

HISTORY AND STORIES

B.P.HASDEU NATIONAL COLLEGE



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Buzau

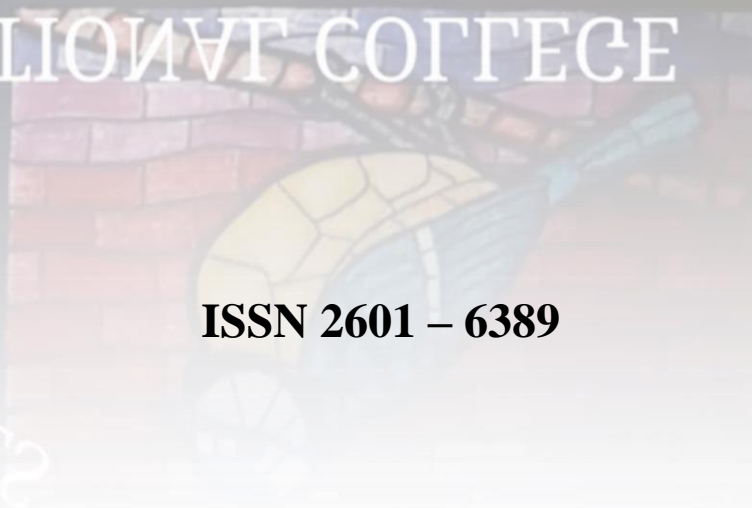
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B.P.HASDEU NATIONAL COLLEGE

HISTORY AND STORIES



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**CREATIVITY SEEMS TO BE AN ENIGMATIC ASPECT OF HUMAN EXPERIENCE...WHETHER IT IS OFTEN DIFFICULT TO IDENTIFY WHAT IT IS THAT DRIVES THIS IMPULSE AND THE ELEMENT THAT INSPIRES AN ARTIST'S WORK, AS FAR AS STUDENTS ARE CONCERNED, THEY SHOULD ALWAYS START BY TRAINING TO BECOME IMAGINATIVE.**

**WRITTEN FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF HISTORY AND LITERATURE LOVERS, THIS MAGAZINE BRINGS TOGETHER TWO AREAS THAT ARE SOURCES FOR ARTISTIC INSPIRATION: MYTHS AND LEGENDS...**

**ALL IN ALL, "HISTORY AND STORIES" HAS BEEN LAUNCHED WITH THE AIM TO GET STUDENTS MORE ENGAGED IN CULTURE, STARTING FROM WHAT RUMI ONCE SAID: 'DON'T BE SATISFIED WITH STORIES, HOW THINGS HAVE GONE WITH OTHERS, UNFOLD YOUR OWN MYTH'**

**TEACHERS:**

**ROCSANA MARINESCU AND LILIANA CALOIAN**

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**COVER BY STEFANIA DRAGHICI - (GRADUATE)**

Student: Maria Cotiga  
9<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Teacher: Calotian Liliama  
“M. Eminescu” National College

### The dream of 3 generations

The desecration of the night  
That is done with pure will  
By the morning sun,  
Uncovers people without silver spoons  
Shining a light on their social victory  
Somewhere in Northern France.  
And what cannot be found  
Is hidden from eyes  
And hands.  
The maid kept the spoon well throughout the night  
For the young one to be pleased with the taste  
Of the harvesting work done by servants of the sun  
And worshippers of the night,  
To grow up to be  
Just like his father.  
She moves the door,  
Never so carefully,  
As if not to disturb the walls  
Nor the guest's presence  
So that the air spreads from side to side of the room.  
Adults seem to have grown their feet  
Only to reach the ground on their own,  
For the ground to take a better grasp of them.  
And the earth seems to darken as the time passes  
And the sun falls more and more in love with its creation.  
Humanly figures moulded from the earth  
All wander through the same space and time  
And they are put together in a room only for their eyes to discover  
They all look the same.  
So they wear suffering as a mantle  
Only to appear as a guest  
Looking for the same pain in  
Someone else's eyes like in theirs.

They groom houses and people  
To learn the way of living of those whom they serve  
Like maids.  
They learn to look only one person in the eyes  
For the rest of their life  
To hunt for new souls  
And concerns  
Like a young mother.  
They watch the world  
Bathing in bright wishes and blue  
To learn how to grow up.  
Through papers, bread  
And drinks  
There is the presence of many others  
Who are represented by their hands and work.  
All of this can be witnessed, written carefully in colours  
In only one dream.

Student: Teodora Coman  
'B.P.Hasdeu' National College  
9<sup>th</sup> Grade (G)  
Teacher: Roxana Marinescu

### Insomnia blue

Blue. Insomnia blue.  
Favourite color.  
When the dream flew,  
And the night blur.

Through the open window  
Cold air enters  
And the wind has blown  
Opinions from the others.

Moon, the queen of the night,  
Which spreads the scent of death,

Is stolen by a black knight  
Who revives her with a breath.

Blue. Insomnia blue.  
Favourite color.  
When the dream flew,  
And the night is blurred.

Student: Salbatecu Adelina,  
10<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Teacher: Caloian Liliama  
“M. Eminescu” National College

3 in 1. Teacher. Parent. Best friend.

Teachers. People, like you and me, but who do more than we do, they open new paths for us, and we follow them.

Therefore, we go together on a path called school during which we gain knowledge from various fields. But there is also an extremely important thing that is not taught as such in school and this is life. There is no subject that can teach you about life as such, but some teachers do so and it will stay in your mind forever. I know that you, this person who is reading these lines, had that favorite teacher. How do I know? You thought of him or her earlier. Now, think about him/her again and think about the teachers you liked the least too. How big is the difference?

I am a student in the 10th grade and I have had a lot of teachers so far, some have done their job wonderfully and imprinted in my mind certain values or information that I will never forget, and others simply were indifferent, they came, they taught their subject and they left, without any other emotional additions.

Today, however, I would like to talk about the former category, and more precisely, about a certain person from that category. A person who has changed my life and who will always have a special place in my heart. She is my mother's best childhood friend, who later became a teacher.

A few years ago I had to take an exam in order to attend a very good high school. My mother and her friend hadn't spoken for a long time, but as I needed someone to assess my knowledge before the exam, she called her and they decided to meet. She lives in the same street as my grandmother, I had seen her so many times before, but I never knew she was a teacher. She is young, she is brilliant, but due to health problems she had to retire from the educational system.

