

TeenLife

№3

January
2012

Christmas abroad

New Year's Party

The year of the dragon

Our school library

To be successful means...

*Sherlock Holmes:
A Game Of Shadows*

A young woman is dressed in a vibrant Native American headdress with white, red, yellow, and green feathers. She has red face paint on her cheeks and is smiling. She is wearing a black and white patterned shawl over a red garment. Next to her is a snowman with a purple and yellow striped hat, a red nose, and a green vest with a star. The snowman is giving a thumbs up. The background is a solid blue with a large, stylized white floral pattern.

Happy New Year!

A Letter from the editor



New Year is the most important holiday in our country. All people try to gather together with their families, friends, acquaintances to say goodbye to the old year and to greet the new one. Many people celebrate Christmas. We really love these holidays! We love them for brilliant Christmas Tree, marvelous presents, unexpected wonders, a chance to meet with old friends and to make new ones.

I hope New Year will bring us only positive emotions and great success. I wish you to have an interesting hobby, to spend free time with your friends, to travel much, to achieve the goals you dream.

Dear readers, I wish you good luck! Happy New Year and Merry Christmas!!!

Hristina Filonchik

TeenLife

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Teacher's comments

The Year of the Dragon 5

Travelling around the world

Christmas abroad 6

How Finland Celebrates

Christmas...

Christmas in Great Britain

At school

Our school library 9

New Year's Party

School disco party 10

Projects. Investigations

**Contests.
Olympiads** 12

**To be successful
means...** 13

Exams

How to write an essay? 18

At your leisure

Around the world cinema 19

Sherlock Holmes:

A Game of Shadows

New Year's Eve is full of marvels,
We look for it for many days.
In moment we forget the troubles,
And celebrate in different ways.

So, as for me I lay the table,
Which's full of different tasty food.
My friends and relatives are able
By talking make my greatest mood.

The garlands on the Christmas tree
shine brightly,
The decorations soothes eye.
The candles make a magic fragrance
Which spreads so quickly nearby.

Today I'd like to raise the glasses
For everyone who just like me
Believes in spite of years passing
That we remain young, loved and free.

I wish this year will be happy,
And everyone will earn the wealth.
But don't forget about friendship,
The deepest love and sturdy health.

Such moments are so fine and rare.
Let's celebrate! Happy New Year!



Vatoropina Yelena

Teacher's Comments



2012 - THE YEAR OF THE DRAGON

with fish scales, and feet of a phoenix. The dragon usually clutches a pearl symbolic of its super-natural powers. Invariably accompanied by thunder and rain, dragons move like lightning and whirlwinds - all powerful yet totally unpredictable.

New Year... What does it mean for you? I associate it with New Year's tree, Santa Claus, tangerines and of course presents. Every December we prepare to it. Every year we dress different new and smart clothes. We celebrate this holiday in different places and with various group of people. All the people love New Year's Night so much. We have different customs and traditions around it. Sometimes we read horoscopes and try to guess what is going to be in the future.

Do you know the symbol of the 2012? According to the Chinese Zodiac, the Year of 2012 is the Year of the Dragon, which begins on January 23, 2012 and ends on February 9, 2013. The Dragon is the fifth sign of the Chinese Zodiac, which consists of 12 Animal signs. The Dragon is a creature of myth and legend. In ancient China, the celestial Dragon represents an emperor and power. Today, it is the ultimate auspicious symbol signifying success and happiness. May the celestial Dragon bring great good luck to everyone!

In Sung Dynasty (a Chinese imperial dynasty lasting from AD 960 - 1279) texts, the dragon is described as having the head of an ox, muzzle of a donkey, eyes of a shrimp, horns of a deer, body of a serpent covered

Moreover the next year is a leap year (or intercalary or bissextile year) is a year containing one extra day in order to keep the calendar year synchronized with the astronomical or seasonal year. Because seasons and astronomical events do not repeat in a whole number of days, a calendar that had the same number of days in each year would, over time, drift with respect to the event it was supposed to track. By occasionally inserting (or intercalating) an additional day or month into the year, the drift can be corrected. A year that is not a leap year is called a common year.

Happy New 2012 Year!!!!

Shihovtseva M.I.



Travelling around the world

Christmas abroad

How Finland Celebrates Christmas...



