

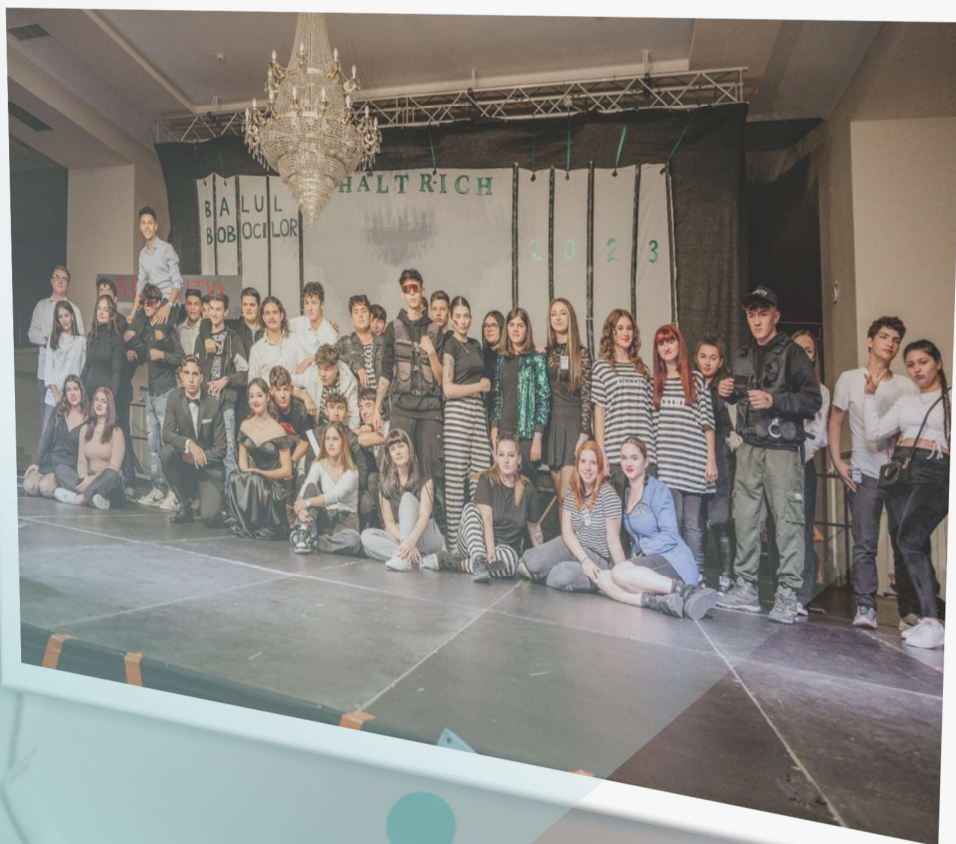


HALTRICH TODAY

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HALTRICH TODAY

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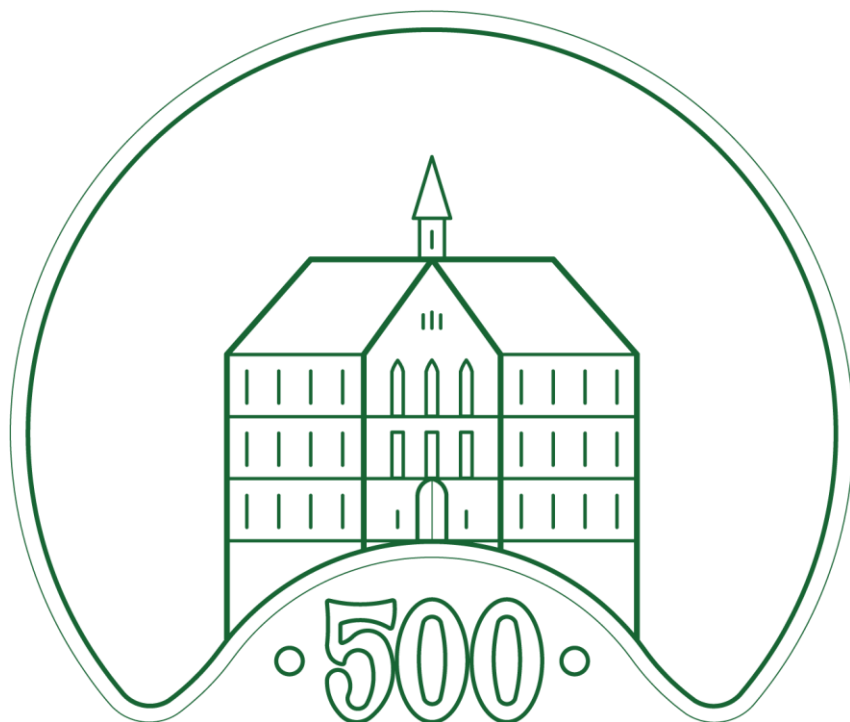
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EDITOR'S NOTE

In a world ruled by state-of-the-art technology which can influence us in a myriad of ways and not necessarily in a positive way, a group of enthusiasts from our high-school, with different interests and various expectations, have decided to make their voices heard and, thus, hopefully, manage to have a positive influence on their younger colleagues and to be a model for them. But is it possible for the young generation to overcome the influence of social media and to be part of some gripping activities, such as writing for the school magazine? Well, my answer is definitely 'Yes!'

Being surrounded by such a wide category of youngsters, working with them and observing their behaviour and various needs, I've decided to give these wonderful adolescents the opportunity to express their ideas and feelings, make them known and heard, to create a community where they can feel understood and, at the same time, encourage them to become the unheard voice of so many other kids around us.

What is noteworthy, but not surprising, though, is the fact that our students have been extremely open-minded when hearing about the printing of their thoughts and knowledge and starting a quite cumbersome process, which is both a challenging and a thought-provoking one as well. The invitation is even more demanding because students write in English.

Dear readers, welcome to the first issue of our online magazine! You will discover our high-school activities, our innately gifted students and their passions, experiences and interests. Enjoy the world of fantastic teenagers!

HALTRICH TODAY- ACTIVITIES IN OUR HIGH-SCHOOL

By Alesia Totoian

Welcome to **Haltrich Today**! The youth magazine where you can find out about what is happening in our school and not only! Coordinated by our English teacher, Mrs. Ana Pușcaș, some young, determined and intelligent students have decided to write about different subjects that circle inside/around our school and outside of it. Our educational institution offers a myriad of activities and experiences that form our youngsters' character, such as European country exchanges, event organizing, sports competitions, Olympiads and charity events. So, here are the most important ones:

1. Switzerland Exchange

Our school year started with one of our European country experiences when a handful of students from Switzerland were welcomed to our high-school and got an insight into our educational learning process for a whole week. Some of our scholars also got to experience school life there for a week in August.

2. Germany for 6 weeks

Two students from our high school from 10th grade went to Germany for 6 weeks. Because we are a school having German as the mother tongue, it helped them to hone their skills in communicating into this language.

3. The Freshmen's Ball

This ball is organized by the 11th grade every year, a tradition that brings our students joy, a sense of responsibility, and most and the foremost, bonds that could never be broken.

4. The English Reading Club

Created by our wonderful teacher, Mrs. Ana Puscas, the reading club develops strong opinions and improves our English vocabulary by going through the pages of books of multitudinous categories.

5. Youni

A presentation of their business showed us that they can guide students on the right path.

6. The Sweets Fest

The Fest is organized and coordinated by teacher Puşcaş on the last day of school, before Christmas, together with the volunteers from our high-school. By doing this, we raise funds mostly for our English library.

We had similar charity events like Shoe Box, organized by A.U.M., and, coordinated by the same teacher, we brought Christmas gifts with clothes, sweets and hygiene products. We also made packs for the Ukrainian immigrants to help them go through the rough starts of moving into another country.

7. Sports teams and champions

Our institute has teams for both girls and boys in sports like football, handball and even basketball. We have kids with amazing results in sports like table tennis, MMA and so on.

8. Internationally recognized certificates

8.1 . Cambridge Exams

In our school you can take the Cambridge exams from level A2 to C1, which will open many doors in your life, we promise!

8.2 . Deutsches Sprachdiplom

The Sprachdiplom is free for our German learning students and it opens up opportunities, such as studying in Germany as if you had graduated from high-school there and it also brings many other future chances.

9. Veritas

The local ONG has helped us many times and the last beautiful gesture that they have done for us is the donation of many books to our school.

10. Olympiads

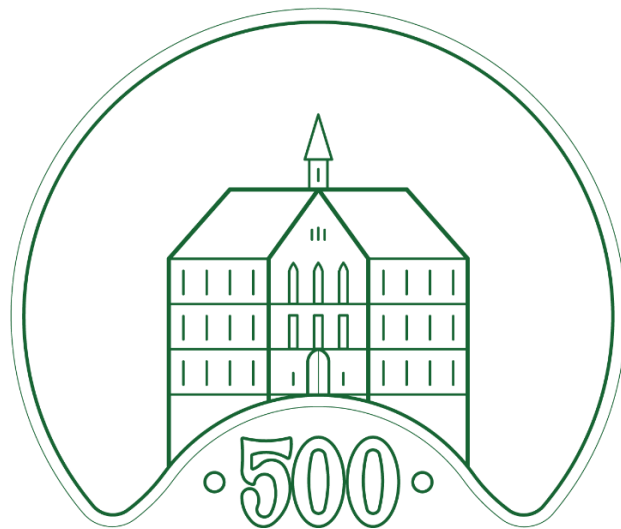
Every year, our scholars participate in the Olympiads on different subjects such as German, English, Romanian and Geography. Also, yearly we have students taking part in the national Olympiads from the secondary-school and high school. For the high-school level, last year we had three students who qualified for the English National Olympiads, two in the German one and this year there are 3 students training passionately for the German National stage and for the secondary-school we have three young students for the National Romanian Olympiads.

11. Future Fm

To offer our pupils a good vibe while discovering gripping information, Future Fm delights us with outstanding music every break.

In this issue we will talk in detail about a few of these activities. Hoping that by reading this, I have made you avid in reading further. Have a pleasant discovery in catching up with what has been happening in and out of our school!

HALTRICH LIFE



HALTRICH LIFE

The Freshmen`s Ball

Article by Madalina Goga, 11E


A very beautiful tradition of our school is - *The Freshmen`s Ball*- that takes part every year, usually at the end of October. It has been going on for many years now and everyone is excited to take part in planning the ball and in participating in it.



Photo credits: Ștefania Joldeș Photography

So, what exactly is this ball? Well, the 11th graders decide on a theme for this event that`s going to happen and start preparing acts and stories that will take both the freshmen and the spectators into a world of stories, with fun and entertainment, lovely to watch. The 9th graders, in pairs of two, a girl and a boy, will parade together in front of a jury coordinated by students and teachers. The jury will choose eight pairs that go on to take part in the tests prepared by the students of 11th grade. Of course, the tests are related to the theme of the ball and a real show is created. At the end, the pairs that had the best results will be awarded, and the best will be chosen as Miss and Mister for that year, following that in the 11th grade they will present the ball together.

We, this year`s 11th graders, were very excited to organize the ball because we did not have the chance to participate in our ball, for the reason that when we were in the 9th grade there was



still the pandemic going around and it was not possible to have a ball due to the restrictions and due to the safety measures. Our excitement was so huge that we started discussing the ball from the first two days of school. Everyone was expressing their wishes on what role they would like to have in organizing the ball and from the very beginning we had a clear view of most aspects of the ball, the only issue being the fact that we could not decide on a theme. There were many suggestions made, but in the end we decided for the theme *-Prison Break-*. We wanted to reinterpret an escape from prison, but in an amusing way.

The theme was decided so now we had to go and collect sponsorship because in order to have a place where we could organize this ball we needed money, also for the decorations and costumes, for a stage and for many other things. I still remember the joy we felt when someone would offer us even a little donation for the ball. We managed to collect a good amount of money and then we started with the decorations. We crafted the numbers for the freshmen to hold when they parade, background decorations looking like a prison cell and many other things that would forward help us in making the whole scene feel a little bit more real.

A team started to prepare the theatre in which they were going to act. It was a lot of work because it needed to be catchy and well-written, but somehow also funny, so that the spectators would not get bored. Also, we had to find a good text for me and my partner in order to present the ball. We managed to do all these and we started to have rehearsals daily. The last week was one of the most stressing, but also wonderful weeks for everyone because the ball was coming and we had to get everything right, but it was also the time when friendships were built due to the fact that we were spending so much time together and enjoying each other's company.

The day of the ball came and everyone was nervous. The event was starting at 6:00 pm, so around 5pm we all gathered at the place to discuss some last details and to be ready to begin. People started to come and I remember how nervous my friends and I were when we first saw how many people came. The freshmen also came and everybody was ready to start. When it was time for me and my partner Cristi to go on the stage, I was very nervous. I thought I would not be able to speak or that I would trip, but when I walked on it, everything was suddenly fine and I lost all feelings of nervousness, I was really just enjoying the time and having fun.

