

Year 4
Issue 4
2016



TeenEnglish

ALICE
IN
WONDERLAND



“Gheorghe Sincai” National College, Baia Mare
Editura “Maria Montessori”



CONTENTS

| | |
|--|----|
| Editorial | 1 |
| THE INTERVIEW CORNER | 2 |
| Interview with Mr Mugur Voloș | 2 |
| THE EVENTS CORNER | 4 |
| Cambridge Student Experience | 4 |
| THE CREATIVITY CORNER | 6 |
| Lewis Carroll's Alice | 6 |
| In Time | 7 |
| Gone Girl | 8 |
| Grave of the Fireflies | 9 |
| The Polar Express | 10 |
| Believe the Impossible | 11 |
| Still Alice | 12 |
| The Breakfast Club | 13 |
| The Hobbit | 14 |
| The Polar Express | 15 |
| Now You See Me | 16 |
| Zohra's Chronicle | 17 |
| Diamond Poems | 18 |
| Life Is a Great Adventure | 23 |
| Technology – our best friend | 24 |
| What My Old Self Wrote While Loving Someone Hopelessly | 24 |
| Drowning in Thin Air | 26 |
| In Search of Myself | 26 |
| THE GRADUATES' CORNER | 27 |
| A message from Daiana Rînja | 27 |
| A message from Alexandra Carmen Pop | 28 |

Coordinator

prof. dr. Ciprian Cucuiat

The Editorial Staff

prof. Laura Pop

prof. Rodica Mureșan

Emanuel Golban, 11E, Chief Editor and Cover Designer

Ioana Brumar, 11E

Gabriela Laura Oana, 11E

Rafaela Grețieș, 11E

Collaborators

prof. Lucia Avram

prof. Celina Vezentan

Editorial

Hello, everyone and welcome!

If you are here you are probably a student at "Gheorghe Șincai" National College or chances are you want to become one. Good news for you, dear reader, because we have prepared for you something to motivate you to start writing right away!

This issue is all about drama. I'm not talking about negative stuff, I'm talking about something that will make you turn on the computer and watch a great movie. If you don't know which one to choose, you have a variety of reviews written by our colleagues to inspire you and entertain those of you who are looking for a little bit of relaxation.

And because we are at the movie section, how could I not mention in this editorial without mentioning Marilyn Monroe with her "Diamonds are a girl's best friend"? As you will see, not only a girl's best friend, but also a boy's best friend. This statement is proven by our school mates, but this time the little ones, who have learned a lot about the new trend called "diamond poem". The proof lies in the special "diamonds" they have created about school, holidays, pets and other fun topics.

Turn these pages and you will see that we let our students express themselves and their feelings. We've got a lot of creativity in this issue and the most courageous of us have engaged themselves in writing their own literary works, but more importantly, on works based on their own experience as young adults.

And now, if you have thought just for a second that this issue is too linked to what we do during our classes, I can prove you wrong. We've reached the fun part of the ride: extracurricular activities. One of this year's activities has been the students' exchange to Cambridge, England and you will have the chance to see the impact this experience has had on our active schoolmates.

As you already know, we include in every issue an interview with one of our beloved teachers. And because one of the teachers we love the most is Mugur Voloș and this year he has published a book, we were very eager to ask him some questions and some things we were dying to know about. Also, two of our high school's former students accepted to write a letter about their lives as students abroad!

So, as you can see, this issue is "A little bit of everything all wrapped in one", just like our college is. Have fun and don't hesitate to get involved in our next issues!

by Laura Gabriela Oana, 11E

The Interview Corner

by Ioana Brumar and Laura Gabriela Oana, 11E



1. How have you decided that you want to be a teacher?

To be honest, I did not think of becoming a teacher until very late in my teen years. At 25 years old I was a veterinary doctor somewhere in the countryside and I was already starting a second university: philosophy. Maybe my change of professions was influenced by my youth, the fact that I was open to new life experiences. But the fact that I come from a family of teachers might have counted to a large extent.

2. Which is the best aspect of teaching at "Gheorghe Șincai" National College?

I believe that in Șincai the environment is one that stimulates and promotes genuine values.

3. Tell us a funny story from your teaching career.

Funny for whom? You would have surely considered it funny if you had seen me as I threw coffee on my face and all over my white t-shirt, given the fact that outside was a really hot day (so I couldn't just say that I'd been splashed by a car). And I had just started classes!!

Then, it certainly was fun for the few passers-by who saw me one day at noon with the teacher's register under my arm, eagerly waiting for the traffic lights to turn green, so I could get home.

Or a story that seemed funny to me even though the children were initially upset: Speaking of career choice at one point a student asked, "But how did you choose your profession?" To which I replied spontaneously, convinced that he was referring to my first job: "Well since I was a child I really liked animals ..." The next moment I realized the mistake, noting how upset they responded: "Okay ... teacher!! Why are you talking like that to us? "

4. How have you decided to write the books you have published?

The first book I wrote was in order to support my PhD thesis. In my book I tried to enlighten myself about two things: -how philosophers like Mircea Vulcănescu, Constantin Noica, Mircea Eliade, Emil Cioran saw inter-war Romania; - the way they would have liked Romania to be.

In the second book I published, I wanted to emphasize Eminescu's view on the same issue: Romania through Eminescu's eyes and his idealized projection of Romania.

5. Do you think that a teacher's career can be combined harmoniously with their family life?

Yes. And I don't think it has ever been hard for me to combine the two of them. Especially that my wife is also a teacher and she knows very well what this career implies.

6. What are your plans for the future?

I wish I could avoid routine and that I could do my job with honesty and pleasure.

7. What advice do you have for the students in our college?

I would advise them to believe in the values taught by their teachers, values such as: honesty, hard work, the authenticity of their own feelings, confidence, optimism and the curiosity of learning new things.

