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## Editorial

“If you can’t find a role model, be one!” - Gale Ann Hurd

Every teenager needs to have a role model. Someone they can look up to, someone who motivates them and makes them hard-working and more ambitious.

But sometimes, we just can’t find a person to be our role model, or we find someone who at a certain point lets us down. So what should we do then?

Even though it’s good to have someone more famous than you as a role model, or maybe someone who is exactly your age and has the same social status as you do, it is more important to know that you have to be your own role-model and you have to give your best to become one. It is not enough to just have a role model. It has actually become a necessity to work hard and achieve your goals that will make you feel proud about yourself.

Some of your colleagues tried to do their best and wrote some articles about their role models or people who inspire them.

Besides, in this year’s issue we have a brief interview with the headmaster himself Mr. Cristian Heuberger. Plus, you can get some great pieces of advice from a Sincai graduate.

Enjoy the third issue of Teenglish and contact us if you believe in free speech and if you have something significant and intriguing for our next issue.

by Nelda Mialțu & Oana Rob



## Interview Corner

### **1. What was your dream when you were a child?**

One of my dreams was to give marks since I was in the 7th grade and my dream came true after I graduated university.

### **2. Which is the most difficult part of your job?**

Being a headmaster. It's difficult, but interesting and being a teacher it's absolutely wonderful.

### **3. What advice would you give to the students who study in this college?**

To have the courage to be themselves.

### **4. What does the ideal student look like in your view?**

Exactly like the students in Sincai.

### **5. What's your opinion about non-formal education?**

I have participated in this kind of activities. Many of them were designed and realized very well and in a creative and clever way, but there were also a few which were not so effective, which is a shame.

### **6. Describe yourself in a few words.**

Serious-minded, appreciating humour, but not being a very spontaneous person all the time.

### **7. How can we improve the relationship student-teacher?**

On the one hand, you, the students, need to understand that teachers are also people, you shouldn't be so convinced that you are right all the time, that you own the absolute truth. On the other hand, we, the teachers, should try to see you like something more than just a student and understand you more.

Special thanks to our Headmaster, Mr. Cristian Heuberger.

Interview by Oana Rob and Nelda Mialțu, XI-a A

**“It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge” - Albert Einstein**

## Events Corner

### Where There's No Imagination, There's No Fun

by Laura Pop



It goes without saying that Halloween is, has been and will probably continue to be regarded as a Pagan holiday by the sceptical ones. But Halloween has changed in numerous ways over the years. Originally a Celtic fire festival, called Samhain, or “summer’s end”, it has developed into a complex manifestation, a costume party, where people dance, wear spooky masks and the little ones go trick-or-treating.

In schools, whatsoever, the manifestations of this holiday focus more on a mixture of traditions, old and new, some more ethical than others. Either way, children manage somehow to bring out the best of it by turning it into a fun, relaxing and entertaining one.

Judging from the contests organized by the English Department of “Gheorghe Șincai” National College, it is safe to say that this autumn, Halloween in Șincai was nothing more than this:

**Team work** – for the organisers, classes IX A and XI A;

**Competitive spirit** – for the secondary school students who got engaged passionately into several contents: the astonishing pumpkin carving competition, the breathtaking masks exhibition, spooktacular drawings and paintings;

**A day of sharing** – for all those who joined the organisers, the students in XI A, in the most creative costume parade through the corridors of the college.

So, with just a little bit of imagination, everyone can see that Halloween can be really fun. Don't you think so?

### True Love Comes in Little Doses

by Laura Pop

On the 14th of February, on Valentine's Day the Șincai spirit came to life when everybody, students and teachers alike, shared the same feelings of love, respect and affection for another person, be it secret or not. Thus, the secret urn worked its magic again and was filled once again with dozens of colourful Valentine cards. More than this, teenagers declared their unrequited love, got married for one day and their smiles made our day brighter.



It was a day of love and romance which most of us would like to last all the year round. But, which manages somehow to fade away. And this is so because true love actually comes in little doses...

## The Fireball Challenge

by XI D

Organizing “The Fireball Challenge” meant to each and every one of us an extraordinary experience, which left its mark on us. We remained with the memories of some nice moments and, even the less pleasant ones, memories which come with a nostalgic smile. Now, in our mind and soul lies a path to these moments...the impression left by the event itself:

“How did it feel making ‘The Fireball Challenge’? Of course it was the most amazing experience someone can take part in! We all had the honour of meeting the Great Blajini, our own Presidential Candidate, Mr. Merce, and many others! All in all, it was the best thing ever to happen for ‘C.N.GH.S.’!” (Tohătan Cristian)

“It was definitely an experience from which I learnt a lot. It was very nice and satisfying to see the results of your hard work right in front of your eyes. If I had the chance, I would do it all again.” (Bozîntan Alexandra)

The way we tried to face a challenge like no other before was really funny, but also very serious. Everybody tried very hard to make things right, we cooperated very well and everything ended extremely well.” (Butnar Adrian)

“For me, ‘The Fireball Challenge’ was a “once in a lifetime” experience. I met new people, made new friends and most importantly, I had the chance to be responsible. I’ll definitely miss this experience!” (Ardeleanu Tudor)

“It was amazing. To be honest, I wanted something with unicorns and princesses, but our apocalypse was great. I loved yelling at my little ones and I am happy that I took part in this event.” (Şimonca Iulia)

“I met a lot of new people and I’ve made a lot of friends. Through this project I’ve learned so many things that for sure I could use again in life. I was also a trainer and when I saw that my freshman boy won I was so happy I couldn’t even describe it.” (Buşecan Teodora)

“It was a great experience for me. Not only did I make some amazing friends, but I also realized how important teamwork and patience are.” (Zicher Blanka)

“To me, being involved in this project meant dedicating my time and energy to succeed in what we had planned. I had a blast working with my colleagues and I already miss those times.” (Gîlcă Elena)

“I discovered how hard it is to create this kind of story, but together we did it. I am very proud that I was one of the coordinators and I wish we could repeat this experience again and again.” (Voicu Alin)

“For me, this experience symbolizes the real meaning of the word ‘team’, because it has strengthened the relationships between us.” (Țîntar Oana)



## Sincai Put a Face to Europe Again

by Laura Pop

On the 8th of May, history repeated itself, not for the second, but for the third time in a row. The international contest “Let’s Put a Face to Europe!” was organized by the American International School of Transylvania. The competitors, 20 groups of 5 students, came from various high-schools in our county. They all tried to show how much they know about five European countries: Germany, Italy, Spain, Denmark and France. Our college sent two teams



led by two experienced

teachers: one of the teams was made of: Oana Rob, Nelda Mialțu, Dragos Chiș, Paul Pop and Cosmina Odăgeru. The other one consisted of the veterans”: Alexandra Bozîntan, Cristian Tohătan, Raul Bob, Eugen Gamentzy and Dan Covaciu.

The competition was tough. The students had to demonstrate extensive knowledge about the five countries: national symbols, geographical and historical landmarks, literature-related issues, artistic elements, images reflecting lifestyle, music & food. They also had to read some funny&tricky tongue twisters in the five European languages.

The members of the jury, consisting of five international volunteers, were extremely entertaining, funny and full of energy. They managed to create such an enjoyable atmosphere, that the competitors unanimously declared themselves delighted with the whole concept and with the opportunity they had to put into practice their knowledge of English. Let’s congratulate our two winning teams for their high standard of creativity, talent and performance. We are all once again very proud of our Șincai students!





