

The English Pages No.1

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Writing special!



Source of the photo: Internet

Hello everybody! Half-term is a harvest time for us – language teachers. It is the time when we can pick up fruits: we expect you to show your writing skills either in essays, stories or magazine articles.

*I am very glad that my colleagues, i.e. your language teachers Ms.Siklenková, Ms.Rakovská, Ms.Holecová and Ms.Jančová provided *The English Pages* with your writings. And they are really worth of reading. By the way, very special thanks go to their authors!*

Have a nice February.

Marianna Vavrová

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Down the river

(Story)

By Lucia Kubalová, I.B

“Oh wow!” I thought to myself as soon as I opened my eyes in the morning. Even if the leaves on the trees were shattering to the rhythm of the wind, I decided to do something I’d never done before – to row a boat.

At first, when I set sail, everything was going fine but it was quite boring because nothing was really happening. When I let the boat go with the flow, I took a look at what was going on around. I was totally shocked when I suddenly spot a huge jungle on my right. I had to pinch myself to make sure I am not day dreaming and from all the excitement, I accidentally hit myself with a paddle.

When I got off the boat, I stepped onto a heaven – like surface. Yes, it was just some sand but not the type humans know. It was smooth as a baby bum and whiter than a very first snow in Alaska. Later on, I took my clothes off and stared at the horizon for a while. The sun was in a 90° angle so it was time for lunch. I was very hungry but luckily, I brought a pack lunch my hotel had given me as a part of my package holiday.

“Noo!” I cried! A huge alligator ate all my food. I do not know if I was more angry or scared. Either way, my instincts told me to run, so I did. I climbed the nearest tree and stayed up there until the alligator was nowhere in sight. I was still starving and to my surprise, I found some exotic fruit up in the crown. I was reaching for it when a huge snake attacked me. My hands were extremely sweaty and I slipped off the tree. And as if it was not enough, an enormous lion was chasing me. I was literally out of breath and I wanted to give up but in the last seconds I got to my canoe, jumped in and rowed faster than a cheetah runs.

I peacefully and happily escaped the 'humans are forbidden zone'. I will never ever go on a holiday with this travel agency again!

Little green men (Story)

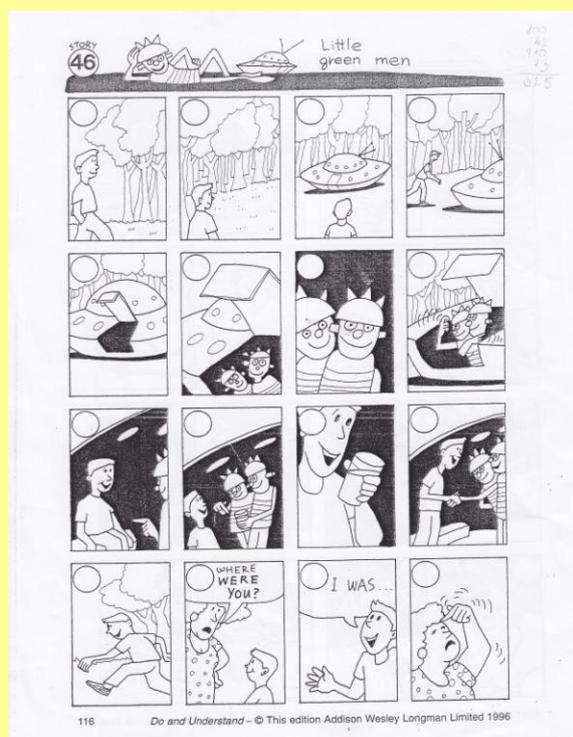
By Marko Čepec, I.B

It was a lovely day when John decided to take a walk in the nearby wood. "The sun is shining – perfect weather for a walk!" thought John to himself. As he wandered around the forest, he ran into something he hadn't seen before.