The freshmen had to parade and then there were eight pairs chosen to continue. From where I was standing on the stage, I remember seeing how nervous everyone was at first, but they started enjoying it too after the first test. It was a fabulous night, everything went better than planned and we all had fun.

The winners of the ball were:

Miss And Mr Popularity 2023: Hadnagy Karla and Victor Stăncel

Miss and Mr 3- 2023: Varga Yasmina Monica and Dunduc David

Miss and Mr 2 - 2023: Baier Anna-Lena and Pușcaș Alexandru

Miss and Mister Haltrich 2023: Zgăvîrdici Sarah and Mosora Bogdan

My friend Alexandra Mosora and I asked the winners some questions and here are their responses:

'How was the experience of the ball for you?'

Hadnagy Karla- Miss Popularity 2023

'Personally, the experience of participating at the prom as a new highschool student could be compared to entering a new chapter in my life. I discovered many new things and learned how to work together with friends. Stepping on to the stage, helped me overcome my fear of talking in front of an audience. I encourage all the students to take part in this activity, because it develops our characters, and it is a great way of making new friends and to experience highschool life.'



Photo credits: Ștefania Joldeș Photography

Varga Yasmina Monica- Miss 3

'I am convinced that each of you has asked themselves: 'How would I know if I..?'. Well, I can say that the experience at the ball was beautiful, but also stressful. Everything was unique, but I didn't know what was waiting for me. On the day of the prom I left feeling so confident in myself and I felt like I was going to win. I didn't think it would be so easy, I decided to enjoy every moment of the ball. I had the opportunity to meet new people and make friends. I'm glad I had the opportunity to attend the ball, and of course I would repeat this experience many times. And I have a little advice for all freshmen, to attend the prom because it's the best experience.'

Dunduc David-Mister 3

'When it comes to my experience in this ball, the joy of winning a prize fills my heart with lots of excitement. Every step taken on the stage holds a special significance that still lasts in my memory. Initially, as I stepped on the stage, nervousness spread all over me. However, once the first test was over, I started feeling more confident with the idea of me succeeding, and indeed, it ended up this way. The whispers of congratulations echo in my mind like a sweet melody, reminding me of this moment's magic.'



Baier Anna-Lena- Miss 2


'Since I was asked to participate in the prom, I was really nervous, because I had no idea how it was going to be on the stage with my colleagues and friends, in front of the whole school.'

At the beginning, I had all kinds of emotions, but because I was surrounded by dear friends, I started to feel good and I could enjoy all this experience. The tasks of the prom were really easy and enjoyable. I was really happy to have this experience! Once in a lifetime...:)'

Pușcaș Alexandru-Mister 2

'This experience is of great importance for any freshman and I'm no exception. It's really exciting, challenging and definitely memorable due to all the mixed feelings one can get through before and during the actual event. It's not easy to be in the limelight in front of about 600 people, with everyone's eyes on you, but I managed to do quite well together with my partner and, in the end, everything turned out well for us and we even had fun. Everything was well-organized and we were supported and encouraged by the organizers, so thank you everybody and congrats for making it an unforgettable experience for all of us!'





Zgăvîrdici Sarah- Miss Haltrich 2023

How does it feel being Miss?

'I must say, winning this type of "contest" was a very special and unexpected event that occurred in my life. Looking back, I still can't believe it happened, although, in the end, it will surely be one of the most precious memories left of my overall highschool-experience.'

How would you describe this experience?

'The sole purpose of my decision to participate was to have fun with my friends and new classmates, and maybe to get to know them a little better. During the rehearsal or even during the event, we laughed together, we made jokes, we experienced all kinds of emotions while waiting for the next rounds, which I like to believe brought us all closer together. This is what these sorts of events should be all about.'

What are your hobbies?

'Ever since I was little, I've always been keen on any kinds of sports, but the one that truly has my heart is handball. I started playing it in the second grade and I have never stopped since. Other than that, in my free time, I like reading, discovering new music and travelling to different places with my family or with my friends.'

Do you have any advice for our readers?

'My advice for them would probably be to always try new things and not to be afraid of the unknown. These school years should leave all of us with lots of memories and experiences, good and bad, expected and unexpected, so take your friends, live your life and most importantly-Have fun!'

Mosora Bogdan- Mister Haltrich 2023

How does it feel being Mr?

'It's a pleasure for me that I became Mister Haltrich 2023, it was a lot of pressure on me when I got on the stage, my heart was beating so fast, I was overwhelmed with emotions because it was the first time when I was on a stage in front of so many people.'

How would you describe this experience?

'Once the first test was over, I got more confident because it was not that of a big deal, you just need to be natural. The audience likes to see the person in his natural beauty, not when you want to appear to be what you are not. I have to say that between the tests when all the

participants were not on the stage we all had a lot of fun and I was pleasantly impressed that all the other students came to encourage us. After all the tests finished and we waited for the results, I was very eager to see who would win. When my name was screamed that I was awarded the title Mr Haltrich, I was very excited and full of joy and also very happy that my friend Sarah and also my partner won the number one Miss Haltrich. '

What are your hobbies?

'I love to do sports and especially contact sports. I'm an MMA fighter, I've been doing it for four years. I've been doing sports since I was little and I grew up with this hobby. I've forgotten to mention that I am really passionate about gastronomy. I like to cook desserts in particular and also my friends and family really like to taste what I've recently baked. '

Do you have any advice for our readers?

'If I were to give any advice, I would say that you always have to believe in you and work hard for your dreams because no one will do it for you, and always believe in God!'



Photo credits: Ștefania Joldeș Photography



We were excited to see that everyone seemed to like our event and the way the ball went. The experience of presenting the ball was very special to me. I always had the fear of speaking in public or speaking before a big crowd and at first I was not so thrilled about presenting the ball because I thought that I was going to ruin the whole night for everyone due to the fact that I thought I was going to be too scared to speak. However, practicing with my partner really helped me and gave me confidence in my abilities. I must say that in the day of the event I felt really scared and anxious about what was about to happen and I could not focus on anything, but I don't know how, when I arrived at the place where the ball was to be held, suddenly the feeling of nervousness was starting to go away. I was still a little anxious, but when Cristi and I went on the stage together and I saw the crowd of people, I could only feel joy and excitement.

I am not exaggerating when I say that the prom night was one of the best nights of my life, not only because I got to overcome my fear of talking in public, but also because of the memories that we made together on stage and after that at the after-party.

My partner, **Cristian Maior**, also described how the experience was for him:

'The experience at the Freshmen's Ball was beautiful, but also extremely demanding for me, having the role of presenter. It was a unique moment, full of emotions, in which I was encouraged by wonderful people and which I will always remember with pleasure. Public reactions have been encouraging.'

'We didn't have much time to prepare for this event, but I did my best to be informed and aware of all the relevant details and I hope this effort was reflected in my presentation.'

'Being a presenter, I felt a great responsibility for the smooth running of the event and for making all participants feel involved and appreciated. This sense of responsibility can be motivating, but also scary.'

'It's hard to put into words the whole experience of this freshmen's prom. It was an honour to stand in front of a full hall. I think about the energy and joy during the event and realize that those moments will remain in my memory forever!'



Photo credits: Ștefania Joldeș Photography

I really encourage everyone that's about to be in the 11th grade to take part in this event and in organizing it, because you will remain with strong friendships and memories that are too special and too beautiful not to have them.

*When it comes to this experience, the quote that comes to my mind is: **'We didn't realize we were making memories, we just knew we were having fun.'** -Winnie The Pooh*



1

The English Reading Club

Article by Lazar Melisa Anamaria, 11 E

Conversations that build communities

Building Bonds in a Digital Age

In today's world, we're constantly drawn to technology and social media for entertainment. While there is a growing emphasis on using technology for learning, we must not forget what truly matters: human connection. Spending time with others and participating in fulfilling conversations is important for everyone's overall mental and emotional health. As the pace of society speeds up and the importance of learning becomes more significant, it's important to prioritize how we value each other. By placing more importance on individual's thoughts and ideas, we can improve the quality of our social interactions. This is where book clubs can step in. They provide a place where people can come together, share their perspectives and ideas, and build a sense of community. Reading alone is a talent, but reading within a community is an artistic expression. When conversation lacks liveliness, the sense of community weakens, and the purpose can become unclear. Discovering a sense of belonging within a book club is important and vital for members, as it can be motivating to spur conversations and shared reading.

¹ <https://images.app.goo.gl/ZUCWSpAdt4ayizzY7>

Exploring Books: Discovering Literary Adventures

Within the Joseph Haltrich High-School also resides a book club which was created by our English teacher, Mrs. Puşcaş Ana, for the passionate bookworms and those who are intellectual enthusiasts. It is certainly set up for those who yearn for a sense of belonging within a community of like-minded individuals. Since its starting point, we have delved into the depths of various works, exploring diverse themes and perspectives.

Our journey
captivating

Midnight

Matt Haig, a
exploration of
possibilities
of second
story of this
you to an
journey where
holds a life not
decision
doorway to a
destiny.
between the
unknown,

The Midnight
presents Nora
opportunity to
story.



began with the
page of *The*
Library by
moving
life's infinite
and the power
chances. The
book invites
extraordinary
every book
lived and every
becomes a new
different
Tucked away
known and

Library
Seed with an
rewrite her
Confronted

with regrets considering her life choices, she is now surrounded with new possibilities to live
lives she would have never imagined she would experience.

Another remember full and heart-pounding book we have talked about was the iconic thriller *One by One* written by Ruth Ware. In this gripping story, a group of work colleagues go for a trip in the secluded French Alps, but everything seems to be going wrong after a harsh snowstorm that has trapped them in their hut on the mountains. When members of the group seem to be disappearing one by one, suspicion and fear start to rise and thrust starts to become more and more difficult to win over.

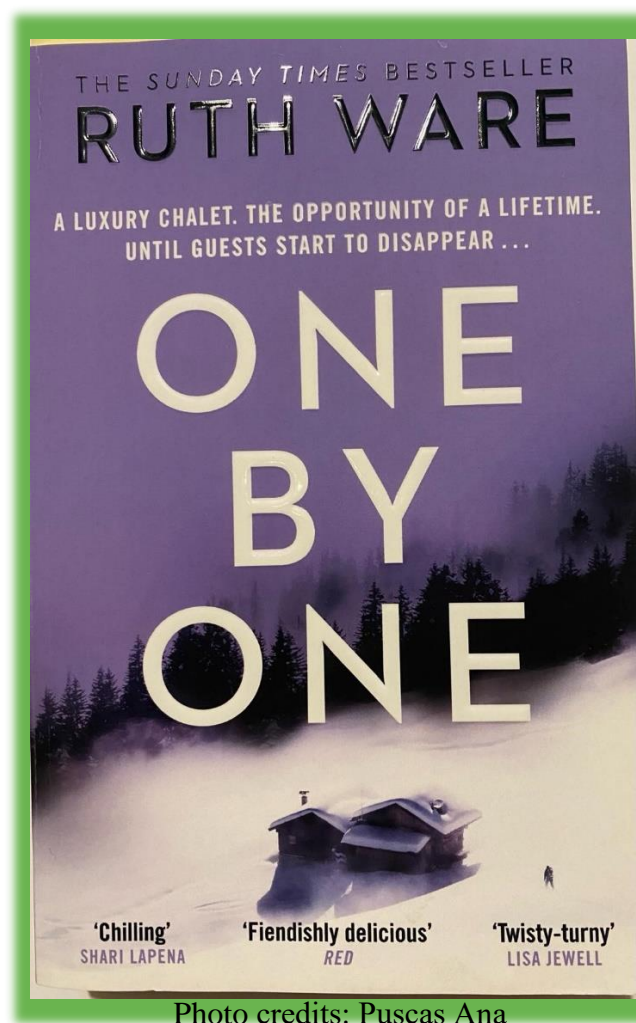


Photo credits: Puşcaş Ana

To change the course of our emotions after the adrenaline from our thrilling journey, we picked up a book that reminds me of a soft embrace, *The Cat who saved Books* by Sôsuke Natsukawa where we are brought up into a warm and cozy bookstore settled into a little village. The narrator of this whimsical story is a sassy orange cat named Max whose tale reminds us of the magic that can be found in the simplest things and the power of friendship to light you up even in the darkest moments. A delightful read that is sure to spur happiness and joy in you even after you turn the last page.