The Events Corner

Cambridge Student Experience

by Elia Sever, 11th grade, "Ioan Slavici" National College, Satu Mare



Hello, CNIS-iști and Șincaiști! I feel so honoured to write here about my experiences during the students exchange programme in Cambridge in April 2016.

First of all, I went there with 4 students from Satu Mare and 12 students from Baia Mare with their teacher, by plane. Just imagine, the first thing I

felt when I got off the plane was the unbelievably cold wind. After leaving the airport, we arrived at our family host, Sharron. Honestly, I cannot describe what a nice person she is. Throughout that week, Sharron made us a lot of traditional food, which, by the way, was so tasty, and beside that we had a lunch box for the breaks between English classes. I can say that I learned a lot of things during those classes, because we not only learned new words, but we also had discussions about issues like family and education which involved us at a personal level.

Frankly, I was gobsmacked to listen to my teacher Savitri (a 60 year-old woman) telling us so many things you can't learn in schools. It may sound idealistic, but everybody there was so polite, willing to help with everything, and the best part (my favourite) was that NOBODY cares whether you wear normal clothes, pyjamas, or a tiger costume. Of course we visited loads of monuments, universities and many, many other things with the group. So, this is what we did: because we couldn't visit everything properly or take pictures, we thought to wake up at 5 a.m., take the bus at 6, get in the city centre at 7 and just stroll there until 8, visiting everything we could because we knew this was the only way to get there on time.

Now you may think that we just walked freely, not worrying about a thing, but that is not true, because in our very first day we were late for the English classes, obviously because of the traffic, and mainly this whole trip we ran trying not to be late and struggle to see as many things as we could. Thinking that we got lost, we ran a lot, panicked, in my opinion these things made this



experience unforgettable. Cambridge is such a beautiful and quirky city, full of enchanting buildings, and I can tell you, boredom does not exist in Cambridge. What we did there beside English classes, visiting buildings or staying with our hosts was a punting tour, go on a treasure hunt, and participate in a workshop with our lovely guides. You may all wonder why treasures hunt in Cambridge? Because it was such a funny activity and you were able to talk to the local people to ask them riddles from your map and questions from the treasure hunt because you have to believe me those questions

weren't easy. I did my best, I tried to talk to every single person I could there because I felt that English is something I've always loved and I still try to get better and better at it.

After all this *emotional* part, I want to tell you that beside Cambridge, we had a trip to London. I think you can already imagine how excited I was, when we got there. We visited London, in a so called duck vehicle which not only goes on the roads but also on water, and when I say water I really mean it, it turns into a boat. Everything I saw there was so beaming and lively, but it was too crowded for me. After visiting London, we had one hour of free time on the famous Oxford street, so obviously we went shopping, and again we were late because of that.

I think that my first impressions were that I would have fun with my friends no matter what, (and that's what we did), we may not get on time where we were asked to and that I might feel really really cold in every single moment.

My final impressions are that Cambridge is such a nice city to visit, I am happy I went there and didn't hesitate, Sharron was the best host for us, our guides made us feel safe and helped us a lot, people there can help you if you get lost (most of them) and I want to go back some day.

The Creativity Corner

Lewis Carroll's Alice

by Vlad Neamț, 12D



"Alice in Wonderland", the 2010 movie sequel of Lewis Carroll's well known books "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" and "Through the Looking Glass", not only has a cast of talented actors but is also directed by the one and only Tim Burton. As Burton is the mind behind the movie plot, you may expect some gore and darkness, but he manages to combine elements

from the minimally gruesome storyline.

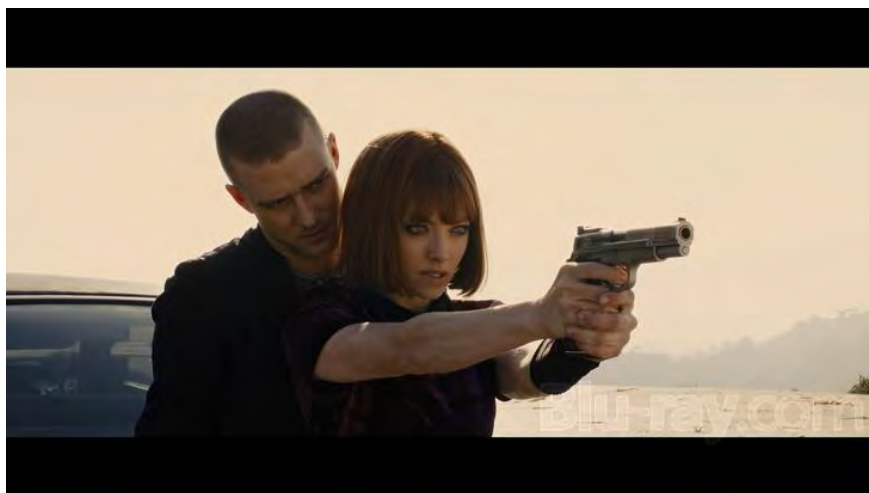
The movie starts with the young Alice, troubled by the same nightmare: a trip to a very unusual place with abnormal inhabitants. The action continues with nineteen year old Alice, played by Mia Wasikowska, who is expected to marry a lord, a former business partner of her father's. She then follows a white rabbit in a vest checking his pocket watch, into Wonderland. Alice is in search of a way to wake up from her dream that she later realises is in fact not a dream, but another world that she visited in her childhood "nightmare". In Wonderland, she meets Lewis Carroll's characters, all aged and in expectancy of her return.

The ever-present team in Burton's movies: Johnny Depp and Helena Bonham Carter play the roles of the Mad Hatter and the bloodthirsty Red Queen. In the role of the White Queen is Anne Hathaway.