The more I went to her place, the dearer she was to me. She helped me to learn more easily and more efficiently, but more importantly: she made me learn with pleasure. To arouse my interest in this subject, she told me various interesting things behind works or authors, little known or mentioned by others, she knew that I like things like this, she knew that I was an inquisitive person and she nurtured my curiosity. They fascinated me so much that I still know them and it is about that I think school should be, about learning things in a pleasant way from some nice people, some things that will remain in your head after a longer period of time, not just until an exam is taken and passed.

Regarding the Romanian language, she helped me a lot, so I came to adore it. At the same time, she aroused my pleasure in writing and I will thank her all my life for this. Writing is a very important thing for me, it helps me to express myself, to put my thoughts in order, because I am a person who feels many things and I am a deep thinker as well. Writing helps me to discover myself easily and this is my favourite part.

I had discussions with her about everything, from the topic "boys", to the best homemade juice, to painting on the walls, books, music, embroidery, philosophy and everything that could be discussed. She became my best friend, even though we belonged to different generations, I didn't feel it and I still don't feel it.

When I looked at her I saw myself in the future, because I have discovered so many things we

have in common. Not seldom was I amazed at how many things we have in common such as those mentioned above like painting, drawing, embroidery, reading, etc.

She did her job as a teacher with me, but she also did her job as a human, later as a friend. I have always had problems with self-confidence and self-strength, and she helped me manage to take small, but safe, steps over this bridge.

Before the exam, she gave me a gift I didn't expect. She offered me a very beautiful and delicate ring, I didn't want to receive it, it seemed too much to me, plus, I don't like receiving gifts, but I like giving them. In the end I accepted it and before the exam I realized why she had offered it to me. Every time I have looked at that ring I have felt warmth, I have felt love, I have felt trust and it is as if I heard her saying to me "Adela, I know you can do it, darling!".

I'm not saying that a teacher should give gifts to their students, but I'm saying that he should support them, show them that he trusts them and that they can trust him as well, that they can discuss everything. A teacher is a parent, not just an employee.

After all the help and pleasant time she offered me, I wanted to do something for her too. I could see in her eyes how much she liked to stay with me, teach me, share information with me and see how enlightened I was in amazement, I could see how much she liked children and I knew she would like to return to school. I made many subtle approaches to this, I encouraged her, and the final result was amazing. She had problems with her spine, but she started going to some special treatment sessions for something like that, and last fall I found out the wonderful news that she would become a teacher again. I found out from my mother, who in the meantime had started talking to her more often, that I had managed to persuade her to make this decision. I still feel proud of that, I feel proud of myself, but also of her.

Note: Just because you're an adult, it doesn't mean you know everything, and sometimes a child can open your eyes too.

She has never looked at me like a child and has taken all my words into consideration.



I care a lot about her and she is a person who has changed my life, the only teacher who has had such a big impact on me and I respect her with all my heart. As I had her and I have her, I hope that every student has a teacher to inspire them, to make them ambitious, to give them warmth, or at least a good mood, every student deserves someone like that. I am grateful.

If she knew how much I had written about her now, she would be more than happy, she would cry of happiness and she would be proud of me, but also of her because she has left her mark on me so beautifully. I drew her a portrait once and I would do it a thousand times, she deserves being respected and remembered.

I still have the ring and it is a part of my body now, I can't take it off because I would feel empty.

Student: Alexandru Crangasu  
'B.P.Hasdeu' National College  
9<sup>th</sup> Grade (G)  
Teacher: Roxana Marinescu

## Games

The game. What is a game? I am the game. I represent my own game and games have their own games, just like someone has something personal which makes him happy. The game represents everything around us. A game is something that we can't describe in words. My question is: "Is this a useful thing for any person, regardless of age?". My answer is "YES" because a game is perceived differently by any person.

For example, for me, a game represents what I am doing right now. I write. And it isn't easy to play like that. Some people like playing Monopoly or cards... For kids, a game represents friends or maybe that story told in front of the building. Also, a thing isn't always good. A game can be good or bad. This is my classification. A good game manifests doing some activities like playing hopscotch or hide-and-seek. It's important to play with all your soul. A bad game represents that passage from light to dark. Bad Game is completely different. I associated light with cheerfulness and a smile. Dark manifests doing bad things like gossiping or harsh words. It's important to turn that darkness into the lightness closing your eyes. Try to not see that constantly

black, try to see, to feel the light. Try making impossible, possible.

Understand the light, live it, breathe it, make it your own blood in your heart, where your heart is your kindness.

Student: Maria Cotiga,  
9<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Teacher: Caloian Liliama  
'M. Eminescu' National  
College

### Sky Learning

A palace positioned just right under  
some big truck of the sky  
that you can see at night  
and imagine during the day.  
and the sky is bright and wide  
and shy at times  
it was trained before you touched it  
with your eyes.

and for years and years  
many people were taught how to look at it  
yet no one told them how to open it up  
an important gift to existence and  
half of what the world is.  
and so they slowly learned that  
the sky had never been hiding  
but only the point of view mattered.  
some went down the hill to see the stars better  
whilst others went up in the mountains to learn  
where the clouds were going  
and by what curious means.  
and young ones where among those  
that were yet lost in their own world.

Student: Antonia Negustoru,

9<sup>th</sup> Grade

Teacher: Calotian Liliama

“M. Eminescu” National College

### Life after death

It was stormy and flashes of lightening were casting a spooky light on the haunted house, when my dog started barking for no reason. I was frightened. I only could hear a strange whisper from inside. It was calling me and then I realized I couldn't hear anything else except this. My body started feeling colder than as usual, as if I were freezing. My veins became black and suddenly my heart stopped. I could only see some white, sparkling stars. It wasn't real, but it felt so.

A powerful wind came out of nowhere. It sucked life out of my soul, leaving nothing on the ground but a dead appearance, struggling to escape from a boundless prison. One minute ago, I was there, looking lovingly at my dog. Now I'm a sparkling star. Beautiful on the outside, but dead inside. I thought I was hurt, but I couldn't cry anymore. My feelings did no longer exist. I'd become a floating appearance that could do nothing except existing. Kind of boring, right?

However, I kept trying to find a proper explanation of what had happened to me. What was my purpose? Many questions were flashing through my mind, making me feel dizzy. Then I told myself: "Stop, you're only gonna do yourself harm" and I started looking around. "Wow...!" I whispered slowly. Hundreds of stars showed up behind me. Each was unique in its own way, but their purpose was the same as mine: to shine, to glow, to sparkle, and to brighten up the night sky. Then I was relieved. I had finally found all the answers to my questions. I have kept shining forever.