The latest enhancing novels that we have discussed within the reading club are the immersive fantasies *Six Crimson Cranes* and its sequel *The Dragons Promise* written by the talented Elizabeth Lim- both books quickly becoming personal favorites. The storyline of both books has swept the readers into magical well-built worlds with beautiful landscapes filled with never-ending adventure and even some romance. We accompany the main character of this mythical story, Princess Shiori, who is fighting for her homeland while running into curses, prophecies and the newly found devotion intertwined in many ways. What, for me, sets these books apart from the others is the ability of the author to deeply connect with the reader. In the books important themes such as redemption and the strength of hope during tough times are grippingly represented and wonderfully resolved.

How Literature Shapes and Inspires

In a nutshell, *The Six Crimson Cranes* and *The Dragons Promise* are not just stories you can hardly forget, but they are an impactful experience that has left a mark on my heart. These kinds of stories can remind us of the strong impact literature can have on a person's life. They don't just entertain us; they teach, challenge and move us. With each page turned from any of the books that I listed above, an individual can find themselves taken into a new perspective and encounter new characters whom they can relate to.

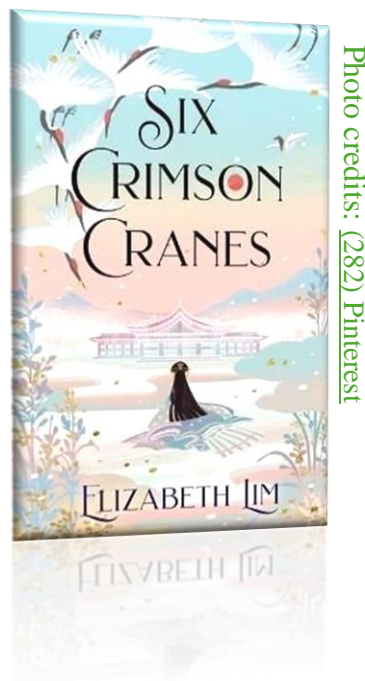


Photo credits: (282) Pinterest

To wrap up, as **George R.R. Martin** delightfully says: '**A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies. The man who never reads lives only one.**' This feeling resonates deeply within our book club, where we have travelled through countless journeys through the pages we have read together. The books we have discussed have become more than just beloved readings for us; they've become beacons in our lives, helping us in moments of doubt or uncertainty with their wisdom and insight. They help remind us of how strong a person can be and how telling a story can lighten up even the deepest reaches of our minds. To those of you who have been following the story of our book club throughout this article, we offer a warm invitation to join us on the meaningful journey in order to learn and find a sense of home within our reading club. Let's explore more new stories together, share different perspectives and create new friendships. So, join our English Reading Club now!



Photo credits: Puşcaş Ana



Exploring Limitless Horizons: Meet Maxi

Article by Dorothea Fritsch, 11D

In this article, we celebrate the transformative journey of our student Maximilian Fritsch, from grade 10 D, who hopped on an unforgettable exchange experience that made him grateful for this opportunity. Together with a colleague, Moraru Schaaser David, he went to a private school, Schloss-Schule in Kirchberg, Germany, where he stayed for 6 weeks. Join us as we unravel Maxi's adventures abroad, discovering what impact this experience had on him and how it changed him.



Dorothea: What was the most memorable experience you had during your exchange in Germany?

Maxi: The most memorable experience in Germany was when I went bowling with all my new friends from China. We had a lot of fun and I really enjoyed the free time I spent with them.

D: How did living in Germany compare with the expectations you had before you went?

M: Before getting there my expectations were pretty low, because not knowing anyone there made me a little anxious, but in the end I integrated very well and I left sad.

D: Did you face any language barriers, and if so, how did you overcome them?

M: I didn't face any language barriers with the German people from there, but I faced some problems with communicating with the foreign students, who came from all over the world, for example Portugal, China and others...

D: Did you develop any skills or hobbies while you were in Germany?

M: Speaking of hobbies, I played a lot of basketball there, because we had to choose in PE a sport to play and it was very fun. Germans have a different way of learning and I developed new ways, which are not that boring, of memorizing new things, understanding physics and calculating only with my brain, no paper needed.

D: How did you find the education system in Germany compared to our country?



M: I found it a lot better, because in order to learn something new, they teach it until you master it without needing to memorize 100 formulas. Teachers are like a friend to you and are not judging you for not being able to understand or for not having a talent in what they teach.

D: What was your favorite German dish or food that you tried there?

M: There were a lot of tasty dishes that I tried there, but I liked Bratwurst most, a type of sausage and Leberkase, which is kind of like a baked ham served with bread and mustard.

D: What advice would you give to other students considering going on exchange to Germany?

M: I would tell them to be open-minded and friendly to everyone, take any new opportunities and visit as much as you can, but most important is making as many friends as you can, because meeting new people really helps you get along easier.

D: Can you describe a typical day in your life there?

M: We were woken up by our mentor at 6:30 in the morning, after I went to eat breakfast at 7:15 and the lessons started at 7:30 until 1:40. After school, we had lunch break and after that we had time to write our homework.

D: How did your daily routine in Germany differ from your routine back home?

M: During my stay in Germany, I had a very calculated routine which I do not have at home.

D: What were some of the biggest challenges you faced in adjusting to the daily life in Germany?

M: One of the biggest challenges I have faced there was waking up so early in the morning because I'm not a morning person.

D: Did you participate in any extracurricular activities or clubs there? If so, how were they and how did they enhance your experience?

M: I was in a football club and a basketball club which helped me stay fit and create strong friendships.

D: Thanks for your time!

M: You're welcome!

The Christmas Sweets Fest

Article by Albu Irina, 11E

Moldovan Emilian, 11E

What is our high-school Christmas Sweets Fest all about?

Our Sweet Fest is one of the traditions at Joseph Haltrich High-School which started in 2011, created and coordinated by our English teacher Pușcaș Ana. The voluntary students of our high school prepare sweet treats and sell them to the other students, including the primary pupils, the secondary school and high-school students. It all started with the real need of having an English library in our high-school. Now we are proud to have a few hundreds of books, both abridged and originals. It's a joyful tradition and we see some teachers coming in with containers to get sweets from all the students from there and I personally think that this interest is really nice, trying everything from everyone.

We were part of it as well and together with many other students we sold our sweet treats to our teachers and other students. This schoolyear, we participated on the 20th December and also the prior year and saw lots of delicious treats from the other groups such as brownies, cinnamon buns, cake-pops, peanut butter cups, cookies, cakes, gingerbread and many other goodies.



Photo credits: [Liceul Teoretic Joseph Haltrich Pagina Oficială - Bergschule](#)

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

We've talked about what we do on our Sweets Fest, but why do we have it? Well, here's the answer to that question. Besides being able to purchase new titles for our English library, one of the reasons we have it is for our students to learn how to work together as a team and practise baking and making their own sweet treats together while having fun; and after that hard work, seeing the people's joy while buying the goodies we have made brings us happiness and pride.



Photo Credits: [Liceul Teoretic Joseph Haltrich Pagina Oficială - Bergschule](#)

What are the steps in participating in The Sweets Fest?

Firstly, create your team with your friends and together you'll decide what you are going to prepare. After that, buy your ingredients and start preparing for the hard work, but don't forget to have fun doing it!

After you bring the products to the high school in the festive classroom, Mrs. Puscas will assign you a table where you will organize your products and set affordable prices for the buyers and then the students and teachers will come and buy your goodies! Everyone benefits from our activity, it's teamwork. As they say, **'Teamwork does the dream work!'**

See you next year at The Christmas Sweets Fest!

Do you believe in small things making a big difference?

Article by Alexandra Mosora, 11E

Sometimes life is hard and we end up encountering problems for which we are most likely not prepared and don't know how to face them, just like in the case of little Anda. After learning her story, we decided to do everything in our power so that we could help her and that's how we came up with our little project.

Photo Credits: Mosora Alexandra



So, we created a team and looked for solutions to help the little girl Anda who had serious medical problems and needed a lot of money to be able to afford the treatment. Together with Mrs. Ana Puscas, who organizes The Sweets Fest in our high-school, we decided to make a stall where we could sell handmade Christmas decorations and let the collected money go directly to the girl.

This event was taking place during the winter holidays, the people who knew about the girl's case and about our stall came and donated money even if they didn't buy anything, which seemed extraordinary to me, especially since all these activities? took place in the Christmas period and we all know that around Christmas it is very important to be more generous and more willing to help than usual. I would also like to mention my colleague Alexandru Diaconu who helped me with the money collecting and the sales. Without his help, I would not have faced the large wave of people who came to our charity event.



As the saying goes, '**A friend in need is a friend indeed!**' and even the smallest help, perhaps insignificant for some of us, can change or even glorify the life of someone in need. Be kind and spread love and happiness around you, they will come back to you!

FUTURE FM - A RADIO STATION FOR HIGHSCHOOLERS

Article by Denisa Lascu, 11C



"Joseph Haltrich" high school radio is reborn in an enthusiastic manner from the chest of memories, preparing to surround the entire institution in delightful rhythms of music. Devoted students will put smiles on the faces of their classmates and teachers, bringing them the joy of the most beautiful chords ever, every day, every break. In addition to good music, students will prepare interesting podcasts, breaking news, announcements and more. With passion and dedication, "Future FM" will become a symbol of the school community, bringing students and



teachers together in a unique sound show, creating a vibrant and energetic atmosphere that will define the days of the high school years.

According to Future FM's Instagram page, the radio station is run by devoted students and the goal is to put smiles on everyone's faces with the frequencies of music during breaks. Above we have a short description about it.

And you may ask "What do you mean by reborn", well here with me is a former student that has helped us revive the radio station, his name is Kevin Wagner and he will give us more information about it.




Denisa: Hello Kevin, I'm glad to have the opportunity to talk to you. Could you please tell us the history behind this radio?

Kevin: *It was founded in 2002 and initially produced a one-hour "on air" program in German on the local radio with presentations and music. The radio group met every Wednesday at 6 p.m. in the Joseph Haltrich high school. Around two years later, this developed into the school radio, which broadcasted during recess at the high school. The students received technical support from Volker Arnold. The school radio was active till around 2018 when it was shut down by the school.*

D: Can you tell us how you decided to reopen the station and who helped you with it?

K: *While me and my work colleague were going through some old documents for a work project we stumbled on an old picture of the school radio and a student from that time. I then found out from my colleague that the radio was founded by the German Forum from Sighișoara, information that was new for me. I knew from some students who attend the German Forum today that the school radio was shut down, so I thought why not reopen this project myself as I already am working for the German Forum from Sighișoara. So what did I do? I went to the principal's office, talked to my former teachers from the high school and they loved the idea of reopening the radio station. All I needed now was to start cleaning the room where all the*



equipment was in and see what equipment still works and what equipment we would need in order to start the radio station. So this was what I did, cleaned the room, got some advice from several people here and there, got some equipment from the German Forum and we slowly reopened the radio station in our high school. All it took was dedication and passion.

D: How would you see this Future FM in a few years?

K: If things go as planned and me and the students want this thing to grow, it will be "the cool thing" at the Joseph Haltrich high school. We will take it to the next level with the best music, attractive announcements, involvement of the whole high school community as well as the teachers, a lot of podcasts on different topics and more. All this in all the languages that the school teaches. Maybe we will also broadcast the station one day to other schools from the city or even online. To be honest, I was already asked by a former Joseph Haltrich student if he could listen to the broadcast somewhere online. This shows that people are interested in what we do. So, in other words, this thing will grow more and more and will be a thing for the students to remember in the "Future" and will be something that the "Future" students can't wait to experience.

D: What other activities do you do at 'Jugendforum Schäßburg'?

K: We have different yearly projects going on like "Deutsche Kultur Tage", "Proetnica", Easter programs, Thanksgiving and of course our Christmas program, where we craft Christmas wreaths and bake gingerbread with our teenagers and the Advent evening with singing Christmas carols and have a good time together. Of course we collaborate with the other Forums around Romania and connect with them at other events outside of the city.

D: Enough about the station, now let's talk a little bit about you. How would you describe yourself in 5 words?

K: Charismatic, smiley, patient, faithful, contagious

D: What do you do for a living?

K: I work as a "Youth Representative" at the "German Forum of the Germans in Romania". Basically, what I do is I represent the youth and do all types of activities with teenagers or kids from the German school, like afterschool programs, traditional Saxon dance classes, scheduled projects around the country and more. The "Future FM" project is also part of my job, I'm really glad I had the opportunity to coordinate the high-school radio. I also try to connect with the kids or teens as much as possible and maybe also teach them about life or such. We have been doing activities in our free time like movie nights, game nights, outdoor activities etc.

D: Can you tell us about your passions?