It was a plate-like vessel, maybe an alien ship! Since then he hadn't believed in such stories. But could all the people that society called a bunch of mentally ill individuals, be telling the truth about what they had seen? John couldn't say a word and he just starred at the alien ship for a couple of minutes before he realized, that a couple of small, green and rather simple-minded men were looking at him. They smiled at John and gestured to him, trying to convince John to come closer. John manned up and stepped a little closer to the spaceship. He could see that these men not only meant no harm, but they acted friendlier than anybody who he had ever met before.

As he entered the spaceship, his jaw dropped open. It seemed rather small from the outside, but inside, the ship was massive. They seated him on a very strange looking bench without saying a single word. The green men offered him a glass of a pulsing liquid. John hesitated and refused at first. "What is it?" he asked. No matter how he tried to refuse politely, he didn't manage to persuade them and accepted the drink. "Maybe this whole thing is just a dream!" John thought to himself. He drank the entire glass. He immediately felt different. It was energizing and calming at the same time. Suddenly, the little men started gesturing at the device that looked like a clock. It looked as if they were in a hurry so he thanked the men and walked outside of the spaceship. As he turned around, he heard a loud noise, but the ship was no longer there.

As he walked back, he met his mother. "Where were you?" she asked angrily. John tried to explain what had happened but neither she believed he was telling the truth, nor did she believe him he hadn't made it up just to make fun her. She became furious and grounded John for his disrespect.



My Dream Residence

(Magazine article)

By Ivana Geletová, VII.D

Have you ever thought about your dream residence? I would say that especially most of young people has stopped for a while and imagined their dream house ideally placed for living. Everybody has their own flight of imagination so let's move on!

Personally I'm a kind of a person who is always looking for new opportunities and possibilities where to spend lifetime, explore fascinating places or be a part of a really attractive and astonishing surrounding. It means that affluent, bustling and cosmopolitan city appeals to me. According to my imaginations I'd like to live in a crowded city full of shopping malls, wide-ranging history and diverse cultural melting point must be included.

My dream residence should be briefly inhabited by people full of life and energy who take care of their country and are really into having the best residence for their lifestyle. Undoubtedly, I'd like to spend my life in a place with lively night life, spectacular buildings which boast of an extraordinary dramatic scenery and pretty ground-breaking and overwhelming flora and fauna.

Let's not forget to describe my dream residence! As everybody, I have also a few design criteria for my residence. Most suitable for me would be living in a mind-blowing pretty large house surrounded by gorgeous garden with flowers and vegetable. I would spend there most of my spare time with my lovely family and friends. That bungalow should have amazing picturesque texture and also modern roof designed by the most thriving and successful architects. Does it seem that I am pretty demanding? I must admit that I am but when you have dreams they always offer you a wide spectrum of imaginations you might choose to follow.

I can't forget to describe interior of residence. As I mentioned, my dream house should be a large one with stairs, wide open spaces, modern technology like 3D cinema and especially trendy furniture like rooms furnished in huge shops. I would also sort just a little space for redundant possessions or that kind of stuff which made me a little hoarder because of objects I amass boast of an emotional currency.

What would I do to make my dream residence come true? I can easily say that continue dreaming. However, in fact I would attempt to do everything for ideal living maybe not just right the residence I've described but to seek a well-paid job, achieve goals in my life and try to build up a comfortable living.

My Dream Residence

(Magazine article)

By Zuzana Košútová, III.B

Have you ever dreamed of better living? Could you imagine spending your life in a different country, wherever you want? When this question comes to me, loads of cities come to my mind. But the most interesting and special for me is... Let me introduce this place to you.

My dream residence would definitely be in Australia. This is the country well-known for its beauty and breathtaking open spaces. Moreover, I consider the coast and views on it as the most beautiful in the whole world. I would say that my residence would be built on one of these coasts, so I can watch the sun rising while having breakfast. It would be so romantic, don't you think?

My house would be situated on an empty open space with no human around, where I could completely calm down. The building would be an average sized house with two floors. I would have a small backyard behind the house.

The design of my future house would be specific and it would illustrate my personality. It would be something between artistic, vintage and contemporary style. As I said – very specific! I would have some pictures painted and some sculptures done. With these items I would realize my visions of originality.

