

# Boca Andra Ecaterina, PREMIUL III

## *Shakespeare School, Essay Competition 2014, 15-20 de ani*

What do I expect from school?

Not an overly institutionalized struggle akin to the rat race, that's for sure. Most of the people wouldn't remember school with nostalgia, but with a knowing, sad smile. It is enough to reach to the implacable conclusion: education is built on fear.

Not at all surprising. Who doesn't hold that Maths teacher in ninth grade responsible for all his present insecurities? Who doesn't remember that crippling shame induced by his peers?

School, as the second community a child takes part in (after their family) has to be defined by the same characteristics: security, growth and love. These must remain untampered with, otherwise it will feel as if the child's prior education was one big lie. Many ultimately try to rebel against change.

Kind words and encouragement are the perfect didactic methods. It can do wonders to approach a lesson with calm and warmth and to be open to questions afterwards, however irrelevant these may seem to an adult. Children have to sleep for at least 9 hours and be exposed to sun for half an hour. Why not add healthy lifestyle to the curriculum? Teach kids empathy, teach them how to praise their classmates, not envy them. Let them roam, discover and make mistakes. Tell them life is not a linear journey, but one with countless destinations.

This will make a change, of course. No pupil will feel fear, anxiety, shame, disappointment or hopelessness while learning again, as they will learn out of love.