## To Cambridge or Not to Cambridge?

by prof. Ciprian Cucuiat

In the beginning there was only Proficiency...

Did you know that the first examination body for English as mother tongue and later as a foreign language was organized at Cambridge in 1858 under the name of University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate (UCLES), a name that would stick for more than a century?

In 1913 UCLES organized the first exam for non-native speakers of English and its name must ring a bell: It was called the Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE). The need for this exam appeared as there were more and more students from various European countries who wanted to study in England. The format of the exam was very much different from what it is nowadays: students were required to translate texts from English into German or French, to answer questions related to literature, to know English phonetics. The written exam lasted for 11 hours. The oral part of the exam was an hour long and comprised dictation, reading aloud and conversation...

The examination fee was 3 pounds... But don't be too quick to rebel against the high fees of today, the equivalent of 3 pounds back then would be about 300 pounds nowadays.

And a last bit of historical evidence... out of the only three candidates to take the exam in 1913, none passed it.

### Moving along

In 1939, in the wake of World War II, two new exams were introduced, The Lower Certificate in English (LCE), a grandfather of today's FIRST and a Preliminary exam, ancestor of today's PET. Experiments continued, but during the 1980s the levels stabilized and the suite of exams for general English as we know them today slowly became fixed. In 1975 LCE became The First Certificate in English, today known as FIRST.

The Preliminary English Test, discontinued at the end of the war, was reintroduced in 1990, together with the Key English Test (KET). The last addition, which proved to be the most successful, was an exam whose difficulty was situated between the FCE and the CPE: in 1991 The Certificate in Advanced English (CAE) – today ADVANCED, was launched.

### The exams today

The five-level system which thus appeared still characterizes Cambridge English's General English exams and was the foundation for the levels in CEFR:

Level 1: Cambridge English: Key (KET) CEFR level A2: waystage

Level 2: Cambridge English: Preliminary (PET) CEFR level B1: threshold

Level 3: Cambridge English: First (FCE) CEFR level B2: vantage

Level 4: Cambridge English: Advanced (CAE) CEFR level C1: operational proficiency

Level 5: Cambridge English: Proficiency (CPE) CEFR level C2: mastery



## Format of the exams starting with 2015

The format given below details the papers of Cambridge English: Advanced (CAE), but all the exams in the upper suite (First, Advanced and Proficiency) are made up of four exam papers, very similar in as far as the form of the given tasks is concerned, designed to test the key language skills.

The four papers are: Reading and Use of English; Writing; Listening and Speaking.

Candidates have the choice of taking these exams on either a computer or on paper. The Speaking test is taken face-to-face with two examiners and two candidates, as this provides a more realistic and reliable measure of oral ability.

## Some insights into the ADVANCED exam

The Reading and Use of English (1 hour 30 minutes) paper has eight parts and 56 questions. The paper contains original input (that is to say real texts) and candidates are expected to be able to understand texts taken from a range of sources such as short stories, novels, magazines, newspapers and internet articles.

Parts 1 to 3 involve completing gaps in a text (i.e. choosing/finding/forming the correct word for each gap). These questions test knowledge of vocabulary and grammar. Each question in Part 4 has a sentence and a 'key' word, which must be used to complete a second sentence so that it has the same meaning as the first sentence. These key word transformations test grammar, vocabulary and collocation. These first four parts make up what was beforehand known as the Use of English part.

Part 5 involves answering multiple-choice questions about a text, with candidates expected to be able to read a text for detail, opinion, tone, purpose, main idea, implication and attitude.

Part 6 has four short texts and cross-text multiple-matching questions, with candidates expected to understand and compare opinions and attitudes across texts. Part 7 involves choosing paragraphs to fill the gaps in a text, with candidates expected to demonstrate understanding of the structure and development of a text. Part 8 has a text or several short texts and a series of multiple-matching questions, with candidates expected to demonstrate reading for specific information, detail, opinion and attitude.

The Writing (1 hour 30 minutes) paper has two parts. The first part is compulsory and involves writing an essay in response to an input text. The input texts might include articles, leaflets, notices and formal or informal letters. In the second part, candidates must choose one of three writing tasks. These might include writing a letter, proposal, report or review. Candidates are assessed using the following criteria: Content, Communicative Achievement, Organisation, and Language. The Listening (approximately 40 minutes) paper has 30 questions, which include listening to short extracts, a long monologue, an interview or discussion, and short monologues on a particular theme. Candidates are expected to demonstrate a wide range of listening skills needed for real-life purposes, such as understanding the gist of an extract, understanding specific information or the speakers' opinion, attitude or feeling.



Recordings take the form of lectures, talks, interviews, speeches and radio broadcasts.

The Speaking test (15 minutes) is taken face-to-face and the standard format is two candidates and two examiners. In special cases, three students can also take the test together. One examiner acts as interlocutor and assessor, interacting with the candidates and managing the test. The other acts as assessor and does not join in the conversation. Candidates speak alone (monologue), with the interlocutor, and with the other candidate.

The Speaking paper is conducted in four parts. The first part involves a brief exchange between each candidate and the interlocutor. The second part involves each candidate talking in turn, on their own, about a set of pictures. In the third part the candidates are given some written input, a task; they are expected to discuss the task, exchange ideas and reach a decision through negotiation. In the fourth part of the test the candidates and the interlocutor discuss topics related to the task in Part 3. The interlocutor directs the interaction by asking questions which encourage the candidates to discuss issues in more depth than in earlier parts of the test.

Candidates are expected to demonstrate a range of speaking skills such as pronunciation, intonation, initiation and maintaining of a discussion, ability to organise thoughts and use of appropriate grammar and vocabulary.

### Scoring

All candidates taking a Cambridge Exam receive a Statement of Results, and people who score high enough also receive a certificate, which means they have passed the test. In January 2015, Cambridge English Scale scores replaced the candidate profile and standardised scores used for pre-2015 results. Candidates continue to receive a CEFR level and a grade, in addition to their Cambridge English Scale scores.

The Statement of Results and the Certificate have the following information about the candidate's performance:

- A score on the Cambridge English Scale for each skill (Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking) and for Use of English
- A score on the Cambridge English Scale for the overall exam
- A grade for the overall exam
- A CEFR level for the overall exam

And Finally...

All students studying English in high school should try and take an international general English exam, as it confirms without doubt their proficiency in English and it also helps students to obtain, more easily, scholarships abroad and become part of student-exchanges during their university studies. Those who have to sit an IELTS exam can do so more easily after taking and passing a general English exam, as the IELTS exam is more academically and technically oriented.

Another plus is the fact that while other international English tests have a limited validity, the Cambridge suite practically awards certificates for a lifetime.

So then my advice and I think I speak on behalf of most of my fellow teachers of English, is for you to Cambridge...

## Creativity Corner

### Different Ages Different Heroes

by Rareș Tămâian, VIII

**N**owadays, you often hear older people say: “these kids today, they’ve got everything.” Of course, they are referring to material goods such as clothes, electronic equipment and other things. Is it true that today’s young people are spoilt by having too much given to them?

Many people say that if a child receives everything by doing nothing he will be a loser. Parents shouldn’t give their children everything they want or they think because in this way, they don’t encourage them to work hard to get something. If children worked harder, they would become better. If children wanted to rise above their parents, they would try to prove it. Each parent wants to be proud of his child.