As I mentioned, the styles would be: artistic, vintage and contemporary. The furniture would be made and chosen in the same styles. For instance, there would be only white colored wooden furniture to represent vintage. Even though the furniture would be in one style, the carpet in a living room would be an organic carpet made from dry grass which would be the top piece of one environmental oriented artist. Do you see my point now? I want to make a mixture of styles which will be harmonic so that it will impress people but on the other hand it will make them feel comfortable and relaxed.

What should I add in the end? This would really be my dream residence and I hope that you like it as much as I do. However, the main question is: Will I be able to make it happen? I don't know yet but bear in your mind that dreaming is the first and most essential step to make your dreams come true.

My Dream Residence

(Magazine article)

By Šimon JAKUB, VII.D

Residence is a place where family meets, where you enjoy comfortable times and feel the warmth of home. Spirit of home offers the same kind of love all people need but is individual and original.

My place of living would be in Barcelona, Spain. This cosmopolitan city offers wide range of options and possibilities to fulfil your free time. Furthermore, exquisite scenery and breathtaking natural views are next aspects which make this area interesting and family relationships developing.

A villa set up in Italian style with large pool and forest nearby would be my favourite choice. Situated on the top of the hill, full of wide open spaces is really my scene because family needs a lot of area for living and enjoying life together.

Whole object would be designed in white colour because the sun in Spain is really sharp and a house in other paint could be overheated. The building would have a large cellar used as a gym and bowling playground, one casual floor for general living and terrace where I would sunbathe and experience the light wind passing my body and picturesque nature in front of me.

The entire interior of my villa would be made of strong and hard wood and offer the practical and aesthetic affects to develop the familiar atmosphere. Decorated with natural ornaments in secession style would support not so interesting white colour of the residence.

To make this dream come true I should study really hard, get well-paid job to afford such a thing as this villa is or maybe just win a lottery and become well-off man when my villa would be just my summer dwelling where I would spend holidays and pension.

My dream residence

(Magazine article)

By Michaela Rebová, III.B

Everybody of us has got dreams which one day can come true. We usually dream about our husband, children, work and many other things. But have you ever thought about your dream residence, which will be a part of your life, the place where you will go after work, spend there an important occasion with your family and every day feel the atmosphere of your own house? If not, so please try and you can also receive some inspiration from this article.

For me a house means a place where you can share feelings with the other members of your family and also you feel love every day. So my dream residence should be situated somewhere near a big city, not in the middle because nowadays cities are utterly crowded and very busy and it might have got bad influence on my children. I hope that I will have got a rich husband so my house will be absolutely overwhelming, definitely it won't be a shabby and crumbling house but it might be refurbished. When you open the main door, you will see an enormous hall which will be orange and white and it will symbolize the warmth of the house and the photo of my family will be on the wall. Then you will see stairs which we need for second floor. In this floor we can find five bedrooms with balcony and three bathrooms. I like cooking, so I believe that a kitchen which will be situated on the first floor will be totally awesome for everybody who will visit it. Next to the kitchen there will be dining and living rooms which will be joined together. It will be the place for relaxing and for special moments with my family. The furniture in the house will be very modern, for example made from glass or wood and definitely everything will be luxury. And I can't forget about the place in front of my house. There will be a swimming pool, playground, fireplace and maybe small garden with vegetable and fruit.

I hope that you like my article about my dream house and that you will get some inspiration from it. And finally I have got some advice for people who have never dreamed about something, so please dream although it might not happen!

Online relationships

(Essay for and against)

by Zuzana Šurdová, III.A

Almost every young individual has a social network site account. We have a lot of them: Facebook, Twitter, Google+, or Tumblr. What are the advantages and disadvantages of using the social network sites? And can we really trust people we have met there if we do not know who they really are? Let's find it out!

Firstly, a huge advantage of using social networks is: we can stay in touch with our family, friends and acquaintances that are not with us at the moment. We can also meet new people and find new friends. But we can meet bad people as well. Some people are not the same over the internet as they are in person.

Secondly, a disadvantage can be if somebody steals your identity or you can be cyber-bullied. In some cases, people who are bullied end up killing themselves. They just cannot take it anymore.

