

categoria 11-14 ani

# Premiul I – Lazar Stefan

clasa a 11-a

Colegiul National Goethe

Bucuresti

*(Journey) The stars have aligned. Rulers have turned feeble and rules themselves, to dust. The world now cowers at my wishes and awaits command, yet I demand nothing and everything stays the same. No orders are uttered, amidst the library of emotions shackled to my mind no urge to dictate. I linger in the thought of the potential of my power and continue to be unhinged yet unchanged. No matter the rules, no matter the oppressors, the only chains I ever bear were the maddening mysteries of my own self. They don't flinch when made aware of the demise of rules, they don't solve themselves when fearing that they're being understood. I'm a breathing riddle, the closest thing to a hint tangled in the secrets I keep away from myself "envy lurks in the darkest corners of my mind, love and hate feel too similar to be told apart what rules could one fashion to soothe my twisting sanity, what dam could one erect to hold a storming sea? And yet if in a world with no rules all pain would dissolve, remorse would fade, melancholy would dim I do not wish to be part of it. I may be stuck in a labyrinth I crafted, my efforts and hopes may render insignificant in the shadows of its shifting walls but I sure enjoy my pitiful endeavors at finding an exit. A world with no rules would be the easy way out what a shame I seek a journey.*



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# Premiul II - Giusca Andreea

clasa a 10-a

Colegiul National Gheorghe Sincai

Bucuresti

*In a world where society didn't impose a certain pattern for people to follow, perhaps certain aspects of life would improve. I fully agree with David Thoreau, "The best ideas are rarely found by following rules", stating that without rules the world would do much better in all fields of knowledge.*

*However, rules represent the prerequisite of mankind, having roots in every area known to man. Since we are born, we are unconsciously bombarded with them. We are told not to misbehave, what to eat and so on. Whether we refer to religion, physics or medicine, rules have the tendency to dictate every aspect of our lives. For example, religion brings forth a set of rules, albeit moral ones, with The Seven Deadly sins representing ways in which people should not act.*

*Conversely, the unknown is what distinguishes us from mere animals. We have an undeniable attraction to what we cannot grasp, which is to blame for our curiosity, thus making us human. Without question, we have no idea if this abstract notion has any rules at its basis, much like other abstract concepts such as feelings. Rules smother the thirst for knowledge, for they make us anticipate how certain things will happen. Is the thrill of the unknown what attracts us to the concept of a world with no rules?*

*The human brain craves consistency and is programmed to be afraid of the unknown, which is also what makes life thrilling. Conform or differ: what do we really want?*



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# Premiul III - Calugareanu Bianca Nicoleta

clasa a 11-a

Colegiul National Moise Nicoara

Arad

*I opened my eyes just as the first frail and brittle beams of light crept from beyond the horizon. I left, distrustful, the safety of my refuge, a nest, that I had built two summers prior.*

*Spreading my wings, I began surveilling the town of Wellington, in which the only rule that ever existed was chaos. The noisy marketplace had opened and so the chattering of merchants started to fill the atmosphere. Hectic and disorderly, people were bargaining with the aim of acquiring as many useless possessions as possible. Owing to the franticness, the occasional thief managed to pilfer items from the stands. Hence why, not one soul caught sight of a little girl, with dashing blonde locks and astonishing emerald eyes, that smuggled away a pack of daffodil seeds.*

*Thereafter, in the middle of the town, people started shooting flaming arrows at a tree for perhaps its branches were deemed too symmetrical and balanced. One of the wandering arrows pierced my plumage. As my soul slipped away from my body, I distinguished, in the eerie crowd, that same blonde child. She bestrew the daffodil seeds in the ashes of the tree. For a split second, before impact, I thought I saw the flowers blooming. Prepared to be forever lost in the darkness...I was reborn as though I was a phoenix, for there was no order in this world to dictate otherwise. I was reborn, just like the world rises from its ashes and chaos with every dawn of day.*