Four years ago I travelled to Finland with my pupils. We went there in winter, so we had a great chance to find out how Finnish celebrate Christmas and New Year! We began our travelling on the 2nd of January. We gathered on Sverdlovsk railway station and left Yekaterinburg for St.Petersburg. Our travelling by train was very interesting and funny. All the pupils, their parents and teachers took an active part in different competitions, doing crosswords and telling funny stories. Everybody was happy, because we were waiting for wonder, dreaming about Christmas and New Year in Finland - unusual and unforgettable country! And our dreams became true!

I'd like to tell some words about how Finnish see Christmas and New Year in.

Everybody's house is given a very good clean in readiness for Christmas. Hours are spent in the kitchen cooking and baking special treats for the festive season. Fir trees are felled, tied onto sleds, and taken home to be decorated. A sheaf of grain is often tied to a pole, together with nuts and seeds and placed in the garden for the birds. Many of the peasants will not eat their Christmas dinner until the birds have had their dinner.

The meal was begun as soon as the first star appeared in the sky. In Finland the Christmas tree is set up on Christmas Eve. Apples and other fruits, candies, paper flags, cotton and tinsel are used as decorations, and candles are used for lighting it.

The Christmas festivities are preceded by a visit to the famous steam baths, after which everyone dressed in clean clothes in preparation for the Christmas dinner, which is served at 5-7 in the evening.

Christmas gifts may be given out before or after the dinner. The children do not hang up stockings, but Santa Claus comes in person, often accompanied by as many as half a dozen Christmas elves to distribute the presents. The main dish of the dinner is boiled codfish served snowy white and fluffy, with all-spice, boiled potatoes, and cream sauce. The dried cod has been soaked for a week in a lye solution, then in clear water to soften it to the right texture. Also on the menu is roast suckling pig or a roasted fresh ham, mashed potatoes, and vegetables.



After dinner the children go to bed while the older people stay up to chat with visitors and drink coffee until about midnight.

Christmas Day services in the churches begin at six in the morning. It is a day for family visits and reunions. In some parts of the country the Star Boys tour the countryside singing Christmas songs. During all these days the people keep wishing each other a "Merry Yule."

December 13 is the day of Saint Lucia, who is celebrated with lots of candles and formal celebrations in every town with a candle-crowned young girl. The time for Scandinavian Christmas tree shopping and decorating is coming, and Christmas cards are being exchanged. Essentials on Christmas Eve in Finland are Christmas mass, and a visit to a Finnish sauna of course. Many Finnish families also visit cemeteries to remember the dead and have porridge for lunch (with a hidden almond in it - the finder has to sing a song.)