I strongly recommend this movie to both children and adults for the friendly and colourful images and also for the deeper meanings. This was by far the best movie I have ever seen, not only for the captivating storyline but also for the talented crew.

In Time

by Alexandra Bozîntan, 12D



Nowadays, our society is built on the idea that “time is money” but have you ever wondered what our world would be like, if that were true? This is the challenging question the film “In Time” tries to answer.

“In Time” is an action and science fiction movie

directed by Andrew Niccol. It is set in a dystopian future, in which human beings are genetically engineered to stop aging after 25, then their clock starts ticking and they must work to survive. The film follows the story of Will Salas (Justin Timberlake), who lives in a poor district and who has very little time until he saves a drunken rich man from being murdered. In return he decides to go to New Greenwich, the richest district, where he kidnaps Sylvia Weis (Amanda Seyfried), the daughter of a powerful and wealthy man. The two end up falling in love with each other and teaming up in order to fight the corrupt system, while being chased by a team of Timekeepers.

Now, what this film brings new to the table is the creative concept the theme centres around: a world in which the wealthy are immortal, while the poor struggle to survive, most of them dying at a young age. Justin Timberlake and Amanda Seyfried are a very effective Bonnie and Clyde challenging the system and attempting to wipe out the huge disparity between the lives of the rich and the poor. It is a film that will make you reflect as it sends a strong message. While some critics may agree on the fact that the movie shambles in bouts of poor writing and small plot holes, it is still very enjoyable, being backed by realistic special effects and spellbinding acting.

All in all, the movie is quite catching and dynamic, appealing not only to sci-fi and action lovers, but to a wider audience searching for a refreshingly unique story. I would have no hesitation in recommending it, as it is very close to my heart.

Gone Girl

by Oana Țințar, 12D

"Gone girl", directed by David Fincher and based upon the global best-seller by Gillian Flynn, unearths the secrets of a "modern" marriage. The main characters are Nick Dunne (Ben Affleck) and his beautiful wife, Amy (Rosamund Pike). They only show a perfected version of themselves, but their life hides more.

GONE
GIRL



The film begins cryptically, before looping back to the morning of Amy's disappearance from the house she shares with Nick. It continues alternating two different perspectives, the past and the present, perfectly outlining the story of the two spouses.

"Nick" is brilliantly played by Ben Affleck as a man who doesn't care about the disappearance of his wife. He is indifferent and careless, which is why all the people consider him responsible for the possible murder of his beloved Amy.

The truth about their "perfect" life gradually comes out in this absolutely breath-taking story. What at first seemed a fairy-tale, now turns into a nightmare for Nick. Amy, the beautiful and intelligent woman he once loved, is faking death ingeniously, only for revenge. In my opinion, her character is the most complex from all dramas I've ever seen. She sums up all the qualities a woman can have, harnesses her ability to anticipate and uses her knowledge about her cheating husband.

The plot is absolutely absorbing and the character extremely convincing. Ben and Rosamund have a natural performance, succeeding in creating the perfect story about an illusional life. It was the best film I've ever seen!

Grave of the Fireflies

by Dragoş Chiş, 12A



In this 1988 Japanese animated drama, a boy and his little sister are left to survive on their own during the final months of the Second World War.

The film focuses on the tragedies that war gives rise to, rather than seeking to glamourize it as a heroic struggle between two ideologies. It emphasizes that war is society's failure to protect its own people and it conveys the image of the brother and sister living a failed life due to isolation from society.

The movie's most precious asset is that it is able to communicate such an emotional experience that it forces a rethinking of animation. Despite the atrocities and sadness depicted, it is not, however, an anti-war film. The director, Isao Takahata dismisses such claims stating that it is the story of the two children that should be the focus of the whole movie, and not the conflict that is taking place in Japan.

Initially, the production team thought that animation was not appropriate for this kind of sad story, but after seeing it in action they realized it couldn't be any other way. The colours and music fit perfectly with the story and the voice actors do a wonderful job of adding to the character's personality.

All in all, it is a beautiful and moving story, a must-see in terms of quality cinematography, a moment to think about things that are truly important in life.

The Polar Express

by Tudor Sântejudean, 11D

Based on a children's novel of the same name, *The Polar Express* is the story of a kid at the age of waking up and abandoning his belief in Santa. Directed, produced and written by Robert Zemeckis, the film stars Tom Hanks, along with Daryl Sabara, Nona Gaye, Jimmy Bennett, and Eddie Deezen. The film uses a motion capture technique called rotoscoping to capture the performance of the live actors and transform them into animated characters. This allows the film makers to create realistic animations of the human body, but in my opinion the characters feel a bit wooden.



The plot is pretty simplistic and entirely predictable by the grown-ups as it follows the story of a group of children who have more or less lost the faith in Santa Claus, embarked on a magical train with the destination being the North Pole. The main character is an unnamed boy, staying awake on Christmas Eve to prove himself the non-existence of Santa. Suddenly, a train stops in front of his house with the conductor, played by Tom Hanks, inviting the boy on a journey north. The train as it turns out is on a last minute run to the North Pole, ferrying kids to a big celebration with Santa, where Mr Claus will hand out the first present of Christmas to one lucky child.

The boy, along with three other children he meets on the train get through numerous adventures, from losing a girl's train ticket to getting lost in the North Pole city, but in the end, they manage to arrive on time at the celebration held in the centre of the city. After the elves load all the children's gifts in Santa's sleigh, Mr Claus shows up and chooses the boy for the first present, despite the fact that he couldn't hear Santa's sleigh bells, still doubting his existence.

In the end, all the boy's doubts are vanished, he chooses the bell as his only present, as a symbol of the spirit of Christmas. On the way back home, however, he loses the bell through a hole in his pocket. The next morning, the boy realizes that all was a dream and goes to open his presents only to find the lost bell in one of the boxes.