K: My passion is the creative field. I love music for example, I've been listening to music of course for as long as I can remember, but also producing electronic music, been producing since 2015 in my free time, did some DJ-ing as well here and there and I want to grow more in the music industry in the future. I also love to sing and God gave me the opportunity to do this in really great ways in the last year, I'm really thankful. I do some videography and photography as well for a couple of years now. And I can't let out one of my favorite activities, driving. I love driving and I can consider it as a passion of mine. Another passion of mine would be motivating people, listen to them and be there for them. I have this gift inside of me, some blessing from above that I don't want to keep for myself, I want to give people all I have. Cause what I have doesn't belong to me, but it's for the people around me and the people around me are my passion!

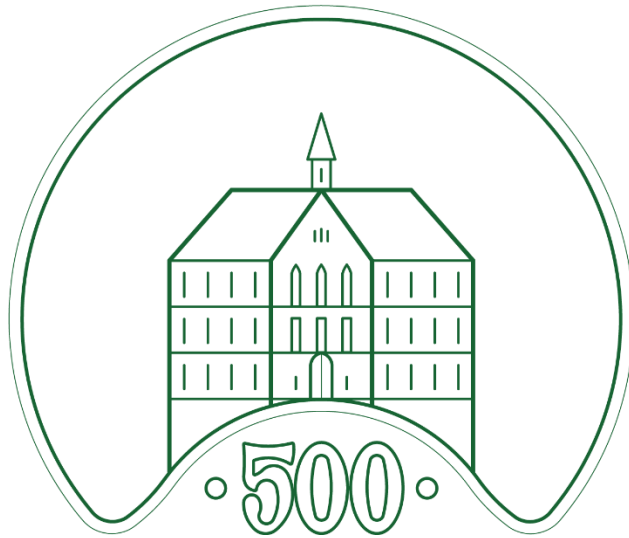
D: Thank you so much Kevin for sharing your opinion about this project and also for putting so much effort into helping us.

Also, let's not forget the members of this project:

- ***Lazăr Alex -IX-C***
- ***Vaida Tudor-X-D***
- ***Lazăr Melisa -XI-E***
- ***Totoian Alesia-XI-E***
- ***Lascu Denisa-XI-C***

Last, but not least, I would also like to thank our principals, Mr. **Malancravean Ovidiu Dumitru** and Mrs. **Diaconu Simona**, without whom we would not have been able to realize this project and express ourselves.





HALTRICH REMARKABLE STUDENTS

Music- A way of living

By Luca Căndea, 11 D

Johann Reiter, 11D



Valer Cosara(left) and Johann Reiter(right)

Photo credits: Johann Reiter

Joseph Haltrich High-school takes great pride in having many gifted students. Among our many talented high-schoolers, **Johann Reiter** makes himself remarkable with his locally renowned music. I'm sure music means a lot to most of us, but it's something special for Johann. I conducted an interview with him and received some very interesting answers which I'd like to share with you:

Me: What do you think music means to us or what should it mean to us?

Johann: I think that music is a means through which we can express joy and positivity, it brings people together and makes them connect.

Me: What skills do you think DJs need to be successful?

Johann: These days you should really focus on social media, I think this is the biggest asset for being a successful DJ.

Me: How do you manage to engage listeners? Are there any techniques you use?



Johann: I always scan the crowd that I work with, if you play one song and you see they lose energy, you know it's not good so you switch it up, after a while you know what works and what not.

Me: In your experience, what is the most rewarding part of being a DJ?

Johann: In my journey so far as a DJ, the most rewarding part is most definitely the joy it brings me.

Me: What is the first thing you do when creating a new song?

Johann: When I start a new song, I always begin with a chord progression and a melody, because that is what keeps the listener engaged, the melody; if you analyze the biggest songs, they always have this simple, yet catchy melody.

Me: What does music mean to you?

Johann: Music isn't just a hobby for me; it's a way of life, an avenue through which I express myself and connect with others on a profound level. I absolutely love it. I aim to spread positivity and joy through my music.

Me: Who do you look up to?

Johann: My biggest idol is Martin Garrix, I love his songs and he is such a humble person, he inspires me a lot.

Me: Some words of advice for newbies?

Johann: For someone starting out, I would recommend just figuring out on your own how it works, that's how I learned, you can find all the necessary means on the internet. If you really want to succeed in this industry, you have to work really hard, you will get hundreds of rejections before putting something together that sounds decent, so it's all about passion.

Me: Thanks, Johann and good luck with your projects!

Johann: The same for all teenagers following their passion and dreams!

In this interview Johann's passion for his hobby became apparent. Having a passion like he does is something we should all strive for. He does not only learn a new, and useful skill, but also occupies his time with something other than scrolling through social media. I hope we can all find our passion as he did.



MMA- Just a sport or a passion?

Article by Fiscu Bogdan, 12E

Importance of Sports

Sport is incredibly important for teenagers. It helps them stay active, build discipline, develop teamwork skills, and boost their overall well-being. Engaging in sports encourages a healthy lifestyle and physical fitness, while also instilling discipline and responsibility. Team sports teach valuable lessons in teamwork, cooperation, and communication. Additionally, participating in sports can have a positive impact on mental health, reducing stress and promoting emotional well-being. It's not just about the physical benefits, but also about having fun, exploring interests, and discovering passions. Whether it's soccer, basketball, swimming, or any other sport, teenagers can enjoy the thrill of competition and express themselves. So, let's encourage teenagers to get involved in sports and reap all the amazing benefits it has to offer!

What is MMA?

MMA, or Mixed Martial Arts, is a combat sport that combines various fighting techniques from disciplines like boxing, wrestling, Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, Muay Thai, and more. It's an intense and dynamic sport that requires a high level of skill, athleticism, and mental toughness. MMA fighters showcase their abilities in a controlled environment, using a combination of striking and fighting techniques to defeat their opponents. The sport has gained popularity worldwide, with organizations like the UFC showcasing top-level talent. MMA offers a unique blend of excitement, strategy, and physicality, making it a thrilling spectator sport. It's not just about brute force, but also about technique, agility, and endurance.



What does MMA mean to me?

MMA is a part of me that I can't let go of. It has definitely improved my life turning the extra weight I had in muscle mass and because it is a contact sport you have no team and you are your only hope for a victory and that feeling has helped me increase my level of confidence. In the dojo I feel at home and the trainer and training partners are family. The feeling of getting in the ring to

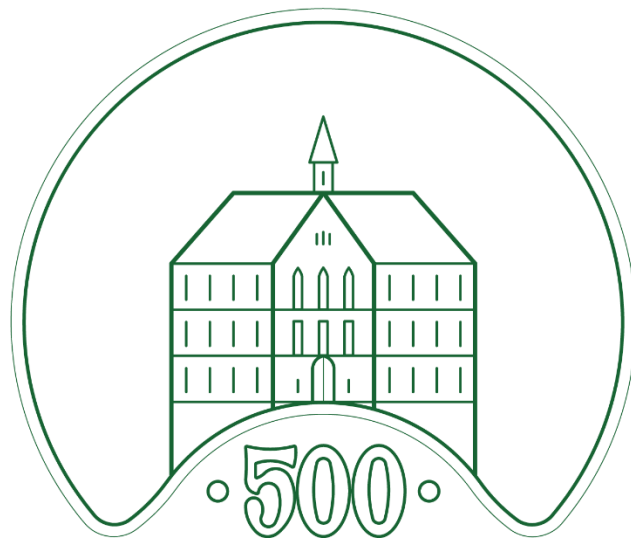
fight someone is really intense. I personally go through several emotional phases before the fight, the day before I already feel the pressure of the fight and that pressure is maintained until a few minutes before the fight when fear sets in, but once I get in the ring face-to-face with my opponent I feel unbeatable and unbreakable. Taking part twice in The National Wushu Competition, I got the title of National Champion in 2022 which is my greatest achievement.



I started training to lose weight but being consistent I realized that this sport can lead me to more than a healthy body and a strong mind. MMA can be incredibly beneficial for teenagers. It provides a structured and disciplined environment where they can learn self-defense skills, build confidence, and improve their physical fitness. Engaging in MMA can help teenagers develop discipline, focus, and mental toughness, which can be applied to various aspects of their lives.



Photo credits: Fiscu Bogdan



SOCIAL MATTERS



INTERACT- MORE THAN VOLUNTEERING

Article by Ticusan Sofia Elena, 12E

Pietzsch Katharina, 12 E

Nowadays, volunteering is a popular activity among teenagers. Many universities and companies require a volunteering certificate. Kindhearted people of all ages unite for the same purpose: helping with the community's growth. Some of our activities helped numerous people who struggle to live day by day. Other projects were focused on the benefit of our community's teenagers and children. Because of the lack of social activities in our town, youngsters were able to have fun and socialise with others through Interact's initiatives.



Photo credits: Interact

Interact is a worldwide ONG, with 100 clubs in Romania. The number of clubs is getting bigger every year, meaning that our family is getting larger and larger. Teenagers between 12 and 18 years old are welcome to join our club. Every year, we have Districtual Conferences, where our board members and active members participate in trainings, in order to develop their skills.



Photo credits: Puscas Ana



We'll find out more about Interact in the next interview with its President, Sofia Ticusan.

- Katharina: *'Tell us something about yourself and how you ended up getting involved with Interact.'*

Sofia: 'When I started highschool, everybody was talking about something called Interact. I didn't know what that was. My friend, who was an active member at that time, explained what they did and convinced me to join. It is one of the best choices I've ever made.'



Photo credits: Suciú Rebeca

- K: *What does Interact mean to you?*

S: 'For me, Interact is more than an ONG. Here, I found a second family. We are the dream team. I've met a lot of wonderful people from all over the country, with whom I still keep in touch. Everybody is friendly, so making new friends is really easy. In this community opportunities appear at every corner Interact bonds people and creates lifelong friendships.'

- K: *What role do you have?*

S: 'I represent the president of Interact Sighisoara. I have to lead the clubs and the board's meetings, to supervise the projects and coordinate them, to supervise the members' and the club's activity and to keep in touch with the Rotary Club and with the District.'

- K: *What do you like most about Interact?*



S: 'I think that one of the most amazing parts of being an Interact member is helping others in the community. The satisfaction you get from seeing others happy is priceless, especially when you know that you were able to do something for someone in need. This feeling is something else. This is what gives us the passion and the needed strength.'

- K: *Any future plans?*

S: 'We have a lot of fun and interesting upcoming projects. We are happy to work together in order to make a difference.'

K: *Thank you and good luck!*

S: 'Thanks!'

Many students from our school are a part of this family: Fliter Ana-Maria, Prozan Mara, Totoian Alesia, Moldovan Alina, Joldes Amalia, Roth Beatrix, Crucin Patricia, Gradinar Daria, Reiter Johann, Goga Madalina, Stratan Nadia, Boasca Nicole, Demeter Oana, Chetan Andreea, Santa Timea.

It is not just volunteer work that motivates us to continue the activities, but also the sense of belonging and creating a small family. So, join us and you'll have one of the best experiences ever!



Photo credits: Prozan Mara

Saxon dances and The German Forum of Sighișoara

Article by: Țițu Alexia-Ioana, 12 D

The Saxon dances are traditional folk dances that are characteristic for the Saxon population from Transylvania, Romania. The Saxons, also known as the “Siebenbürgen Sachsen” in German, are an ethnical minority from Romania that settled in Transylvania at the beginning of the 12th century and had a great influence on the history and culture of this region. During their settlement, they established numerous towns, built fortified churches, fortifications and houses with distinctive architecture. The Saxon culture has contributed to shaping the Transylvanian landscape of today through numerous cultural aspects and peculiarities. The Saxon population has established educational institutions with teaching in the German language and has preserved its own dialect, Saxon, a dialect that will be used centuries later and passed down from generation to generation.



Both religious festivals and traditions are still respected today in Saxon areas, where there are numerous communities eager to preserve their culture.

Among the specific components of the Saxon cultural heritage are the Saxon folk dances. These consist of energetic steps that capture the audience's attention and outline the dynamics of the figures, with various types of individual or more complex twirls, diverse formations that highlight the unity and coordination of each dancer, and applause and foot stomping that encourage audience participation in the spectacle offered. The legacy of Saxon dances continues today, with these being presented to the public in the context of cultural

festivals, traditional celebrations, and gatherings of the Saxon community. (Photo credits- The German Forum)

The year 1989 marks the emergence of the German Forum of Romania, an organization that will play a crucial role in preserving Saxon dances. Its branches are found in various cities across the country, including Sighișoara, Sibiu, Sebeș, Bistrița and Brașov, where numerous Saxon dance groups have been formed through youth associations.

