liam replied, even though he wasn't. "Well, we should tell Mrs. Harris, our homeroom teacher" she said. "We shouldn't have to put up with bullies in this school.". "But I'm scared", Liam said, "What if it gets worse?"

The next day, Emma spoke to a few others about the bully incident with Jason and his crew. "We're all going to support him today", she said. They joined her cause.

The next break, Jason approached Liam once more. But this time Emma was at Liam's side, along with a few others. "Leave him alone", Emma commanded. Jason stopped in his tracks. "Why do you care?", he questioned. "Because we don't like bullies", Emma yelled at the top of her lungs. "If you do so much as touch him again, we're going to tell Mrs. Harris.". One by one, little by little, Jason and his crew backed down.

The day after break, Jason was called up to Mrs. Harris's desk. She reprimated him in class, as expected, to acknowledge school policy on a reconsideration and impact the others.

From there on out, Jason apologised to Liam. Liam befriended some of the other classmates, and Jason never bothered him again from that day forward.

FOOTPRINTS ACROSS THE ENGLISH LANDSCAPE

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

The road unfurls before our eyes,
A path of wonder 'neath the skies.
With each new dawn, a journey starts,
To far-off lands and beating hearts.

I chase the sun across the plains,
Through fields of gold and gentle rains.
In every town, a story waits,
To be discovered at the gates.

With every step, a new horizon,
A chance to let my soul be risen.
Through valleys deep and mountains high,
I journey on, beneath the sky

I roam the streets of Saxon towns,
Where history's echoes still resound.
I taste the flavors of foreign lands,
And feel the touch of shifting sands.

Through bustling markets and quiet lanes,
I find my joy; I ease my pains.
For in the journey, I discover,
The beauty of life, in every color.

So let me roam, let me explore,
To find the truths I'm searching for.
For in the wanderer's heart, so free,
I find the essence of being me.

Saint Cuthbert, the miracle worker of Britain and a beacon of faith

*Elev: Simean Emanuel-Petrișor,
Pr. Prof. Pristavu Cosmin-Constantin,
Seminarul Teologic Liceal Ortodox „Sfântul Ioan Iacob” Dorohoi, Botoșani*

Saint Cuthbert, one of the most venerated and beloved English saints, was once called "the miracle worker of Britain.

Saint Cuthbert was born into a wealthy and noble English family in the northern part of England around the year 634. When he was eight years old and playing as usual on the hills around his house, one of the children who was with him, a three-year-old, began to rebuke him with harsh words, scolding him for wasting his time and strength in vain and useless games. Although the words of the child were incomprehensible to others, they struck directly into Cuthbert's heart, and he immediately gave up his games, deep in thought, for he felt in his soul that it was the Holy Spirit who had spoken through the child.

While still young, the saint was granted the ability to perform many miracles, which quickly brought him respect and love from the people. One night in 651, while he was still tending the cattle, Cuthbert had a vision. Suddenly, he saw a bright light spreading from the sky, and heard voices singing in a wonderfully beautiful way. In this light, he saw a multitude of angels descending to the earth, who quickly took a human soul among them, which shone like the sun. They then returned together with that righteous soul to the heavenly glory. In the morning, he learned that Bishop Aidan of Lindisfarne had passed away, and at that moment, Cuthbert decided to become a monk.

After four years of military service, Cuthbert went to the Monastery of Melrose, on the borders of Scotland, where Saint Boswell shone. There he was tonsured as a monk. After a short time, he went to the Monastery of Ripon to help with its construction. There, being entrusted with the duty of a guest master, he had a divine revelation, which strengthened his faith and decision to intensify his ascetic practices and self-discipline. Not wanting to follow the Roman monastic traditions, in 661, he chose to return to the Monastery of Melrose, where he was appointed abbot after the death of Abbot Boswell.

In the monastery, he taught the brothers, especially through the example of his own life, how to walk the narrow path of salvation. However, his work was not limited to the monastery. Many in the surrounding villages were either still pagans, or had abandoned the true faith through their deeds after receiving baptism. Seeing this, Cuthbert began to travel through the nearby villages, enlightening the people with his divinely inspired words.

The saint had the custom of praying outside the monastery at night, while all the others slept. He would enter the sea up to his neck, praying in rhythm with the waves, with his hands raised to the heavens. According to one of the brothers in the monastery, when he came out of the water, two otters would warm him with their fur.

Over time, the man of God grew in knowledge and holiness, acquiring the gifts of prophecy and working miracles. For his humility, God granted him the gift of thwarting the devil's schemes. The saint had power not only over the deceptive fire, but also over true fire.

In 664, the Synod of Whitby decided to adopt Roman monastic traditions in place of the Celtic customs. Cuthbert humbly accepted this decision, and was appointed abbot of the Great Monastery of Lindisfarne, where he implemented the new monastic traditions. The fact that he had been raised in the Celtic monastic tradition but accepted the Roman monastic tradition made the monks at Lindisfarne more willing to accept the change in practices.

At this place as well, Cuthbert continued his travels through the villages of England, striving to elevate the English people toward the pursuit of eternal life. In this way, he became known throughout the country for his miracles and his glorious gifts.

Saint Cuthbert remained abbot at Lindisfarne until 676, when he withdrew to the nearby Inner Farne Island to live as a hermit. Here, the saint led a life of prayer, with only seals, otters, and sea birds as companions. For his holiness and love for all who were in need, the fame of Cuthbert spread throughout the country. Therefore, countless people came from all over to confess, seek salvation, or simply receive his blessing. Even though he was removed from the world, Cuthbert continued to perform many miraculous healings.

In 685, a synod led by Saint Theodore of Tarsus, Archbishop of Canterbury, took place. Without being present, Cuthbert was chosen as Bishop of Lindisfarne. Thus, after eight years of hermitic life, the saint began a new ministry. After receiving the episcopacy, he intensified his ascetic practices and struggles, for now he bore the responsibility for countless souls.

Cuthbert's best friend was Saint Herbert, who lived as a hermit on an island in Derwent Lake. He would visit Cuthbert every year to seek advice on salvation.

After two years of intense mission work, feeling that his time to depart to the heavenly dwellings had come, Cuthbert decided to lay down his episcopal office in order to better prepare for his departure from the body.

After resigning from the episcopal duties, the saint returned to his cell on Farne Island, but God allowed him only two months of peace. Shortly thereafter, he fell ill and fell asleep in the Lord on March 20, 687, being buried at Lindisfarne Monastery, as he had wished. After his death, the miracles and healings of the saint did not cease; on the contrary, they increased in proportion to the faith of the people.

Eleven years after his death, in 698, the tomb of the saint was opened and his relics were found to be intact. They were placed in an oak coffin and reburied.

The veneration of the saint among the people grew rapidly thereafter. Over 150 churches were dedicated to him in England and Scotland, and rightly, Cuthbert was considered the most beloved English saint.

After his death, Lindisfarne Island became known as the "Holy Island" and it became a true Athos of England. This continued until 793, when the Vikings raided the monastery, killing the monks and bringing an end to the monastic life there. The monks who survived took the relics of their father, along with other treasures of the monastery, including the Lindisfarne Gospels and the head of Saint Oswald. After seven years of wandering through southern Scotland and northern England, the monks placed the relics of Saint Cuthbert in a chapel in

Dunholme (modern-day Durham). In 1093, the Norman conquerors built the present cathedral, and the relics of Saint Cuthbert, along with the head of Saint Oswald, were placed in a shrine.

In 1540, during the Reformation, King Henry VIII sent a detachment to destroy the shrine of the saint. The monks were allowed to bury the relics. In 1827, the tomb was opened, and the beautifully clothed remains, along with the venerable head of Saint Oswald, were found inside.

Through the prayers of our Holy Father Cuthbert, Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen!

Saint Ita, the adoptive mother of the Irish saints

*Elev: Muha Claudiu-Florin,
Pr. Prof. Pristavu Cosmin-Constantin,
Seminarul Teologic Liceal Ortodox „Sfântul Ioan Iacob” Dorohoi, Botoșani*

Saint Ita is among the most well-known saints in Ireland. She was born around the year 480 in a Christian noble family from the Waterford area in the southeast of Ireland and was baptized as Deirdre. From a young age, she had a special inclination toward spiritual life, fasting from an early age. Her parents once saw an unusual fire in her room, a sign of the presence of divine grace.

As she grew older, she also grew in virtue. Feeling a strong calling to asceticism and a deep longing for God, at the age of 16, she decided to go to a monastery. Initially, her father disagreed, but after an angel appeared to him and explained the situation, he agreed. She went to the monastery with her sister, Fiona. They were both consecrated as nuns by Saint Declan, the Bishop of Ardmore. Deirdre was given the name Ita, which means "thirst for holiness."