The special effects, on the other hand, are absolutely stunning, probably with the exception of the main characters' facial animations which I found somewhat unconvincing. The voice acting, on the other hand, is entirely convincing especially Tom Hanks as the train conductor. The music provides a pleasant and nostalgic ambiance to the film.

In conclusion, this film appeals to both children and adults, capturing the magic of Christmas and, as the conductor tells the boy, "The true meaning of Christmas is in your heart."

Believe the Impossible

by Beatrix Könyves, 9D



I've seen many movies in the last few months, and most of them were romance, drama movies, but "Little Boy" a non-romance movie, is by far the best film I've seen in a very long time.

Even though there are no famous actors the cast is by far one of the best I've seen. All the actors are doing amazing jobs and we must give some extra credit to Jakob Salvati who literally gets into Pepper "Little Boy" Busbee's boots and manages to make you travel through all types of emotions from amusement to sadness. Also it must be said that Kevin James (who plays the role of Dr. Fox) liked the script so much, he actually agreed to do the film for free. We must not forget Emily Watson as Emma Busbee, Ted Levine as Sam, David Henrie as London Busbee, Ben Chaplin as Ben Eagle, Michael Rapaport as James Busbee, Caty-Hiroyuki Tagawa as Hashimoto, Tom Wilkinon as Fr. Oliver, Abraham Benrubi as Teacup and Matthew Scott Miller as Freddie Fox, Dr. Fox's son.

The movie is directed by Mexican Alejandro Monteverde. He is a producer and director, known for "Bella" (2006), "Little Boy" (2015) and "Crescendo I" (2011). For screenplay, Monteverde cooperated with Pepe Portillo.

The genre of the movie is war, drama and comedy. I am not usually interested in any movie that contains the word "war" in its synopsis, so I didn't think I'd like it when a friend of mine recommended it.

The main character is eight-year-old Pepper Busbee who, because of his height, gets "baptized" as Little Boy, by bully Freddie Fox, Dr. Fox's son. The movie starts showing the very close and beautiful relationship between Pepper and his father. It's all fun and games, until war gradually changes the quiet life from O'Hare and James Busbee (the father) must go serve in the army. For Pepper the departure is very hard and the "Little boy" is determined to stop the war in order to bring his father home. Under the devise "Do you believe you can do this? Yes, I believe I can do this", the kid starts to realize how important it is to believe in yourself in order to achieve what you want. Because of Pearl Harbor, Japanese people were not well seen in America and everything turns upside down

when a “jap” moves to O’Hare. London influences Pepper into hating the stranger and the two of them try to burn his house down. Little Boy has to confess his sin and asks for the advice of Fr. Oliver about how his faith can help him get his father back. The priest teaches him that he needs faith as big as a mustard seed to be able to move a mountain and gives him a “magic list” of things he has to do, adding one more thing in the end: “befriend Hashimoto”, which the kid believes is by far the hardest quest. But will Pepper be able to complete the list? Will he unleash his hidden inner power? And last but not least, will Little Boy bring his father and partner back from war? Watch the movie and you’ll find out!

I strongly recommend “Little Boy” to everyone, regardless of your age. We could all use a little lesson in self-confidence.

Still Alice

by Pâlcă Mihaela, 10E

Each movie reflects a story that could happen or not, that really happened or it is just the view of the director about a subject. In general, it doesn't matter the reason why it's made, it only matters that it highlights something, that it brings innovation or feelings to the world.

STILL
ALICE



From my point of view, there aren't bad movies, there are just bad ways to express what you want to transmit. One of my favourite movies I've seen is “Still Alice”. I watched it not only because I saw Julianne Moore playing the main character, but also for the synopsis. Besides her astonishing performance, there are other members of the cast that have contributed to the making of the movie: Kate Bosworth, Shane McRae, Alec Baldwin, Seth Gilliam and Daniel Gerroll. The movie won 1 Oscar for Julianne Moore's acting skills and has also 26 wins and 30 nominalisations. “Still Alice” is directed by Richard Glatzer and Wash Westmoreland.

The movie wasn't exactly what I had expected. Of course it was a bit sad, but it presented the facts in a very realistic way. The plot is simple: a woman named Alice Howland has a happy marriage and three grown-up children. Also, she has a really good job as a top Linguistics professor. Every day she exercises her memory by playing some memory games on her smartphone. When she can't remember the words, she goes to the doctor and her diagnosis is Alzheimer's disease. This made me wonder if I had someone in this situation or

even if I were in her place what I would do and how I would deal with it. Then, her fight becomes her family's fight when her youngest daughter, after consulting the doctor, is diagnosed with the same disease. During the movie, she's struggling to keep the connection with her past-self and still enjoying the beautiful times that life has to offer. Despite the progression of the illness, Alice got to rediscover her true-self.

I strongly recommend "Still Alice" for anyone who appreciates a good quality movie.

The Breakfast Club

by Ioana Trifoi, 11E



The Breakfast Club, written and directed by John Hughes is undoubtedly, a cultural touchstone of the 80's, offering a portrait of the pain and misunderstanding which results from demeaning social hierarchies set up by teenagers. From the beginning to the epic ending, the entire story line has a smooth flow that tells the story of five different characters coming together. It's a story about communication gaps, teen isolation and the

angst that everyone experiences during the years that function as a transition from the freedom of adolescence to the responsibilities of adulthood.