Currently, the dance team of the German Forum in Sighișoara consists of students attending the German section of Joseph Haltrich High School. Each member brings their own charm to the group, and dance classes take place weekly after school under the supervision of the two coordinators: Andrea Rost and Kevin Wagner. In an interview for this article, Kevin Wagner speaks about his experience as a member of the group and Jugendreferend, as well as his work alongside young people. "I was introduced to Saxon dances in the 9th grade through a recommendation. It was easy for me to say Yes to this activity, as I am half Saxon and I had been dancing since middle school

with Mrs. Baias's class. Later, in high school, I saw the benefits that the forum brought me: the trips, the delegations with the dances. All of these were attractive to me as a young person. After finishing high school, I wanted to continue because I still enjoyed this activity, and I didn't give up; I kept my traditional attire in the closet. When I was at home and there was a show, Andrea would ask me to take part because she knew I enjoyed it, and I was one of the students she would turn to and ask if I wanted to participate. After, at the beginning of 2023, I was offered a job at the Forum, and thus became the first youth referend in the country. I was excited, and I saw that this job brings both the youth work aspect and the organizational aspect, which is complex and serious. All of this took me out of my comfort zone, but I am glad because I am a person who wants to grow. Likewise, I wish the same for any group of young people I deal with; I want them to grow, I want to put my heart into every project, not to be organized superficially, and I try to be as much as possible an example for the group, to show them values, to teach them, and to let myself be taught - to grow together." When asked about the advantages that the forum brings to young people, Kevin responded as follows: "You have the opportunity to travel throughout the country and even abroad; you never know where you'll have performances as a dance team or what activities you'll be invited to. You go to socialize with people, make new connections, and develop as a person. For example, I have old friends whom I met through the forum, and we still keep in touch. Besides that, the workshops and seminars greatly help in developing the German language, and you learn to communicate much more openly with people because you are encouraged to step out of your comfort zone."



The dance members of the German Forum in Sighișoara have participated in numerous cultural events. Notable events from last year include: the German Cultural Days in Sighișoara, organized to promote the German community in the city; the Proetnica Festival in Sighisoara, where dance groups representing all minorities in Romania delighted the audience with folk dances, thus promoting interculturality; the Annual Assembly of the Saxons, organized in Saschiz, where all Saxon dance teams from the country gathered to celebrate the existence of this community and Saxon culture; Heimattage, organized in Dinkelsbühl, Germany, a festival attended by dance groups from Saxon communities worldwide, including Canada, Germany, Austria, and many others. Currently, the dance team in Sighișoara is making serious preparations for the grand gathering of the Saxons in 2024, an event of great importance for the Saxon community in Romania. (Photos credits- The

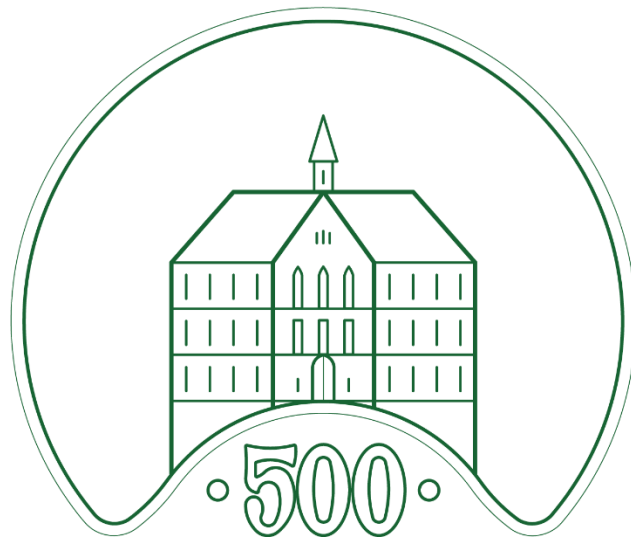
German Forum)



Regarding other events cherished by young people, the forum organizes various social activities for its members, both locally and nationally, as well as internationally alongside youth from other cities. These include seminars, youth gatherings, and conferences. Memorable events for adolescent experience and personal and intercultural development last year were as follows: Vertreterversammlung, organized in Măgura, where young people from all over the country made friends through social games, admired the views during hikes, and had fun with a snowball fight; Jugendkonferenz, organized near Arad, where in the morning, young people participated in various seminars and

workshops on social media, and in the evening, they relaxed with friends at the pool; Tanzgruppentreffen, organized in Timisoara, where alongside experienced dance instructors, young people learned both Romanian folk dances and dances from Serbia, Bulgaria, and modern dances, thus shaping the multicultural and unified picture of Romania. This year, the youth from the forum are invited to participate in June in a cultural exchange with the German community in Poland, and they have the opportunity to take part in events such as the summer camp in Poland, Jugendschulung, and Tanzgruppentreffen, where they will reunite with old friends, make new ones, visit new cities, and learn new aspects about social and cultural themes. (photo credits: Kevin Wagner)

In conclusion, Saxon dances serve not only as a transmitter of Saxon culture in Romania, but also as an emblem of our cultural heritage, a testament to our coexistence. They embody the energetic spirit, the sense of community, and the creation of a tolerant and welcoming unity. They foster both connections and friendships among dancers, a sense of belonging, and serve as a bridge for generations where culture and tradition are passed on and cherished. Saxon dances are an expression of cultural exchange and understanding, promoting the vibrant and intercultural mosaic of the country and creating connections with numerous communities. The youth in our city strive to preserve the treasure of Saxon heritage and to create a welcoming and open environment for everyone.



HEALTH MATTERS



Mental health: Serious talking point or internet trend?

Article by Nadia Stratan 12D, Stanciu Vlad-Andrei 12E

Hi, we're Nadia and Vlad and in this section of the school magazine we want to share our thoughts about the importance of mental health talk and discuss different topics surrounding the human psychology.

We also want to make it clear that we're not professionals and you should take our opinions as advice, rather than facts. It is your choice whether you believe if our advice is helpful for you or not.

Now let's get to today's topic: mental health in the social media landscape. As you may have noticed for the past few years, and specifically after 2020, discussing mental health issues on social media has become more and more supported by the general public. People share their experiences through short videos on TikTok or Instagram, talk about their struggles or make memes about how day to day life might be affected by different disorders. That might be helpful and show that the next generations might be going in the right direction when it comes to discussing mental health, but not all is pink on social media, as we all know.



Photo credits: Verywell / Lara Antal



Nadia: One of the many issues with short form content that I've seen on social media is the fact that misinformation can be easily distributed. Even when it comes to talking about mental health, social media made many trends out of it like the random symptoms lists that might show the viewer they actually do have ADHD. Making something as serious as mental health an online trend might affect the way people react to it and minimise the topic's weight. The truth is that a 30 second video or some online posts don't accurately tell you what you may struggle with, but they may help in your journey. Even professional therapists might need some time to understand you or other patients.

Vlad: That's why you should be careful when it comes to people who talk about these things. Those type of lists with many symptoms (which are usually taken out of context or lack any background or reason as to why they happen) are actually really harmful, because they stigmatise certain conditions and behaviours, making people overtly anxious about having any of them. Basically, they do quite the opposite of raising awareness, that's why videos created by actual therapists or even diagnosed patients are so useful. They allow the viewer to see and understand that these types of affections do not stop you from going on with your life, you just need to pay a little more attention to your needs and your health.

Nadia: Even though there are many problems that social media may cause regarding people's mental health, you can also find advantages of the use of these platforms. I would say that, through social media, mental health has become a more approachable subject to people my age. Discussing how one feels or how different diagnosis may affect one's life should not be dismissed, and social media played a part in raising awareness and discussing such topics. The humorous approach we might have seen on the internet (memes or silly little videos about a certain disorder) might also help make the topic of mental health more accessible topic through the lens of relatability. There is a fine line viewers would need to find though: one should not take this out of context content seriously. My point is that this type of content created an opportunity to making discussions about mental health easier for people my age. However, the content itself isn't a tool for diagnosis, and it may rather be viewed as a part of one's journey. For example, people may not feel confident enough to talk about how they feel with people in their life, but seeing other people feel the way they do could make it easier.

Vlad: However, your journey would also benefit a lot from the counselling of a professional, such as a psychologist or a psychiatrist, as they are trained exactly for the purpose of understanding you whatever issues or insecurities you might be dealing with. The connection with another human being is undeniably a healing experience, as you may feel misunderstood or worried to be laughed at for what it is that you are feeling. Having conversations and different points of view, of a person who isn't as emotionally engaged as you are, will help you understand your situations in a different, more complex way. A trained professional will also take into consideration your surroundings and former actions every time, in order to have a clear view of your evolution and eventual causes of certain behaviours. All of these experiences and helpful tools are unavailable on the internet. The closest thing you might find are videos of other people who are or were in your situation and with



whom you can relate to. Still, I believe that open conversations with someone who can understand you are priceless.

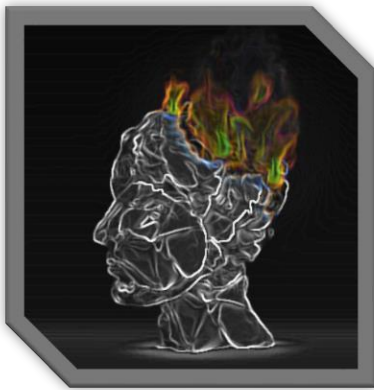
Finally, although mental health has been quite a taboo subject in the years before, now we are hopeful that this opening towards these topics will encourage progress towards a more open-minded society, and a new way of viewing affections, disorders or symptoms, without any judgement.

Burnout- just a myth or reality?

Tips on how to avoid burnout

(from someone who has gone through it)

Article by Şuşu Silvia-Diana, 12D



<https://www.cio.com/article/234975/burnout-isnt-budging-in-the-u-s-workforce.html>

Since starting my final year as a high schooler, many people (including teachers and friends) have told me to try my best and avoid burning out. I'm sure that I am not the first and last to hear this piece of advice as many of you have probably heard it as well.

Okay, this seems easy enough, right? Well, surprise surprise, it's easier said than done.

In this day and age, the word 'burnout' has made its way to our ears by often being mentioned by psychologists, radio hosts, news reporters etc. But what exactly does 'burnout' mean? According to *Psychology Today* 'burnout is a state of emotional, mental, and often physical exhaustion brought on by prolonged or repeated stress. Though it's most often caused by problems at work, it can also appear in other areas of life, such as parenting, caretaking, or romantic relationships' (and even

school-related activities).

Having established what burnout actually is we can talk about some signs that you might be burned out and tips on avoiding it.

Signs you are burned out

- **Exhaustion** – you have been getting enough sleep, but you are still tired and would much rather rot away in bed than do homework
- **Unexpected emotional outbursts** – little things like someone asking you what you are doing annoy you to the point you want to scream and cry and quit all at the same time
- **Helplessness** – you feel as though you have not done enough to achieve your goals (for example you feel as though you are not really prepared for *that* test, although you have done all that could have been done to prepare)



- **Feeling alone** – you might feel like no one understands you and the way you are feeling
- **Procrastination** – taking a long time to get things done

Tips on how to avoid burning out

- **Time management** – time management is a useful skill in the everyday life and knowing how to organise your tasks will only be an advantage. Getting school work done and being able to also relax is quite difficult (trust me, I know). This is why I would recommend planning a schedule. For example, I try my best to finish school work by 7 p.m., so that I also have a little time to enjoy other stuff.
- **Getting enough sleep** – as I said earlier, burnout makes us procrastinate. But just because we feel like we haven't done enough does not mean we should mess up our sleeping schedule by staying up late learning. At the end of the day, no one wants to look and feel like a zombie (only on Halloween maybe J)
- **Eating** – many people avoid eating while dealing with burnout because they are too tired to do stuff. So remember that being on a hunger streak won't get you good grades. It's only going to make you irritated and unfocused.
- **Breaks** – realising the importance of taking breaks and enjoying some 'me-time' or even spending time with friends and family is a great way of dealing with stress. Don't be too harsh on yourself. Go for that walk, go for that night out with your friends – you deserve it!
- **Support** – bottling up your emotions won't make your situation easier. Finding support and having someone you can rely on is always amazing, but if you don't really want to talk to people, you can always journal.

Lastly, I want to remind you that being burned out is nothing shameful, it only makes you and me more human. And being human is what we do best.



Also, you might need to hear this: 'Be proud of yourself!'

Sources: [Burnout | Psychology Today](#)

AROUND

THE WORLD



London is waiting for you!

Article by Todea Alexia, 12E

When we think of the capital of the United Kingdom, the first things that come to our mind are probably the hustle and bustle or the Great Big Ben Clock.

But in this article, I want to highlight other tourist sights and interesting activities that leave a pleasant memory for tourists and should not be missed. I had the opportunity to visit these landmarks this spring.

1. The National Gallery of Art



Photo credits: Todea Alexia

The spacious rooms and the architecture of the building perfectly dress the great paintings, carefully defined by some of the most important painters of the time like Vincent van Gogh, Leonardo da Vinci and Claude Monet.