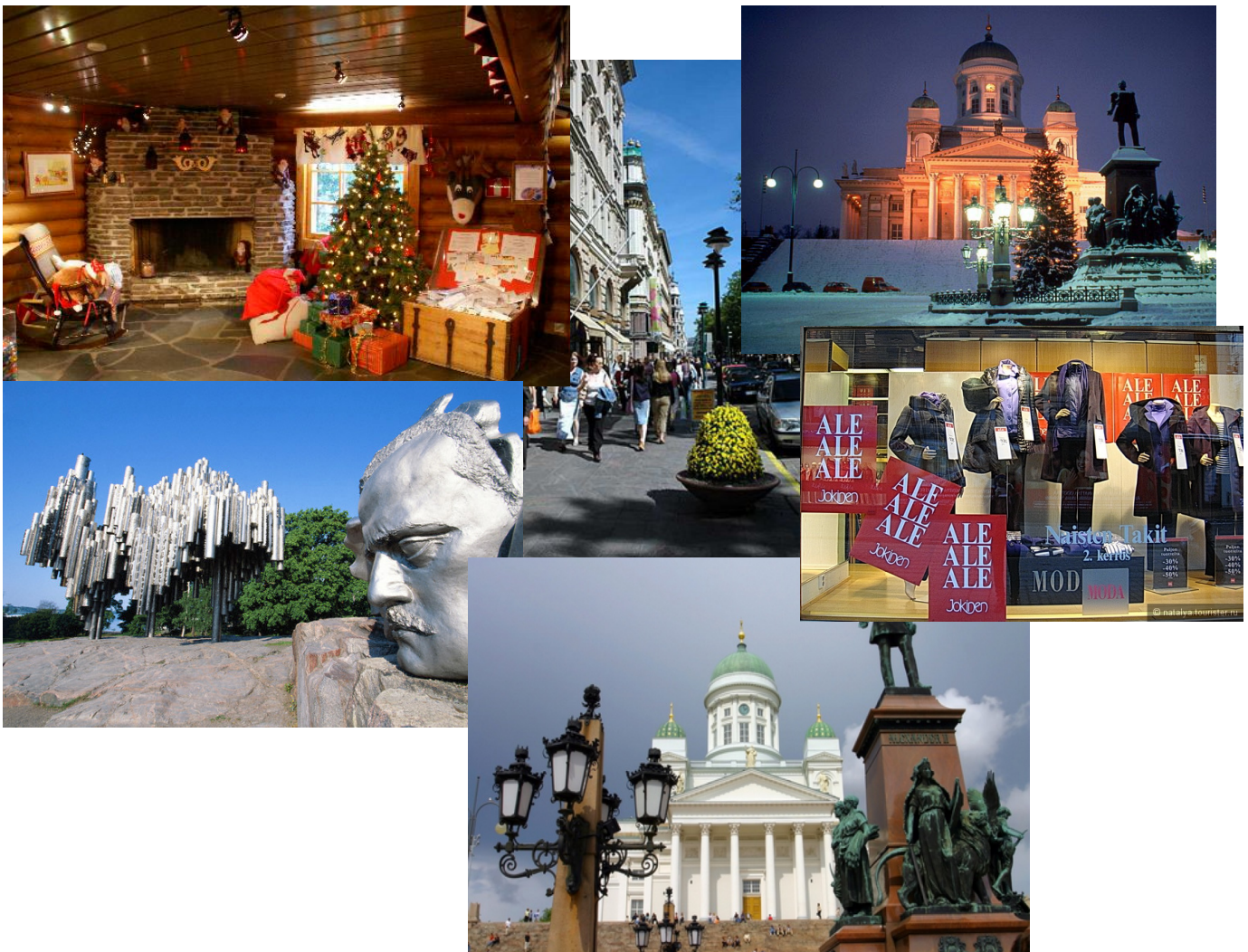
Christmas in Finland officially ends 13 days after Christmas Day.

And last but not least, don't forget that "Merry Christmas" in Finnish is "Hyvää Joulua!"



I have been to Finland several times. I'd like to say that Finland in summer and Finland in winter are different countries, but each of them is beautiful!

Vatoropina Yelena



Christmas in Great Britain

What do you know about Christmas?

Christmas is celebrated on the 25th of December. It is the most popular holiday in Great Britain. It is a family holiday. Traditionally on that day all relatives and friends give presents each other. So, before Christmas all the department stores and shops are crowded, everybody is choosing a present.



People get prepared for this holiday very carefully. They decorate their houses. Christmas trees are set up in the houses, in the streets and churches. They are always decorated with fairy lights, angels and small toys. In addition, little packets with nuts, candies and special biscuits are hung on the tree. Presents are put around the tree and artificial «frost» is scattered over the branches. Besides the Christmas tree, holly and mistletoe are used to decorate the house. Branches of holly are put up behind pictures and mistletoe is hung over doors, so the young people have a chance to kiss the girls under it, plucking each time a red berry from the mistletoe. It is said that the girl who was not kissed under it at Christmas would not get married that year. On the eve of Christmas children hang their stockings, so that Santa Claus could put presents into them: oranges, sweets, nuts and if the child didn't behave properly Santa Claus can put there a piece of coal as punishment.

Rahkmanova Irina, 10A



At School

Our School Library



Libraries are very important in the life of all people. We can't buy all the books we want to read. That's why we take out books from libraries. I enjoy reading books. And it doesn't matter what kind of book it is. It can be a collection of short stories, a book of poems or adventures. I equally enjoy them all. But there's one thing that matters. When I choose a book for reading, it shouldn't be dull but interesting.

Though I attend libraries on a regular basis, I buy quite a lot of books too, particularly those that I read before and enjoyed reading. I like to have them in my room so that I can turn to them not only once but time and again. I derive an utmost pleasure from sitting in the room where my books are and even if I am not reading them, I like to look at the books on the shelves and to feel that I have my friends around me, friends that will never let you down, that will never betray you.