By divine arrangement, the two monastic sisters were guided by three pillars of heavenly light to a place in the Limerick area, at the foot of a mountain, where Saint Ita founded the Killeedy Monastery – the name means “Ita’s cell or church.” There, she would spend the rest of her life, sometimes retreating into isolation.

Here, she opened a school, to which many children were sent to learn. The monastery’s school produced many saints, such as Saint Mochoemoc, her nephew, Saint Cumian, Saint Fachanan, and others. She cared for Saint Mochoemoc from the time he was a baby. For this reason, she was called “the adoptive mother of the Irish saints.”

Due to the grace of God working through her, people from all over Ireland honored her as a saint during her lifetime and traveled great distances to reach her for comfort and guidance. A notable example is Saint Columbanus, who visited her to seek spiritual advice. Her wisdom came from the authentic living of the Orthodox life in asceticism and humility. Along with discernment, God also granted her the gift of prophecy and the ability to perform miracles.

Saint Ita said that the Lord loves three things in Christians: faith in God with a pure heart, a simple and spiritual life, and merciful love. And the three things she said were displeasing to the Lord were: a gloomy face due to hatred in the soul, persistence in sin, and putting one’s hope in earthly riches.

Around the year 570, at the age of 90, after a severe illness, she passed away and blessed the priests, monks, nuns, and faithful in that region. The monastery she built was destroyed in the 9th-10th centuries by the Vikings.

Saint Ita’s feast day is celebrated on January 15. She particularly protects students, pregnant women, and those with eye diseases.

Saint Ita, pray to God for us, sinners!

The Influence of English Literature

*Elev: Bumbel Anemona-Maria,
Prof. Mușat Simona Marilena,
Liceul Teoretic „Traian Lalescu” Orșova, Mehedinți*

A few days ago I was finishing up a book, “Pride and Prejudice” by Jane Austen to be more precise. I am completely sincere when I say it was a great book and a very enjoyable read, I liked it so much that I felt the need to explore some other works from Jane Austen, but as I was searching for my next obsession for a few days I was struck with a question. How did it all start? English literature is complex and vast, including many of the world’s most famous novels. In my research for a book to read, I realized just how important British literature is for Global Literature.

I wanted to go a bit more in depth on the subject, as it deeply fascinated me at the time.

In the fifth century, the language known as “Old English”, was brought to Great Britain by the Anglo-Saxon settlers. In this language, the first pieces considered English literature were written, including “Beowulf” which is also the most popular poem in Old English and many others like “The Battle of Maldon” and “The dream of the Rood”.

After the Normans came in England, Old English was replaced with “Middle English”, the language in which the famous story “The Canterbury Tales” by Geoffrey Chaucer was written. This story paved the way for later writers like William Shakespeare and also offered a lot of insight into life in Medieval England. This period is also the period in which the Arthurian legends were first written, these legends went on to later inspire many other works of literature, movies and even comic books. As English evolved further, the Renaissance brought about one of literature’s most influential figures, William Shakespeare, whom I mentioned earlier. He is widely recognized as one the world’s greatest dramatists. Some of his works include Hamlet, with the famous quote “To be, or not to be: that is the question”, Romeo, Macbeth and many others.

As history progressed, new literary movements gave rise to remarkable English authors, poets, and playwrights. During the Neoclassical period, literature was focused on reason, satire and political commentary. Works like Jonathan Swift’s Gulliver’s Travels and Daniel Defoe’s Robinson Crusoe stand out during this period. Nowadays, Robinson Crusoe is considered one of the first English novels

Later on, Mary Shelly with the famous “Frankenstein” along with Horace Walpole’s “The Castle of Otranto” created the Gothic novel. Similarly, the Detective novel can be traced back to writers like Arthur Conan Doyle with “Sherlock Holmes” and Agatha Christie with “And Then There Were None”

Today, during the Modern and the Contemporary periods, writers like Virginia Woolf, T.S Elliot, James Joyce and George Orwell, whose “Animal Farm” shaped dystopian fiction, remark themselves. However, we can’t forget authors like J.R.R Tolkein with “The Lord of The

Rings', C.S Lewis with 'The Chronicles of Narnia' and of course, J.K. Rowling with "Harry Potter".

English literature has continuously evolved, shaping not only storytelling but also language, culture, and thought across the world. From the epic poetry of Beowulf to the refined novels of Jane Austen, from Shakespeare's timeless dramas to the thrilling mysteries of Arthur Conan Doyle, British writers have set the foundation for countless literary traditions. The impact of English literature is seen in the novels we read today, the movies we watch, and even the way we express ideas. Finally, I have the answer to my question.

All about England

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

England is a country that is part of the United Kingdom. It is located on the island of Great Britain, in western Europe.

It is known for its history, literature, sports and a lot more. The capital city is London. Today I'm going to tell you everything you need to know if you want to visit it.

Last year, I went on exchange to England. I stayed in a village near London for two weeks and a family hosted me.

In my opinion, England is like Eden on Earth, especially the countryside, but London is also beautiful, if you know what to visit. Of course, Big Ben, Buckingham Palace and The London Eye are breathtaking, but there are other interesting places that most tourists don't know about.

For instance, there's Crossrail Place Roof

Garden. It is the most beautiful botanical garden I have ever seen and it's free to enter! More free, interesting places are: Natural History Museum, Neasden Temple, Barbican Conservatory, Isabella Plantation and that's not all.

Of course, there are other amazing places which cost money, but I think that it's amazing how the ones I have listed are completely free and they are jaw-dropping.

One thing you should definitely know is that it usually rains there, so you have to be mindful about what you pack and you should always have an umbrella with you! If I remember correctly, I only experienced two sunny days. Also, in my opinion, the food is great, so you don't have to worry if you are a picky eater.

Now, about the people. They are the most kind-hearted people I've ever met. Not only my host family, but everyone. Everybody I met there made my stay better by lifting my mood. They are all really sporty, as well. They either play cricket, rugby, ice hockey, football or tennis, which also happen to be the most common sports there.

To sum it up, I think that England is a very beautiful country with awesome people and I think that it's definitely worth visiting!

All I can say

*Elev: Daescu Larisa,
Prof. Muşat Simona Marilena,
Liceul Teoretic „Traian Lalescu” Orşova, Mehedinţi*

Beneath the clouds of England's sky,
There is a true paradise
Of towers, castles and skyscrapers,
That hold the tales of our ancestors.

Throughout London you will see for sure,
Buildings unique for their architecture.
From complex, gothic Cathedrals,
Like Wells, Lincoln and Durham,
To modern buildings, made of glass,
Such as The 30 Saint Mary Axe.

If you see the iconic Red Double-decker bus,
Take a turn to The Bridge Street, fast.
Once you get there you will be amazed,
By The Big Ben's tower, proudly raised.
This London's iconic national timepiece
It's one of the main attractions for the tourists.

From hour to hour it will chime,
So you have the chance to hear
The Big Ben's bells, ringing loudly,
Making an anthem for the city, sung proudly.

A misterious monument you may also want to see
Is The Stonehenge, that have raised so many theories.
Creating the perfect hazed image,
It is a mistery until this day.

All in order, all I can say
Is that Anglo-Saxon space will remain one of the greatest place.
Its architecture is something to see,
A blend of past and modernity.

Echoes of the Anglo-Saxons

*Elev: Ștefănescu Ioana-Gabriela,
Prof. Anuței Angela-Georgeta,
Școala Gimnazială „Aron Vodă” Aroneanu, Iași*

Through rune-carved stones and mead hall song,
Their tales of warriors still live strong.
From Beowulf to Shakespeare's pen,
Their voices call, again and again.

The roaring seas, the misty plains,
Their legacy in blood remains.
Through ancient words and battle cries,
Their spirit never fades nor dies.

THE SYMBOLS OF ENGLAND

*Elevi: Merișef Anisia, Nițelia Maria-Ioana,
Prof. Anuței Angela-Georgeta,
Școala Gimnazială „Aron Vodă” Aroneanu, Iași*

The flag of England and it's actually the cross of Saint George on a white rectangle. The horizontal red cross appeared as an emblem of England during the Middle Ages and the Crusades are the one of the oldest known representations of the country.

The crown of Saint Edward it's the central piece of the Crown Jewels of the United Kingdom named after the Holy Edward the Confessor was traditionally used to crown English and British monarchs at their coronations since the 13th century. The original crown was a holy relic preserved at the Westminster Abbey Edward's burial place until the crown was either sold or melted down when the parliament abolished the monarchy in 1649.

The British Army, with a total of 150,240 troops in November 2009 is the second largest army in the United States. In the new British Army incorporated regiments which already existed in England and Scotland and was administrated by the War Office. It was then administrated by the Ministry of Defense in 1963.

The symbols of England, such as the flag of Saint George, the Crown of Saint Edward and the British Army, each represent important aspects of the country's history and identity. These symbols have evolved over time, reflecting England's cultural heritage, monarchy and military strength.