The action takes place in a high school library on a Saturday, where 5 students, from different social backgrounds, who wouldn't otherwise be caught together, attend a special version of detention for each of their indiscretions: all day long, from 8 to 5. The kids have nothing in common, and they have an aggressive desire not to have any similarities, as we see from the beginning, where they are introduced as the stereotypes that each student considers the other: Claire, the popular, competitive beauty queen; Andrew, the, eager-to-please jock; John, the wrong-side-of-the-track tough kid; Brian, the academic overachiever; and Allison, the spaced-out basket case. Another stereotype which we are introduced to, is the mean, overbearing teacher, Mr. Vernon who is in charge of Saturday detention. While in detention, Mr. Vernon gives them a simple assignment in which they have to write a minimum one thousand word essay about who they think they are.

The main theme of the film is the constant struggle of the American student to be understood. It explores the pressure put on teenagers to fit into their own realms of high school social constructs, as well as the lofty expectations of their parents, teachers and other authority figures. On the outside, the five may seem like clichéd stereotypes, yet as the film progresses, their confessions as to why they are in detention reveal a greater depth

to their personalities. It comes as no surprise that none of them communicates well with their parents, all are under tremendous pressure from their peers, and each is beset by angst about the future. These observations are predictable and quite obvious, yet few films before or after have dealt with these issues as intelligently as *The Breakfast Club*. What makes the film unique is that each character tells his or her own story with credibility and persistence, even though there were parts where they improvised, without a script.

The script and direction are very well managed, with John Hughes tapping into the teenage mentality perfectly. What's odd is how timeless the film is, with little having changed in school character-types over so many years. I'm convinced that one of the reasons is that those issues remain the same. Human beings are brimming with complexities and sometimes teenagers and adults need that reminder that our issues are the same, that we're far more than what we might look like or present ourselves as.

The acting is also powerful, with Judd Nelson and Anthony Michael Hall giving especially strong performances. The film's focus on teenagers also gives a message about the problems of adults, such as Mr Vernon, written as the antagonistic vice- principal.

The soundtrack of the movie is called „Don't you (Forget about me)” by Simple Minds. Two of the most prominent lyrics from the song are „Don't you forget about me” and „as you walk on by will you call my name?”. These lyrics refer to the world outside detention, where there is a question about the future and whether or not the friendships formed in detention will last or be broken by the social groups within the high school. This issue is handled in a very realistic manner, the students are aware of the fact that when Monday comes things will go back to the way they were, and they are not going to end up being friends.

"The Breakfast Club" presents no-doubt stereotypical characters, and every member represents countless real-life examples. But what makes it so enjoyable is that it applies a variety of themes to its context: discrimination, tolerance, diversity, status differences, family matters etc. It also encourages us to look at others and ourselves beyond surface-level appearances. It reminds us that there truly is diversity in all of us. We are different, but we are all "the same" in one way or another.

The Hobbit

by Andrada Müller, 9D



One of the most interesting films I have ever seen is "The Hobbit". It is actually a film series, consisting of three films, each one having suggestive names: "An Unexpected Journey", "The Desolation of Smaug" and "The Battle of the Five Armies".

It is based on the best-seller book, written by

J.R.R. Tolkien. The film tells the story of the hobbit-Bilbo Baggins and his friends, thirteen Dwarves and the wizard Gandalf. They are trying to reclaim the Lonely Mountain- the long-lost home of the Dwarves- from the fierce dragon Smaug. Beside these characters, creatures like Azog, Bolg, Gollum and elves have a major contribution in these films.

This movie is set in the fictional world of Middle-Earth. The breath-taking landscapes, the mysterious forests and undiscovered mountains, as well as the dangerous adventures, full of battles and attempts, are the main reasons to watch these films. Also, the special effects are impressive.

I would recommend this film to anyone who loves adventure, fantasy, suspense and magical creatures. This movie kept me on the edge of my seat until the end. If you want to travel in an out-of-the-ordinary world, you should definitely go, grab some popcorn and watch "The Hobbit".

The Polar Express

by Andrei Iosif, 11D



The Polar Express is a computer animated musical fantasy film based on the 1985 children's book of the same title by Chris Van Allsburg. Starring Daryl Sabara, Nona Gaye, Jimmy Bennett, Eddie Deezen

and Tom Hanks (in six distinct roles), the film follows the story of a doubting boy who boards a magical train along with other children, on a journey to the North Pole and Santa's home. The film was written, produced and directed by Robert Zemeckis, using a live action performance capture of the real actors to create the animated characters.

The story begins on Christmas Eve with a young boy lying awake, awaiting to hear Santa's sleigh bells, despite the fact that he has reached an age when he begins to have doubts about believing in Santa. Soon, he distinguishes the sound of a train and rushes outside as the train stops in front of his house. The train conductor invites him on a journey to the North Pole, to meet Santa. Because this film is aimed at a children audience, the plot can be found entirely predictable and very simplistic by adults, as most of the story revolves around the eponymous Polar Express and the thrilling adventures on its journey north.

Aboard the Express, the boy meets the rest of the main characters: an African American girl, the know-it-all kid and a lonely boy who was the last boarding the train. There are also

a lot more children on the train, but they feel mostly like background elements. I found the main characters incredibly shallow, as they feel completely lifeless and neither of them keep you interested in the story. The flying ticket scenes could have been avoided if the boy would have simply waited for the girl to return. The lonely boy causing the train wagon to detach and roll downhill was another cheap method to stretch the very short story. The film's plot twist was partly spoiled by the lonely man living on the top the train; he certainly added a small degree of mystery to the film as a whole. The ending is primarily targeted at the mature audience who can no longer "hear the bell" and need someone in their lives to help them recapture the magic of Christmas.

The film compensates for the unconvincing characters and slow moving plot with visually stunning effects that look good even by today's standards. From the snow filled landscapes and mountains to the North Pole industrial-like city, the film manages to capture the magic of Christmas. The voice acting feels completely natural, Tom Hanks delivering a spectacular voice acting as the train conductor. The music also contributes to the Christmas general feeling, although I'm not really a fan of the songs such as "Hot Chocolate".