There are also in society a lot of children who don’t even have what to eat but they want to learn, they want to progress. Maybe if they didn’t have a poor life, they wouldn’t try to become “someone”.

Last year, I met a poor child from a village. He was 13 years old, he had 7 brothers and sisters and from my point of view at that time he was a “hero”. But if he hadn’t trusted himself he wouldn’t have participated to so many difficult competitions. He was the first at Romanian have talent and represented our town at the National Competition which took place in Paris. If only I had been him I would have had as much enthusiasm as he had. So that poor child became a hero; “our hero” at Romanian competition.

### My Role Model

by Ioana Bușecan, VIII

**M**ost people have a role model in their life. They could be a parent, a friend, a teacher or someone you read about in a book.

A role model is hard to define, because it can be different for everyone. Often, it is someone you admire or someone you would like to be like when you get older. Typically, a role model is brave, smart, strong, kind and fun. Not that every role model is perfect, unless it is someone out of a story book.

My role model is my mother; she is the strongest person I know. I also know that I can trust her and that she will be there whenever I need her. Sometimes I wish I had everything she has, her looks, her sense of humor, personality and her strength. She does good things every day, she is a nurse and she helps little children to get better and for that I admire her even more.

My mom, like all the other people, isn’t perfect, but in my eyes, her daughter she is my superhero. So the reason why she is my role model is because when I get older I wish I could be as strong and understanding as her.

I love her more than anything in the whole wide world and I would do anything to please her. She is the best mom in the whole world.



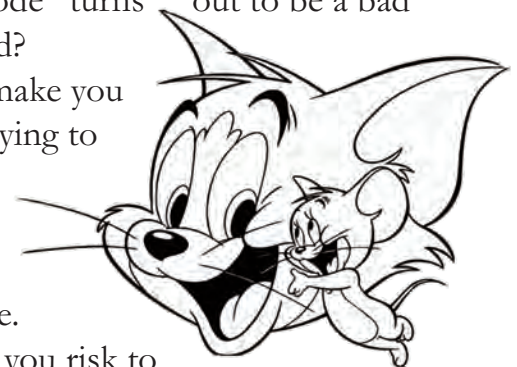
## Be a Role Model!

by Laura Gabriela Oana, X E

**R**ole models... If you ask a kid what a role model is, he will probably answer by listing superheroes like Batman, Superman, Ironman and others because since we were kids, they have been the people who saved our planet, fought bad guys who tried to conquer the world, slain monsters and other impressive things. Well, what if I told you that things tend to change a little bit as we grow up? Nowadays, if you ask a teenager who their role model is, he will most probably answer by giving you the name of a person: maybe a celebrity, a businessman, maybe a person they admire in their family.

Even if most people think that it is a very good thing to have a role model, believe it or not, it is not completely true. What happens when the “role mode” turns out to be a bad person, someone who doesn’t really deserve to be followed?

The main advantage of having a role model is that it can make you more ambitious, confident and happier in the long run. Trying to impress someone can be very hard work, but it is worth turning into a better version of yourself. Any person you appreciate can be your model, but it is very important for you to decide whether or not they have a positive influence.



The biggest problem when it comes to role models is that you risk to become a shadow, a copy of the person you admire so much. It is very important to try to be yourself, whatever may happen. You can have a role model, but you have to be yourself first, you don’t have to be someone else just because you like their style. You have to create your own style, based on your role model. Try to find out what makes you like him, is it their personality, is it their looks? In this way, you can know him better and you can decide whether it’s a good model to follow or not.

If would ask me who my hero is, I would probably say that it is the person who changed my life by making it funnier. He is the creator of the cartoons I loved the most when I was a child and I still love them now. “Tom and Jerry” have been two of my dearest friends since as long as I can remember and I will never stop thinking that they are the best cartoon characters ever created. However, I could not really say that I have found a role model. I do not fell like my life is influenced by someone. I don’t know if I will ever find someone to follow or if I will just live my life the way it is. But what I do know is that I would love to be someone’s role model one day and that it should be the most beautiful and amazing thing in the world, to be able to positively influence someone’s life and maybe change their life completely.

In conclusion, in life you can and it is recommended to have a role model, but most importantly, your goal should be to become a role model for someone and to take it seriously.

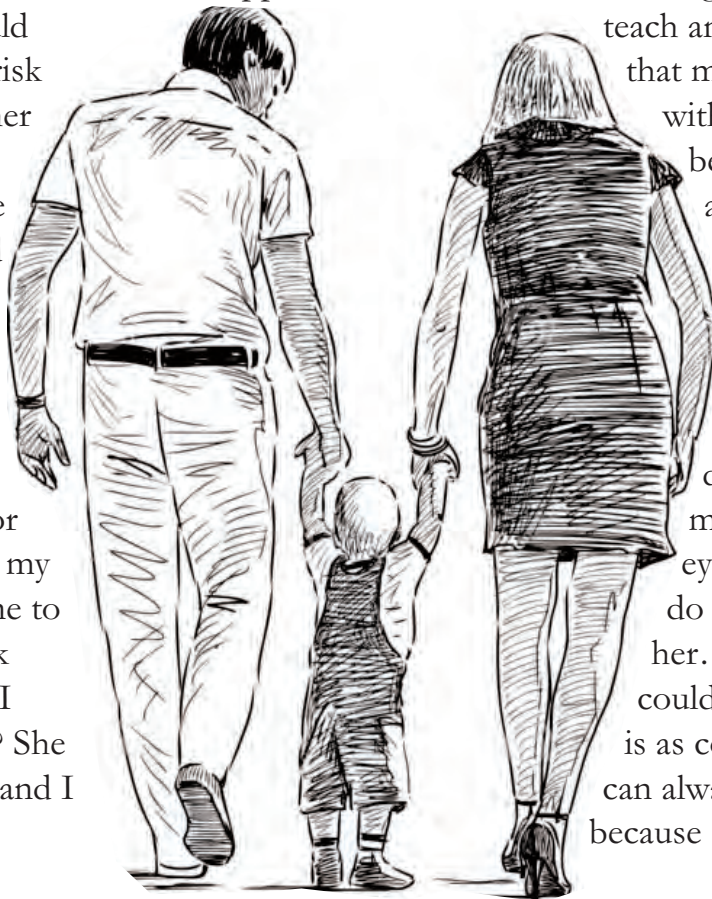
**F**ollow your passion. Stay true to yourself. Never follow someone else’s path unless you’re in the woods and you see a path. By all means you should follow that. - Ellen DeGeneres

## My Mother, My Hero

by Sonia Muthi, VIII

She's my hero, my role model and even my idol, she does everything for me and loves me unconditionally. I would do everything for her too if she asked me to. I will cross an ocean if she wants. "A hero is an ordinary individual who finds the strength to persevere and endure in spite of overwhelming obstacles." Christopher Reeve

You know what her secret is? She gave me life and never once asked for anything in return. If I do something wrong she keeps calm and teaches me which one is the right way. She's a mother so she prefers spending time with her children to doing anything else. I'd rather she weren't be so nice and kind because I couldn't be like that every time. I prefer to do the best I can rather than disappoint her. There are some things that only a mother can do. Nobody could teach and love like she does and no one is going to risk that much for you, so... you should respect her with all your heart. I can say she's my hero, because even when she sees that I misbehave and disappoint her, she keeps trying and argues with me, she never gives up on me. She is my lovely monster and as if she were the biggest my way through mother. She helps me find laugh while doing it. I wish I could do more for her. For me, it's time to realize what I have in front of my eyes and treat her right. It's time for everyone to do that. If only I had more chances to thank her... if only I had seen this earlier... I wish I could become a better person now. You know? She is as constant as the sunrise, the moon, the stars and I can always count on her. I'd better be more careful because she deserves everything.