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# Mentiune 1 - Milutinovici Stefan

clasa a 11-a

Colegiul National Ion Luca Caragiale

Bucuresti

*At first glance, this may seem the definition of paradise, a world in which you can do whatever you want, whenever you want it, but after a few minutes of euphoria provided by your newly acquired freedom, you slowly come to realize that a world without rules is the end of human society as we know it. The entire world will descend into madness and everyone will fight for the few resources that are still on the planet until eventually, humans will become extinct. This "paradise" seems like the worst nightmare you can have, however it is impossible for something like this to ever happen, because humans have an almost genetic need for establishing rules and rulers. And it's not just humans, all animals with brains organize themselves in a hierarchy of some sorts, for example meerkats have a strict society lead by an alpha female and they have very strict rules on hunting and sharing water. Humans are social creatures, they are meant to gather in tribes, or to form societies. And these societies can not function without rules, rules such as "thou shall not kill", are not imposed by any religion or legal system, rules are the main element of any civilization.*

*That is why a world with NO rules will forever be something impossible to achieve, because it is in our nature as humans to build civilizations. And so, a world without rules is not a world in which humans can live in.*



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## Mentiune 2 - Tiplea Ariana

clasa a 9-a

Colegiul National Gheorghe Lazar

Bucuresti

*A world with no rules is a well-known concept spreading worldwide, having people hoping about this unique opportunity. In my opinion, this is not the most beneficial concept for our society.*

*At first sight, this idea seems to bring incomparable advantages. During our everyday lives, I think that we frequently feel, as if rules are not properly applied to us. For this reason, having absolutely no laws, develops freedom, an overwhelming feeling of peace, rare within our strict society. For example, the worries regarding how to avoid being penalized for something irrelevant, would immediately disappear and there remains just the liberty that allows us to live our own perfect scenarios.*

*On the other hand, the deficiency of control could become outrageous rapidly. Despite the fact that the notion of freedom is priceless, the lack of organization could really damage our place on Earth. Living in a land where all the moral values have abruptly vanished, would cause catastrophic events for humanity. Just the constant thought of what a day without rules would determine, creates an uncomfortable feeling of uncertainty, where the repercussions cannot be anticipated. Moreover, laws were initially invented to permit people to adapt in social life, so if we destroy our harmonic coexistence, we are compromised to risky loneliness that affects even our health.*

*To conclude, although a world with no rules appears appealing at first sight, our society cannot neglect the fact that it would become harmful, principally for ourselves, as for the entire environment.*



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## Mentiune 3 - Cotfas Miruna - Cristina

clasa a 10-a

Colegiul National Andrei Saguna

Brasov

*Do we ever ponder on why a day has twenty-four hours, why hours last sixty minutes or are they facts just taken for granted? Countless "universal" rules undoubtedly influence our daily lives, without us even realising it. We might believe that we never play by the rules, but in our endeavour to break them so as to fit in, we only follow rules we have never known to exist. Abiding such disarray parallels unceasingly pouring water into a broken glass- frantically trying to contain the stream, to no avail. Chaos would irredeemably take over. Even now, when precepts and ethical guidelines shape our perception upon the world, people still misinterpret freedom to unimaginable extents. Imagine waking up every day to a world where instinct always leads to action, no matter the consequences or whether your whims shatter someone else's dreams.*

*Picture this: a school morning; I cautiously walk out the door. But stepping outside, all I can hear is the deafening sound of honks, headlights blinding me- no pedestrian crossings, no traffic lights, cars following whichever direction they see fit. Trying to elude the overwhelming crowds, the utopian image of a world without constraints starts fading away. Rules are not meant to limit, to draw a narrow circle around people and punish them, should they step out of it. If anything, they help guide one through hardship and uncertainty. People in a world without rules would mirror pieces of different puzzles endlessly striving to fit together, but never intertwining...*



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## Premiul Juriului pentru Originalitate:

Iacob Toni Constantin

clasa a 10-a

Colegiul National Ion Luca Caragiale

Sat Nedelea / PRAHOVA

*I would like to believe that a world without the rules imposed by our own society would be a living paradise, but as I acknowledge more and more the importance of some limits, I begin to realise that such a world would burn itself to ashes. The laws of physics can't be forgotten as this would cause a Butterfly Effect and be the end of everything that ever existed, but if the rules that we made for ourselves could disappear, what would that mean for us? Would we all be equal? At first, a world without rules sounds like a perfect utopian world. Living freely, being able to do and say anything and yet there are so many different perspectives. The clashing views would only cause doom to our kind, and subsequently a need for justice, which involves a law system. This life is alike a Mobius Strip, there is no other option, we would always need a way of keeping ourselves safe, even if we have to rely on rules and sacrifice our freedom. Maybe this is extreme, but nowadays everything should be taken seriously as there are so many dangers on this planet we call "home". From the eyes of a teenager with a thirst of freedom and the desire to be heard, I heavily believe that rules are passed on to us with a reason. Someone, somewhere far away from our understanding wanted us to live in harmony, why would we want to change that?*