Even those who do not consider themselves admirers of art will have a unique experience in this huge gallery that transposes visitors to the most beautiful eras of history.

2. Natural History Museum



Photo credits: Todea Alexia

Unlike the usual museums in which some of the younger tourists or children get bored, this one has, for each subject, a digital screen to learn more through visual graphic representations and with less or even nothing to read.

For example, to explain how dangerous an earthquake can be, there was a simulator that could be tested by visitors.

These interactive activities increase people's interest in museums and make their experiences last longer in their memory.

3. Royal Botanic Garden

This is the perfect place for relaxing and enjoying nature on a beautiful spring or summer day. The variety of flowers and the scent that the flowers give off offers visitors a wonderful walk that recharges their batteries.

The plant species and their intense colors also provide the perfect setting to take memorable pictures.

4. Secret Cinema

It creates an unexpected experience that brings the viewer into the middle of the film world and surpasses any expectation that anyone can imagine.

This is actually an interactive way to watch a cinematic creation because it's not just about visualizing, but you can also take part in the action.

5. London's Parks

These outdoor places offer tourists a break from the bustle of the city and are the most suitable destinations for a breath of fresh air.

For animal lovers, most of London's parks are home to parrots, squirrels, pelicans and other species of adorable birds and animals, which beautify visitors' walks in these parks.

6. London's pubs

If you're in London, it's a shame not to try the specific English pubs that have the same atmosphere that we see in the movies: music, beer and people of all ages spending their weekend evenings in these sought-after locations.

These are the best places to see how Londoners spend their free time and learn more about their culture. Traditional English dishes are also available here, such as Fish & Chips, Shepherd's Pie and Toad-in-the-hole.

7. Street Art of The South Bank



Photo credits: Todea Alexia

It is a place with walls full of wonderful graffiti paintings made by anonymous artists. It feels just like you enter a world of colors and abstraction in which art admirers, but also those interested only in taking pictures, will feel overwhelmed by admiration.

8. The Butterfly Trail

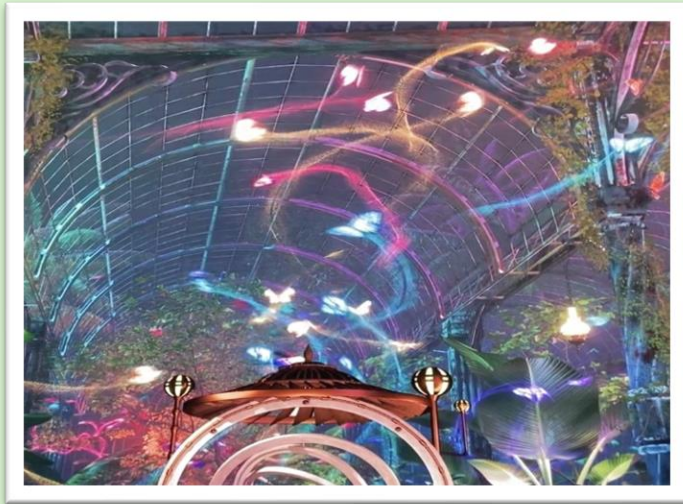


Photo credits: Todea Alexia

For those who want to save money and also to experience beautiful places, The Butterfly Trail is the best place for them.

The huge digital screens make the flying butterflies seem real, while they look exactly like the ones from the Barbie princess movies from childhood.

It's easy to fall in love with this unique place!

9. The British Museum

What does the word “museum” mean to you? Maybe never-ending corridors equipped with boring details from ancient history combined in faded colors and objects disintegrated by the passage of time.

But when you enter the British Museum, you can leave all these thoughts aside because here, with the help of a tourist guide, everything will come to life and the palpable archaeological evidence confirms the veracity of many historical events that we probably have not taken so seriously before.

A visit to this museum will greatly enrich everyone's general culture.

Starting with the first human civilizations of Mesopotamia, up to the Egyptian pharaohs and the development of Asian cultures, all are complexly presented and carefully exposed

10. Sky Garden



Photo credits: Todea Alexia

At dusk, visiting the Sky Garden is the perfect place to catch the bright lights of the city, precisely from one of the tallest buildings in London. The view resembles one of the luxurious locations of Dubai and the atmosphere is excellent for dining at the restaurant inside or simply tasting a glass of wine above the city.

London- a must-see destination

It's really a pleasure to spend your vacation in a capital like London because despite the hustle and bustle of the traffic and the hustle and bustle of the streets, the huge parks full of greenery and the historic buildings representative of English culture, create a perfect balance between urban life and tranquility, giving the perfect opportunities for tourists to enjoy their visit and leave at the same time with an extra baggage of knowledge and experiences.

Sources: www.travelling.com, www.wol.jw.org

Are languages just skills or maybe something more?

Article by Stanciu Vlad, 12E



Free Vector |
Language composition with flat design

You might be studying or have studied languages, which means that people have already asked you questions like: "What will you do with a foreign language?" or "Do you plan to move to another country in order to use that language?". Languages have reached an important role in today's globalization, despite what other might have you believing. Learning a foreign language can help you in many ways which we tend to take for granted sometimes. However, you shouldn't consider languages as just some skills to impress somebody. I will explain to you why languages can help your development as a person, and how it can guide you towards more than just a career.

Job opportunities

In the beginning, I would like to discuss a more obvious benefit of acquiring knowledge in multiple languages which are the improved job opportunities. Speaking multiple languages makes you fit for certain jobs, depending on the language. For example, you may know that here in Romania employers seek people who know English and/or German. Some people also recommend languages based on their popularity like Spanish. You can either get offered translation job offers, or the usual jobs, but in other countries. Foreign languages can also secure your job position in comparison to other applicants. Multiple studies have shown that bilingual/ multilingual people earn a lot more than their colleagues.

Stimulation of brain development

Another highly discussed aspect of learning foreign languages is the stimulation of brain development. Being at least bilingual involves certain adaptations that your brain must make in order to ease its mission and functions. One of such adaptations is what psycholinguist Mark Antoniou, from Western Sydney University, calls as executive function. This means that the brain pays attention so that it doesn't cross between the two languages, but rather keeps them intact and makes use of them if they are needed. That explains the chaos one may experience when it comes to learning languages, more exactly those moments in which you start talking in both those languages at the same time. Fortunately, they only occur under stress, so you are not under the constant risk of mingling between languages.

Open-mindedness

During the process of learning a language you get exposed to its culture, making you more aware about the world around you, and also more emphatic towards people. You get to see different points of view or ways to live your life, and perhaps you will see that you have more options than previously thought. Different ideas might come to your attention, or you may learn about the history of those people, a process during which you will get sensitised.

Wider friendship area

Obviously, being able to communicate to a wider area of people will also improve your chances of befriending them. The interesting part is that it may happen in the most unexpected ways or places, such as befriending a German lifeguard in Greece (indeed, another personal experience). You might also find that in other countries you may feel more extroverted and communicative, ending up befriending many people (still a personal experience). Clearly, not every stranger is friendly and/or willing to entertain a conversation with you, but the ones that do will truly be unforgettable, and you may just keep in touch with one another.

Travelling



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Travelling doesn't only get easier because you learnt the language, but it also helps you improve your language skills by immersing you in it and the culture so that you understand it better. However, it is indeed way more pleasant (from my experience) to be in a country in which you can speak the native language, or other important languages from that country. In a country in which I can't speak at least one language and in which people refuse to speak English, I get a certain sense of insecurity and I worry if I am to be understood.

New appreciation for your own culture

After you have made yourself very familiar with other cultures, chances are that there will be many moments in which you will watch the differences between foreign cultures and our culture(s). In my case for example, after reading many poems from different international authors, I was still of the opinion that our authors wrote some of the most beautiful and sensitive

poems in human literature, alongside with the French and Arab authors. As I got older, I was able to see and understand the beauty of our traditional clothing, such as the 'ie', with its beautiful seams and the patterns which hide in plain sight.

Understanding the nuances of communication

Also, in order to get to fluency to a language, it is required to understand multiple aspects of it, such as sounds, letters, words and their origins, culture and all the intersections of these aspects. All of these lead to a better understanding of accents and changes in the voice, but also to the improvement of your ability to observe gestures, facial expressions and many more.



1958 Spain Travel Poster
Vintage 1958 travel poster by Bernard Villemot for the Spanish Tourism Office promoting travel to Spain.

Cultural expansion

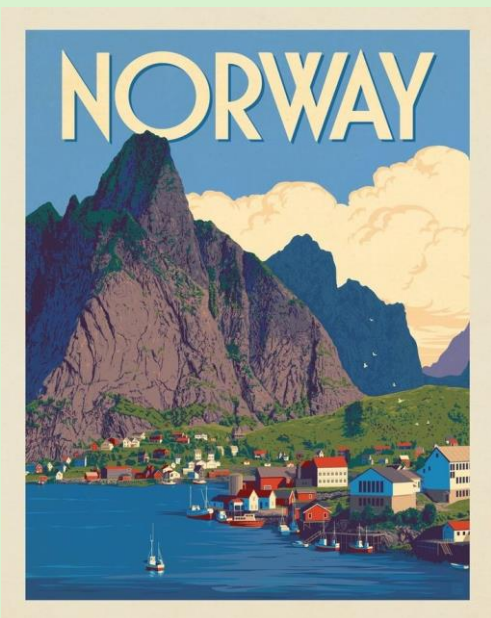
I am hopeful that the positive aspects that I have described may help you change your perspective on foreign languages and see them as opportunities for personal development. Now, I would like to offer you some recommendations for two languages which you could start learning if you have the intention of doing so:

Spanish

With 486 million native speakers, Spanish is the second most spoken language in the world, beaten only by Chinese Mandarin with 1.3 billion native speakers, and surpassing English, which resides at number 3 globally with 380 million native speakers. Spanish is the best choice for you if you want an easy language, in which you can immerse yourself in just as easily as English in my opinion, with lots of diverse content from Spain and all the way to the Americas from culturally rich countries such as Mexico, Columbia, Argentina and many more. I personally chose Spanish because of its geographical area, the vivaciousness of the language and the many cultures who speak it. Spanish is also easier to learn if you enjoy its romance sisters like French or Portuguese, and even our own language Romanian.

Norwegian

As for Norwegian I started it because of an idea that I had in my mind to learn most the languages in the Germanic family. Evidently, it was a bit challenging at first, but as I got used to it and saw the similarities it shares with English and German, it became more like a passion rather than a chore. Norwegian is also quite special and interesting, as it isn't so widely spoken,



and because of its dialects. I recommend starting with the standard one, bokmål. The culture is also very interesting, and if you are in search of another Germanic language like English or German, then I suggest Norwegian, or their other sisters Swedish, Danish etc.

Anderson Design Group
Norway Poster

All in all, I hope that you found my article interesting and that you may get to enjoy and appreciate foreign languages as more than just knowledge that is good for you to acquire. They can be a new way of understanding the world, and a new link to new people, cultures and ideas.

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Top 8 hidden city gems of Asia

Article by Fliter Ana-Maria, 12E

It is a well-known fact that Asia is one of the most unique and enchanting continents, where ancient traditions blend seamlessly with modern wonders. Considered the largest and most populous continent in the world, Asia covers around 30% land area of the Earth, the birthplace of major religions, from Hinduism and Buddhism to Christianity and Islam. Apart from its diverse religion, Asia is home to breathtaking beaches, luscious valleys, rugged mountains, and historical and cultural landmarks, which will surely pique the interest of any traveler. However, places like Tokyo, Seoul, and Shanghai tend to be very popular among tourists, causing underrated destinations like Suzhou, Chennai, or Dhaka to remain in the shadow.

1. Kanazawa- Ishikawa, Japan

Kanazawa is a charming city located on the west coast of Japan. Renowned for its meticulously crafted traditional gardens and historic architecture, Kanazawa is a perfect place for those passionate about authentic Japanese culture. While wandering through the city, you can visit Kenrokuen Garden, one of the most beautiful gardens in Japan, and the samurai district Nagamachi. You can also explore the city's Museum of Contemporary Art or enjoy traditional Japanese cuisine in local markets.



Photo credits: <https://www.cunard.com/content/dam/cunard/inventory-assets/ports/KNZ/KNZ.jpg>

2. The Tiger's Nest- Paro, Bhutan

The Tiger's Nest Monastery, also known as Paro Taktsang, is one of Bhutan's most recognized spots, being a must visit location for any traveler. A popular Buddhist monastery and a large complex spanning the mountain in the Himalayan region. Located on the cliffside of the upper valley in Budan, this complex was first built in 1692. Travelers who want to enjoy the scenic view from the temple or to explore the temple of the Buddhist monastery would need to hike for several hours. On average, it takes 4 hours to reach the temple along a trail. Some tourists also end up hiring a horse to make life easier. However, travelers have described the journey to the top as an experience you will never forget.