Like Joss Whedon said: "The thing about a hero, is even when it doesn't look like there is a light at the end of the tunnel, he's going to keep digging, he's going to keep trying to do right and make up for what's gone before, just because that's who he is."

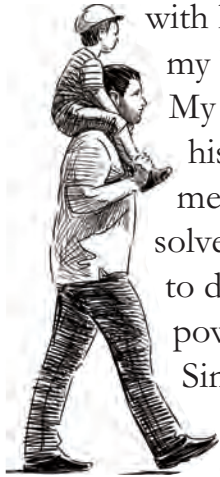
Just like our mothers, they keep trying to do the best for us, that's why I love her to infinity and beyond.

**"There is no friendship, no love, like that of a parent for the child."**  
**Henry Ward Beecher**

## My Father

by Silvana Pop, X G

I believe that it is very important to have a role model in life, because it gives you the power to make your dreams come true. It is also important to have someone who can listen to you when you need to talk to somebody and to feel that there is a person who really appreciates you. My life model is my father. He is a wonderful person, a man who would do everything in the world for me, a kind and a capable person. He taught me to fight for my objectives, to be ambitious and obtain what I need to and also to enjoy life, because it is too short and we have to do everything that makes us happy. I have a special relationship with him, he understands me, helps me when I need him, makes me laugh and he is my best friend together with my mother.



My father is one of the most important persons in my life. I will always listen to his advice and I hope I will never disappoint him. My father is always there for me, when I have a problem he is the first who wants to see how it could be solved. I love him enormously and I don't like to see him upset that is why I want to do something important in my life, to prove him and my mother that I am in power to change my life. School is very important to me, actually my father was at Sincai, too. He is an engineer who likes to play football in his spare time, he loves this sport. He is very dedicated and he has his little team made up of his colleagues. My father was always kind to me. He never got angry on me if I got a small mark like 7, he told me that it is good to find something which represents me, to learn from pleasure, not forced, to find something interesting and cute in everything. In conclusion, there is a long way to find our place under the sun, but untill we do that, it is good to find somebody to believe in us and take care of us, as my father does with me.

## My Role Models

by Laura Oros, IX E

We live in a world with strange values, which focuses on material things and not on moral ones. It is a world in which it is difficult for us to choose role models. George Eliot once said: "Blessed is the influence of one true, loving human soul on another".

I think that everyone has been influenced by someone to pursue a certain career or to follow a certain path in life. The true models for me are my parents. I strongly believe that our parents have an important influence on our lives since childhood. My parents have shaped my life up to now. Without their help I wouldn't have become who I am today. They were real examples for me, because they taught me how to be an honest person and to do the best I can to reach my goal. Parents try to do their best for their children, they are not perfect, but they would do anything so that their children achieve what they could not accomplish. For me, my parents are and will always be the most important people in my life.

We should all find someone who has a life that we want and figure out how they got it. If we don't have someone in mind then we should read books and pick our role models wisely.

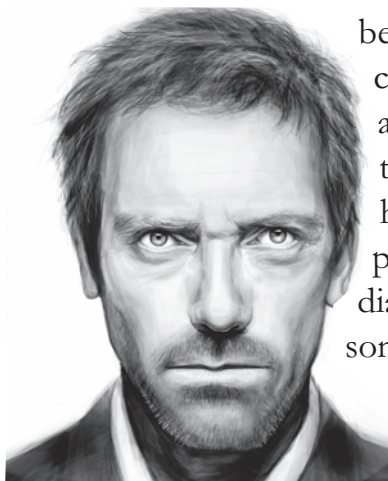
Without question, my mother is the person who has proved to have compassion, empathy, integrity, peace, calmness, an open heart, and open mind, even when facing. In my life my mother is the symbol of patience, kindness, and love, my true role model.

## The Man Who Cures Everyone

by Raul Petrovan, VIII

**G**regory House is the protagonist of the American TV series House M.D. From my perspective, I think he is the perfect doctor, because he has great skills.

He prefers reading people's minds (he's not a mind-reader, but he is good at reading body language) to asking some questions. Also, he doesn't usually see his patients, but he talks as if he



had seen the patient. But, when he has something to tell you, you'd better be ready to endure his manipulation, because you don't have time to catch up. He will talk as if you are going to die, even if you just have a cold. Also, he talks as if he were "the good doctor" when he needs to, but he can also be harsh. When he knows something, he does what he thinks it's good even if he is refused by the patient or by other people. Usually, that helps. Also, he doesn't feel like he is the best diagnostician in New Jersey, he feels as if he is the worst. There are also some downsides. You would wish you could go home, but even if you look healthy, he will do something to make you feel sick again so he can cure you. But, if you're terminal, he would rather help you kill yourself than see you suffer, even if helping someone to die isn't

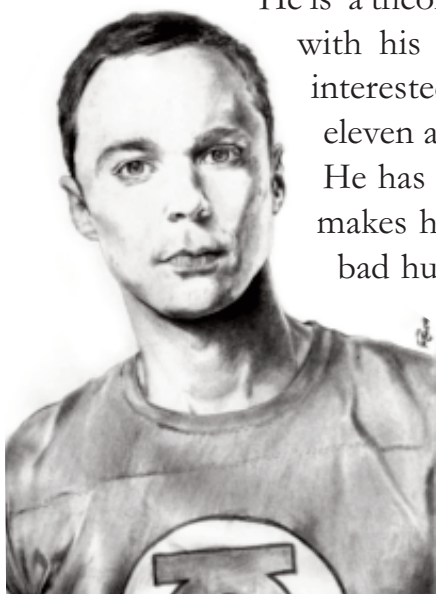
legal.

In conclusion, even if I don't like medicine, I wish I were like him, because I like his personality. Also, I would rather talk with someone like him on a daily basis, because I think it would be challenging if I had to decode what a person says.

## The Crazy Genius

by Remus Ghișe VIII

**I**n my opinion, Sheldon Cooper is one of the best characters in TV series. He is a fictional character who plays in the Big Bang Theory TV series.



He is a theoretical physicist at the Caltech University who shares his apartment with his colleague and best friend, Leonard Hofstadter. Sheldon was interested in physics from an early age, he entered college at the age of eleven and he graduated when he was fourteen.

He has a higher IQ than the rest of the people at the University, which makes him very smart, but he shows almost total lack of social skills, a bad humor understanding and difficulty recognizing irony and sarcasm in other people. If he had social skills he would probably be the best person in the world, but he behaves as if he were surrounded by idiots. He would rather stay in his lab and do research than socialize with people.

