

categoria 15-19 ani

Premiu I

Tudorescu Alexandra Natalia

clasa 11-a

Colegiul National "Moise Nicoara"

Arad/ARAD

I'll never be a child again... Diluted innocence, floating like fine sea water in the wind, slightly pungent, pricking my skin with memories of what once was and shall never be again. What makes my heart ache is that, as I'm writing this now, you're reading it then, fifteen years later. My recent past and my near future are all just memories for you; and they're so distant that they don't even seem to belong to you. They're more like books you read long ago, which now lie on a dusty shelf, forgotten, their actions never to be relived. Do you remember me? Do you remember my last summer; my winter that isn't done yet; my spring that shall come? And if you do, can you actually recall the brief moments of infinite joy, sadness, euphoria? Can you actually feel everything again? You might accidentally hear a song from long ago, or smell the scent of sea salt – and they'll take you back to that exact moment, and for a split second you'll be there again, on the rooftop where you fell asleep while stargazing, and an implosion will fill up your bones with liquid galaxies; but then, the reverie will be over and you'll be in your thirties again. Years go by faster than we care to acknowledge, and there's no way of us slowing time down. All that's left is to seize the day; make every moment matter. Build your own castle of memories; your own universe.



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Essay Competition 2018

categoria 15-19 ani

Premiu II

Hinkov Ana-Maria

10-a

Colegiul German "Goethe"

Bucuresti

Dear future self, I'm sorry. For never rebelling, for wasting my childhood worrying about some missed due date. I should have gone on adventures, should have lived in the present. Instead, I sat down and stressed over others' opinion of me for hours, furrowing my brows so deeply that the Grand Canyon's younger brother surfaced between them. I apologize for never loosening up as if I were the screw that held the entire Eiffel Tower together. I'm sorry for I have selfishly forgotten that I am not alone, the Eiffel Tower is being held up by millions of screws afterall. But this shall be the part where we draw a line. No more regrets from now on. I can't imagine us reaching life's finish line and realize we never truly lived. Are we happy? If not, start living like a cat with nine lives left! Climb the Eiffel Tower, jump in the Grand Canyon, fly! Your dreams are stars, quit stargazing and start reaching for them. Don't just let them litter the floor while you crush and shatter whatever ideas you may not have the courage to pursue. What is the point of a plane if the pilot is too scared to fly? See, it is one's biggest loss to live a life on the ground without ever taking of...or so a great poet said. I cannot go back and change our beginning, but you can create a brand new ending. Live as if you were a child again, promise?



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Premiu III

Halip Petronela

clasa 10-a

Colegiul National "Petru Rares"

Suceava/SUCEAVA

Future self, it is uncertain whether you will come across this letter someday or not, but that is a lesson that I learned recently and I hope you still remember it; that life and future are enwrapped in uncertainty and maturity comes along with the acceptance of "not knowing". I hope you are somewhere in America, ordering a latte machiatto, wearing those killing red stiletto Loubutins. But, above all, I hope that you are healthy and happy. Continue to infuse your life with action and embrace every change, because it is the only alphabet that you can write your dreams with. Not all the poems of life rhyme, not every gift of Destiny resonates with your wishes, but I am sure that is this delicious ambiguity that stirs your boldness to continue dreaming. Do not lower your expectations to resemble the world's pattern and stand up for your principles even if doing so means doing it alone. Along the path you call life, remember that everything you will meet has a soul, a spirit and a name and treat them respectfully. Read good books that feed your mind and soul, take your time and put the necessary work into becoming who you were meant to be. Try different things, walk in the footsteps of strangers and face your innermost fears with the certainty of conquer. Continue believing, trusting, changing and, above all, loving. Every night when darkness wraps around you, alone or in somebody else's arms, know that you are loved and priceless.



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Mentiune 1

Ionescu Daria Nicole

clasa 9-a

Colegiul National Bilingv "George Cosbuc"

Bucuresti

Our Lifelong Journey

I heard you got to our planned destination or is your arrival a bit delayed? Hopefully you started the journey since I've packed your luggage a long time ago.

If the misleading echoes caught you from behind, light a candle in the memory of all things you have neither done, nor said and burn the grief-causing thoughts. FORGET.

Place the used-up candle on top of the pile behind you - a slight reminder of the burnt-out words - and drown it in serenity. Watch as it floats, disappearing into the abyss of irrelevance. FORGIVE. Let your eyes be "The Starry Night" itself, take those misunderstood traces of paint and project them on the sky so others can see it too. IMAGINE.

A bird my trip over these angular figures so grab it by its feather and breath in the air of accomplished wishes. HOPE.