Student: Timeea Patirniche

Grade: 10<sup>th</sup>

Teacher: Caloian Liliama

“M.Eminescu” National College

### Teachers open the door, but you enter by yourself

Education is about opening up your mind and developing skills necessary to ask questions, seek information, find joy in discoveries, reason through problems, make healthy decisions, read between the lines of what we're being told and, most importantly, make the best use of your innate intelligence.

Teachers are probably some of the most influential people in an individual's life. Who hasn't heard of famous people who owe much of their success to a dedicated teacher? From my point of view, teachers are the ones that introduce students to the fascinating world of learning, but it's the students' choice whether they want to be part of it or not. I truly believe that the teacher that has influenced me the most was my teacher of English. She has a dynamic personality, very active and always up to date with the latest developments in the field. She encouraged us to get involved and be informed, to have our own opinions based on accurate information. She was strict and never accepted lame excuses for us not doing the homework. She made us do a lot of work, but we soon realized that it was in our best interests. Whenever I had a question or needed help she was there to guide me and support my effort. Her praise and good words inspired me to become better and better and not to give up when dealing with difficulties. She was good-natured and enjoyed having a good laugh anytime. Her classes were relaxed and student-friendly because her only goal was to convince us that we are all creative and just needed the right environment to unlock our potential. We did together lots of interesting projects and I will leave high school with pleasant memories and the belief that no matter how challenging a situation might be I do have the resources to find a solution. I also consider that we have to take responsibility for our own learning and should not expect our

teachers to do everything for us. We have to be willing to put in the time and effort. If we don't have the inner drive to succeed, we are not going to do it.

To sum up, education gives people a wider view of the World. It changes the way we think and act and it determines improvement in the lives of the people all around the globe. The fact that "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world". should be kept in mind by teachers and students alike, as education is a lifelong struggle, a rewarding endeavour.

### "A book through other things"

Student: Alexandru Crangasui  
'B.P.Hasdeu' National College  
9<sup>th</sup> Grade (G)  
Teacher: Roxana Marinescu

I am so tired of this crowd...they put me here in this bag and left me here. They didn't feed me, they didn't hold me... I'm feeling so left out. All the time I feel that my owners are here to stay, but they talk to me only once a week.

I would have liked them to give me more attention! I want to play with my friends, on the right shelf in living room. I miss being next to Tudor Arghezi or maybe a larger book that can hold me and warm me. My owners' comb always scratches me and hits me. I'm a book, however. I have feelings like you. What have I done to receive that pain? The loud noise just has made me crazy and I don't know what to do. Their lipstick has a beautiful top. Why don't I have it? By the way, I like this coin thrown in front of my face. My owners bought some candles and gave me a new friend. It understands me... It talks to me. Of all the things, just this coin soothes my pain. When lady crowd runs along the street, the coin holds me like its best friend, entering into my files.

Even if this coin isn't like my real friends, it is the best friend that I have at the moment.

## Strange Encounters

Student: Diana Tulim  
'B.P.Hasdeu' National College  
10<sup>th</sup> Grade (H)  
Teacher: Roxana Marinescu

They started to wander over there. They sadly realized that nobody was speaking English. Everyone was whispering...it was a very strange language, as if they were aliens. They couldn't understand their language. They wanted to ask someone where they were and what year it was there.

The only thing they saw was a billboard, and apparently it was the year 3023. But how was it possible?

As they were walking around, they saw people dressed in black. Everyone there seemed to be very sad and depressed. All the cars were black, all the houses, the trees and even the animals. Suddenly, they fell into a big pit. It was snowing there and it was very cold. When they woke up, they became aware of the fact that they were in a lab. People there were dressed in white. "They are back", one of them said. "We did it". "They are awake and seem to look fine".

Julian and the other woman were confused.

"What happened?", they said softly.

"Congratulations!", said the men. "You are the first people in the world that have travelled in time and space". Everyone was applauding and hugging each other, because they did something that no one else did before.

## The Strange Island

Student: Antonia Tircoveanu  
'B.P.Hasdeu' National College  
10<sup>th</sup> Grade (H)  
Teacher: Roxana Marinescu

After a few moments of hanging around them, Julian and the young girl realized that they were on a strange island. That place was odd, mysterious and really unfamiliar to them. They were very confused, because that island was totally new for them and also because they didn't understand the reason why they were there. They somehow arrived on that island and nobody could take them from there. So they decided to do something to leave that place without complicating matters.

When they approached the old man who was the only awake, they understood that they were tested for some NASA experiments. They also found out that they had been tested for several years. But all these years they seemed to have been anesthetized and they didn't know what happened to them. Then, they saw that they hadn't had to "wake up", because the tests could last at least 10 years. They didn't see the danger of this, until the old man told them that they had practically overthrown the system and showed them a great many human-like figures who were fast asleep and a lot of computers which were totally out of order. Everything around them was inexplicable. All of the people were unfamiliar to them and they didn't get why on a lost island there were a lot of strange humans who were tested while they were sleeping. Even if they didn't understand it very properly, they decided to repair the computers and take a decision. After a "battle" with their thoughts, they decided with the old man to take a boat from there and to go to the closest land, keeping totally secret what they had seen.

Student: Robert Ivan  
'B.P.Hasdeu' National College  
10<sup>th</sup> Grade (H)  
Teacher: Roxana Marinescu

## Strange landings

He followed the road and arrived at a very big building he had never seen before. It did not look like anything else. Julian entered the building hoping he would find out what had happened. He could also see a lot of different people. There were some who were wearing old-fashioned clothes like the girl he had spoken to and some wearing even older clothes, probably from the 40's.

Suddenly, a big empty room with glass walls came from the sky, like an elevator. Some people



took it, some did not, because they were afraid. Julian took the elevator together with the girl and other people from different times and places. It went higher and higher, till the girl said: 'I have never flown before! The clouds are so beautiful!' Julian was afraid of heights so he was permanently looking down. He finally gazed up when he heard everyone in the elevator screaming. The big room was attached to a rail and was moving really fast around something which looked like a city. The buildings were looking quite old, simple and they had a strange vibe. When the elevator finally arrived at its destination, the passengers were shown a black and white recording with a crazy man 'welcoming' them: 'Welcome citizens, I am Richard, the founder of this beautiful place called Utopia. Here, the perfect society becomes reality, thanks to me and my friend who has discovered the time machine( he pointed to a lizard lying on his shoulder)(...)That is it, now go to work!'