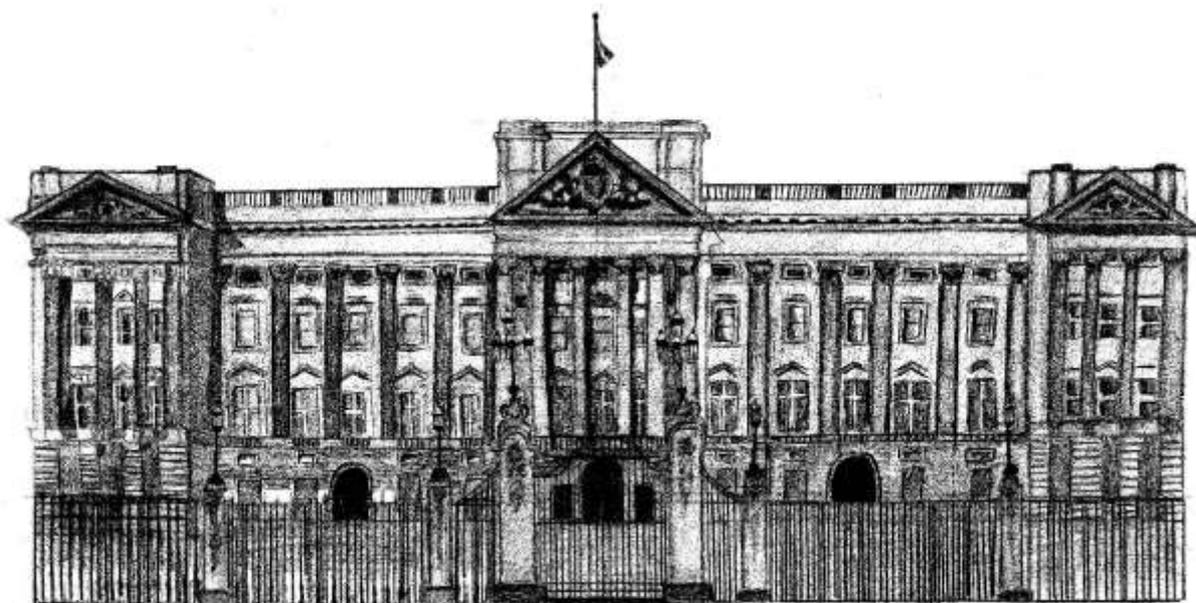
SPRINGTIME

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

The warm sun smiles at dawn
Only flowers appear on the trees,
Birds chirp,
Wake up all the children.

Grass grows everywhere,
Butterflies float in flight,
White Clouds float slightly,
And the wind blows slowly!
The river flows quietly,
Everything is green and blooming,
Spring has arrived!
Everything is happier and full of sunshine!





The Buckingham Palace

Elev: Solomon Alessia-Maria,

Prof. Masgras Alexandra,

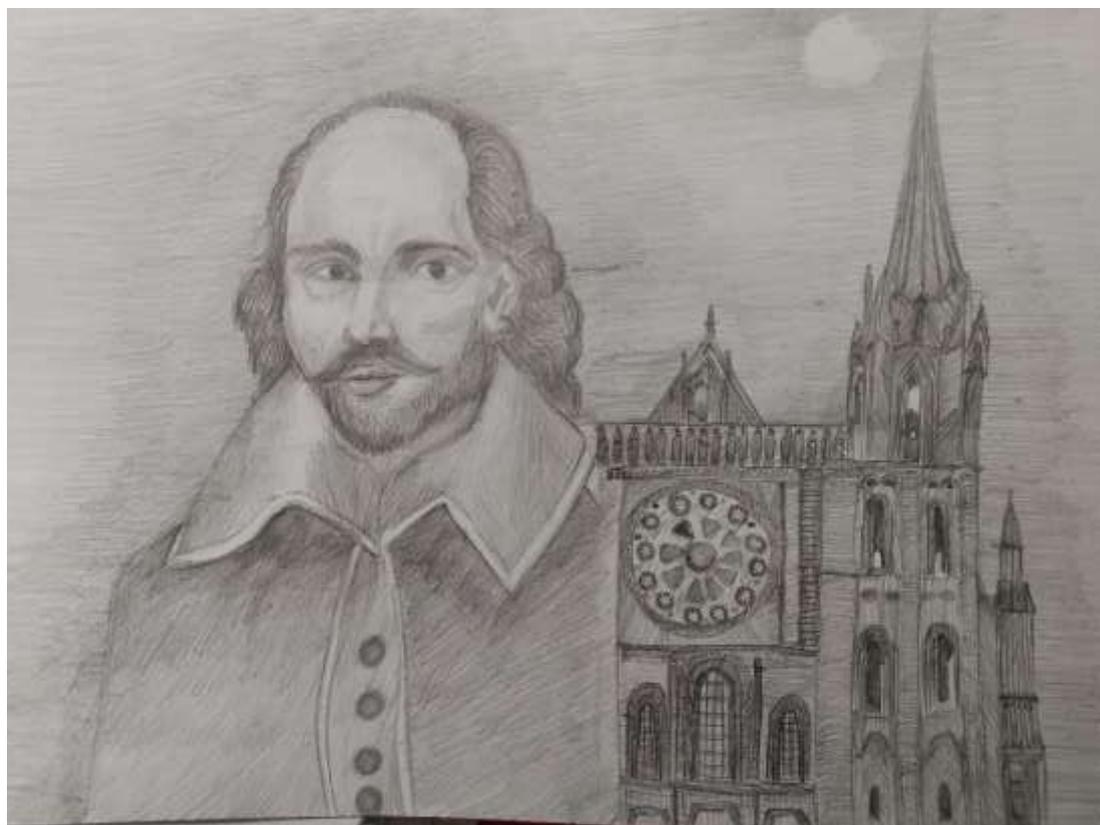
Seminarul Teologic Ortodox „Sfântul Andrei” Galați



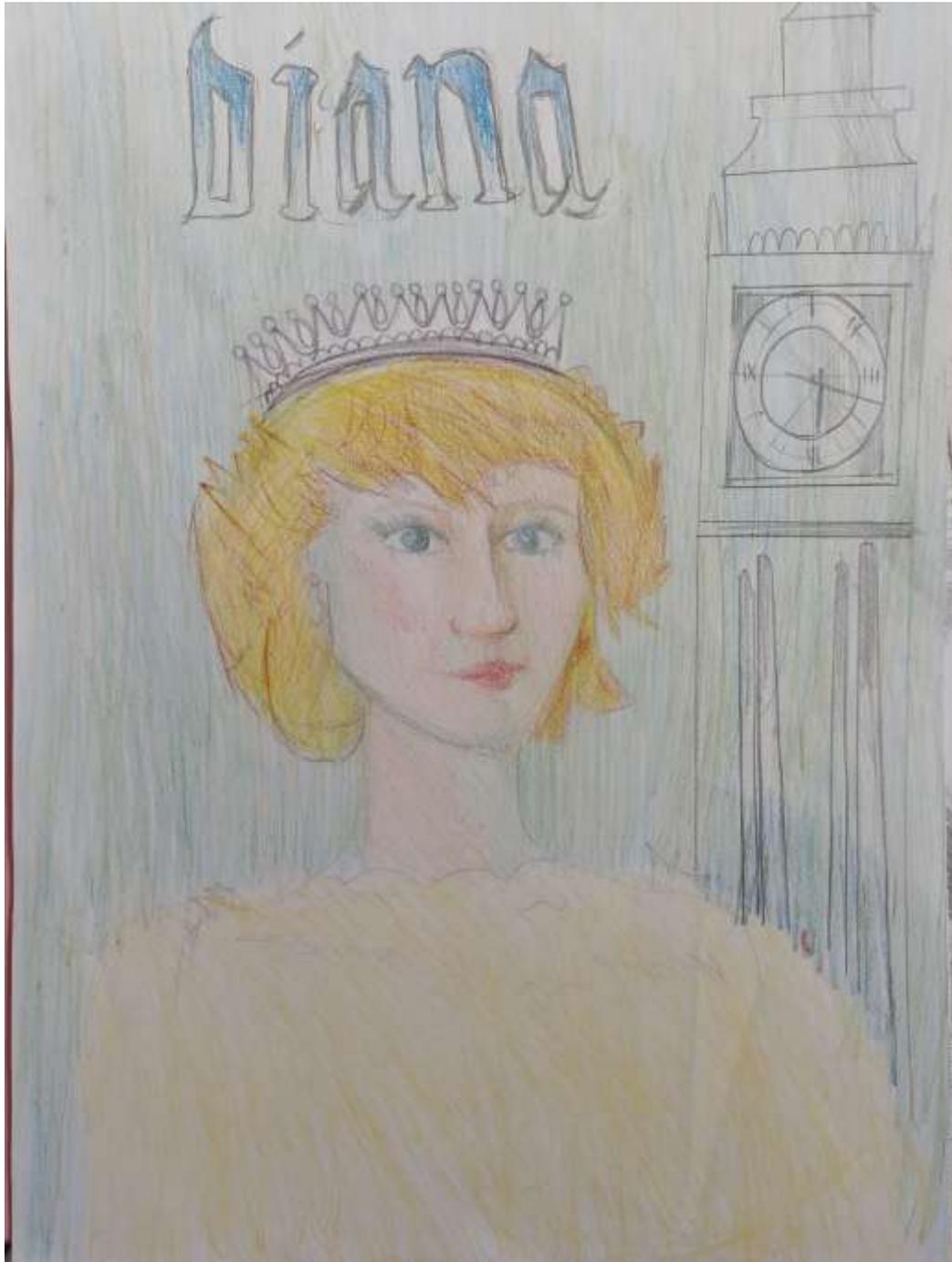
*Elev: Cosma Alexandra,
Prof. Altiparmac Anca,
Școala Gimnazială „Alexandru Ioan Cuza” Bacău*