Photo credits: https://www.360privatetravel.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/%C2%A9TCSWorldTravel_as178485499_altered2-burn.jpg

3. Hangzhou- Zhejiang, China

The capital of Zhejiang province, Hangzhou sits at the end of China's Grand Canal and is home to scenic lakes, ancient cave temples, and cultural institutions like the National Tea Museum. Hangzhou was once known for its economic importance, its rich history and the stunning natural environment surrounding the city. This is a metropolis complete with rolling green hills. They're beautiful Westlake and countless historic temples. But it's also got everything you

could want in terms of nightlife. Art, a foodie scene, and modern culture. Though long a popular getaway for domestic travellers, Hangzhou has something for everyone.



Photo credits:

<https://th.bing.com/th/id/R.766f28170e08b2d03da9401f4b82280d?rik=QCGBeUP5kFSxrA&pid=ImgRaw&r=0>

4. Bagan- Myanmar

Bagan is an ancient city located in the heart of the plains of Myanmar and is one of the most impressive archaeological destinations in Asia, which only opened itself up to tourists in 1992. The town is best known for its stunning array of temples that dot the surrounding landscape, one that's best seen from the basket of a hot air balloon. There are many temples to see, but the two you don't want to miss out on are the Ananda Temple and the Dhammayangyi Temple. Bagan is still relatively untouched by tourism, making it the perfect place for intrepid travellers.



Photo credits: <https://www.kreyonmedia.com/post/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Bagan.jpg>

5. Luang Prabang- Laos

Luang Prabang is Laos's cultural and spiritual capital, home to breathtaking temples, a fantastic array of food, and some of the best natural wonders in the world. Upon arrival, the first thing that will catch your eye will definitely be the architecture, that evokes less vibes of Southeast Asia and more like Southeast France. Climb to the top of Luang Prabang, centrally located hill for a 360° view of the city's many sites. Take a day trip to the impressive Kuang Si waterfall, where you'll be able to take cooling baths in its many pools. By the way, while in Laos, don't forget to check out the Plain of Jars, an archaeological area strewn with many centuries old stone jars with a mysterious past.



Photo credits: <https://www.journeysinternational.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/luang-prabang-temple-laos.jpg>

6. Gyeongju- South Korea

Gyeongju is one of the main destinations in South Korea for tourists showing interest in the cultural heritage of Silla and the architecture of the Joseon Dynasty. Once the capital of the ancient Silla Kingdom, this hidden city is dotted with royal tombs, Buddhist temples, and palace ruins, set against a backdrop of mountains and lush countryside. Exploring Gyeongju is like stepping back in time, as visitors unravel the mysteries of Korea's ancient past while immersing themselves in the natural beauty of the surrounding landscape. Visit Bulguksa Temple also known as the Temple of the Buddha Land. This UNESCO World Heritage site dates back to 528 during the Shilla Kingdom. Donggung Palace is another popular spot for nighttime views of Gyeongju as a detached palace for Silla-era Royals. Donggung was used as

a residence for princes and was the place where banquets were held for special occasions or guests.



Photo credits: <https://www.istockphoto.com/ro/fotografie/gyeongju-anapji-night-view-vd701-gm1066063496-285079313?searchscope=image%2Cfilm>

7. Koh Rong- Cambodia

Looking to get away from it all? Head to Koh Rong! Crystal clear waters that are just perfect for diving, snorkeling, and all other manner of fun water-based activities surround this island paradise. On land you'll find thriving greenery forests that are calling out to you to be explored. Wind down with a mocktail at any of the island's many beachside bars or enjoy a delicious plate of fried crab or red Curry at one of the many restaurants. Koh Rang isn't as popular as some of Thailand's islands, but that just makes it even more appealing.



https://thetravelfugitive.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/IMG_7051.jpg

8. Chiang Mai- Thailand

Set your sights on Chiang Mai, situated in the northern part of the country, roughly 9 hours north of Bangkok by car, Chiang Mai makes for a compelling blend of Thailand, both new and old. Once the seat of the Lanna Kingdom, the city maintained a historic centre that is rich in sites and attractions like the Chiang Mai National Museum, [Wat Chedi Luang](#) and Wat Umong Suan Phutthatham. A quiet and understated speed Chiang Mai always gives off the impression of being laid back despite its population of nearly 1,000,000 people. And the greater metropolitan area? Drive in any direction and you quickly find yourself in a green space chatting. Doi Inthanon sits atop of a mountain overlooking the city and offers an incredible view.



Photo credits: <https://wander-luxe.com/2019/03/14/red-sarees-and-white-tigers/>

Did you know that...?

Thailand stands out as the only nation in Southeast Asia that remained uncolonized by Europeans, its people taking great pride for that fact.

In conclusion, Asia's hidden gems, that play a significant role on the world stage, both culturally and economically, offer travelling enthusiasts a chance to step off the beaten track and embark on a unique journey of discovery and exploration.

Sources:

[24 of Asia's most overlooked places | CNN](#)

[10 Cities in Asia You've Never Heard Of \(But Will Want to Visit\) | IBTimes](#)

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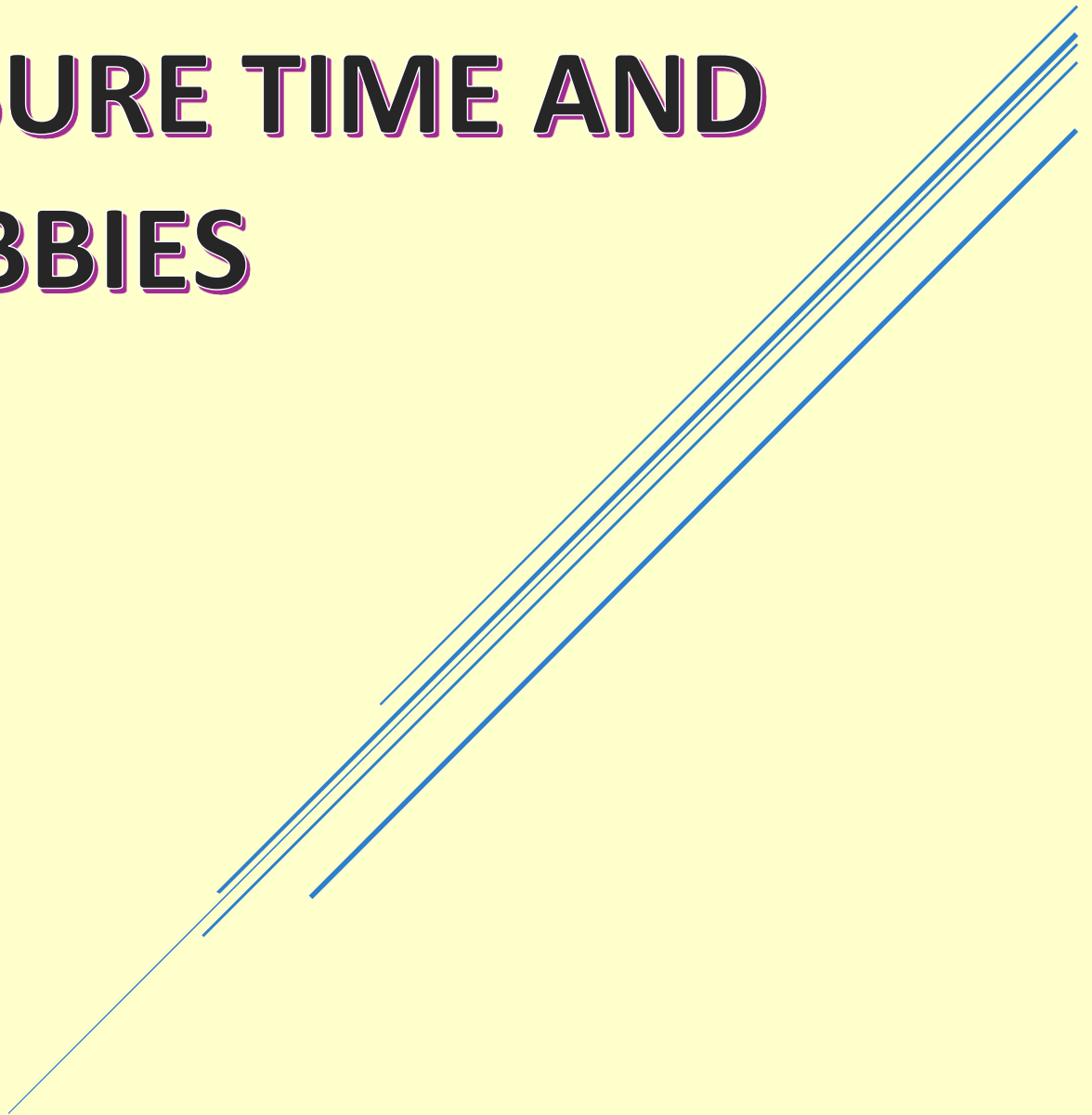
[10 Fun Facts About Asia \(that you don't already know\) | i-to-i TEFL](#)

[9 Hidden Cities in Asia for Your Bucket List \(smartertravel.com\)](#)

[Tiger's Nest Monastery Bhutan Hike \(Paro Taktsang\) \(theworldtravelguy.com\)](#)

[Kanazawa, One of Japan's Most Historic & Well-Preserved Cities \(boutiquejapan.com\)](#)

LEISURE TIME AND HOBBIES



The importance of reading different genres

Article by Lazar Andrei, 11D

'It is what you read when you don't have to that determines what you will be when you can't help it.' - Oscar Wilde

Many readers have the tendency to devote most of their time reading books from one or two specific genres, in spite of demonstrating love for the written word, people tend to have a narrow view on genres.

Of course, you should read what you enjoy and entertains you, but sometimes changing the narrative is beneficial. Reading is not just a fun pastime; it is our chance of broadening our horizons and achieving personal growth.



Photo credits: <https://www.thefussylibrarian.com/Symbeohealth> picture

Benefits of Science-fiction books

Science fiction is not just about spaceships and laser weaponry, it is also a genre that explores complex social and ethical issues. Many sci-fi works deal with topics such as discrimination, social justice, the consequences of technology and make philosophical arguments, such as, not to trust charismatic leaders. By reading about such topics in a fictional setting helps readers develop a better understanding of problems in our world.

Science fiction is renowned for its imaginative concepts and futuristic ideas. By exposing ourselves to these innovative concepts, we can foster our creativity and learn to think outside of the box.

Benefits of Mystery/Thriller books

This genre usually involves unraveling clues, and they require readers to actively engage with the main characters in solving the mystery as they read.

The active engagement provided helps keep the mind sharp, and further develops critical thinking skills. Moreover, the suspenseful tension created in the story can be beneficial in reducing anxiety symptoms and stimulates your brain, keeping you engaged until the very end, offering a wonderful mental workout.

Benefits of Romance novels

Romance and drama books offer a wonderful way to escape reality, often with believable characters people can relate to, these stories provide a respite from everyday activities and allow readers to fantasize about what could be.

These stories often end in a happy tone that can uplift you after reading them, and as studies have shown, romance novels help lower stress levels and increase happiness and satisfaction.

Conclusion

Reading is an incredibly fun activity that not only helps us relax after a tiring day, but it also offers us the opportunity to gain experience and come into contact with new things without actually having to leave the comfort of our houses. By reading multiple book genres, we avoid getting bored of the same narrative and broaden our understanding of the world.

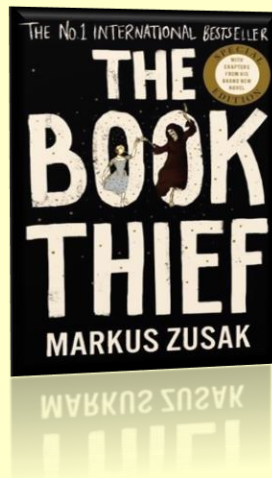
Sources: <https://www.thefussylibrarian.com/>

Top 10 books to read in high-school

Article by Filipescu Ștefania, 12E, Florea Krisztina Andreea, 12E, Șandru Raluca, 12E

It goes without saying that reading is one of the most entertaining activities which enhances brain intelligence. Reading is a fundamental skill that has an enormous role in education, personal development and social progress. Not only does reading empower individuals to understand the complexities of the world better, with greater insight, but it also broadens their horizons.