Julian was shocked. So were the other people. Shortly after, they were taken to the city of Utopia, where they became citizens. Fortunately, the girl followed him.

'That guy was strange! And who is smoking the pipe anymore?' She was referring to Richard.

'I do not know, maybe he is old-fashioned. Can you tell me your name again, please?'

'Irvine.'

'I am Julian. We have to find out how we can go back home. I do not like this place at all.'

'Neither do I!'

Julian did not want to tell Irvine everything. He did not want her to get scared. He understood something. This crazy and strange man had broken the rules of time and had made himself a city in the skies. He had to go back where he had been, if that was possible.

## Oblivion

Student: Andra Cotoroi

'B.P.Hasdeu' National College

10<sup>th</sup> Grade(F)

Teacher: Roxana Marinescu

I had the strangest dream last night... I don't know exactly where I was, but at the same time everything seemed familiar. I think I was in a kind of parallel universe, maybe because I was a couple of years older.

The dream began with me and my best friend wanting to go somewhere, I don't remember very well where, like other dreams. And ironically, when we were closer, I remembered that I forgot something important so we had to make our way back to my "house". I grabbed the most needed thing and to cut the way short, we decided to go along a narrow road between houses.

I remember that we walked beside some men. After a couple of minutes, my best friend suddenly grabbed my hand starting to run, shouting to me "Run!". My heart started to beat very fast, almost jumping out of my chest and literally I froze. Behind me I could hear loud steps and heavy breaths. My best friend was literally dragging me behind, but I was so numb...

And the dream ended there, waking up with heavy breaths and a feeling of fear in my heart.

## Magic and miracles

Student: Maria Grigore

'B.P.Hasdeu' National College

10<sup>th</sup> Grade( H)

Teacher: Roxana Marinescu

Emma was looking at the branches of the old oak tree that was planted in her grandparents' garden without actually seeing them. She was lying on her back and her tears were falling down her cheek, starting from the corner of her eyes, going through her hair and in the end being absorbed by the earth.

She ran here after she heard a conversation that her grandparents had and understood that the plane in which her mother was had crashed into the jungle.

Emma's mother was a famous scientist and she was heading home. She was on a team that studied and found the cure for a very aggressive virus that took down a third of a village.

Emma started praying the way her grandmother taught her. In that moment, an unusual movement caught her eye. When she looked closely, she saw a little creature with long ears, long hair and two little pink wings that was coming closer to her and was floating and spinning in circles. The fairy heard her prayers and came to help her. Even though she had never seen her before, Emma started telling her about the wonderful things that her mother had done. She was hoping that her mother had survived the crash and that she would be able to find a way to get out of the jungle. The fairy told her that all the fairies in the world could communicate using crystals and that if her mother was alive, the fairies in the jungle would help her to find her way. In that moment, a few crystals came out from the fairy's palm.

That moment was followed by a telepathic communication between the fairies. Emma felt calm: her mother was coming back home, the fairies were going to help her. She thanked the wonderful creature with tears in her eyes and then fell asleep. She was woken up by her grandparents' happy voices. They got a call and found out that all the people that were on the plane were now safe.

Student: Robert Ivan  
'B.P. Hasdeu' National College  
10<sup>th</sup> Grade (II)  
Teacher: Roxana Marinescu

### The Secret

"What are you doing here, little boy? This is not a place for people like you."

Jack suddenly woke up in a mysterious and amazing place. There were flying cars everywhere and very tall buildings he had never seen before.

The woman in front of him was also odd, because she was dressed like a scientist.

"Who are you? What is happening?"

"I think I know what happened. Come with me. I will tell you."

The woman told Jack that he looked like a human who lived in the past. She also told him that her imaginary friend was at fault.

"I still do not understand. Am I on planet Earth anymore?"

"Of course, you are. But we are in the year two thousand two hundred."

The woman told Jack that her friend, Brendon, was trying to create a time machine. They travelled by bus to Brendon's house, which was an amazing experience for Jack, but Brendon had bigger problems to resolve. He lost the time machine.

"How can such a big thing be lost?", the child asked.

Brendon said that the time machine was just a portable platform, activated by a console. He had the console, but he did not have the platform.

Suddenly, Jack remembered what happened. When he came from school, he saw a black square on the floor of his room and then he was teleported in the future.

Brendon said that the time machine was exactly where the boy was teleported, but that place was far from the place where Jack and the woman met. She suggested searching the platform together with Jack and Brendon should try to find it in other ways.

The two wandered the city for a fair bit until Brendon called them. He said that the platform was close. The woman searched the street and she finally found the platform in a box.

Back to Brendon's home, the woman told to Jack he should not tell any stories about the future. Jack promised that he would keep it secret and was sent back in his time.

## *An unforgettable journey*

Student: Ioana Mocanu  
'B.P.Hasdeu' National College  
10<sup>th</sup> Grade(HI)  
Teacher: Roxana Marinescu

I had been dreaming to go on a journey in a balloon since I was a little child. The cartoons were always about adventurous people who are going up in the sky in a balloon. Well, until two years ago, when my parents really surprised me on my birthday.

In the morning of 23rd of June, I found out that I would be going in Spain for a journey. When we finally arrived there, we had a dream fly in a balloon. I was a little bit nervous, but when we were up in the sky, I was amazed by the landscapes I could see. In the right side was a tropical forest while in the left side was a beach with a sea that has a special color.

The tropical forest looked like I had imagined. There were different types of trees and colorful animals. This sight was like someone painted a painting with very intense colors and put right in front of my face. I couldn't believe my eyes. This view was so alive with all that nature and little animals. The beauty of a place like this is indescribable. I could stay there my entire life. Most of the trees were tall and the atmosphere was so intense because of the hot climate.

On the other hand, when I was looking to the left side, I could see so many people relaxing on the beach. It was such a paradox between these two landscapes. The sea was so calm and quiet which made me feel very nostalgic. I loved feeling the breeze and the way that this atmosphere made me feel. I wish I could feel that all my life. The blue sea and the hot sand were so different when you see them while you are in the sky... I didn't expect this.

This special day was the day of my life and I don't think I will have the opportunity to see again and feel those things. So, I'll keep in mind this journey in a balloon as long as I live.

## Travelling in a hot air balloon

Student: *Moise Andrei*

'B.P.Hasdeu' National College

10<sup>th</sup> Grade (II)

Teacher: Roxana Marinescu

Last year I had the opportunity to travel in a balloon. The feeling and the rush of adrenaline that I felt when taking off were really intense. Another passenger almost fainted. In spite of all our fears, everything was all right. After a couple of minutes, the people on the ground were looking like ants.