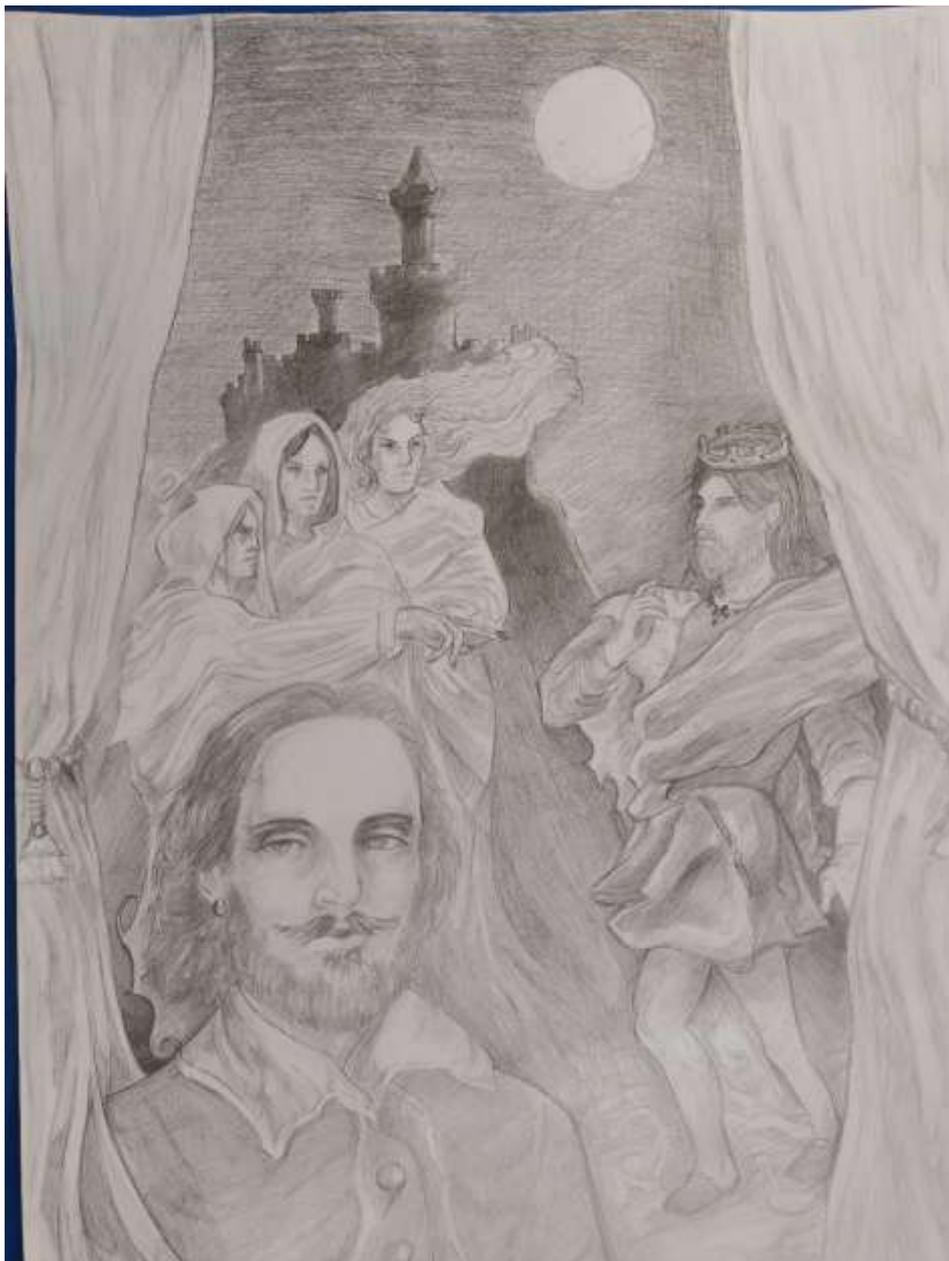
*Elev: Donisă Anastasia,
Prof. Altiparmac Anca,
Școala Gimnazială „Alexandru Ioan Cuza” Bacău*



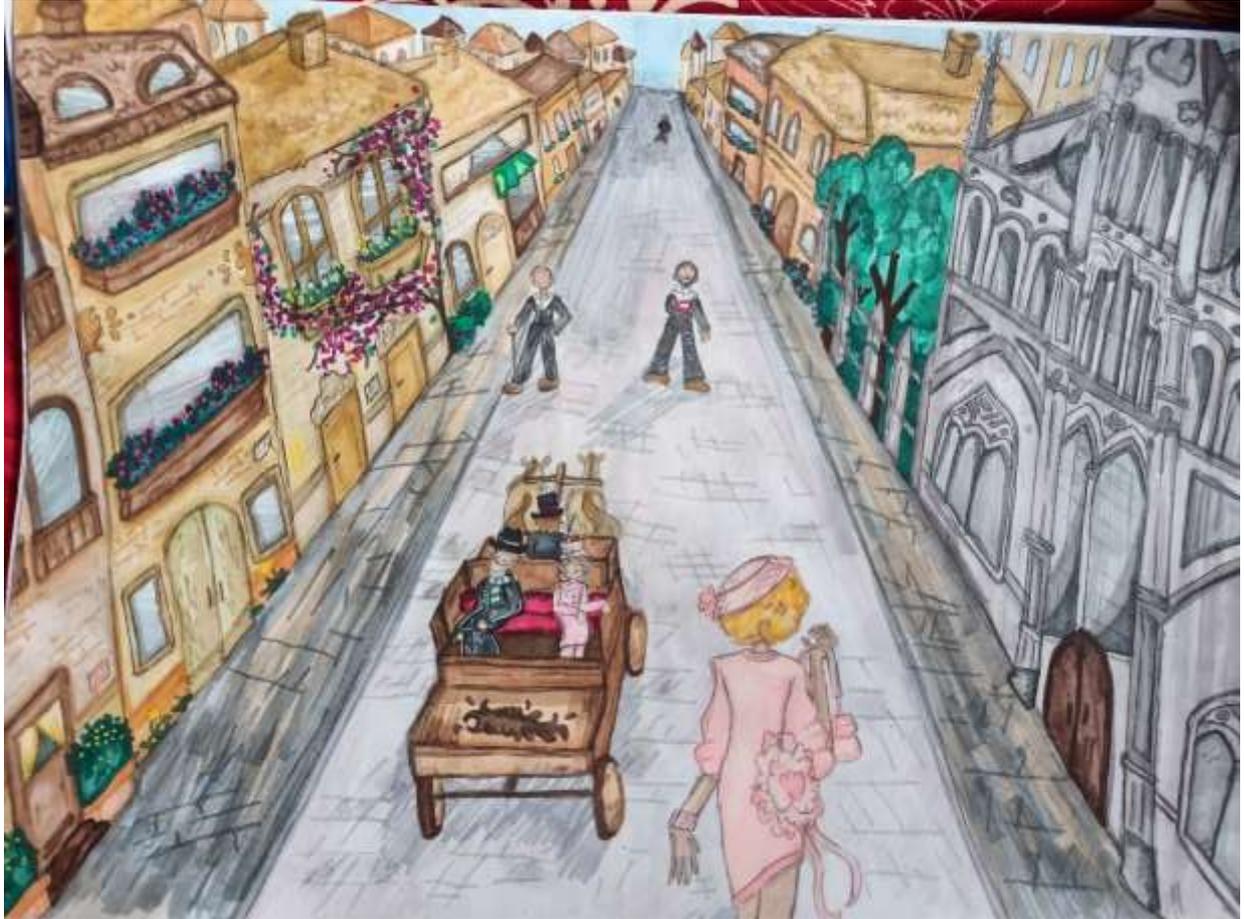
*Elev: Ecrin Yldirim,
Prof. Altiparmac Anca,
Școala Gimnazială „Alexandru Ioan Cuza” Bacău*