Fly deeper, embracing the busy highway of pumped blood and naughty butterflies while acknowledging and appreciating our source of all possible emotions. If there's too much intensity of movement give up on the wings, choose a canoe and feel the world turning upside down when falling down the waterfall. LOVE.

Find the laurel wreath hidden behind a star, because even though you were born on Earth, you do belong to the Universe and the path you choose to walk must be featured by the anthem of fantasies. BELIEVE.

How was this journey, my dear? Please, do send me a postcard with your trail of bread crumbs.



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Mentiune 2

Lepădatu Flavia

clasa 9-a

Colegiul National "Iancu de Hunedoara"

Hunedoara/HUNEDOARA

Future is as unpredictable as it is fearsome and we embark on an adventure full of decisions. Every choice we make leads to a different outcome of our lives and we are constantly stuck in the butterfly effect. This concept states that no matter how small the occurrence, something can be changed forever. Everything influences everything. We are free to choose our path but we are not free of the consequences. The question is, do we use this shallow power to provoke war or establish peace? This is something I would like to carry with me forever. A reminder that a good deed, as insignificant as it might seem, can make something tremendous happen, that what you give is what you get. Nowadays, our society grows colder and more indifferent as the days pass by. Everyone tries to persuade you in order to narrow your mind, lock you in a cage and ultimately turn you into someone easy to control. Why let them? We need to break free and be our own selves, grow and evolve. I hope we will overrun this situation but if things do not change for the better, I hope I won't let myself give in to the persuasion. So, note to my future self, embrace the unknown, do what is right and don't let the world change you. As Hagrid, a very dear character from a very dear series to me said 'What's coming will come and we'll meet it when it does.'



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Mentiune 3

Hsu Annie

clasa 10-a

Colegiul National "Cantemir Voda"

Bucuresti/ILFOV

Dear Annie, I miss you. I wish you were here, but you're there, years and years away from me. I want to apologize for the way I treated you in the past. I'm sorry for those endless nights where you stayed up thinking about all the cruel words I threw at you, those agonizing long hours I made you stand in front of the mirror, scolding you for not skipping meals! I'm sorry for the lonely nights where I made you cry and feel useless! I'm sorry for the bruises and scars, which I now hope have become the strength and proof that you are a fighter: strong, determined, independent. Please, understand that I was young and naive, doing what I thought was best for you. Do you recall those precious moments when we used to sit together under the sun in each other's embrace, nothing but silence between us, the comfort of our body heats, our hearts at peace?

Allas, it had to come to an end! I expected you to come running back into my arms, but you didn't. I assumed you'd never question my words, but you did.

My, oh my! Such a tragic ending, indeed! But my sweet and charming Annie, even if we can't be together, I'm glad that you were a part of my life. Thanks for the memories, Annie



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categoria 15-19 ani

Premiu originalitate 1

Vig Antonia

clasa 9-a

Colegiul National "Alexandru Papiu Ilarian"

Targu Mures/MURES

Dear future me,

You may fall, but not collapse, trembling in the cadence and ascensions of a passing melody. Each note, each moment is a metaphor where a tremor, a frenzy of pulses silenced far beyond your past converge. Your plumage will fade away, feather after feather, in melancholy, lost in the moment which unravelled from threads of solar destiny to breathe life into your metaphors. To begin with, please forgive me. I shall never deceive you wholly, even though, in the fifteen years separating us, I did deceive you by leaping into the future. Let your past and future remain in their realms. Live in the present. Nevertheless, can you blame me? Can you blame a moment that charred the past, that cascaded down with countless tears, yet was not able to melt into one? Furthermore, were I to advise you, it would be to embrace a benign egotism-not selfishness, but selfness. You ought to belong to yourself. Each tonality of your soul should teem with delicate resonances, with beauty and your own power. In the end, a solace is blossoming in our souls, that we will soon become remainders of the past, thus we should reverberate in destiny, not fatality, self-acceptance, not melancholy. One day, we will remember that the heavenly hands have moulded our clay not with tears, but with emotion, not with mere seconds, but with an inner eternity...