Our school library subscribed to several newspapers and magazines. They kept us well informed about the latest develop-

ments in this country and abroad, news in the spheres of science, art and literature. There are special stands for scientific reference work, for children and youth, for current periodicals, reference books, manuscripts and for other purposes.

I used to get some of my books from my school library. I must admit our school library had a good stock of books and the librarian was always ready to help in one's choice of books. A great number of volumes filled the shelves. One could find books of adventure stories, historical novels and tales there. They open up panoramas of life and history of other countries, psychological novels, collections of short stories, the immortal classics.

The librarian Svetlana Alexandrovna takes books from the people who come in and gives them some new books to choose for reading at home. Many students and teachers attend our school library every day.

Sinitsina M.V.

New Year's Party in our school



As I have said New Year is a holiday, which brings us together. But not always we have the mood to celebrate it. This year many people didn't have New Year's mood. I think it was because there wasn't snow in the streets. People began to wait for New Year only on December, 30. But tradition to gather and see the New Year in together did not go away.

We had the New Year's Party in our school. The students of the 7th - 11th grades took part in the holiday concert. They performed how New Year is celebrated in different countries: Britain, France, Italy, Spain, Brazil, Australia, etc. Brilliant costumes, exciting music made that concert unforgettable. The performance of students of the tenth classes led the audience in raptures. Boys and girls (as we know, not all the young people like to take part in such activities) danced in the style of "Camp Rock" and "Step Up". At the end of the performance Boris Brainin made a jump like Dima Bilan. The audience applauded!

Then there was the Christmas disco. It was merry and fun! But not all the pupils were satisfied with it. Here are some comments about the party. "I liked the performances, but last year it was better. Not all my schoolmates were active and mobile!"

Mishneva Nastya, 11A

"I liked the performances of all the participants. Everything was great! 10B is the most memorable. But New Year's disco was rather boring, may be because of music was not interesting and modern."

Tarusova Ksenia, 10A

"I hope that in the New 2012 Year everyone will be visited by the spirit of the holiday. Happiness and good luck to you!"

Filonchik Hristina



Projects. Investigations

Contests. Olympiads

- **The English Olympiad was held in our district.**
15 students of our school took part in it. All the participants were successful. We congratulate pupils and their teachers, especially Mihailenko E., Sitnikov E., Demidovich D., Zhukova O., Novosyolov S., Ladigina A., who took the 1 - 9 places. Well done!!!

I. Mihailenko E., 9 f.

VI. Sitnikov E., 8 f.

VI. Demidovich D., 8 f.

VII. Zhukova O., 7 f.

VIII. Novosyolov S., 9 f.

IX. Ladigina A., 11 f.

XIV. Shishmarina E., 9 f.

XIV. Chikurov A., 10 f.

XVI. Kiselyova A., 10 f.

XVI. Stepanchuk A., 9 f.

XVII. Gordeeva A., 11 f.

XVII. Chechyotkina A., 8 f.

XVIII. Godina A., 9f.

XIX. Stromkina A., 11 f.

XXIII. Kuzevanov I., 10 f.

- The students of the 8th form Demidovich Daria and Sitnikov Yevgeniy took part in **the contest of creative projects "The World Around Us"**, which was held in Gymnasium №94 on December, 12. They presented their work "We are for Healthy Lifestyle" and were awarded diplomas of the contest. Well done!



- Students of our school took part in **the fourth all-Russia contest of compositions** in English among high school and university students **“To be successful means...”** Some of their works you can read in our magazine.



Filonchik Hristina took part in the Conference of research and project works IPIMO КИПР-2011.

You can see her work on the site ipimo.ru.



- 38 students from 3 - 11 grades took part in **the School Competition “MY ENGLISH PORTFOLIO”**

The goal of the competition was to show all the different ways to make up a portfolio.

The students made presentations containing the following chapters: about myself, my family, my friends, my hobbies, my school, my favorite school subject, health, special interests, my achievements, plans for the future (school or professional), and travelling and holidays.

The jury, consisted of all the teachers of English of our school chose the best works. It is necessary to notice that it was very difficult for them to do it, because all portfolios were very interesting and colorful.

The top three portfolios in each group were awarded. You can see them in the school library, English studies and on the school site.