*Elev: Genes Sofia,
Prof. Altiparmac Anca,
Școala Gimnazială „Alexandru Ioan Cuza” Bacău*



*Elev: Ilkay Istek,
Prof. Altiparmac Anca,
Școala Gimnazială „Alexandru Ioan Cuza” Bacău*



*Elev: Pantea Marea,
Prof. Altiparmac Anca,
Școala Gimnazială „Alexandru Ioan Cuza” Bacău*



Farmec britanic

Elev: Rața Daria Ecaterina,
 Prof. Leonte Mariana-Liliana,
 Colegiul Tehnic „Gheorghe Asachi” Iași



*Elev: Gheorghe Iasmina,
Prof. Muşat Simona Marilena,
Liceul Teoretic „Traian Lalescu” Orşova, Mehedinţi*



The Symbol of England

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

**Regele Alfred cel Mare**

*Elev: Neta Daria-Emilia,
Prof. Anuței Angela-Georgeta,
Școala Gimnazială „Aron Vodă” Aroneanu, Iași*

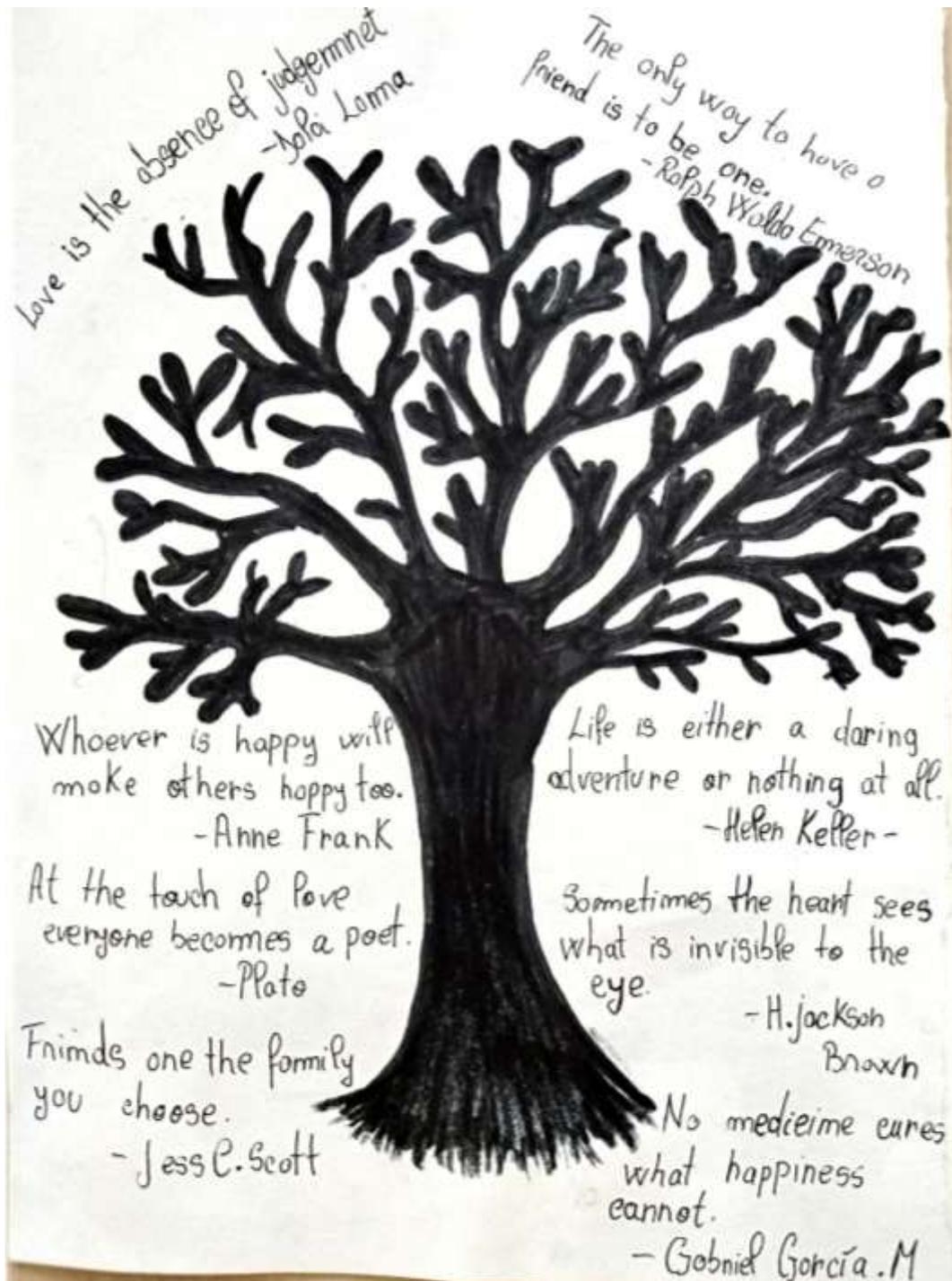


Pool Rooms

Elev: Robu Maria,

Prof. Anuței Angela-Georgeta,

Școala Gimnazială „Aron Vodă” Aroneanu, Iași



Copacul inspirațional

Elev: Rusu Bianca-Elena,
Prof. Anuței Angela-Georgeta,
Școala Gimnazială „Aron Vodă” Aroneanu, Iași



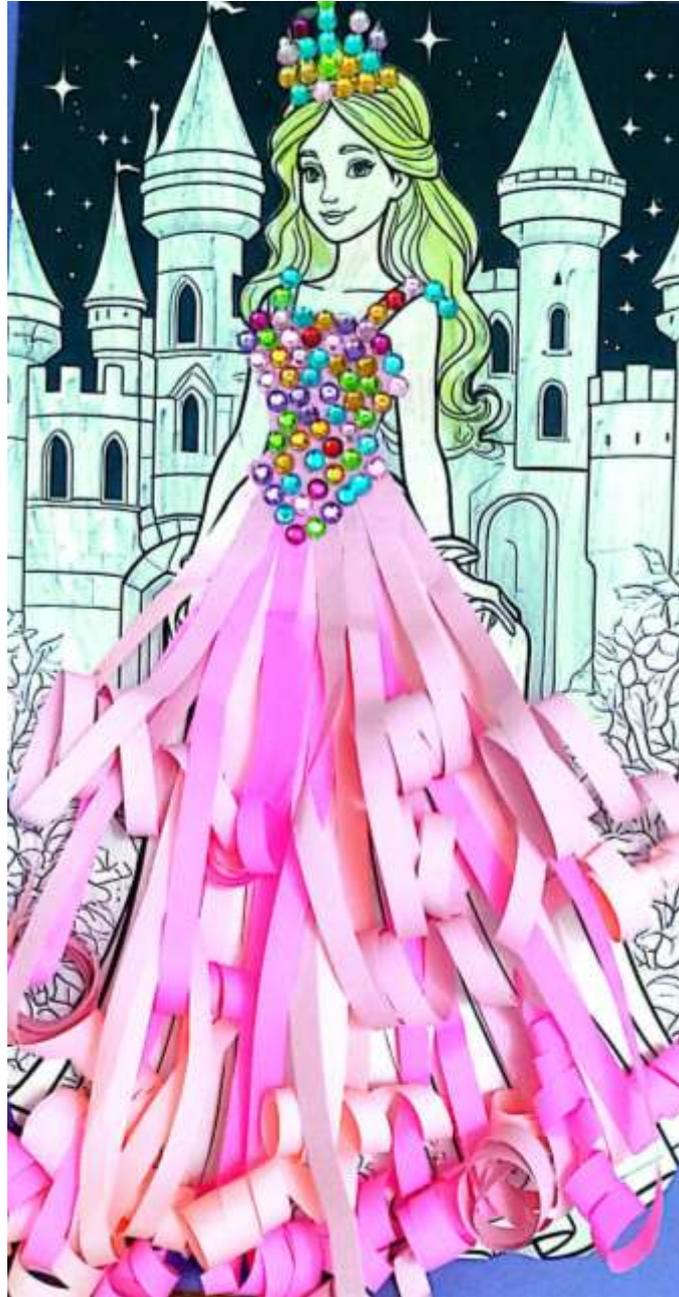
THE QUEEN

*Elev: Călăraș Roberta,
Prof. Vezure Isabelle Elena,
Centrul Școlar pentru Educație Incluzivă Băbeni, Vâlcea*



Royal Guard

*Elev: Ciobanu Teodor,
Prof. Vezure Isabelle Elena,
Centrul Școlar pentru Educație Incluzivă Băbeni, Vâlcea*

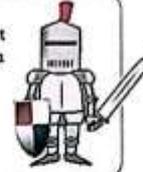


The Princess

*Elev: Ciurea Lavinia,
Prof. Vezure Isabelle Elena,
Centrul Școlar pentru Educație Incluzivă Băbeni, Vâlcea*

Designing a shield for a knight

Heraldry was devised so that knights could be identified on the battlefield, after all you don't want to attack the wrong person! The shield was an important part of a knight's armour but it also made up a key part of his heraldic design. Take a look at the basic shield designs below and select one for your own design. Colours also played an important part but were limited to silver, gold, red, blue, green, purple and black. Experiment with using different colour combinations on the shield outlines below.