Yours,

past self



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Premiu originalitate 2

Albu Iarina

clasa 9-a

Liceul Teoretic "Grigore Moisil"

Timisoara/TIMIS

Dearest person, I wanted to start this letter with 'Dear me,' but I am aware who you are is not me anymore. You have probably shed my personality a long, long time ago. The outer shell is different, what's inside is different, the people you like are probably still unknown to me. But I am not writing this to make you feel nostalgic about who you once were, nor to make myself long for times that are not meant to be here yet. I am writing this to simply remind you that I was here. I fear oblivion, but I also fear the harsh opinion you are bound to bestow upon me with time's passage. I want to try to remind you how strongly everything affected you, and how it wasn't and mustn't always be a bad thing. Some firsts are closer now to me than they ever were, some I can't even imagine, and some come and go unnoticed. The first day of spring, the first page from a book. Don't ever deprive us of firsts, even if they always imply a last. Don't be afraid of the impending end, because that would mean missing a beginning. I feel obliged to remind you that adolescence is not easy, I'm doing everything I can the best way I know how but remembering the right way still doesn't come easy. Remember that when you think about how you might have done things differently if you turned back time. Remember me



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Premiu originalitate 3

Popescu Theodora-Sabina

clasa 10-a

Colegiul National "Mircea cel Batran"

Constanta/CONSTANTA

Dear future self,

I'm not sure where to begin. I have a million thoughts rushing through my head. Although "you" are "me", I find it hard to approach someone I've never met. You've matured and become someone completely different. So you've changed.

I know that every experience taught you something. Here are some things I want you to be aware of: Have no regrets. Don't feel bad for the past. I want to look in the mirror and see "you"; and "you" start telling me about everything: about the things that put me down right now which will make "you" so strong; about the people who come and go, though I've related my happiness to them.

I want "me", your past self to be a reminder that you can get through everything. That struggle isn't a barrier. Never find a limit when it comes to making your dreams come true. I know what you're capable of and that there's not a single thing that can stop you. Even if you're going through tough times right now, don't give up. Keep your head up. Keep dreaming. Be kind. Meet new people who make you a better version of yourself.

I can't wait to meet "you" and connect with everything I'm about to become. Although I'm excited, don't worry I am still anchored in the present. I'm creating memories you'll remember and laugh about. I'm in the process of building "you". Day by day, I'm getting closer to "you", to myself.



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categoria 15-19 ani

Premiu special 1

Petrache Ioana Petra

10-a

Scoala Superioara Comerciala "Nicolae Kretzulescu"

Bucuresti

It's Friday, a cloudy day of March. It's 22:35. I tell you this because I want to take you back where you were 15 years ago. Among all the people that I know, I've chosen to write to you, my future self. I felt that you are the only one who could understand me. I know you grew up and you must have changed. It probably seems like talking to strangers. I am almost 18, and I already miss the little me. I have a crazy desire of being again the little young girl who was learning to walk. Or maybe even younger because after that, my steps took me to many wrong places. I hope you can forgive me for that. I miss the innocence and fragility that I used to have. I miss a lot of things, but I hope you, the woman that you are now, won't miss me. Hopefully you have the family I dream of and the most successful career. It doesn't matter if you are a modest actress or a business woman. It matters if you are doing it with passion. Now that you are older and you understand everything better, I hope you make the world a better place with every step you take. Don't forget that now I am following your steps, so make sure you leave love and kindness behind. Continue to do what you love and if you ever get scared think that at 17 you weren't afraid of anything.



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Premiu special 2

Tepelea Ioana

clasa 12-a

Colegiul Economic "Virgil Madgearu"

Bucuresti

Desires to be. Future represents the uncertainty of the immaculate canvas, in the wait of the autumn, the summer, the spring, or even the winter colours. However, it depends on the soul alone what colours it wishes to maintain in its own creation, being a land of aspirations towards the existential absolute of the human being. Firstly, youth is happy because it has a future ahead of it. My future will be the happy one. It will always have youthful spirit ahead of it. The young spirit, stranger to Earth, but the owner of my body, should have a future unaffected by age, because it's a high price to pay for maturity. A future without laughters, happiness, hope, it's a future with no seeds for other plans. Secondly, there's no need for a reason to love. In the future I shan't lose my aspiration for absolute love, because in love everything becomes significant. A tear for the success of the loved one can transform in her accomplishment. A couple of water droplets shared with a dog may bring a lifelong friend. When love may end, my soul will die with it. Lastly, the maturing of humans means to regain the seriousness they once had while playing as a child. Because childhood is the world of miracles and it ends in the moment things stop being breathtaking, my future shall continue the discovery of the universe from the posture of a child. In conclusion, my future will smile at me if I keep my romantic, childlike way of seeing the truths of the world, in a real, yet optimistic manner. Life means to know what you're living for. To reach a bright future, I will live for the magic of life.