The winners of the contest

2nd-4th grades

I- Aidartsyan Grisha, 4B

Sidorova Arina, 3B

II - Tarusova Nastya, 4D

III - Maslova Ariadna, 4B



5th-8th grades

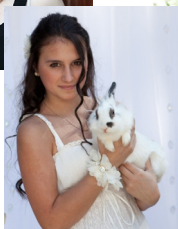
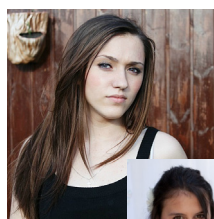
**I - Bezukladnikov Slava, Trefilova Julia, 3A
6A**

Tolstenkov Zhenya, 6A

II - Demidovich Dariya, 8C

Sorkin Maksim, 6A

III - Shmelyova Katya, 6D



9th-11th grades

I - Shevichkina Sasha, 11B

Filonchik Hristina, 10A

II - Magzumova Dina, 11C

Palivoda Danil, 11A

III - Pogosyan Diana, 11B

Blinova Natasha, 11A

Pages from students' Portfolios

I love my friends and my family very much. They always help me. I have the best friends and family in the world and that's why I am very happy!!!

Aidartsyan Grisha

I like to celebrate New Year and my birthday very much. It is pleasant for me to spend holidays and summer. I am fond of painting and swimming. My favourite food is omelet; my favourite poems are poems by Boris Zahoder. I like animals, I like to play with my Teddy Bear. My favorite film is «The master and Margarita». To my mind, family happiness is when all members of the family help each other, value and love each other, they are ready to support you in a difficult situation.

Sidorova Arina

I have two hamsters at home. They are Dzungarians. Their names are Tasia and Masya. They live in one cage and because of this they always fight. I really love them! At home I also have a snail. Its name is Slizast. I called it so because it's slippery. But all the same I love my Slizast.

Tarusova Nastya

I have many plans for the future. It would be interesting to have two diplomas of higher education. Generally, I'm planning to be a computer programmer. Computers help us to get information. And information nowadays is the power. I would like to write different programs.

Bezukladnikov Slava

I like to travel. I have already visited a few countries. I have been to Egypt, Turkey, Thailand and Israel. Every country and every nation has its own customs and traditions. It is always interesting for me to find out something new. My favorite foreign country is Israel. It is a great country with wonderful history and culture. I saw the Western Wall. It becomes wet very often. It seems like the Western Wall hides some mystery from us. There are two Temples of Jesus in Israel. They are very old and beautiful.

Tolstenkov Zhenya

I like sport and I can't imagine my life without it. In my free time I like to ride a horse, swimming, ride a bike, etc. This summer my dad and me began diving and I really like to do this.

Demidovich Dariya

I want to achieve much in the future. At first I wanted to be a singer, then an actress, then a journalist. Now I want to contribute to the development of new technologies, like Steve Jobs, to create something interesting. I want to travel around the world and to write a book about my travels.

Filonchik Hristina



To be successful means...

To be successful means a lot.
For some it's travelling abroad.
Attending sightseeing, trying food...
They always have the greatest mood.

The others work as hard as can
And make career in Japan.
For them to be successful means
To satisfy the money needs.

For persons who are fond of sport
The list of aims is rather short:
Skill level they've achieved should rise,
And their aim's to win first prize.

But as for me it's not enough.
It may be just a little part.
To be successful means to live
With friends, who are the friends indeed.

And living in the world of love
You're flying like a pretty dove.
Among your family and friends
You dream and make the future plans.

Success is like a simple thing.
It's understood by human being
As living in your own flat
And making happy Mom and Dad.



During the whole life we set the goals. It can be a small task or a great mission and it doesn't often matter if you achieve your aims or not. There is one more important thing for a person who wants to reach them. You should do your best in spite of a great amount of difficulties. As a result you will become a really successful person. However not all the people are strong-in-heart, most of them are not able to follow their dream. They stop at the mid-way as it is much easier for them. It is the common problem to everyone who wants to be successful. Overcoming such difficulties a person becomes courageous and wise. So, to be successful means to have a strong character. You should do everything possible and impossible to make your dreams come true.