We were so high that I could see my entire neighbourhood. The houses were so small... I think that from down there everyone was looking at us. All of my emotions had been gone. The only thing that I was feeling was coldness. Up in the clouds, the weather is really different. I should have listened to my mother when she had told me to take my jacket, but there was no going back.

A couple of hours had passed, and we were already far away from our hometown. Looking down, I could spot a big, dense forest with tall trees coloured in tones of green. Also, I could see there were many cars around, so I figured out that we were above a tourist destination. Seen from above, the forest looked like a modern painting: splashed colours everywhere. Probably this landscape was more beautiful in comparison to what the people from the ground could see.

We landed successfully after the sunset. Travelling in a balloon was a unique experience that I would never forget, but also never repeat: I have a fear of heights! The fear of falling over haunted me the entire journey.

## A beautiful gift

Student: *Ana Valeanu*

'B.P.Hasdeu' National College

10<sup>th</sup> Grade (II)

Teacher: Roxana Marinescu

The sun was shining softly. No wind was to be felt. I was with my family, on my mom's birthday in an open, green field. A big hot air balloon was waiting for us. The excitement of each one of us could be felt by anyone.

We made our way into the "basket" and slowly started to go higher and higher. Everything was a sea of grass and forest. The old trees that we admired on earth had then become so little. We could see the nature and its true beauty.

The town nearby was full of chatter, while everything up there was extremely calm. Even

the flea market, full of treasures, became soundless. The people were wandering around pointlessly, looking like a flock of sheep lost in the unknown. All the cars were now just colorful dots animating the scenery even more.

I moved my sight a little bit higher, to the clear sky. It was a bright baby blue colour, in which we were lost, with some lonely clouds here and there. A flight of birds made its appearance. Who knows where they came from or what their destination was? Finally, I was able to see what they see every day.

Nature is a beautiful mystery and we were able to discover another part of it. We landed safely, but our mind and vision remained up there for a long time.

### Spread my wings

Student:  
Roxana Jercan  
'B.P.Hasdeu' National College  
Class 10<sup>th</sup> HI  
Teacher: Roxana Marinescu

It was such a beautiful day. The years after the war had never been this beautiful. 1952.

The sun was smiling at those who were sad, it was charging people with joy and peace. All porches in the village were full of flowers and grandsons playing with their toys. The world was happy, so Belgravia was happy. For me, walking in the square had never been more relaxing. The trees were full of leaves, green, yellow, red and orange. That was so pretty...

Walking, I saw a poster saying 'You are allowed to spread your wings.' I immediately talked to the man there and boarded on one of the world's biggest hot air balloons.

We were rising little by little in that human cage. It was red-patched with some blue hearts on the top. While we were flying you could see the Belgravian forest, which was like a labyrinth. You could get lost so easily in there. It was absolutely amazing. Moving, you could see people working their fields, from grandparents to kids, the kind of people you love watching.

After 2 hours, we were completely nowhere. We were up in the clouds and that was the moment I got to know myself. The clouds were white like December snow, they were fluffy like Mitchie, Mrs. Dashwood's bichon, they were soft like my pillow made of Mr. Thompson with goose feathers. You could also see the sun setting in the West. It was twilight. The most wonderful landscape I'd ever seen, except the square which was my happy place to be, was up in the clouds with some weird air-balloon and an extremely happy man.

Getting back on the ground was painful. I'd never been so high. I felt like an angel, and now, like a fallen one.

## How a blind man got his eyes back

Student: Alexandru Crangasu  
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9<sup>th</sup> Grade(HI)  
Teacher: Roxana Marinescu

Once upon a time there was a very rich man. This man was a king of an entire kingdom. He loved his queen so much, but he confronted a problem. He and his wife had five princesses. All he wanted in this life was a boy because when the time of death came, a strong man would need to take control of it. But every time the queen got pregnant, a girl was born.

That fact made the king very angry so he said to his wife:

"I hate you so much! I hope you are going to die soon!" and he left.

He went to a witch because he was so desperate. That witch was so ugly that even a bird was scared when it saw her. That creature seemed to be a monster with long nails, black, long hair and a long nose. He knocked at the door, but no one opened it so he knocked again. He knew that in this house lived a witch, but he didn't know that the witch was so ugly and scary.

Someone opened the door and said "Who are you? You're not allowed here! Leave until I turn you into a ghost!".

At that moment she saw the king. The evil witch smiled and took her black cat in her arms.

"What are you doing there Mr. Big King? I knew you would come, but I didn't know exactly when you will do that." said the evil witch.

"I have a little problem..." but the creature interrupted him.

"Oh, I know my dear... I know your problem, but you need to give me something in return." She smiled at him.

"I will do everything even if it will cost my entire life... I want a son, a powerful and a fearless king."

"Give me your eyes and I will respect your desire, darling"

The king got angry and said: "You can take all my money, but not my eyes! I will kill you and I will take your eyes out. I will bury them and you won't find them".

At that moment the woman looked at the sky and said an incantation. She desperately laughed and with the power of her hands teleported the king back to his kingdom. He returned, but the witch was gone. When he entered the castle, everyone was crying. The king stepped in and saw the queen dead on the grass"

"She sacrificed herself... Oh, God, have faith and turn her back into a human" but God said nothing.

"Oh, Mr. Big King, she gave birth to a beautiful boy after you left and next second she was dead."

The man was surprised, but at the same time, sad because of his wife death. He went inside to see his son and told him: "Your name is Hope. You will be my hope, a powerful man and a

successful king.”

After that, he fell asleep and woke up, but he saw nothing. Black, black, black. There we go. A servant came into his room and screamed desperately: “They are gone!! Your eyes are gone, king? How is that even possible?”

“I... I don’t know. I don’t see anymore, but I can walk, so that’s an advantage. I don’t have a problem with that.”

He couldn’t see, but he could walk, so he ran away from the castle to find his eyes. He ran even if he couldn’t see anything. It had been 3 years since he lost his eyes. So, he jumped on the clouds and he pleaded with God:

“Oh, God, Oh Lord, please, give me my eyes back! I want them!” but God said nothing. The king turned back to the Earth.

He met a blind woman, but at first he didn’t know that the woman was blind like him.

“Give me your eyes and I will reward you. I will give you a lot of gold and money!”

“Sorry, sir, but I don’t have any eyes. I’m blind like you.”