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Premiu special 3

Bercuci Alex

clasa 10-a

Colegiul National "Calistrat Hogas" Tecuci

Malu-Alb/GALATI

42nd European Diabetes Congress

The 21st of September 2033 London

I'm so proud to be in front of you with the greatest accomplishment of my life, the cure for type 1 and type 2 diabetes. As a person with type 1 diabetes, one of my biggest dreams was to have a normal life, like everyone else around me. Here I am presenting to you the chip that is going to change thousands of lives. How does it work? Implemented in the pancreas having insulin-producing beta cells, it restores in time the function to produce insulin naturally of the pancreas. Having little dimensions and being made out of materials which have no negative impact on the body, it represents the perfect solution, having the possibility to be used without any risks.

I would also like to introduce to you my contributors that came with ideas on how to improve the chip in most of its aspects and to thank the persons who made this possible: my sponsors who provided the funds and the equipment needed, being trustful from the beginning about the potential and the rate of success of the project, my family that supported me unconditionally and my past 16 years old self that had the astonishing idea.

I'm more trustful than ever that, after this congress, diabetes will become a curable condition. (The speech I wrote when I was 16 years old for the day my dream will come true)



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Premiu special 4

Mîrza Andra Elena

12-a

Colegiul National „Alexandru Ioan Cuza”

Floresti/PRAHOVA

Dear me, myself and I

One day my mirror may not recognize us as we are today. The eyes will be the same, so will the heart. With an extra of defensiveness, I should presume. Time brings along tears, happiness and sorrow. We have to let ourselves drown in them, to cleanse our soul like in a baptism. What could I possibly say? Never stop tending to your mind and heart. Water your roots as they link you to the past. Follow your inner compass. Today, it is in search of the right direction, it will surely be prepared to guide you through the nights. Speaking of heart, dear I, you will fall in love again. Soulmates might seem a legend, but love and heartbreak are certainly not. You have your mountain to climb, your stars to reach. Be ready and aware: there'll be downfalls and collapses. At times you will stroll, sometimes you'll run, you'll jump and sneak and crawl. But there is no race you can't finish, as every destiny is given with a purpose. Let the world be a jungle. Jungles are green, lively, full of surprises. You just might find that tree having the same roots as yours and you'll carry on life together, as one. The fruit will satisfy your hunger for love. And you'll stay like that for a lifetime, relaxing in the shadow of each other, waiting for the tambourine man to come and play his song for you.



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Premiu special 5

Drăgan Silvia Diana

clasa 11-a

Colegiul National "Mihail Kogalniceanu"

Galati/GALATI

I view life as a spectrum of human experience and it is self-evident that as a teenager, I tend to seek experiences that allow me to be comfortable. While you are reading this, maybe nothing has changed. Under that cool demeanor burns a passion passed down by the younger version of yourself. No matter what happens, I know you will do whatever it takes to fulfill your dreams and use your resourcefulness to achieve your goals. It's important to have faith and never let your guard down. You should just keep doing what makes you truly happy. Solve the puzzle piece by piece and always have a plan B. Remember that you have whatever it takes to succeed. Remember that you've worked hard to be the person you are today. Also, take your time to appreciate what you have: your friends, your teachers, your family and everyone who helps and supports you because, unfortunately, nothing lasts forever. Whenever you try your best but you don't succeed, try harder. Rethink your decisions if you have to. You don't need to panic even if it comes to stressful situations. Be optimistic. You are not alone in this world and sometimes we need to be helped. Besides, no one cannot cope with everything by his own. Even if you are far away, something will guide you home. Future is something we discover rather than invent and I hope you know that you must find it yourself.



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categoria 15-19 ani

Premiu special 6

Iuga Elisabeta

clasa 9-a

Colegiul National "Dr. Ioan Mesota"

Brasov/BRASOV

Mirror, mirror on the wall, look what you have become. Just look how much you have changed. All your childhood dreams came true. You have such a joyful family, such a beautiful job surrounded by letters, words, books and languages. You no longer confuse Spanish with French and German with English. Your words have power, your attitude is strong. Everybody reads your books, everybody wants to be your friend. Your life is love, joy and hope, hope not for something better, but for keeping what you have already gained.

I love everything about you, I have nothing to add, but I just want to ask you a simple question: Did you forget about me? Did you forget about a shy teenage girl who used to hide in the shadows? Did you forget about the flowers that you used to paint on the walls when you yourself were a wall-flower?

Remember the tears, the looks and the sorrowful smiles, the only treasures a shadow hunter had. My dear future self, don't get mad at me, I don't remind your past to sadden your life. I do this to help you, to save you from pride and selfishness. If you want to treasure what you have, don't forget where you started. You are a light hunter because you were a shadow hunter. Look in the mirror, see what you were and what you are.



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