In conclusion, is this film worth watching? For me it was the kind of film I watch once and never touch again. If you enjoy an animated feature with great art direction, short and predictable plot and a small moral message at the end, you should probably give it a try. If not, watch it anyways. At least, it gets you in a Christmas mood.

Now You See Me

by Blanka Zicher, 12D

Louis Laterrier's film "Now you see me" is funny, deliberately silly and sprinkled with visual confetti. Released on May 31, 2013, the film stars Jesse Eisenberg, Mark Ruffalo, Isla Fisher, Dave Franco and Morgan Freeman.



"Now you see me" presents a game of cat and mouse between an FBI squad and "The Four Horsemen", a super-team of the world's greatest illusionists. They shock the audience with a pair of amazing magic shows that drain the bank account of the corrupt and funnel the money to audience members. A federal agent and an Interpol detective turn to Thaddeus, a famous debunker, for help.

There are a lot of breath-taking moments during the film, it's fascinating how curious they can make you. The lighting and sound are exceptional, they intensify the whole situation. The waiting for the debunking is almost nerve-wrecking.

The film is an effects-heavy production that takes you on a magical, mysterious ride. It is almost unrealistic how the Four Horsemen are always a few steps before the detectives.

Zohra's Chronicle

by Karla Venczel, 9A

For a horror movies fan like me, the movie Zohra was interesting enough to get my attention.

The plot focuses on Zohra, a young girl from Pakistan who moved to the UK, seeking for "a better life at her Majesty's invitation". At home, she was pampered by her older brother, Bhaijaan, and her younger brother, Chotabhai, living with their original traditions, but once she had contact with Dave, a grocery store owner, she was shocked by the contrast between Pakistan and Britain's cultures.



The movie was directed and written by a London Film School student called Kemal Akhtan who together with a talented cast: Fagun Thakrar as Zohra, Rez Kabir as the older brother Bhaijaan, Shawn Kan as the younger brother Chotabhai and David Brooks as Dave the grocer, revived his mother's life story.

Personally, I have never seen a film like this. Being filmed in black and white, the movie gave me the feeling that I was living Zohra's past. The actors also contributed to the vintage feeling for even though the movie was made many years after the action happened, they still succeeded in making everything look smooth and natural.

I recommend this film to all people who moved to foreign countries that they knew close to nothing about so they can see there are many others in the same situation and relate to them. I'm rating this movie with three stars because the plot was a bit cliché and there were some parts that, I believe, needed to be insisted more on. But given the fact that they weren't professional actors and that Zohra's scream was horror movie worthy, I might change my mind and rate it with four stars.

Diamond Poems

by 5th A students

A friend
Intelligent, loyal
Helping, listening, loving
A dog, a cat, a bunny, a parrot
Running, jumping, playing
Friendly, happy
A pet.

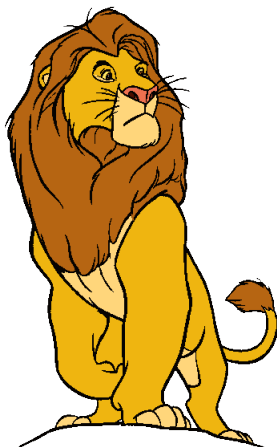
Carla Ghiran

Actors
Famous, Rich
Playing, Crying, Running
Perfection, Scene, Voice, Happiness
Filming, Suffering, Singing
Graceful, Beautiful
Actresses.

Teodora Nodiș

Animals
Funny, cuddly
Playing, running, sleeping
Fur, claws, fangs, tail
Eating, pouncing, hiding
Hungry, scary
Monsters.

Alexia Bărbăian



Lion
Strong, dangerous
Running, eating,
Tiger, leopard, puma, panda
Killing, sneaking, following
Big, fast
Animals.

Mara Tarța

Dog
Friendly, smart
Running, eating, being trustworthy
Bones, collar, leash, trust
Barking, wailing, scaring enemies
Wise, cautious
Friendship.

Traian Rareș Tuș



Dogs
Cute, happy
Playing, sleeping, eating
Pugs, Boxers, Anstaff, Bulldog
Barking, biting, running
Playful, beautiful
Animals

Marc Biriș

Dog
Hungry, friendly
Bark, run, play
Bulldog, Pit-bull, Boxer, Terrier
Smell, eat, catch
Reliable, athletic
Animal.

Șerban Fechete

Dogs
Beautiful, cute
Running, eating, barking
Fur, collar, teeth, cage
Sniffing, growling, howling
Playful, furry
Pet.

Andrei Tătaru



Minions
Happy, Weird
Creating, Breaking, Playing
Gru, Bob, Kevin Stuart
Repairing, Discovering, Meeting
Nice, Funny
Friends.

Eric Lepedus

Nature
Beautiful, clean
Protecting, saving, impressing
Trees, animals, rivers, mountains
Hosting, fascinating, changing
Awesome, perfect
Earth.

Dacian Paşcu

Paradise
Nice, funny
Jumping, swimming, staying
People, water, sand, motels
Walking, talking, relaxing
Green, large
Park.

Erik Claudiu Ţol

Pets
Cute, playful
Sleeping, playing, relaxing
Dog, cat, fish, parrot
Singing, dancing, purring
Beautiful, wonderful
Creatures.

Alexandra Cardoso

School
Big, Interesting
Learn, Play, Read,
Books, Notebooks, Pencil, Ruler
Go, Write, Teach
Happy, Funny
Teachers.



Alex Balint

School
Great, interesting
Learning, writing, listening
Teachers, pupils, books, notebooks
Memorising, calculating, reading
Beautiful, wonderful
Moments.