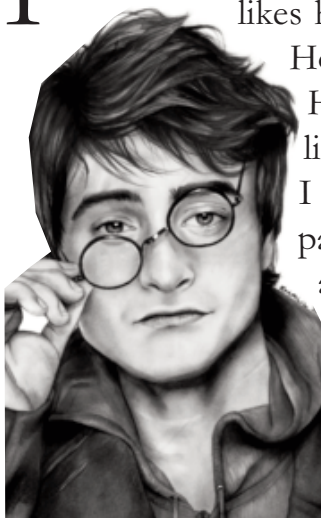
Sometimes his room-mates wish he accompanied them in doing spare time activities but he prefers studying to doing other things. Sheldon Cooper is one of my favorite characters because of his

personality and his way of perceiving the reality. I wish I had his IQ but also I wish I were more sociable and friendly than him.

## Harry Potter

by David Matei, VIII

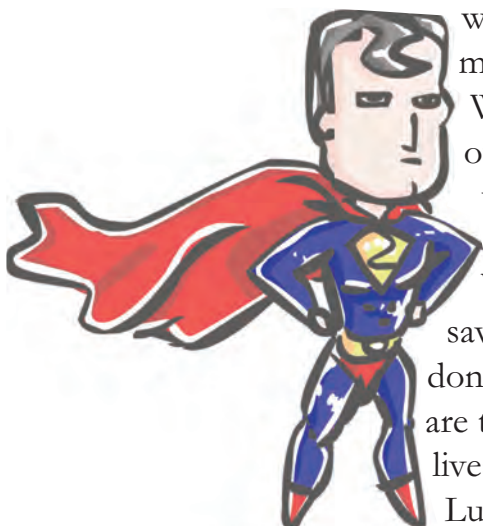
I like Harry Potter, because he is one of the most well-known character in the world. Everybody likes him. He was a magician and he studied at the Warcraft and pottery of Hogwarts. He wasn't a brilliant student, but he had a native sense of magic. He was in the team of Quiditch, and he was the seeker. HE had to catch a little golden ball and then he got 150 points and his team won. I like this character, because even if he had a tragic childhood and his parents were killed by Voldemort, he kept on following his way. He became a famous magician for his courage and loyalty. Even if he had the possibility to use black magic, he didn't do it and he stayed with his friends, that's why everybody appreciated him. In the end, he managed to beat his enemy and he saved his friends. I admire him because he always had a positive mentality and he achieved his goal.



## Heroes

by Oana Ștefan, X G

As a child, I've always wanted to be a superhero. I wanted to wear those funny suits, to fight villains and to save the world with my supernatural powers. Every time I heard the word "hero", I would imagine one of those you can see in movies and comic books.



Was I different from any other kid? Surely not! We all imagine ourselves as superheroes at one point in our childhood and we're all disappointed when, as we grow up, we find out that those heroes have never existed and never will.

Well, if people with supernatural powers that fly around saving the world have never existed, it doesn't mean that heroes don't exist either. We see them everywhere, in everyone. Heroes are those people who can sacrifice themselves for other people's lives, rights and freedom. Such herord wrtr Schindler, Martin Luther King, Nelson Mandela, Che Guevara, and any other famous people or anonymous people who ever helped a needy person or the entire human kind.

So everyone has a hero, but whose hero are you?

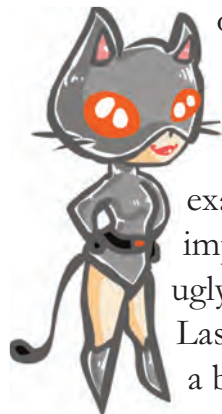
**“We are all ordinary. We are all boring. We are all spectacular. We are all shy. We are all bold. We are all heroes. We are all helpless. It just depends on the day.”**

**Brad Meltzer**

## One Is Not Enough

by Debora Ciurdaș, X G

I don't have a role model. I have more than one because I learn something from each person I meet. First of all I learn from my family, especially from my father because he always tells me that I have to work to make my dreams come true. I also learn a lot from my teachers. From example my communication teacher taught me how to act in a public place, an interview or at a restaurant.



I also learn a lot from books. Actually, books are the most important role models I could ever have, because they teach me about everything. For example I learned from "The picture of Dorian Gray" that inner beauty is more important than your appearance and a beautiful face can't hide an ugly soul and an ugly mind. But a beautiful mind can light up even the ugliest face. Last but not least, I learn from myself because nobody and nothing can teach you a better lesson than your own experience.

## My First Role Model

by Iulia Nan, X G

Ever since I set foot in primary school I have admired my primary school teacher. Her name is Ancuța Bila. She is one of the best persons I have ever met. She is neither very tall nor short. She is medium height. She is very slender and she is in her late thirties. She has big black eyes, short fair hair. Her nose is small and her mouth has thick lips. She dresses in good taste and she prefers the classical style. She is very kind with everybody especially with children, maybe because she does not have her own. Sometimes she is strict and demanding, because she wants all the students to be well-educated and successful. She always gives good advice to students because she cares for them.

Apart from these, she is well-mannered because she wants to be an example for her pupils. On the other hand, she is very sensitive and takes everything to heart, and so she is easily hurt.

Her hobbies are drawing and painting and she is very talented and it is from her that I have learnt certain drawing techniques. She also loves nature and trips, and that is why she travels whenever she has a little spare time. She loves animals and always tries to teach us to be good with animals and nature.

All in all, she is a very beautiful person, not only because of her physical appearance, but also because of her soul. Due to these qualities she has left her mark on me and that is why I consider her my role model.



## Behind Words

by Bianca Tarba, X G

If somebody had ever asked me what I would take with me on a desert island, I would say that I would take with me some music. Even if I am happy, even if I am sad, music helps me not to lose my temper. And if I am searching for something, music inspires me. That's why one of my role models is from the music world.

Elizabeth Woolridge Grant, known by her stage name Lana Del Rey, is an American singer-songwriter. She was born in New York and she is 29 years old. Her eyes are green and her hair

is brown. She is a simple woman with a special beauty. Musically, she draws influences from Elvis Presley, Amy Winehouse, Janis Joplin, Nirvana, Eminem, Bruce Springsteen and Britney Spears. Lana possesses an expansive contralto vocal range.



Her life is quite complicated and depends on you if you want to say that she is or not a good girl. She has an ordinary childhood, but she has made a few mistakes as an adolescent girl. By the age of 18, she started to write songs. Once, I read about her that she was a nurse. I don't care about her past now that I admire what she is doing in the

present and I can't judge her for anything.

I have to say that I am not listening to her best known songs, because I like more her songs which are not broadcasted so often on the radio. I consider her music deep and different from anything else I listen to. When she sings, she lives every word. She gives you the feeling of sadness and ecstasy at the same time.

I love Lana because she is not begging for attention. She is a lady and she doesn't forget her soul when she sings. I usually lay down and listen to her music only because it detaches me from monotony.

I will always have a great respect for her free, natural and simple way of being. I will always try to see behind the words and feel the music as she feels it. She is a lady and she is the model of the ideal singer in my eyes. A true lady with her head held up high and with dignity.

## My Superhero

by Cătălina Taşcu-Stavre, IX E

The person I admire is not very popular. He can't fly or do something unusual, but for me he is a model. My superhero is my dad, because he always takes care of me and makes me feel better when I'm mad. He is very tall and a little fat. His face is oval, his eyes are tender and his hair is black with a bit of grey. He is very friendly and funny (I don't think he has enemies like other superheroes). He is very protective when I talk to him about boys.

He helps me whenever I need. He always makes time for me. I can trust him and I can tell him anything. When I am with him I feel protected and loved. I respect him, he understands me like nobody else and supports me in everything I do. He loves me unconditionally and everything he does involves his heart.