“I’m not blind! A witch stole them away and I want to punish her! I want to find her!”

At that moment he knew that one day he would find that monster and he would kill her in cold blood. He moved out and ran away from that place. It had been 20 years since the king lost his eyes. He didn’t find them so he decided to call his son for some help. Hope was his only friend, so the son appeared with a long diamond sword in his right hand.

“I’m here, father, and I want to help you because you are my only family” said Hope.

“Oh, Hope, you’re a miracle! I believe that you know about your mother, but you don’t know that I called a witch so you could be born.”

“Oh, father, I know everything! God told me! He told me also that the witch is here, with you. She died and now she is in my body, my soul! You need to kill your own family in order to recover your eyes” said Hope.

“I can’t do that, in the name of God! You are my hope! Why??? Well, I will do that because I want my eyes back even if you might be dead.”

He took his diamond sword and stabbed him in his heart. At that moment he could see, but he saw a horrible view. His son, his hope was dead. He lived his life in misery until the kingdom was destroyed.

So that’s how a blind man got his eyes back, but not a happy life. His only hope died and with that death, even if he could see, he could feel... he could feel the pain, he could feel the same pain as his son did.

## ANIMAL STORIES



## Why does the panda have spots?

Student: Soare Andreea  
'B.P.Hasdeu' National College  
9<sup>th</sup> Grade(G)  
Teacher: Roxana Marinescu

There are many theories about the stains of the pandas but none of them are true from my point of view.

Ever since I was a child my grandmother has been telling me stories about animals and she taught me to love and protect them.

Of all stories I like the story of the panda. My grandmother has never told me scientific stories but she preferred to introduce me to the natural habitat of pandas.

**06.12.2012 :**

"Grandma, why does the panda have spots?"

"Well, my dear, the mother bear like the others caring mothers didn't let her cub eat a lot of sweets."

"Like my mommy?"

"Exactly!"

"But the baby bear, like the others wanted to eat sweets. One day, when the mother bear was busy with the housework, the little bear got into the pantry carefully. It was autumn and the mommy bear was preparing the winter supplies... all kinds of blueberry jam and blackcurrant. In that moment the little bear stopped thinking about what his mother had told him and he started to eat the sweets. Hearing his mother's footsteps, he cleaned his mouth quickly with his hands and he wiped any proof which could expose him."

"Martin? What happened here? Dear, you didn't know that no lie lives forever? I suggest you read "Memories from my childhood" to see how much you resemble the main character named Nică."

"Okay, mommy, but now do you want to help me to clean myself?"

"No, son, I don't, because we can't clean away lies and bad deeds. Maybe after all of these you will realise how much honestly is worth."

"Grandma, then why don't I have spots? I just did the same thing like him."

"People have spots on their soul and not on their bodies, my dear!"

## How the giraffe got his long neck

Student: Dorin Andrei

'B.P. Hasdeu' National College

9<sup>th</sup> Grade (G)

Teacher: Roxana Marinescu

When God created animals. He gave them all special abilities, except for the giraffe. because he wasn't even created by Him, he was the son of a mare and a leopard and, unfortunately, he didn't have the speed of his father or the beauty of his mother, he was just a strange horse with a strange fur. At first the giraffe wasn't upset but when he saw that nobody wanted to talk to him because everybody thought that he was just a weird horse and he wasn't able to do anything because he didn't have any special abilities and that made him say "I wish I didn't exist anymore". When God heard that He decided that it wasn't possible to change his appearance and after much thought He decided that the giraffe needed a long neck to be able to eat the leaves from the tallest trees and to didn't hear the bad words said by the others animals.

## The turtle's shell

Student: Geanni Iordache

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9<sup>th</sup> Grade (G)

Teacher: Roxana Marinescu

In the beginning of time, there was a great war between animals for global dominance, fought between animals which were divided into two sides: the aquatic animals, dissatisfied with living in the salt water and the terrestrial animals which were defending their motherland.

The turtle was a slow and lazy animal which was useless to the aquatic animals in the war. She couldn't swim fast like a dolphin, jump high like a frog or to fight like a shark. The whale, the leader of the aquatic animals saw every aquatic animal helping in the war other than the turtle

which was wasting his time doing nothing. For this reason, the whale decided to summon the turtle at his palace and find a way through which she could be useful.

When the turtle arrived at the palace the whale was very disappointed about the turtle's war skills. So, the whale went to the dolphin engineers and requested an armor for the turtle. The turtle was very skeptical about this new improvement, considering it to be very heavy and uncomfortable.

When she arrived at the frontline, she fought side by side with the shark commanders, she acted like a shield for them. The aquatic animals won the war, conquering the rivers, the swamps, the lakes and the beaches.

The turtle was very impressed about his shell and decided to keep it after the war.

### HOW THE ELEPHANT GOT HIS TRUNK

Student: Andrei Petrean

'B.P.Hasdeu' National College

9<sup>th</sup> Grade (G)

Teacher: Roxana Marinescu

Once upon a time there was a herd of elephants. No elephant had a trunk because it had not been invented yet so they looked like pigs, but I am going to tell you how the elephants got their trunks. One day an adult elephant came to get a drink. Then a crocodile rose up from the muddy water and grabbed its nose and pulled so hard that the crocodile let go of the elephant's nose. The elephant fell back and realized his trunk was two meters long! He quickly ran back to the elephant herd and told them it was good to have a long nose because he could lift things up and drink water from it.

That's how the elephant got its trunk!

## How the zebra got the stripes

Student: Diana Laudatu  
'B.P.Hasdeu' National College  
9<sup>th</sup> Grade(G)  
Teacher: Roxana Marinescu

After the world was made, the zebra was relaxing while painting a picture of a landscape that she was admiring. The elephant was walking on the edge of a river. He fell into the water and when he went to see what the zebra was doing, he splashed the zebra with water accidentally. When the elephant realized what he did to the zebra, he started to apologise. The elephant stepped into a white paint bucket and he splashed the zebra to get even. He was sorry for what he did, but the zebra liked how she was looking, so she decided to keep her stripes. Since then, the zebra has had black and white stripes.