Kuzevanov Igor, 10C

Let's think about the word "success". What does it mean? Firstly it is an achievement of the put aims. Every person in the world wants to reach his aim, certainly it is individual for each person. These aims could be different, values and views are various, one guy just wants to buy an expensive car or a big house, the other one sets family happiness as a main purpose, some people devote their life to idea advancement. Aims can be high or low. In my point of view material purposes are low. A man equates himself to things, and high aims for me are ideas, family, favorite job, art and science. Likely people, who are engaged with favorite matter, are the happiest people in the world. So the person who reached his aim could be called a successful person. No matter if his aims are high or low. We can mean success like a popularity. When a guy is very popular among girls, we often call him successful. Also we can use "successful" with different words, for example - she is very successful in job, she always runs upwards on a career ladder, or - he is very successful in chess, he always wins! In conclusion I'd like to say that we can call a person successful if he or she reaches something, he or she is quite popular and if we don't see his or her problems visually.



Kiselyova Anna, 10C

Have you ever thought about who is such a strong and successful man? Most of us are important to be successful. But what way to be successful do we choose? Each of us has a certain image, to which we aspire. It is the image of success. Very often, when people ask this question, you can hear something like, confident, determined, dedicated, principled, implemented, smart, secure. It's a stereotype about successful person.

How often I find myself on the fact that I have a question: Who is a successful person? A successful person is a person who lives as he wants! He wants to make a career - does. He wants a family - creates. He wants children - gets. And he does not want - does not create, does not lead ...

Yes, it's not so simple - allow yourself to live. And that's why I agree that it is a success! Allow, allow yourself to go through the guilt and sense of duty. And you can live as you want. And most importantly, that rare man allowed himself the luxury, could just sit at home and do nothing. A future depends on the person. The main thing is to want.

Mustafaev Sava, 9A



All people have different opinions about being successful. It's a subjective concept, and everyone knows it. For some people this person is successful, other people think that he is jerk. I agree with the writer Stendhal. His words: to be yourself is the only way to be successful. And I agree with the phrase of John Ruskin - that successful person is a person, whose heart is softer, the blood - hotter, mind - more vivid, and the spirit - peace.

I think that a successful person is one who can turn a dream into the aim. In other words, he has the audacity not only to talk and to dream but also to start doing the action (how hard it is whatever it is) for realization. But sometimes people confuse a successful person and a rich person. Successful person is a person whose success is measured by money, good friends, business partners, family relationships, benevolent purpose, and peace in the soul. The success of the wealth is not measured. Wealth can be gotten and get hold of. But this way of dishonesty is not long and not successful. Sometimes a rich man feels depressed. For example, Nobel, having a lot of money still felt "at ease". And then he created the Nobel Foundation. Although by law all his funds were supposed to go to his family, but he thought that they would not use them for good.

So, for me a successful person would be able to build his personal life so that he would have health and love, creativity, and good friends. Success often falls to someone who acts boldly, but it is rarely sought by those who show timid and constantly fears the consequences said Jawaharlal Nehru. Successful person is a person who is free from the anguish of housing, from low-paid work and out of debt, and everything else can be built only in growth.

So, everything in life depends on us!

Godina Alisa, 9A

Everybody looks for his own success in life, but it is all depends of seeker's temper, character, ideology and even the native country. Some people think that their career is the key to the success, the others say that love and relationships with people are the main things in life. In general, opinion about the success is the most important and personal thing for every human being around the world, because any life is interesting and individual.

As for me, I think the most necessary things to reach the success are my friends. If they are the real and best friends, they can do everything what you want, to support you in difficult moments of life and you can just have fun with them. To find the real friends is very hard deal, because some people are not completely honest with each other. It is pretty serious problem in our age, when human may be shy and cannot find similar people in society. It can be solved, if a person will try to find different hobbies or club of interests. That is a great chance to find mates and to talk about favourite things. Every person around the world must choose his own success meaning. Maybe it can be changed in the future, but now we must realize what kind of purpose we should to lead.

Chikurov Aleksey, 10A

Exams

How to write an essay?

Brief Overview of the 10 Essay Writing Steps

Define the context. If the essay is assigned, certain parameters will usually be defined for you, such as the length of the essay, format of the title page, and the intended audience and what length is appropriate. No matter what, if you're given directions, follow them. Remember, the main point is what you should concentrate on. Stick to the question key words throughout your essay.