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# Premiul Juriului pentru Originalitate:

## Obada Alice Irina

clasa a 10-a

Colegiul National Mihai Viteazul

Bucuresti

*Is it Forbidden to Forbid?*

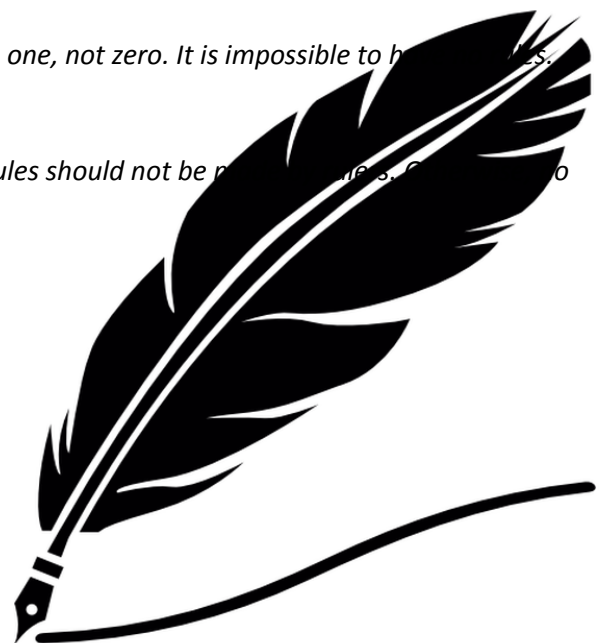
*Right after the first Bang, the Big one, chemical elements appeared. According to a rule. Then the celestial bodies were formed. On a (new) rule. They were held in solar systems and galaxies. By other rules. At some point atoms joined into molecules and there was life. Rule! Life developed and extended. Under rules. Man came on and created the world. More rules. Every time a new field of activity arise a set of rules is established.*

*It is not so difficult to understand why people might feel overwhelmed by the number of rules. Or even by the existence of any rule. And granted, authoritarian systems tend to confine the rights and liberties. People react to that through revolts or revolutions. Some of them aim for new rules, others want no rules.*

*But is it a world with no rules just for day dreaming? We may imagine a world with no countries and with no possession too, but no rules means dogs chasing their own tails in a Brownian motion. Chaos!*

*And "no rules" is a rule. The minimum number of rules is one, not zero. It is impossible to have no rules. Not even this contest could take place with no rules.*

*We have to have rules, and mainly the rule of law. But rules should not be too many. Too many rules can lead to no freedom. And we want freedom.*



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## Premiul Juriului pentru Originalitate:

### Abibula Meral

clasa a 10-a

Liceul Teoretic International de Informatica

Constanta

*Rules are subject to every person's upbringing. They can range from the laws applied universally which, if disregarded lead to very tangible and public consequences to the simple but strict rules of every family. Depending on your own perspective they can be either seen as the base of our society, keeping it from plummeting into chaos or a cause for the constant pressure exerted on the contemporary human. All the dissensions surrounding the concept of rules come from personal experiences, while some see the loopholes found in most laws which help release criminals, others understand that there are thousands of people wrongfully sentenced. So which side do you associate with when you have seen both the good and the evil? Even worse, how can you side with rules when there are people in jail for stealing bread to feed their starving children or with their absence when you know it will end in anarchy, a chaos you do not want to see nor be a part of? The rational solution would be a truce, realising that the world cannot survive without rules though before their implementation they must be thought of much more thoroughly. People must understand there is more to a deed than can be seen, that stealing from a bank is a wrong choice but it can also be the only choice. You might deem principles more valuable than your survival but we all know that the lives of our dear ones are, quite literally, worth killing for.*



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## Premiu Special:

### Tomsa Oana Bianca

clasa a 12-a

Colegiul National Dragos Voda

Sighetu Marmatiei / MARAMURES

*We humans are creatures of desire molded from clay so very long ago, we wear our wants openly: on our sleeves, in the tugged-up corner of a smile, in the light churning in our eyes. In our secret hearts, threaded through bone and sinew, there is a strange mesh of empathy and pettiness, of compassion and greed, kindness laying side by side with spite. What would happen then, if there were no laws to constrict us? Anarchy and chaos, the worst of us coming out to play the darkest, ugliest of games. Never mind the loss of etiquette, of the unwritten script by which we navigate our social life; it is the disappearance of laws that will be our undoing – without the restrictions of today a flood of crimes would be unleashed upon society, rendering it an ambiguous, morally grey area, a playground for the malicious. Theft, murder, discrimination and abuse, all will become commonplace if there is no shadow of punishment to loom over us. Keeping our intrinsic streak of viciousness under wraps has become second nature – only there is so much jealousy, so much hate brimming under the surface that in a moment of inattention, a single drop may slip between our barricades and poison everything around us. Some say that rules limit vision, putting boundaries to dreams, but I think they offer us a safe haven, allowing us to grow into our skin, to become the best version of ourselves.*



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## Premiu Special:

Moroianu Andreea

clasa a 12-a

Colegiul Dobrogean Spiru Haret

Tulcea

*Cromulent...*

*A rule less world is not a free world. Without rules, people would have the liberty to act as they please, without having to think about the consequences. They would all follow the frontier justice, which would lead to a process of dehumanization. But what does freedom mean? Well, for me, freedom is when you can act according to your wishes or in the absence of coercion on the condition of not restricting the freedom of another. Even if at first, the rule less world would seem a dazzling world, we later figure out the opposite. Personally, I think waking up in such a world would be a nightmare with a ineffable denouement that I would not want to know. This is a controversial subject as several experiments have been carried out on this topic. Like the one in which, Marina Abramovic, was exposed for six hours to a group of people letting them "play" with her as if she were an object. Thus, people, aware of the lack of consequences, act in an illicit manner. This experiment discloses something terrible about humanity. It denotes how fast a person can hurt you under favorable circumstances. Since people are already making abstraction of laws, if these disappear it would be a disaster with thefts, murders and other crimes. To sum it up, society sets the limits as to how far you can go before going too far. A world without laws is in state of chaos because society crystallizes around the rules.*



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## Premiu Special:

### Stemate Sonia - Andreea

clasa a 12-a

Colegiul National Mihai Eminescu

Comuna Maracineni / BACAU

*I hardly see crowds, I hardly see people, there's no trace of togetherness. I barely distinguish the voices, the words, the sounds. Everything is mayhem, oh terrible mayhem, and chaos and revolution. But who are we rebelling against?*

*Just as Icarus, we have flown too high and got our wings burnt and now we are struggling in a sea of hopelessness, damnation and detachment. In the whole rush for uniqueness, we have lost ourselves. Gladly we welcomed the fall of the state, the shedding of grammar, we ruled out the social contract and got back to our roots. Thousands upon thousands of years of progress destroyed in less than a century of emancipation. But what is emancipation truly, when we still are chained by our very human nature?*

*In an excess of arrogance, we thought the man has reached the peak of morality, where he can be autonomous, where rules and laws are no longer mandatory, since being righteous should be the natural stance of the human being. But our judgment was clouded by vanity, and we paid a high price for it.*

*As the mayhem unfolds around me, I walk alone. Contemplating, I still hope for a better day. Change takes time, and 100 years is not enough. Today, the dark clouds are looming over us, but they are a little lighter than those from yesterday. Tomorrow, the sun won't shine, but maybe the day after that will.*



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## Premiu Special:

### Vlad Ariana - Dalia

clasa a 11-a

Liceul Teoretic International de Informatica

Strehaia / MEHEDINTI

*When thinking about lack of rules, I never imagine a world without the basic fundamentals of physics; I believe nature and matter would diligently follow the same order and it always has, even before the advent of man, and that no matter how hard one might concentrate, focusing their power on this sole purpose, the apple wouldn't fly away from Newton's head. What I think of, however, is when someone, weary of respecting millions of rules, wishes they could do whatever they want and act however they wanted, and I wonder what makes them feel so constrained. It's not the rules, as they don't physically force one to obey them, so the answer lies in what's left: the responsibility one has after breaking a rule, after any morally amiss or ambiguous action. We are caged not by rules, but by the necessity of assuming our actions and living by their repercussions. A criminal who confesses willingly is a free man in their own way. As all rules are man-made inventions, they don't have the power to change the nature of man; I don't consider there is any way one might feel freer without rules, but that might just be the belief of someone born and raised in a world where absence of laws is barely utopian. History taught us that rules free more than they constrain: they emancipated women and established democracy in most parts of the world, created the comfort of our contemporary lives.*



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