That's why I can say my dad is my superhero.

by Ancuța Pop, IX E

Everybody's life is like a stage  
We are all players regardless of the age.  
Sometimes you lose, sometimes you win,  
But life is wonderful when you are a teen.

Some say that life is full of fake people  
Full of imperfection; it is not simple.  
That it blinds you if you open your eyes  
But it can also be for you a surprise.

I opened my eyes and I'm still seeing  
To be self confident even now I'm trying  
Cause the quality of my thoughts builds my  
happiness  
And my free style of life fills my emptiness.

# First Love

by Ștefania Cozma, IX E

So here I am, sitting in front of a paper  
Thinking about, you know, last September  
It was our last month together  
And since then, nothing has been better.

Time's been flying and a lot of guys have  
crossed my way  
My worst fear came true and it's so hard to say  
What if I find someone new,  
But still fall asleep thinking of you?

I truly loved you and it was hard to let you go  
But now, the only thing that I want to know  
Is how to move on  
Oh, how much I miss you, John...

# Heroes vs. School

by Ștefania Lucaci, XII E

It's 8 o'clock in the morning  
The bell rings, the teacher brings  
The class book-the warning,  
Then we are no more the kings.  
Numbers, numbers, equations,  
Math is hard to understand  
If you don't try to integrate  
Your mark between five and ten.  
You'd better practice more and more  
Or you'll integrate it between one and four.  
Outside is sunny, Bacovia cries:  
"No funeral atmosphere!",  
Maybe in our minds.  
Without acacia, pine only  
Eminescu feels lonely.  
To beautify the scene  
Arghezi brings flowers of mould.  
Zoe starts to scream  
Because her letter was lost.  
Harap-Alb tries to help her  
But he's still uninitiated, so he deferred.  
To put an end to his confusion  
We have to find the solution  
And to write it on the paper  
Without the help of the neighbor.  
If the mark is bigger than zero  
We can call ourselves heroes.  
You're a hero when you try  
Not when you avoid the hard things  
Not when you're afraid to fly  
So stretch your wings.



## A Different Ghost

by Magda Minică, VI B

This is a story about a ghost. But it isn't about any ghost. It is about Boo. Boo was not an ordinary, spooky, mean ghost. No. He was a funny, friendly ghost. But that was not appreciated there. To be admired you had to be very spooky. Anyway, enough about him, back to the story. Boo had 3 siblings: a younger sister named Mary and two older brothers: Frank and Mordred. Mary was the youngest, then Boo, then Mordred and the eldest was Frank. Every Halloween their dad took Frank and Mordred through the Halloween portal into the World of the Living to scare the humans. And every Halloween, Boo, Mary and their mom stayed home, doing nothing interesting.

He decided to ask his father:

"Dad, why do you always take my older brothers to the Land of the Living, but you never take me with you?"

"Boo, you are special, you are one of a kind.", his father replied.

"But I don't want to be special, I want to be just like my brothers."

"Don't be silly, Boo! Being special is a good thing."

"Well, it may be, but I don't want to be special. I want to go to the Land of the Living! I bet you're gonna take Mary with you before you take me."

"Don't be ridiculous, Boo! You know the rule: girls don't cross the border."

"I know, dad. I was being sarcastic."

"I told you to stop trying to be funny. Just try to understand this: you're not!"

"I am. You just don't appreciate me!"

And this happened every Halloween. Until one day when he decided to sneak out and cross the border. So, he put his plan in action. After his father and his brothers left, he sneaked out and ran to the portal. When he got there he was feeling nervous, so he held his breath and jumped into the portal. Suddenly it got dark. Then he started to spin around. All of a sudden he stopped. He waited a little, then he opened his eyes. He had crossed. He was feeling a bit dizzy, but, apart from that, he was fine. He started hearing voices. He listened carefully. They were saying: "Trick or treat. Give us sweet candy to eat!"

"Huh!? I don't understand who would want to give delicious candy to strangers." he thought.

Then he heard another voice: "What are you doing here?"

"Me?" said Boo.

"Yes, you!; do you see anyone else around here?"

"Umm... no." answered Boo. "Who are you?"

"I am a jack-o'-lantern. It is my mission to make sure that ghosts like you stay where they belong."

"No, you don't understand, I am a friendly ghost."

"Yes, yes, they all say that. But in the end, you are all the same. Now get lost!"

And Boo ran. And ran. Until he got tired. He sat down to rest when he saw some kids.

Because he didn't know the right approach to scare them he thought he should tell them a joke:

"Hey, kids, why didn't the skeleton go to the prom?"

"Why?"



"Because he had nobody to go with."

"Ha! Ha! Ha!" they laughed.

"Aren't you scared?" asked Boo.

"No, we aren't."

"Why?"

"Why would we be?! You're not scary." said the kids.

Boo was very sad. He went into a cave and started crying. "I will never be spooky!" he said. And then he left home, filled with sadness. But on his way he heard somebody crying.

"Who is there?" asked Boo.

"Me." said a little voice.

Boo looked over there and he saw a little boy. "Why are you crying?" he asked.

"They scared me!" the little boy said. "There were three mean looking ghosts! They chased me!" Boo comforted him. They started talking. One thing led to another and they became friends. Boo realized he was special and he wanted to show to his dad and brothers that humans were nice and they didn't deserve to be scared.

"Cock-a-doodle-doo!" the roosters announced that the Halloween night was almost over. "I must go!" said Boo and ran as fast as he could. He barely made it through the portal when he heard a familiar voice: "Where have you been, mister?". It was his mother.

"Umm, nowhere."

"Go to your room" she said and Boo was grounded just because he wanted to be like his brothers. Suddenly, his dad marched into the room. He said:

"So, how was your first Halloween?"

"You're not mad?"

"No, it's good to follow our dreams."

So Boo told them everything about the boy and the jack-o'-lantern and they realized they had been terrorizing the poor humans and they promised they will never spook anyone again.

## Memorable Years

by Alina Costin, IX C

Beautiful high school years  
Will pass so fast that you won't feel  
While you get closer to your dreams  
Be careful of your role models.

Work hard and be patient, creative and careful  
Of what you say and what you do  
Because everything depends on you.

Consider all the good advice  
Don't forget to be helpful and nice  
Even when you reach your goals,  
This is the way of getting far.

## Now It's No

by Lazăr Diana, IX E

What about no tonight?  
I think you'll be alright  
Said no one never 'coz we don't live forever  
It's sad to know that I don't care anymore  
You just want to live in war  
Tell me how stupid can you be?  
You think that now I will agree?  
Your heart is like the snow  
That's why I will say NO.

## Skylim

by Lazăr Diana, IX E

I'm the son of north  
In the arms of night  
They say I'm dragonborn  
I'm here just to fight  
Old names cast aside  
They scream just "Fight!"  
Your life, it belongs to this land  
You can't let this be the end  
None but strangers, you stand as one  
Lost in silence, withdrawn  
And God dines here alone  
On the silver stones and bones.  
You are standing here alone  
On the ruins of the throne  
First fall, hail on white mountain  
Song screams, call of the storm  
Don't u be afraid of destiny  
Like the birds upon the sky  
We are flying on Earth so high  
Please undo this selfish crime  
Or we'll lose our paradise  
Every second of the day  
It is coming in our way  
We are not here to stay  
Can't escape the destiny  
Look at all the things you have done  
Is this the way to carry on?  
Release your soul from hate  
'Coz all you need is faith  
A morning of recall  
With no memory no nothing at all  
Just take my hand  
This can't be the end.