Andreea Ianoş

School
Boring, awful,
Write, listen, read
Teacher, students, lessons, break
Wait, dream, plan
Amazing, spectacular
Holiday.

Darius Puşcaş

School
Interesting, boring
Learning, listening, writing
Teachers, games, lessons, free time
Playing, sleeping, watching
Wonder, great
Home.

Mihai Santai

Boy
Handsome, Careless
Sing, Laugh, Study
School, Homework, English, Laptop
Dance, Help, Dream Creative,
Loving, Sensitive
Girl.

Alexia Coralie Bele

Spring
Beautiful, warm
Melting, waking up, cheering
Flowers, butterflies, sun, animals
Blooming, shining, coming
Expected, happy
Season.

Oana Maria Costin



Spring
Sunny, smiley
Dancing, playing, raining
Umbrella, sky, tree, flower
Running, laughing, singing
Happy, beautiful
Light.

Ruxandra Ghețe



Summer
Hot, sunny
Tanning, visiting, sweating
Icecream, popstickles, vacation, family
Sweltering, running, swimming
Colourful, joyful
Season.

Mihai Șpan



Life is a Great Adventure

by Dragoş Chiş, 12A

Life is a great adventure, a journey of discovery made up of moments that fall unexpectedly onto our path and slowly land in the hourglass of time. Another popular opinion is that life is a game, a challenge to surpass those greater than us. However, I believe this to be wrong as there is no competition, no points earned based on achievements or rush to complete it. Enjoying the moment, that is what is truly valuable.

First of all, we can't compare the value of the moments we have lived through. Some might say living life to the fullest means taking chances, doing crazy things or just being carefree. However, even just being here, the fact that we live, feel, move, think that we are a part of this world might be enough.

On the other hand, it's time we learned more about what it means to be grateful. Every day there are people dying of hunger, countries that live in poverty and we should realise that even being alive is a blessing. Life is made up of the smiles of our close ones, the sun shining on our face, the feelings that come to us when we least expect them.

Additionally, the world is populated by all kinds of different people. We each have different goals or aspirations, but we would rather do it our own way. We are forced sometimes to follow rules imposed by society to fit in rather than be ourselves. As if that weren't hard enough to deal with what we want, we have to please others as well: Should we though? Must we hinder our desires for the sake of acceptance or should we just live life in our own way?

If we just took a moment to look around us, we would realise how good our lives are. Nowadays, life is taken for granted by those who can't figure out what is truly important. We must live life to the fullest and that means being ourselves, finding happiness in every moment.

Tehnology
-our best friend-

Cristian Tiut, 5A

When I think about technology,
I think about my room.
I like my new P.C.
Except at night when
It comes to life, and then
It begins to sing
And sings my songs
Until 3^{am}.

When I think about technology,
I think about my life...
This is the future!
We must all be prepared!
Technology is everyone's friend,
At school and at home
It is everywhere
We go.

What My Old Self Wrote While Loving Someone Hopelessly

by Adria Papuc, 10F

At first I regretted it.

How you pursued to touch me and my heart in so many ways. First, it was such an innocent feeling. I don't even know how I managed to accept it at that time, but things grew in a beautiful way. Being around you brought me so much happiness. Even being your friend was enough to brighten my day. We started to get closer to each other. Remember the times when we had those deep conversations and shared a lot of music and laughed with all our hearts? For me, it was the best part.

Even though something inside me has changed, I continued to play my role, as I always do. Nothing could go wrong... Until I found myself thinking about something new in the middle of the night. And thought about it even the next day. So I questioned myself: Why? How? What's this?

It was a mystery at that time. Again, it was a journey for me, one which implied its ups and downs. But, do you know why I continued it? Because the positive sides made me feel like never before, it was addictive and it forced me to ignore the moments when everything was falling apart. Eventually I become aware of the situation, but the insecure side was already in control of me. "Grow up! Stop dreaming!" it said. So I did. With every day, I kept growing



up to get to know myself. All my insecurities, dark thoughts, feelings. But I have never ever let it all go. Something kept me there. That harm thing.

Your simple presence was some kind of blessing for me. The way we talked about everything and nothing seemed to tear us and our friendship apart. But you had been hiding things and I was too busy improving myself in order to make you happier than ever. Oh, how sad it is to look upon a clouded sky and see nothing but clouds. As if the mind neglects the ability to see something more.

I am convinced that different people bring out different sides of you. You gave me the guilty pleasure in constantly hurting myself with keeping you in my mind during my darkest days, because all I did was think about the feelings I had been hiding all the time.

But there has been something wrong all the time, and I didn't even try to acknowledge it. Until it started to hurt me. Badly. I've watched too many movies and read too many books to settle for mediocre love. Someone once said why hurricanes are named after people and out of the sudden I realized I had to deal with the aftermath of such a dynamic but natural disaster. You know the times when I was too sarcastic or too damaged to continue a normal conversation? It seemed like I had no reason, but a conflict was gaining more and more impact inside my head. It's a bad religion to be in love with someone who could never love you. Every time we had a fight, it was like I was talking to myself, not with you. That's why I was always the one who said "sorry" afterwards. Sorry for making you feel like crap, sorry for being present at these kind of personal things. I always realized what I have done, but it was too late. I am a sensitive person and you know it. And these little things broke our bond. I guess it was my fault. I'm sorry, again.

How long does it take the human brain to realize something is gone forever? Because you never think that the last time is the last time. You think there will be more. You think you have forever, but you don't. Now I'm passing by the old spots, even our sacred place and I break inside for a couple minutes. I've never done anything as easy as falling in love with you; it was the falling out of love that tore me apart. But do you know what I was left with? The love that grew inside of me. Now I wonder how I would have ended up if you hadn't walked into my life.