## Penguins Used to Have Feathers

Student: Andreea Stroe  
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9<sup>th</sup> Grade (G)  
Teacher: Roxana Marinescu

In the beginning of time, into the frozen realms of Antarctica the penguins were entirely free. They could do anything, they had feathers and they could even fly. However, their feathers were black and white, and they didn't like them, so the penguins called the Holy Spirit and asked him to paint their feathers in other colors so the rest of the animals would notice how important they are. The Holy Spirit said that they should be grateful for everything they had already have and they

shouldn't be so selfish. But the penguins were so proud that they told him that they shouldn't even ask for such a thing, because it was abundantly clear that if they could fly then they should have beautiful feathers to show their superiority. The Holy Spirit became angry and made all the penguins feathers fall out. This way, the penguins lost their ability to fly, and now they know that they have to be obedient and show respect for others and for the things they already have.

### How the giraffe got its long neck

Student: Denisa Alexandrescu  
'B.P.Hasdeu' National College  
9<sup>th</sup> Grade(G)  
Teacher: Roxana Marinescu

In the beginning of time, the animals from all over the world were in a crucial war for food, because the drought had brought death in the line of vegetation.

The giraffe was a dangerous animal because she could climb trees and jump behind the gazelles or any other animal. A big disadvantage for her was her short height which did not allow her to kill big animals like elephants or rhinoceros. Because of this, the giraffe became a joke for the residents of savanna. The giraffe was alone and sad because she wanted a bigger height, but she didn't know how to do that. The lion king came and told her that he could help her on one condition. She might renounce meat and become a vegetarian. The lion had known that he would have more food for him and his family if the giraffe was going to eat fruits and grass. The giraffe hardly accepted the deal, but in that moment a raven came to her and cast a spell on her. In a few minutes, the giraffe's neck was lengthening by one meter.

From that moment, the giraffe's prestige grew and all the animals looked up to her. She became friends with all the animals in the savanna and she discovered that the tree leaves tasted better than meat after all.

## The giraffe got its long neck

Student: Diana Tanase

'B.P.Hasdeu' National College

9<sup>th</sup> Grade (G)

Teacher: Roxana Marinescu

This is an interesting story about how giraffes have such a long neck.

In the beginning, all the animals looked as God created them, but something strange happened to the giraffes.

Before that, all the giraffes looked and behaved like horses, but at night, a curious little giraffe couldn't sleep. She looked at the sky, to the stars and wondered how she could see them better. Since then, that giraffe has begun to look at the sky so she kept his neck straight.

The other giraffes looked strangely at her, started to judge her, but in time, they began to imitate her and eventually found it amazing to look at the sky, clouds, sun, stars, moon...

This is the reason why the giraffe's neck has lengthened, but in secret, they are jealous of zebras and horses, because they don't have such great burden.

## The Story of the Fish

Student: Catalina Neacsu

'B.P.Hasdeu' National College

9<sup>th</sup> Grade (G)

Teacher: Roxana Marinescu

Maybe you wonder how the fish and the monkeys came to be, well that's what I'm going to tell you today. In the year 501 before Christ the mermaids lived in peace and harmony with all the animals of the Earth until one day when the monkeys became jealous of the beauty of the mermaids.

They had long sought a way to take away their beauty, until one day they found a rock cut by lightning, which had a cross on it and they realized it was sent by God and they waited and they prayed until a storm came, lightning struck and God spoke to them.

He, annoyed by their decision, separated the sirens, making the fish and the people come to life, but at the same time threw a curse on the monkeys. The monkeys would stay exactly as they are just as more species appeared, which made them transform, and that was a tough thing.

Humans have evolved and become beautiful, and the fish are becoming more and more colorful, so everyone is happy except the greedy monkeys who were jealous.

## How the peacock got his “eyes” on feathers

Student: Alexandra Mitrica  
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9<sup>th</sup> Grade(G)  
Teacher: Roxana Marinescu

We all know that the peacock has a famous “train”, with a royal outfit. But how did it become, a bird with white feathers, proud and unfriendly? At the beginning of time, animals were of great help to humans, teaching them to survive. Slowly did they become friendly to humans.

In the Royal Gardens of India, the jaguar was one of the favorite animals, the symbol of power. With him, other animals and birds lived. Among them, the peacock was proud of the privilege of being the king’s favorite bird, due to the purity of the white color of the feathers.

One day, while the peacock was passing by the pond, a strange animal, with spots on its fur, was observed in the water mirror. “Hey, peacock, why are you so surprised? Do you not know that I am the favorite animal of the Royal Court?”, said the jaguar. “You are wrong. I am the most beautiful and appreciated by the king. How can an animal like you, with such embarrassing colors and spots be received here, in the Court? “. said the peacock. The jaguar was not the only animal with which the peacock was unfriendly.

Finally, the Spirit of animals appeared and who was asked by the jaguar: “How can a bird so proud only for its beauty, behave in this way to the others animals? “. The Spirit agreed, deciding to punish the peacock, giving the color of the feathers full of spots, like the jaguar, colored and with a “train” representing his pride.

Thus, the peacock became famous due to his feathering and the pride with which he wears it.

Student: Ilie Maria Isabela  
'B.P.Hasdeu' National College  
9<sup>th</sup> Grad(G)  
Teacher: Roxana Marinescu

### The Contest

When God created the animals, there was no zebra. No one thought such an animal could exist. There were horses, lions, tigers, birds, fish and they lived in lanterns and community.

There a white mare that prided itself on its grandeur. Nobody competed for beauty. However, one day, all the animals were interested and admired the stripes of the tiger. The mare was jealous of the tiger's stripes and offered him a speed race contest. If she won, she would receive the tiger's stripes, but if he won, the mare would become his slave.

The contest started and the tiger was far ahead. Suddenly, the mare fell down and she couldn't get up. The big cat turned after her to pick her up, but the mare hit him and kept running. The mare won and received her stripes, but no horse wanted to be related to her anymore.

Thus, the zebra appeared wearing its stripes.

### How zebras got their stripes

Student: Rares Tatu  
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9<sup>th</sup> Grad(G)  
Teacher: Roxana Marinescu

The world is full of legends because there is a lot of mystery behind a lot of things. Since we are little, have been wondering: " why the earth is round" or " why the sky is blue". But a very important question, asked by everyone, is " how zebras got their stripes".

Everything started with Axel, the queen of all the zebras. The most beautiful and wonderful of them all because she had an amazing white body. All the zebras were white. She was so smart and kind that everyone wanted to be like her. She was their idol and model in life. Everything she did was copied by all the other zebras.

One day, Axel was at the beach enjoying the very hot weather. She liked to swim so much because, by doing this sport, she could maintain her beautiful and skinny body. After one hour of continuous swimming, she was exhausted. She lay on his sunbed that was right under the biggest palm tree. She told his best friend that she was going to take a juice and she asked him to wake her up in 15 minutes because zebras could not stay more than that in direct sunlight. The problem was



that her best friend went to play volleyball with other zebras and totally forgot about Axel.