## Love and Honour

by Beatrice Geanina Rus , IX C

From the mist of ancient times,  
Here comes a hand, guided by Destiny,  
Holding a sword with power.

With it, a ruler king,  
Defends his kingdom  
With courage and honour

Brave knights surround their king  
In fights, with blood and arms,  
All going on a quest  
For the Holy Grail, without rest

Love comes in a story  
In the shape of a Queen  
Marriage and magic  
Surrounded by myth

Arthur's love for her,  
Difficult it was,  
Lancelot's beauty and youth,  
Puts a spell on her

From the fire of time,  
Treason, blood and tears,  
Come to Camelot,  
Death comes  
To Avalon.



**“Poetry is when an emotion has  
found its thought and the  
thought has found words.”  
- Robert Frost**

## Miss Pudding

by Denisa Petrean, IX C

Katie was just a normal girl who had bad days with the girls from her class. Until one day when her life took a sharp turn: she went to the bathroom and found that she couldn't see herself in the mirror; she ran scared to her mother, who told Katie the story of her family - not at all normal. Katie found that her parents are two superheroes: Professor Chocolate and Queen Chihuahua and she discovered that she has supernatural powers like great force. Her parents told her that she needed to learn how to control her new powers. Any superhero's fate is decided at birth: this means that they have supernatural powers and a characteristic name. Katie is the next person who will fight for the good and her name will be Miss Pudding. The idea of having a completely changed life scared her like death at first but she got more confident and she wanted to teach the divas at school a lesson. Katie took advantage of her name and her powers of superhero and made fun of the girls by putting pudding on all of their things. The supreme council of superheroes sensed something was wrong with Miss Pudding's behaviour and they announced her parents that she used her powers to do bad things. Katie's parents were announced that her daughter will be punished: every time when she eats pudding, her powers will become weaker. The problem was that Miss Pudding couldn't resist without eating pudding... So, she had two choices: to eat pudding and have no powers, or learn to control herself and remain with the powers. She chose the second option.



After a while, Batman, the supreme leader of superheroes, decided that Miss Pudding will spend some weeks in a centre for young superheroes in order to escape punishment and also to understand the real purpose of superheroes in everyday life.

After all those courses, Katie grew and pretty soon she became the most powerful and invincible superhero.

## A Summer Mystery

by Andreea Lendel, VI B

Last summer I saw the strangest sight I've ever seen. It was so unusual that it remained implanted in my memory all this time and, now, I need to tell somebody...

It was August. The sky was dark, and no stars had appeared. The sea was crashing violently against the cliffs. A mist hung in the air, sending shivers up my spine and giving me an eerie feeling. I was loitering on the edge of the cliff, waiting for something to happen. Nothing. Then, out of the corner of my eye, a greenish-reddish light shone in the distance. It was coming from the deserted boat house. I quickly ran there, tripping over rocks and long weeds. I slowly pulled the handle. My heart was beating like it had never done before. The overwhelming blackness made my heart pump out of my chest. The moon suddenly started shining lightly inside. A man, all dressed in black, was lying in mid-air... He seemed to be asleep. An unusual odour was filling my nostrils, intoxicating me. I couldn't breathe. I ran as quickly as I could. The smell seemed to be following, driving me away. I tried to do something to make it happen again. But nothing more happened that summer. Sometimes, I think it was all my imagination...

## Freelancing, A New Work Revolution?

by Bogdan Sântejudean, XII E

Many of you have at least a few spare hours every day but you choose to waste them surfing on Facebook or watching endless TV series. You know you should do something else but still can't get out of the daily routine.

What if you could use this time in a productive and constructive way? Now there comes the big question... How? Well, it is not as hard as you think. In this article I will talk a little about the unlimited ways in which the Internet can help you earn some money and establish strong relationships with people all over the world.

Being a freelancer means a lot of freedom. You can plan your schedule as you want, you are not restricted to working in an office or away from home, you can work two hours now and two hours later after you have taken a nap or after you have seen a good movie with your friends. But what is a freelancer? Well, a freelancer is a term commonly used for a person who is self-employed and who practically is their own boss. Usually this person works online with clients all over the world. Do you know how to use Adobe Photoshop or Illustrator? Maybe you know how to work with programming languages or you like to write



articles or even stories? Are you a photographer or a translator? You can find thousands of jobs for yourself every day. You can design brand identity kits, you can sell your tutorials online, your photos or your creations on very large markets. Here are the best freelancing websites that I can recommend you: elance.com, freelancer.com, designcrowd.com, udemy.com and 99designs.com but you can also do a quick Google search to find something that suits you better.

### FREELANCE

There are a lot of freelancers but don't be scared of this, there are also more than 400.000 jobs posted every month so I am 100% sure that you will find your place, do some research before you start and don't give up. Start from scratch and learn something new every day. There are a lot of tutorials even in your language (creativemonkeyz.ro for design courses) and within few weeks I guarantee you that you can learn everything you need! The first steps are harder but in the end it will be worth the effort!

**“Success seems to be connected with action. Successful people keep moving. They make mistakes, but they don't quit.” – Conrad Hilton**

## Hearthstone

by Alexandru Tănase, XII E

Can you imagine all the heroes from Blizzard's games (Warcraft, World of Warcraft, Diablo and others), gathered in a single game?... Well, this is Hearthstone, the incredible strategy card game that conquered the world.

I started playing this game last year in February. It was recommended to me by a very good friend of mine who knew that this is my type of game. From the very first time I played it, I felt enthusiastic about this game because it was exactly what I needed: a game which makes you think before you make a move and it is not obligatory to pay to become a good player, because this is a rare thing in games nowadays.

First of all, the idea of putting all these heroes in the game is absolutely amazing. Even more, it gives you the opportunity to choose your favourite heroes, or villains, illustrated in playing cards and put them in a deck. But remember, you have room available for only 30 cards, which is pretty good in my opinion. There are over 400 collectible cards and every single one is unique in its own way. For example, Sen'jin Shieldmasta is a well-known hero, which protects your character from the opponent's attack and the funny part of this particular hero is the sound that he makes when he is summoned on the board: "Taaaz'Dingooo" (like a leader who calls his army to defend the castle).

Secondly, it would be boring if you couldn't combine their special power with other cards in Hearthstone. Even the developers of this game thought about this situation and that's why they created some heroes that merge perfectly with other's power. For example, there are two legendary brothers, Feugen and Stalagg, that can summon another hero, Thaddius, but only if both of them are dead. The good part is that, Thaddius is as powerful as Feugen and Stalagg together. Another example is: after you have played a hero, with another hero you can buff that one up and surprise your opponent with the unexpected bigger power.

In conclusion, playing this game gives you an important responsibility: make your heroes fight like a team and only after should you expect to win the game, or else you could be defeated by your own heroes.



## My Role Model

by Octavian Orza, X G

To me a role model is a person who has influenced me in a positive way. Who your role model is depends as much on you as it does on the person you admire. Often, it is someone you would like to be like when you get older, or someone who does something you find hard to do. My dad inspired me to write this. He has taken such a big role in my life. He is that person who I can turn to for advice in a difficult situation and I know that he will have some words of wisdom for me.