Drowning in Thin Air

And I was an actor,
On my life's scene.
I was playing a role,
Different from the others.
I was a woman trying to figure life out,
I was a fighter without a weapon,
So old, but still trembling like a child,
A runner without a finish line.
I start to get lost in my own thoughts
But my faith isn't here to be my pillar
My wings are wet and pulling me down
My heart is burning in my chest
I'm beginning to dream...
But those dreams aren't mine
I am trying to wake up
But my eyelids stay still
This body doesn't feel mine
My words are foreign to me
This isn't the place where I grew up
This isn't the life I used to live
This isn't me...
And the curtains fall,
And I'm asleep again.

In Search of Myself

As I sat on my bed, the curtains were
shimmering white
And the morning was rushing in.
The light shone through
And rested on my eyelids,
Making them glow from within,
Like weathered seashells on a beach.
My youth was shining through
Flooding the shores of my mind...
Awaking me from my slumber.
I have yet to feel joy,
I have yet to feel sorrow,
I have yet to know love.
I need to get set like pearls in seashells,
To become strong,
To become weathered,
To become old.
And when I am old, and worn, and tired,
I'll know that I'll have lived, and suffered,
and loved.
The spring is shining through.

by Maria Velescu, 11E



Graduates' Corner

Daiana Rînja, graduated in 2012, currently studying Architecture at the Technical University of Berlin

The only thing you can never really escape from is studying.

First you will learn some things about you without your consent, let's say your "starter pack", including your gender, race, nationality, which I believe should only be an issue while filling out a Visa application.

After that, you are mostly free to choose what to learn and how to do it. Şincai was for me a really cool place to do that. My high school experience was somewhat a cliché: have a ball, make friends, study medium/hard, go out, fall in love, go to prom, the end. Yet I managed to breathe between these and go through it step by step.

I don't think it's just graduation goggles when I say it was magical. There are some major things I learned that still affect my mind-set to this day, one of my favourite being that you can literally learn something from scratch through passion. There are also some major things I didn't learn that still affect me to this day, like Physics :)

All in all, my Şincai experience helped me to make baby steps using my "starter pack", allowing me to love it and not be limited by it in any way.

All the best,
Daiana Rînja



Alexandra Pop, former 12H, graduated in 2012. Currently studying for a MSc in Social Science Research (Sociology) Methods at the University of Bristol, England.

Dear colleagues,

First of all, I'm honoured to have been approached to write an article for Șincai students to read. While at Șincai, my teachers have helped me develop my knowledge to a great extent, moreover, during this time I have met people who are still some of my closest friends, thus, Șincai will always hold a special place in my heart. I hope the article will help you get a sense of what University has to offer, and the steps you have to take in order to get the most out of this experience.

If you enjoy a module in particular, make the most out of it. In 2012 I started my undergraduate degree at the University of Essex, studying Criminology with Social Psychology. The reason I have chosen this degree was because I fell in love with the discipline of psychology in the 10th grade. Later on, with the guidance of my teacher, Mr. Mugur Voloș, I qualified for the psychology national competition which gave me the opportunity to further develop my knowledge of psychology. This was a great advantage for me in University due to the fact that I already understood the main psychological concepts and all I had to do was to build on my knowledge. Thus, if you are passionate about a particular module you are studying and you are thinking of continuing on that path, I advise you to make the most out of it, do extra reading in your free time, ask your teacher for advice on how to improve your understanding of the module as it will help you to a great extent at University. At the same time, your knowledge will make you stand out from the crowd.

Extra curriculum activities are a great way to try new things, develop skills and meet new people. While at Șincai I was a volunteer at 'Fundatia Sacro Cuore', a charity that offers children from poor background an after-school program where they can do their homework and develop their creativity and have a warm meal. Volunteers are important as they support the staff run activities for children which is a joy as the children are happy to learn and get to know the volunteers. Moreover, the charity offers volunteers the opportunity to understand themselves better. By going on summer camps volunteers meditate, get to know other people, and disconnect from the stress of everyday life.

During the years I have volunteered for this charity I have learned to be more open minded about others, learnt to be patient especially around children, and overall had a great time! I remember one of the things I loved the most during the summer camp was to sing outside



Teenglish Year 4 Issue 4 June 2016

by the fire with other volunteers and watch the stars. I encourage each and every one of you to volunteer for a cause, and I know in Baia Mare there are several charities that people can get involved in, so give it a try! Giving an hour or two a week from your time makes a big difference for those who are less fortunate and in the process you will make friends and feel proud of yourself!

Have fun, spend time with your friends, be proactive! When I was in high school, I spent an extended time preparing for my classes and studying in order to achieve high marks, but I would easily forget to take a break, relax and spend more time doing the things I like. Studying is important but what I want to encourage you to do is organise your time so that you can enjoy yourself while in high school because, believe it or not, now you have the time to do the things you have always wanted to do. If I could go back in time I would want to attend a drawing class as I was always passionate about art and drawing. Also, I would attend the afternoon aerobics class at Șincai, a class that for a year I kept saying I would go, but always found a last minute excuse for not going. Moreover, I would spend more time with my classmates and the people I knew from high school because they are the ones who even today are my best friends and whenever I go back home they are the people I enjoy catching up with!

I hope these tips will come in handy to you, and I am sure whatever you decide to do after high school, you will be fine because Șincai students are amazingly smart and hardworking people!

Warm regards,
Alexandra Pop

The background is a vibrant teal color, heavily textured with white splatters and dots of varying sizes, creating a dynamic, almost cosmic or abstract effect. Faint, dark outlines of traditional East Asian architecture, including a multi-tiered pavilion and a long, low structure, are visible in the lower right quadrant, partially obscured by the white splatters.

ISSN 2343 - 9963 ISSN-L 2343 - 9963