Thirdly, if you fall in love with somebody over the internet, you can be really surprised when you meet him or her in the real life. They can be wholly different in a bad way. Or even worse - you can be raped or beaten up.

Well, as you can see, not everybody is good. I know you hear it from your parents, teachers or TV. But this is not just a threat. It is real! And if you are really spending too much time on the internet, just try to devote a few minutes and read some stories of the people who were lied to.

Online relationships

(Essay for and against)

by Miroslav Čulík, III.A

Have you ever been in relationship with a person who you have never seen in real? Many people were in such a situation. Almost everybody on the Earth has got a computer. More and more people use computers for many different things. One of those things is fun, especially chatting online.

Many people think that online relationships are similar to true love. I cannot agree with this statement because in my opinion, two people cannot be connected only by the computer. They might be together because it is very difficult to keep a distant relationship.

On the other hand, there are a lot of advantages. I reckon that chatting online is not anything wrong. It is probably because many people (not only two) can be together at the same time without leaving their homes. They can talk about everything and how long they want. Secondly, people who chat do not see one another, so they cannot judge the other ones by the colour of their skin, religion, blame them for what they wear, but only for their opinions and thoughts.

To summarize everything, I assume that online chatting is a good opportunity to find new friends. Although I do not believe that online relationships last for a very long time because I cannot imagine that. However, I am convinced that people in the future will find a better way to have relationship otherwise than through social networks.

Sport should be an inevitable part of a child's and adolescent's life.

(Opinion essay)

By Hana Švecová, IV.A

There is no doubt that sport is an inevitable part of our lives. Especially children's lives, however, it is very uncultivated. There are numerous benefits of sports for the youth, such as keeping children fit, instilling healthy habits and keeping children busy and away from bad influences all around.

Nowadays, teenagers are likely to be found rather behind a screen than outside doing any of outdoor activities. Children staying glued to the screen in front of cartoons and computer games, so simply to say, raised to be uneducated.

Currently, one of the biggest civilization diseases is obesity, what is most likely caused by the absence of sports. People would rather be on a diet than go out to exercise, mostly because they cannot see immediate results.

While it is obvious that sports help keep children fit, the research has also shown health benefits associated with playing sports, such as disease prevention.

What is more, the current statistics show sport is important for child's social connections since an early age. Thanks to exercise, children can lose stress and increase the flow of endorphins and cheer up.

However, we can clearly see all the advantages of sports, there are still a few of us thinking that exercising is not good at all.

Firstly, a very tiny group of people shares the idea that sports could endanger child's study results and neglect studies.

Secondly, there are still opinions that sports could harm child's bodies and lead to broken legs, arms or breathing problems. Otherwise, there exists a study showing results of a non-smoking sporting youth.

To sum up, there are many pros of exercising and a very few cons of it. There is still a way to improve and never too late to start doing sports, motivate children and correct their lifestyle, which could improve many aspects of a child's life.

Sport should be an inevitable part of a child's and adolescent's life.

(Opinion essay)

By Daša Fiřková, IV.A

Recently, young generation spends more time in front of the computer, TV or mobile phone than they spend exercising. It seems that today's teenagers could be called "screenagers".

One of the main arguments for is that sport helps children be fit and well-built. That means a big benefit for a child's health. For example, it strengthens heart and lungs. There is no doubt that the youngsters who practice sports regularly, stay away from obesity problems.

In addition to this, for every child it is very important to spend time with friends outside the school. Playing sports is a great opportunity for this. What is more, it is the way how a child learns that he or she does not work alone but is a part of a team which must work cooperatively to achieve a goal.

On the other hand, some people assume that children will spend too much time exercising and they will ignore homework. But it would be a great mistake if people thought that children must devote nearly all their time to sports – they do not have to exercise five hours every day. They still should have the opportunity to be good students or to discover other passions.

The obvious conclusion to be drawn is that sport is the activity that not only can form a perfect body but it can also organize the thoughts and clear the mind. Sport is a good tool to oneself's development. It is very important to start caring about physical health and doing exercise in the early childhood.