Party



Party-fesswise



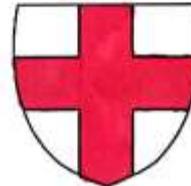
Quarterly



Pale



Fesse



Cross



Party-bendwise



Party-saltirewise



Gyronny



Bend



Saltire



Border

THE SHIELDS

*Elev: Gongorici Daria,
Prof. Viezure Isabelle Elena,
Centrul Școlar pentru Educație Incluzivă Băbeni, Vâlcea*



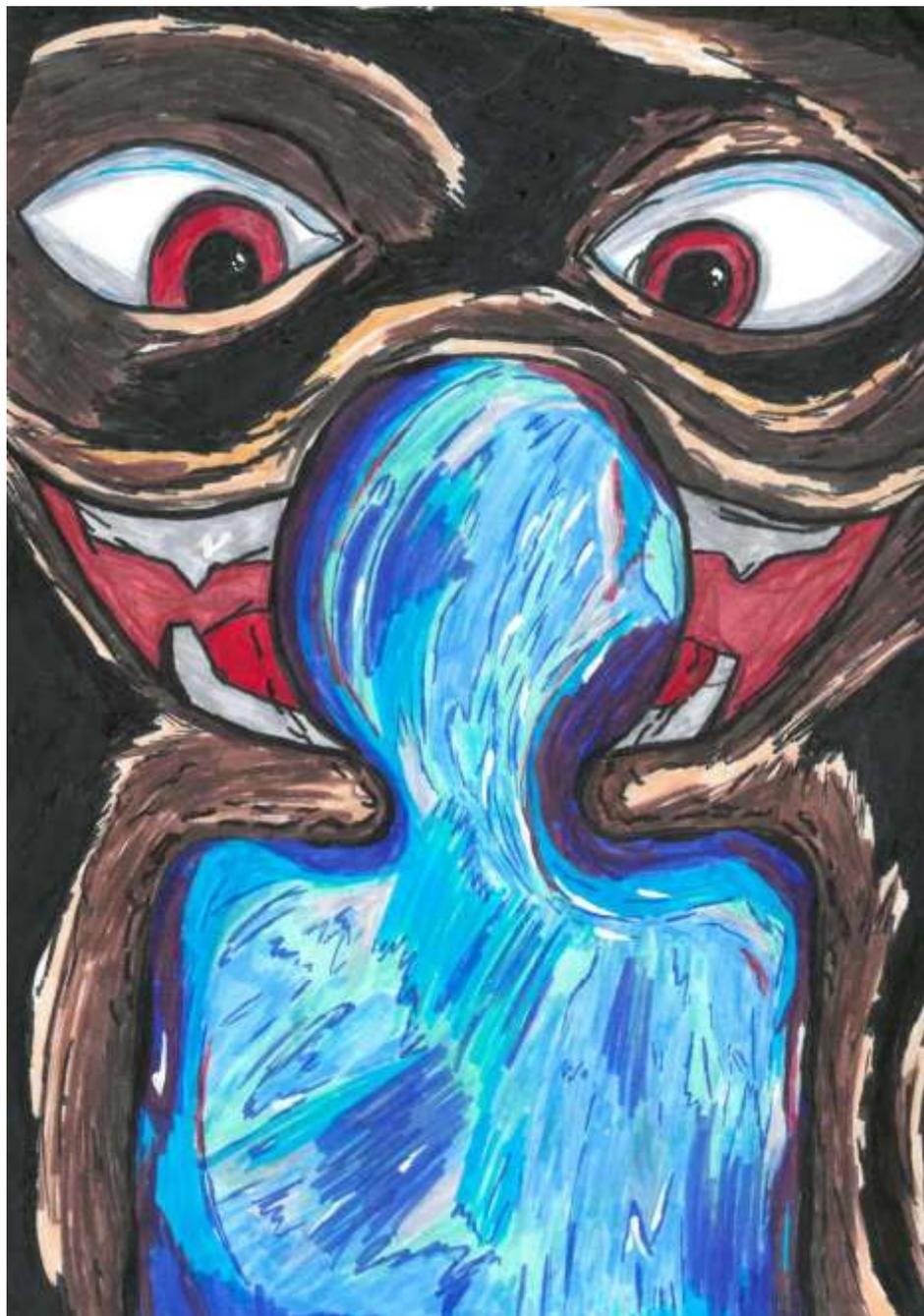
The Sword

*Prof. Vezure Isabelle Elena,
Centrul Școlar pentru Educație Incluzivă Băbeni, Vâlcea*



Coroana timpului

*Elev: Ilucă Andreea-Ioana,
Prof. Cucoreanu Gianina-Magdalena,
Colegiul Național „Grigore Ghica” Dorohoi, Botoșani*

**Distorsion**

*Elev: Chihaiia Denisa,
Prof. Sarafim Răzvan-Gabriel,
Seminarul Teologic Liceal Ortodox „Sfântul Ioan Iacob” Dorohoi, Botoșani*