1. THE BOOK THIEF - Markus Zusak

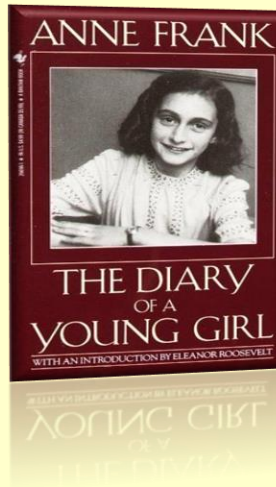


The Book Thief - an impactful novel written by Markus Zusak portrays life of a young girl named Liesel Meminger, who finds solace and courage in books amidst the chaos and destruction of World War II. Being narrated by Death itself, the novel takes the reader on an incredulous journey through a world dominated by fear and havoc.

Photo credits: [\(282\) Pinterest](#)

This book should be read by highschoolers because its plot has a huge historical background which shows us how people managed to survive during the Nazi occupation. It delves into a wide range of complex themes such as friendship, loss, morality and power of storytelling. Due to the fact that it contains many versatile themes, these could be easily debatable in the classroom, everyone being able to express their opinions.

2. *THE DIARY OF A YOUNG GIRL* - Anne Frank



This diary presents the story of Anne Frank, a Jewish teenage girl who lives hidden alongside her family in Amsterdam throughout the Holocaust. Anne Frank herself tells her authentic perspective on how the War totally has changed her life.

Photo credits: [\(282\) Pinterest](#)

Despite living through this traumatic experience, she however manages to be positive and to seek the good in people. “Whoever is happy will make others happy too”, “In spite of everything, I still believe that people are really good at heart”. Through her impressive mindset, we can perceive her as a role model because in spite of everything, she manages to maintain her optimism. Like so many other Jews, Anne did not survive, but her diary did and was published years after.

3. *THE MIDNIGHT LIBRARY*- Matt Haig

The Midnight Library is a novel written by Matt Haig that tells the story of Nora Seed, who finds herself between life and death. While being in this in-between place, presented as a library, she has the opportunity to experience all kinds of lives she could have lived if she had made different choices.

Highschoolers have plenty of things to learn from Nora Seed’s story, due to the fact that it mostly contains an exploration of regret and redemption, but also makes the reader to empathize with her struggles and experiences.

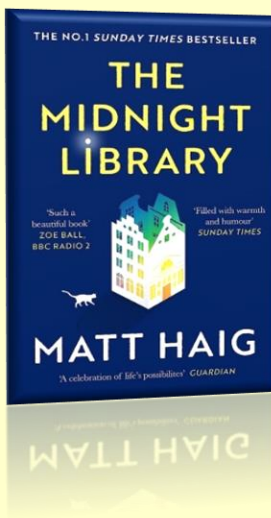
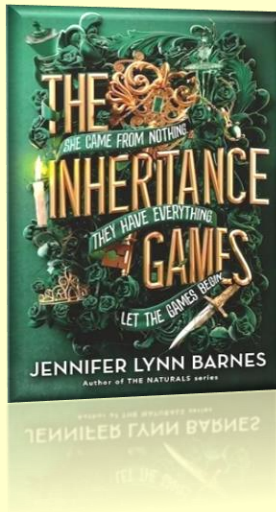


Photo credits: [\(282\) Pinterest](#)

4. *THE INHERITANCE GAMES*, by Jennifer Lynn Barnes

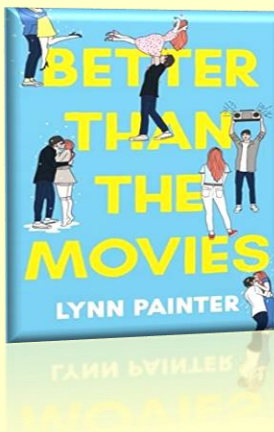


The Inheritance Games is a mystery thriller and the first out of a trilogy, written by J.L. Barnes. The novel follows the story of a young girl, Avery Grambs, who inherits a massive fortune from a stranger, a billionaire, Tobias Hawthorne. Avery goes on a long journey to figure out what her connection is with the billionaire's family and why the old man left her all that fortune. Throughout the journey, she delves into the family secrets and manages to reveal shocking truths about their past.

Photo credits: [\(282\) Pinterest](#)

This book is a gripping tale of greed, betrayal and unexpected alliances, filled with twists, turns and suspense. Not only does it have a suspenseful plot, but it also contains thought-provoking themes, which makes it a book that manages to captivate all readers' attention.

5. *BETTER THAN THE MOVIES* - Lynn Painter



Better Than The Movies is a contemporary romance novel written by Lynn Painter. The story follows a high school senior named Liz Buxbaum, who believes in the power of romantic comedies to inspire love and happiness. She tries to turn her crush into a Hollywood-style man, but it turns out that love does not actually follow a script.

Photo credits: [\(282\) Pinterest](#)

This romance novel, filled with humor, heart and plenty of movie references is a fantastic tale of love, friendship and finding happiness in very unexpected ways. If you like watching romantic comedy movies, this book is the perfect read for you.

6. *SIX CRIMSON CRANES* - Elizabeth Lim

Six Crimson Cranes is a young adult fantasy novel, written by Elizabeth Lim. The story follows a Princess, named Shior'anma, who possesses forbidden magic and is cursed by her stepmother by turning her six brothers into cranes. She embarks on a dangerous journey to find a way to break the curse.

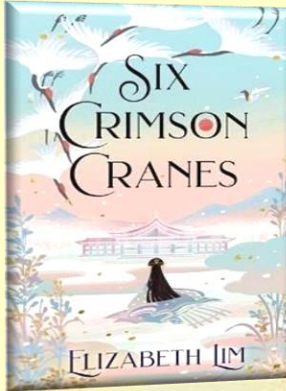
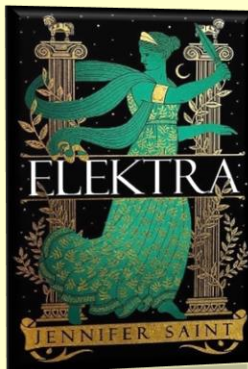


Photo credits: [\(282\) Pinterest](#)

This book should be read by high-schoolers because it is filled with adventure, romance, and themes of family and identity, from which students can learn a lot. It is also a captivating tale of courage and resilience in the face of adversity.

7. *ELEKTRA*- Jennifer Saint

Elektra by Jennifer Saint is a gripping retelling of the ancient Greek myth. In this tale, Elektra, daughter of King Agamemnon and Queen Clytemnestra, grapples with the aftermath of her father's murder and her mother's descent into darkness. Fuelled by a fierce desire for vengeance, Elektra



navigates a treacherous world of betrayal and intrigue.

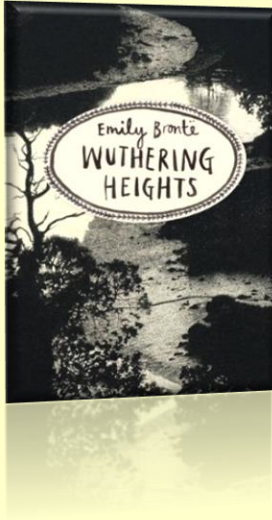
This retelling emphasizes the fact that more attention should be paid to the importance of feminine figures in Greek mythology. By giving voice to its female characters and examining their experiences within a male-dominated society, the novel engages with feminist themes and perspectives.

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8. *WUTHERING HEIGHTS*- Emily Bronte

Wuthering Heights by Emily Brontë is a timeless classic that delves into the dark depths of passion, revenge, and societal expectations. Set in the eerie Yorkshire moors, it follows the tumultuous love story between Catherine Earnshaw and Heathcliff, a brooding and enigmatic outsider. As their intense relationship unfolds, it exposes the destructive forces of obsession, jealousy, and vengeance.

Wuthering Heights should be read in high school because it's a classic of the English literature that has the power to teach us invaluable lessons regarding themes such as love, loss and social class. Its complex characters and rich language provide valuable material for analysis, while its

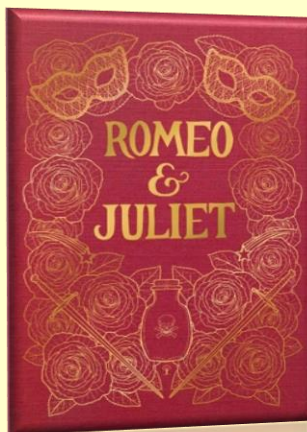


historical context offers insights into 19th-century England. Furthermore, by reading this novel, the critical and analytical thinking skills of every reader will undoubtedly be developed.

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9. *ROMEO AND JULIET* - William Shakespeare

Romeo And Juliet is a famous play written by William Shakespeare. It's set in Verona, Italy, and tells the story of two young lovers, Romeo and Juliet, who come from feuding families. Despite the ongoing rivalry, Romeo and Juliet fall deeply in love at first sight and secretly marry. However,



their love is doomed from the start due to the hatred between their families. Tragic events unfold, leading to a heartbreaking ending.

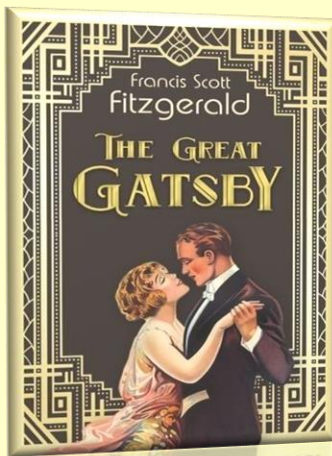
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Romeo and Juliet is often included in high school curricula because it's a classic play that offers valuable lessons and themes for students to explore. It's a story of love, passion, and tragedy that resonates with

young readers. By studying *Romeo and Juliet*, highschoolers can learn about the power of emotions, the consequences of impulsive actions, and the impact of societal pressures. Plus, it's just a really captivating and dramatic story that keeps you hooked from start to finish!

10. *THE GREAT GATSBY*- F. Scott Fitzgerald

The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald is a dazzling masterpiece that takes us on a mesmerizing journey through the roaring 1920s. It's a tapestry of love, longing, and the pursuit of the



unattainable. Fitzgerald's prose dances with elegance, painting a vivid portrait of Jay Gatsby and his opulent world of parties, wealth, and hidden desires. It's a poetic exploration of the human spirit, revealing the fragility and allure of dreams.

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Highschoolers should read *The Great Gatsby* because it's a captivating novel that explores themes of love, wealth, and the pursuit of the American Dream. It offers a glimpse into the glamorous and turbulent 1920s, allowing students to analyze the consequences of obsession and the corrupting influence of wealth. Plus, F. Scott Fitzgerald's beautiful prose and complex characters make it a compelling and thought-provoking read.

Reading books in high school is beneficial for various reasons. It expands your knowledge, develops language skills, boosts imagination, and enhances concentration. Books offer a world of information, creativity, and personal growth. So, dive into the captivating stories, explore different genres, and let your mind soar through the pages. It's a wonderful way to learn, explore new ideas, and find joy in the written word. Happy reading!

Did you know that...?

By Luca Căndea, 11 D
Eduard Schulleri, 11 D

1)...we see the universe in the past?

This is due to the fact that it takes light time to reach us.

2) ... inscriptions on golden jewelry are its purity in percent ?

This purity percent can also be converted into karats. (e.g. 58.3% is 14 karats)

3)... the Eiffel Tower is 15cm taller during the summer?

This is due to thermal expansion (the iron heats up). Particles gain kinetic energy and take up more space.

4)...it can't be colder than absolute zero? (-273.15C / 0K)

The atoms in an object stop moving entirely at that temperature, which means it can't get any colder.

5)... a cloud can weigh up to 500,000 kilograms?

This is due to the amount of water droplets inside of it.

6)... all human bodies reflect light, but it's too weak for us to see?

7)...information travels through our nerves at almost 400 kmph?

8)...the first electric car actually dates back to 1832?

Back in 1832, Scottish inventor Robert Anderson invented the first crude EV. (Electric Vehicle)

Sources:

THE WRITERS' CORNER

Sun



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Gluga Daniela, 10 B

Burning brightly in the sky,
Oh, beloved, my oh my,
Simple system of one star,
Always wondered who you are.
Surrounded by “mere planets”,
With such “predictable habits”.
Jupiter, well, simply failed.
And for some reason you wailed.
Tears of light hitting the Earth,
At least you give others warmth.
Is it a blessing or a curse in
disguise?
Well, it really doesn’t seem to
matter in your eyes.

Lipstick on a pig

**Oh, you are all scattered.
A blurry shape, irregular matter.
Indiscernible features,
You ought to be one of THOSE creatures.
Putting, layering make-up on
Won't make you feel unlike a con.
Piling, piling it up,
Really, you never truly stop.
It won't change your crooked nose,
Your rotten teeth and broken toes.
Because all you could ever see
Is me and you, and you and me.
You're scattered all over the ground,
Broken with a deafening sound.
Calm down, let's not get rash,
Your confidence was always ash.**



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