In the past society respected older people far more than it does today

(Opinion essay)

By Adam Kováč, VIII.D

Growing old is a part of life. Some say it is the best part, while others state the opposite. Nevertheless, one thing is clear – it is connected with knowledge, experience and special responsibilities which involve respect for the elderly. Not only from me, but society as a whole. While others would deny it, I strongly support the opinion that old people today are respected just as much as they were in the past.

First and foremost, I would like to say that in our modern world old people play a big role. This was not always the truth in the past when they were left solely because of their age. The fact that the knowledge and experience of old people acquired throughout their life make them able to fit into modern society despite their age, is a very good reason for society to take note mainly of their age group.

Moreover, lack of respect for old people which exist in modern society comes mainly from the youth. People tend to overlook that the past suffered from the same problem. That proves that the situation around the elderly changed only mildly over time, if at all.

However, it is also true that the youngest generations have a tendency to be more impolite, undisciplined and arrogant than the ones before them. This leads to lack of respect and admiration for the world with elders, obviously included.

To sum up, I would like to highlight the fact that the past is idolized by people from time to time. This makes comparison to the present unfair considering that in some regards they are basically the same. Especially in the matter of respect towards the elderly.

Food

(Magazine article)

By Peter Kramár, III.B

First and foremost, it is vital to point out that food opens the window of opportunity. If you are a foreigner and want to get to the bottom of the mentality of the locals, it of the utmost importance to start from base one which is food.

Generally speaking, if you were ever interested to rub shoulders or blend into my community, even before any dialogue takes place, first, you eat. It is so important that many turn a blind eye to its significance, which is a big mistake.

Food in my region plays a very important part in the daily lives of the people I know. It is embodies fertility, wealth, vitality and good health. Moreover, it is a token of friendship and coexistence once an individual reaps the success of his work and is about to dig into his meal, as he allows others to take part in this act it is a token of peace and friendship.

Be that as it may, there are many sorts of foods one can indulge in. The locals here can prepare countless delicious, indulging, watery, chewy all kinds dishes, just name it. These dishes obviously are noticeably distinguishable from other ones, having their originality woven into the very fabric of their nature.

However, different dishes are consumed on different occasions. Let's take Christmas Eve, for example. Such a meal differs greatly in comparison to meals eaten on other occasions. They also vary depending on the place where the meal was prepared.

There many days and occasions on which you devour delicious food with gusto, but what about the daily grind? The average breakfast of an average Slovak may not be abundant in any sense, but it being simple brings one a set of benefits and positive aspects. It is not difficult to prepare such a meal, more so if you live in a family where one individual prepares the grub for the rest of the family and it being simple makes it quite easy prepare such meals.

Business leadership – comparing the affiliative and the pacesetting leadership style

(Essay for and against)

By Peter Kramár, III.B

Within the Affiliative leadership style, rapt attention and great detail is paid to associates' emotions as well as well-being, conversely, the pacesetting leadership style emphasizes results, more so progress.

Employees are central to the affiliative style, as they are the backbone of the corporation, resulting in greater engagement and, thus, benefits which are to be reaped by its chairman or executive.

On the other hand, within the pacesetting style, people's well-being is set aside, as the main objective is progress. Any employee, unwilling to toe the line, is quickly identified and dealt with accordingly.

Be that as it may, this brings about collective lethargy within the peer circles, resulting in a sink or swim situation, depending on the associates engaged and their response to the stimuli. Unsurprisingly, the pacesetting style sows the seeds of resentment, which might spark off the unwillingness to cooperate whatsoever.

Having said that, it is apparent that the open-minded nature of the affiliative style brings about progress, due to the endorsement of commitment and the leader's constant interest. Further, within the pacesetting style, moral drops at an unbelievable pace, owing to the lack of acknowledgement of an individual and the inability to identify resourcefulness as well as commitment, blinded by the predicament of vital progress.

Even so, results are more sustainable within the pacesetting style, as it sets clear demands and, however unappealing may be, manages to coordinate its staff, one way or another. In contrast, the low efficiency of the affiliative style turns a blind eye to solid results as it focuses mainly on the well-being of its associates.