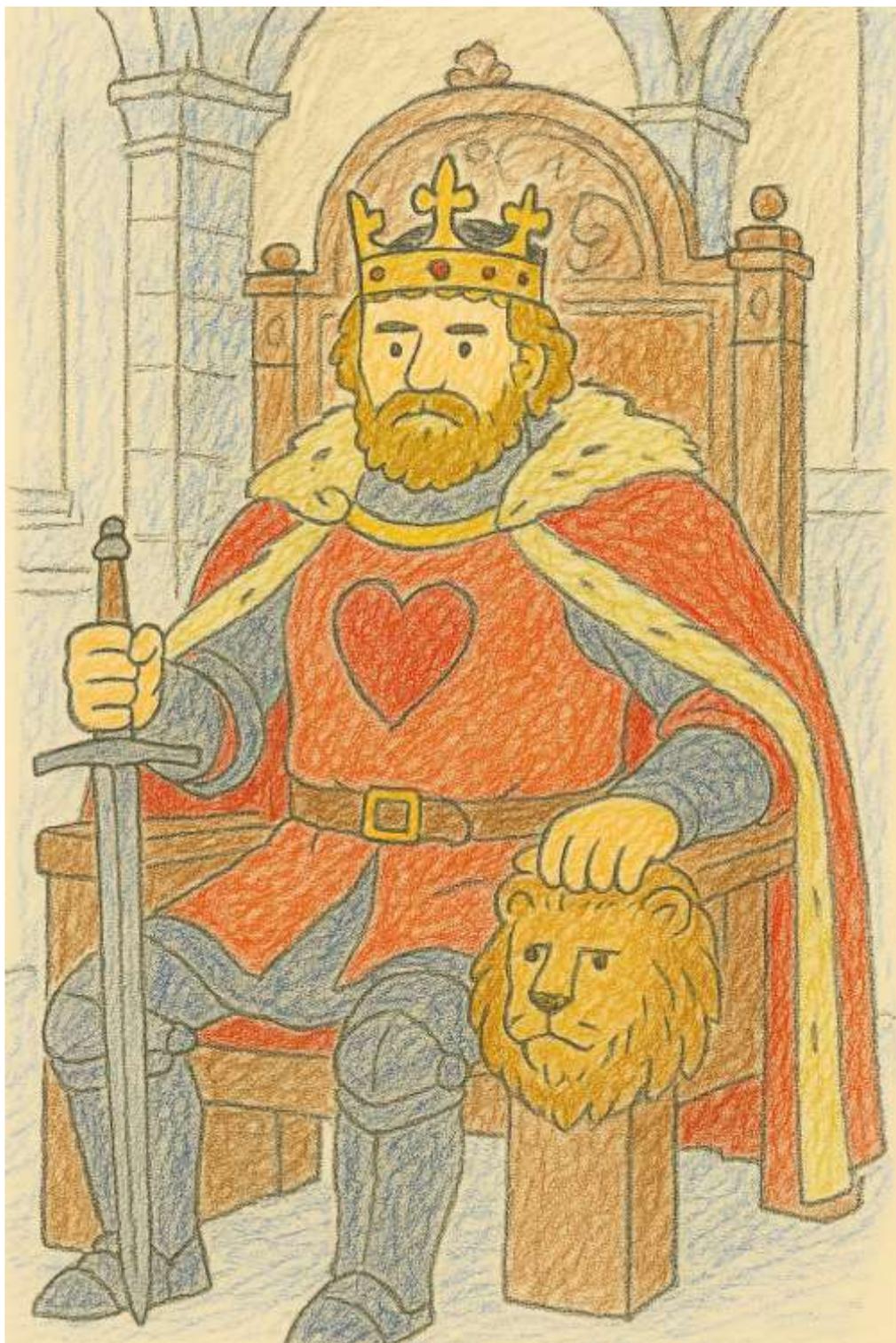


Biserica Temple Church din Londra

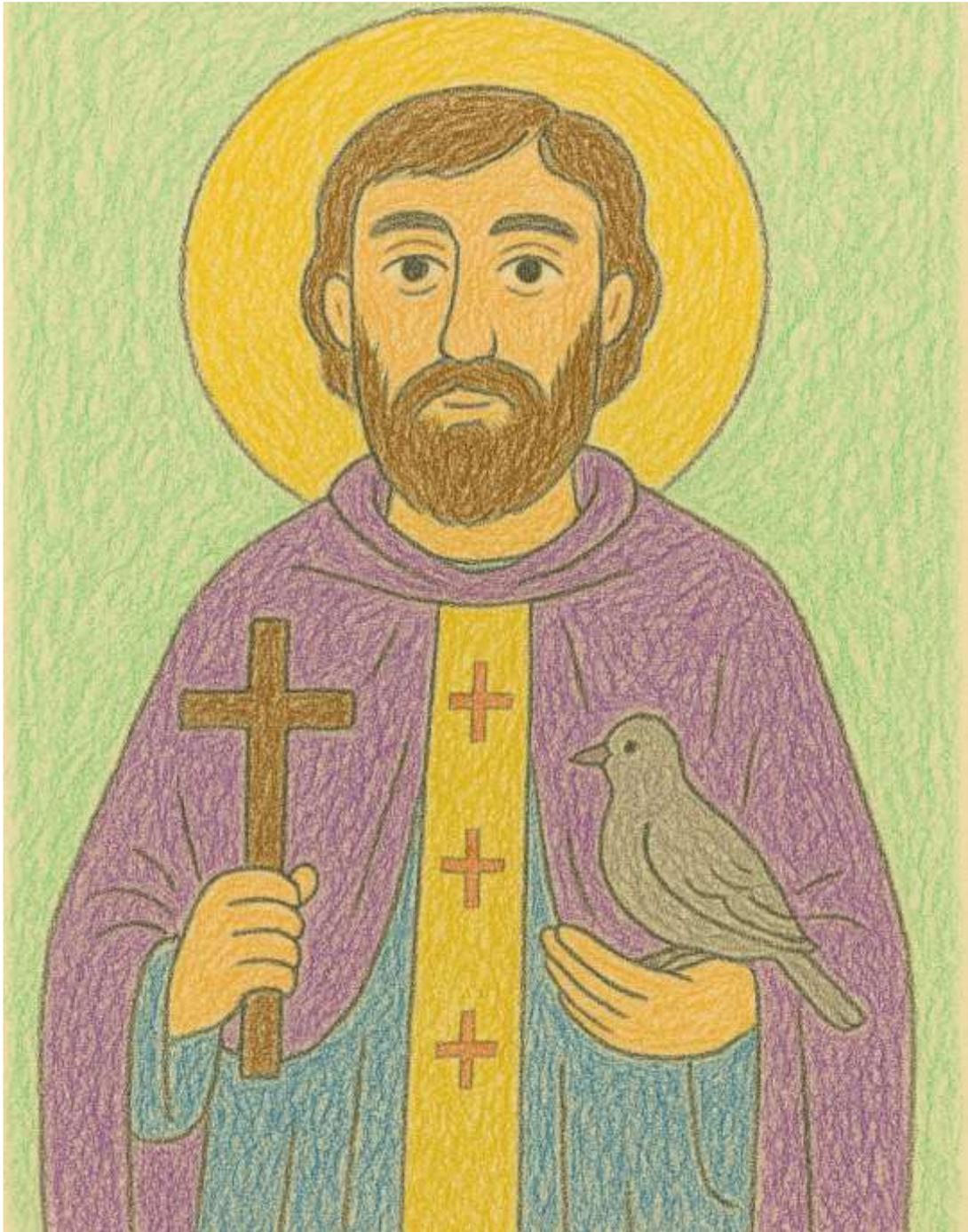
Elev: Rus Robert-Mihail,

Pr. prof. Chichioacă Petru-Georgel,

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

**King Richard Lionheart**

*Elev: Popușoi Andrei-Gabriel,
Pr. prof. Chichioacă Petru-Georgel,
Seminarul Teologic Liceal Ortodox „Sfântul Ioan Iacob” Dorohoi, Botoșani*

**Saint Cuthbert**

*Elev: Abalașei Javier,
Pr. prof. Chichioacă Petru-Georgel,
Seminarul Teologic Liceal Ortodox „Sfântul Ioan Iacob” Dorohoi, Botoșani*



Saint Ita

Elev: Toma Stanislav,

Pr. prof. Chichioacă Petru-Georgel,

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



Queen of England

*Elev: Tanasă Alice-Iuliana,
Prof. Dobrinca Alina,
Liceul „Dimitrie Cantemir” Darabani, Botoșani*

**Big Ben in London**

Elev: Bahrin Rareș-Sorin,

Prof. Dobrințu Alina,

Liceul „Dimitrie Cantemir” Darabani, Botoșani



London my Soul

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



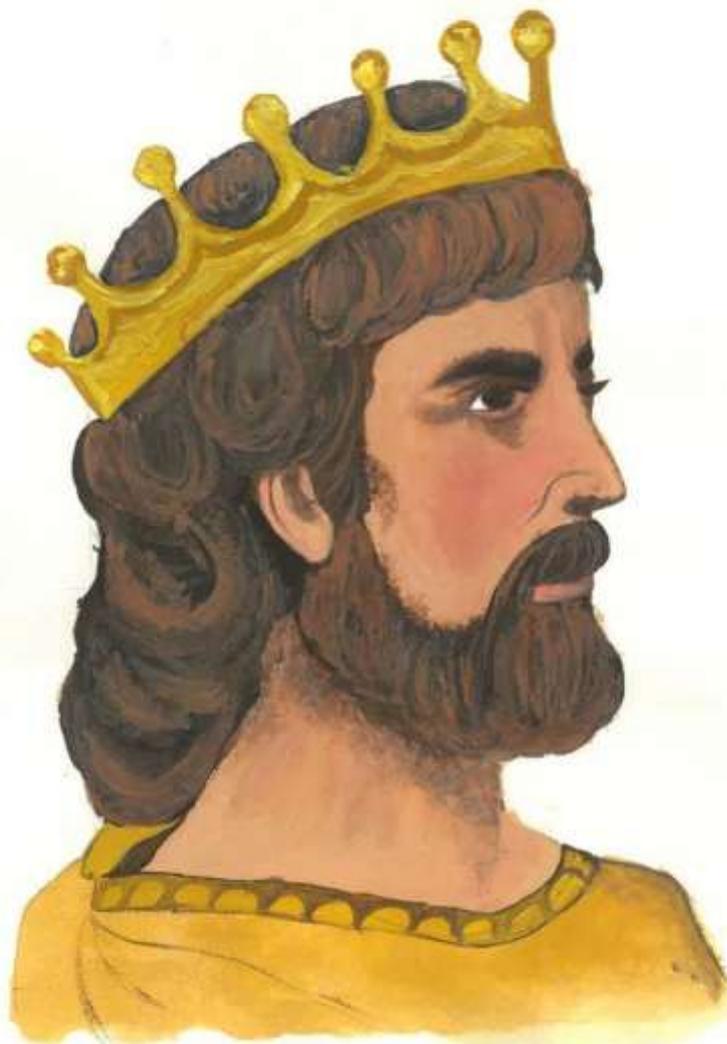
Ecoul timpului

*Elev: Bălăucă Maria-Marinela,
Prof. Chelariu Cristina,
Liceul Tehnologic „Nicolae Bălcescu” Flămânzi, Botoșani*



Egbert cel Mare

*Elev: Sterpu Iulian,
Prof. Chelariu Cristina,
Liceul Tehnologic „Nicolae Bălcescu” Flămânzi, Botoșani*



Regele Aethelstan (924-939)

Elev: Bejan Daria Alexandra,

Prof. Chelariu Cristina,

Liceul Tehnologic „Nicolae Bălcescu” Flămânzi, Botoșani



Amfiteatrul din Arles

*Elev: Vornicu Ionuț,
Prof. Chelariu Cristina,
Liceul Tehnologic „Nicolae Bălcescu” Flămânzi, Botoșani*