Choose a topic. Often this will be decided for you, but if not, try to choose something you're interested in or, better yet, passionate about. It will make the essay easier to write. On the other hand you could choose a stand you disagree with because it will allow you to see flaws in your argument more easily. You can also think of your thesis statement at this point, but it shouldn't be set in stone since it may be elaborated or changed as you do your research in the next step. A thesis statement is what your essay is attempting to explain and prove.

Gather your information. Whether it's personal observations or scientific facts, you'll need evidence to back up your thesis statement. Take detailed notes, keeping track of which facts come from which sources. As you're researching your topic, don't ignore facts and claims that seem to disprove your thesis statement. A good essayist includes the contrary evidence and shows why such evidence is not valid.

Plan your essay. This is the time to solidify your thesis statement. Look over all of your research and notes: Can you observe any patterns or observations? Try making a mind map to organize your thoughts.

Write the body of your essay first. Identify three or more points that support and/or explain your thesis statement. Each point should be supported by specific evidence, examples or arguments. Use your outline as a guide, presenting the information in full sentences that flow logically from one to the next.

Conclude your essay. Summarize your points and suggest ways in which your conclusion can be thought of in a larger sense. What are the implications of your thesis statement being true? What's the next step? What questions remain unanswered? You should only be "repackaging" what you already discussed, using a broader perspective.

Write the introduction. Now that you've written the body and the conclusion, you're in the best position to tell the reader what they're getting into. Explain your thesis statement, and how you're going to affirm it, without being too specific. One approach is to begin with a general statement, then follow it with a question or problem, then with your thesis statement, and a brief overview of your points.

Read through your essay. For now, don't worry about typos or grammatical errors; underline them so you can go back and fix them later. Go from start to finish to see how your essay flows. Does each sentence lead smoothly to the next? Does each paragraph flow logically to the next? Each statement should be connected or related somehow to the one before it, not thrown randomly together.

Revise, revise, revise! Writing the paper the first time is not the most important part of writing an essay—revision is! Sometimes the paper you write is not the essay you originally planned. It is difficult to accomplish all that one sets out to in a paper, and sometimes you may find that your ideas about your subject have changed as you've been writing. Make sure you're happy with the way your paper presents its points. Don't like it? Rearrange it.

Proofread. Now check for spelling and/or grammatical errors. If using a word processor's spell checker, remember that it only checks to see if a word is misspelled. For example, if you meant to use the word "write" and instead used "writ" the spell checker will pass it without noticing, since 'writ' is an actual word. Pick out any repetitive words. Avoid using colloquial (informal) writing. Use English pronunciation correctly.

At your leisure

Around the world cinema

Sherlock Holmes: A Game Of Shadows

Have you heard about new film about Sherlock Holmes? Last year you might be had already seen the first part of the film. The filmmakers Joel Silver, Lionel Wigram, Susan Downey, and Dan Lin made the second part. Of course, new Sherlock Holmes is different from the previous. This film has the character of blockbuster. I like the way the director sees Sherlock Holmes. It seems to me, generation of the USSR doesn't like this film (for example my parents and grandparents). Robert Downey, Jr. and Jude Law reprise their roles as Sherlock Holmes and Dr. John Watson. Holmes and Watson join forces to outwit and bring down their most cunning adversary, Professor Moriarty, played by Jared Harris.

The film is specifically influenced by Conan Doyle's work "The Final Problem", but it is an independent story rather than a strict adaptation. Actions take place in 1891 around Europe is a series of mysterious attacks and killings. Holmes believes that behind all this, Professor James Moriarty - mathematical genius, the author of famous lectures and papers, "Napoleon of the criminal world". Irene Adler (Rachel McAdams) delivers a package to Dr. Hoffmanstahl - payment for a letter he was to deliver. Hoffmanstahl opens the package, triggering a hidden bomb which is prevented from detonating by the intervention of Sherlock Holmes. Holmes takes the letter and disposes of the bomb while Adler and Hoffmanstahl escape. Holmes later finds Hoffmanstahl assassinated. Adler meets with Professor Moriarty to explain the events, but



Moriarty poisons her—deeming her position compromised by her love for Holmes. This is the beginning of the film. Filming started in October 2010. Most of the scenes filmed in London in January 2011, the film crew moved into the neighborhood of Richmond, where the residence of Hampton Court, and continued shooting the film. In addition, in September the same year the picture was shot in the Greenwich Hospital.

I advise everyone to watch this film. Enjoy it!

Filonchik Hristina