After 2 hours, Axel finally woke up and got frightened when she saw her entire body covered with very big and black stripes, she was sunburnt and the very big leaves of the palm made some marks on her body. She started crying and all the zebras in the world ran over to see her. As a surprise, the other zebras liked so much Axel's new looks and everyone wanted to be like her, both male and female.

Since that day, all zebras have been staying under that palm tree to achieve these beautiful stripes.

### How Cupid got his job

Student: Teodora Coman  
'B.P.Hasdeu' National College  
9<sup>th</sup> Grade (G)  
Teacher: Roxana Marinescu

At the beginning of time, all people searched for their soulmates. Whatever happened, everyone knew that they would find their soulmate. But there was a man who never believed in love. His name was Cupid Hills. Every woman fell in love with him, but all he did was refuse them.

One Friday, when he was going to work, he saw such a beautiful woman walking to the grocery. His heart started to beat faster. He was like: "What is that weird feeling? I never felt like this before.". For the first time in his life, Cupid Hills fell in love with a stranger.

The next day Cupid went out in search of the mysterious woman. He went to the grocery where he saw her the day before. Surprisingly, she was there. Cupid felt brave and went to talk to her. He made her laugh and got her name and phone number. The mysterious woman, called Hazel, made Cupid's heart go crazy anytime he saw her.

After a couple of months, Cupid couldn't suffer anymore the weird feeling in his heart. So, one beautiful night of February 14<sup>th</sup>, he was ready to say how he felt about Hazel. He bought some flowers and chocolate. But when he reached the place, he saw her kissing another man. His heart

got broken. Cupid couldn't handle this pain and he killed himself. When he died, God said to him: "I'm not going to leave you to go to the unhappy place. From now you will be Cupid, the angel that spreads love and February 14<sup>th</sup> will be the day of love."

### My sister's getting married...

Student: Nedeleu Diana

10<sup>th</sup> Grade

Teacher: Caloian Liliana

"M. Eminescu" National College

I personally think that family celebrations are a wonderful opportunity to make memories with our nearest and dearest, they give us a sense of togetherness. My family don't often have this kind of gatherings, but when they do, they do it in a big way.

It's 7th September 2015 and I am so excited on this day because my bigger sister is getting married. I have been looking forward to this day as if it were my own wedding. I've helped my sister a lot with planning the wedding so I know it is going to be more than perfect. However, I feel overwhelmed by emotions, I experience a network of feelings. I can't believe that my sister is, as I've said, getting married. It seems so crazy, a couple of years ago we used to play with dolls and now she is going to have her own family.

The ceremony is going to be on the beach and we are so lucky that the weather seems to be fabulous today. I've bought this really cute red dress that I can't wait to wear. All the bridesmaids are wearing red dresses but mine is the fanciest, I have been told that I look like a princess

in it. I couldn't sleep a wink all night long. I hope I don't have dark circles under my eyes because I want to look perfect.

At this point, it's already 9 am. I and all my female relatives, including my sister are at the beauty parlour, getting our hair and make-up done. I won't lie, my sister looks amazing. Even Barbie would be jealous of her beauty. It's been a while and we are heading back home. We all look gorgeous, but Ashley is the goddess, I mean it's her wedding after all, she will steal the show. So, everybody having got dressed, we are going to the ceremony spot. It is so big because there are going to be 400 guests. I've told you my parents have done it the big way. Now it's time. She is walking down the aisle. Everybody is so nervous, I can tell. My mother has tears in her eyes and so does her husband to be. Everything is so beautiful, just like a fairytale, a soft breeze is caressing us and the sea seems to be whispering encouraging words, or maybe a blessing. Some time has passed and 5 seconds ago she said "I do". I am overjoyed, everybody beams with happiness, one could hear peals of laughter, congratulations, the glasses of champagne clinking.

The party continued until the next morning and everybody had so much fun. Now it is 2020 and looking back on that day, I realise it is a special one, a red-letter day I will never forget. Five years have passed since then and soon, my lovely sister will be attending my own wedding. To us it seems crazy to leave our childhood behind but we are so happy we are doing this together. We do believe our family's celebrations are the best ever, they make up the story of our life.

### Friendship across countries

Student : Miha Dragos Calocean

Teacher: Caloitan Liliama

"M. Eminescu" National College

We all know that friendship is that feeling that ennobles any human being. For me, friendship is a connection that is impossible to define in one sentence. It is to share everything and nothing: laughter, tears, experiences, advice.

But how did this story begin?

As I made progress in French, currently attending a French bilingual class, my teachers told me that I had been selected to attend a summer course in France. On hearing this news, a wide smile appeared on my face, and, feeling in the seventh heaven, I packed my bags and headed for

wonderful France.

When I arrived, I was deeply impressed by the warmth with which I was welcomed and, in time, I met students of my age with whom I began to socialize, while also competing in learning French and taking parts in all kinds of activities and projects.

Kevin was a funny and sincere boy who became a true friend of mine. Although he came from England, he had such a good command of French that he spoke it with incredible ease. I found out from him that he lived in London and that he had two brothers. As he played performance tennis, he told me that he had won many 'fierce fights' in an explosive atmosphere. It was also interesting to hear that to play a sport at a high level, one has to be calm, brave and always optimistic and self-confident.

And I will never forget Irène either, a polite, talkative girl endowed with a great sense of humour. She told me that she came from Nice, that she had a twin sister and that she wanted to become a famous singer. I admit that I miss her jokes, because thanks to them, we roared with laughter every evening!

Parting with them was difficult, tears were shed, but this is life...

A few days ago, I received two letters, much to my amazement. When I started reading them, I realized who had written them, Kevin and Irène! They both warmly invited me to visit them, and assured me that their families were looking forward to meeting me. Of course, we had kept in touch since we left France by means of modern technology, but those hand-written letters impressed me deeply, as teenagers very seldom use this so-called old-fashioned means of communication which actually shows respect.

Their texts moved me, and I answered their letters, telling them that I will do my best to visit them this summer. We have also made plans to spend one month of next summer holiday in Romania as I am eager to show them the beauties of our country and the hospitality of our people. We all have understood that true friendship stands the test of time and having friends from other cultural backgrounds can enrich our soul and mind immensely.

Besides, I have come to realise that friends are a lifelong treasure and, if we share the same values and ideals with somebody we trust and love, we will never be alone.

**THE END**