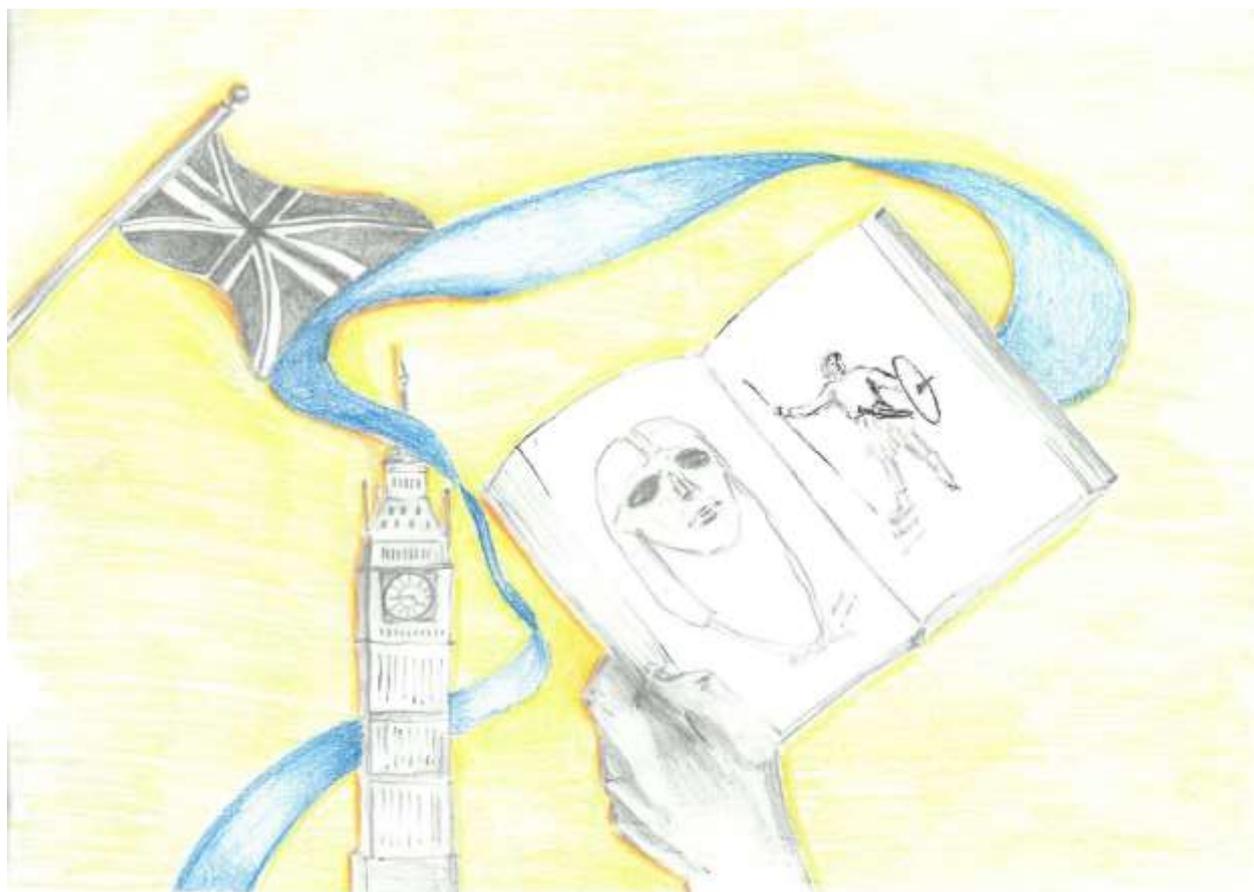


Regele din Marcia

Elev: Hăisan Petruța,

Prof. Chelariu Cristina,

Liceul Tehnologic „Nicolae Bălcescu” Flămânzi, Botoșani

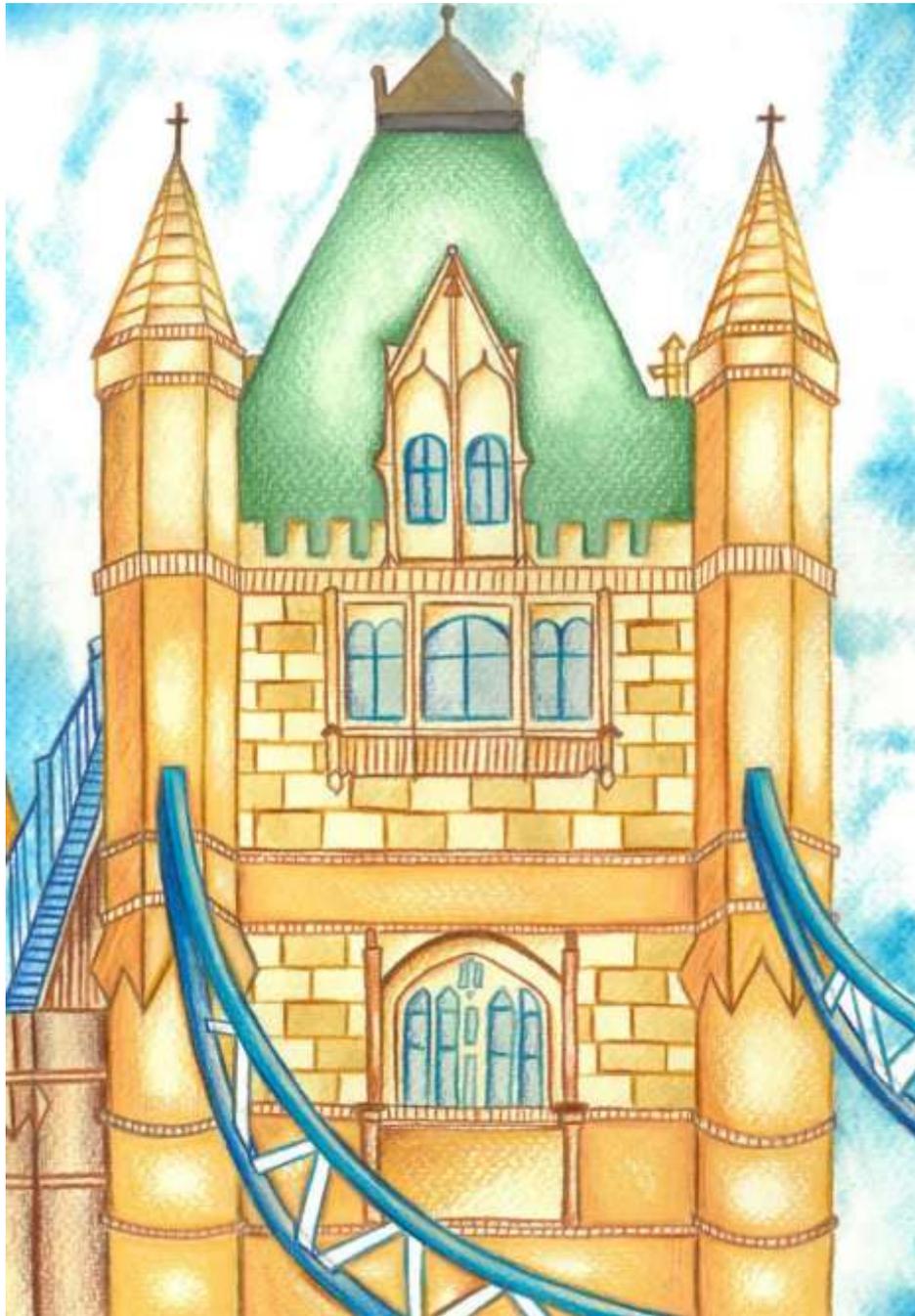
**Rădăcini și identitate**

*Elev: Mitrea-Boghian Ana Maria,
Prof. Rusu Raluca,
Colegiul Național „Petru Rareș” Piatra Neamț, Neamț*



Tradiție și regalitate

*Elev: Abăloaei Crina Georgiana,
Prof. Rusu Raluca,
Colegiul Național „Petru Rareș” Piatra Neamț, Neamț*



Tower Bridgei

Elev: Macovei Adrian,

Prof. Rusu Raluca,

Colegiul Național „Petru Rareș” Piatra Neamț, Neamț



Anne Boleyn

*Elev: Ion Ștefania Valentina,
Prof. Pîrvu Simina,
Liceul Tehnologic „Dacia” Caraș-Severin, Caransebeș*



Turnul Londrei

*Elev: Țurlea Vasilica,
Prof. Bodai Ana-Maria, Coșorianu Rebeca,
Liceul „Demostene Botez” Trușești, Botoșani*

**Tineri nobili**

*Elev: Bolocan Miruna,
Prof. Bodai Ana-Maria, Coșorianu Rebeca,
Liceul „Demostene Botez” Trușești, Botoșani*



Harry Potter

*Elev: Damian Daniel,
Prof. Bodai Ana-Maria, Coșorianu Rebeca,
Liceul „Demostene Botez” Trușești, Botoșani*

**Words Can Hurt**

Elevi: Balan Sara, Lozneanu Clara-Maria,

Prof. Chicoș Elena,

Școala Gimnazială „Spiru Haret” Dorohoi, Botoșani



Symbols

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