My father has been very patient with me. He has never punished me even if I've made some mistakes in my life. He encouraged me to be a model for other persons or to try to be one because he managed to be a model for his family. He wants me to surpass him because he also surpassed his father. My father always told me to follow my dreams and to do what I like and he always reminds me to respect everyone regardless of their background or race. I can say that he has had a big influence in creating my personality and I want to make him proud of me.

## Role Models

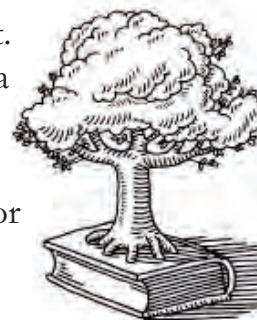
by Răzvan Neta, IX E

Role models are a trending topic in the current modern society due to the highly diversified opinions and examples.

First of all, I want to say that I do not agree with "having a role model". I honestly think that trying to be like someone else, trying to accomplish things that someone else did is a waste. Everyone is unique in their own way, so by copying someone you are basically wasting the good things you and only you have.

But for the sake of the topic, I will play "the devil's advocate" for a moment. Having a role model is similar to having a goal. Someone who doesn't have a goal will never know what s/he is truly capable of, and I cannot stress that enough. Also, having a role model gives you at least a couple of things to believe in, and as Malcolm X said, "a man who stands for nothing will fall for anything", which is also extremely important.

In conclusion, I don't recommend having a role model, but that's just my opinion and I'm no more than an ordinary student.



## Pretty Nature

by Secui Timea, IX F

Pretty inviting nature  
That smells like flowers,  
With many more tears  
And many fragrant flavors.

When summer heats,  
And river water starts,  
We eat sweet cherries  
And forget about winter.

Winter is white and clean  
Snowflakes gently fall.  
Children go sledging  
And slide away on slopes.

You can see the spring,  
She quickly turns green  
Easily budding trees,  
And grass longingly sprouting.

Autumn is sweet and rich,  
It's quickly in the orchard  
She ripens the vegetables  
And brings pleasure to us.



## My Role Models, Superheroes

by Flavia Filip, X G

Who is your role model? someone has recently asked me. For me, a model in life is a person who inspire other people to do things that can make them proud of themselves, a person who is self-confident and who always emanates positive energy. First of all, my parents are my heroes since I was born. They are my teachers, friends and they always support me in what I want to do. Since I was a little child, my parents taught me what's right and wrong and how to handle a situation in spite of any difficulty. On the other hand, I don't think that you have to know a person to realize that they are or were heroes. A person who has helped the needy or who has adopted a stray dog are also models in life for me. These people have taught me how to be a better person and how to do things that can make you happy and proud of your achievements.

In conclusion, I think that heroes are everywhere. You can find persons who inspire you or who can teach you things that can help you evolve and learn in life. People have superpowers. They are the ones who can make a better world and I will always be fascinated by their talent and soul.

## Four Truths About Our Kind

by Patricia Pușcasu, X G

Those who wait in abandoned hotels  
Hungry for the feeling that burns in their  
throats  
Like the juice of a fresh lemon,  
Will never get anything.

Old men dream of wars  
For young men to give their lives in.  
TV shows us the curves of their smile,  
But never the glistening mock in their eyes.

I dropped a carton milk today  
And whiteness dripped in time and space,  
Blinding the stars below us.  
I witnessed magic, but forgot to say "I am  
sorry".

We are beings that can't feast in silence,  
But we can learn.

## War

by Patricia Pușcasu, X G

I found your crown in the ashes,  
Time washed out it's glory  
And crumbled it in disgrace.  
I saw the demons in your eyes  
As they closed your soul and let your drown  
in the soft blue sky;

I chose to believe that light is winning,  
This cruel game of tender flaws  
That somehow dwell in our minds for longer  
than they should.

You rose, eventually,  
And tucked away your past,  
You swept the dust off your knees  
Picked the seams out of those  
pale wings that still embraced your back  
And headed to the long lost thornes of  
broken hopes  
With a noble look on your face.  
And a sword in your burnt hands.



## Graduate's Corner

**D**ear colleagues, colleagues because whether you are currently attending, prospective or alumni like me there is and always will be Something that binds us all together, young or younger, conforming or rebellious, men and women of tomorrow.

This "Sincai" as many of you know it stands for much more than an abbreviation of a rather long-ish school name. It stands for excellence in education, quality of teaching, scholastic performance, tradition and much more. For many it has become and for the rest will surely become a symbol, a memento, for the best years of your lives.

I for one chose it out of all the others because after I spent my entire childhood passing by it every day not knowing what this huge building might hold inside I suddenly realized that I wanted to be a part of it. When the time came, my eyes opened and I could see. After almost a century, having survived numerous socio-cultural and economic changes, the fall of kings, a World War and the Revolution, it just stood there before me as a rather old and unimpressive structure, with its iconic statue and lonely oak tree.

While deciding where I was going to go next, "what school should I to choose?" the ever present question, there was this constant murmur around "Sincai". People used to say, "Oh, it's the best", "Oh, it's really difficult there", "Oh, people there study a lot", "People there don't have as much fun" or "The teachers are very strict". As one can imagine I was not sure what to do at all. If anything, I was unsure but I applied anyway because I wanted to do well in school. This was of course a priority and being curious by nature I wanted to learn many things, interesting things, I wanted to know how everything worked and quite frankly who wouldn't want to go to the "allegedly" best school? Later, all the rumours turned out to be true, Math was of course the hardest and I will not forget that pretty soon, nor will I forget the many "firsts" that happened during my stay, good and bad.

Yes, it is one of the best, yes, it is hard, yes, people do study a lot more and the teachers push you harder to achieve your potential (and God NO, definitely people don't have less fun) however at your age (i.e. the age around 14-18) you don't really know what's best for you, and you definitely don't have much idea about what's bad for you either. Now you might think: I'm not like the rest, I know what's good and bad for me because I live in an different world, where there is Internet and information and emancipation, but you would be missing the point. Not because all that is false but because one needs to learn how to filter and interpret the information that keeps pouring in from the outside so that it can be managed appropriately. The way in which we understand the world around us and the way we react to it are the building blocks of a person. This is what wisdom is by definition, and this is precisely the skill one acquires though school. It is therefore very important to be in the right hands and make smart choices early. Struggle, sacrifice and discipline, words nowadays everyone avoids and fear from should not frighten you young "Sincaist". Diamonds form under extreme heat and pressure deep in the Earth's mantle and not at the end of rainbows and sunshine. They look like mere shiny rocks in their natural form, hidden in the darkness. One day, one is picked-up by the hands of a craftsman, that with his weary eyes sees beyond the crust, beyond the surface, and slowly begins to grind it from all sides. Years later the sparkle inside is revealed. Craftsmen like these I found here and I am grateful to them for their dedication and effort. They helped my generation and the generations before me reach our potential and achieve our goals. While formal teaching has been underrated in recent years in favour of more, contactless forms of learning, one should not believe for a second it should be a thing of the past. This is the real value of "Sincai" and you should make the best of it while it lasts. Always mix it in with lots of fun because if there is anything I learned in my life is that one should seek equilibrium in thought and action.

It is only in the end, when the tears of the last days of "Sincai" will flow on your cheeks, that you will feel at home. You will remember the good times and the bad ones and you will smile... for the end will not be there, only the beginning. Have fun and study hard! (Bogdan Chiş)

