

DANIKA KUMAR INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



# SCHOOL NEWSPAPER



December 2017, Issue 1

Dear students,

We are happy and proud to be able to give you a selection of your literary and art work, which you kindly agreed to share with our school community.

Years from now, when one or more of you is an acclaimed writer receiving yet another literary award, the papers might read: “(S)he first published his/her work in a school newspaper”. And we will all be able to brag that we used to meet you in the hallways of Danila Kumar International School.

Or not – what your (literary) future holds in store for you depends largely on what you plan to invest in it. After all, we know that genius is made up of two percent inspiration and ninety-eight percent perspiration.

We hope you enjoy this first issue and keep on submitting us your best works, so that we will be able to read your poem, short story, essay or some other literary work in the second issue of the school paper. All the students are welcome to participate!

Ms Anja Dežman and Ms Tea Jelnikar

**Cover page:** Maria Nosovska

**Photos:** [animalspot.net](http://animalspot.net), [its.caltech.edu/~atomic/snowcrystals/photos](http://its.caltech.edu/~atomic/snowcrystals/photos)

Roman soldiers in ancient Rome and the conservation of wild animals ... At first sight, these two topics have nothing to do with each other, but all of the students writing these stories showed empathy by putting themselves in the shoes (or paws) of their literary heroes.

#### TIME TRAVEL TO ANCIENT ROME

I was sitting on my bed reading a magazine about ancient Romans. I suddenly fell asleep..... I was in ancient Rome! I couldn't believe my eyes! I could see lots of people walking around and doing their jobs. I could see children playing outside with each other and I could hear a woman crying. I followed the noise, aware that every single person I passed by was staring at me.

Well, I followed the noise and I saw a small house. This house was made of rocks, had a window and a small door. I peeked through the window and saw a woman with a baby in her hands. I decided to see why she was crying. I was not scared as I knew she could not kill me or hurt me. In a scared way, I went inside and asked her name. "Geta", she said. So I helped Geta up, and she told me exactly what happened. This was her story: "My husband went to the army and for the next 25 years I will not be able to see him" she said. "Now I am left alone here with my only child. The only memory of him I had left is this necklace." It was beautiful, made of shells. Anyway, I thought a bit and helped her. I told her I would be back, but first I had a little exploring to do.

I knew that everyone would stare and fight, so I hid. I observed, they wore white tunics and leather sandals. Their architecture was interesting and beautiful, not as advanced as nowadays, though. I started to get a bit afraid so I ran away, and you will never believe who I bumped into..... it was a big, scary, Roman man. Well not just ANY Roman man, oh no, a Roman Soldier! I was scared to death! The soldier noticed that and said "Oh, don't be scared, you know, I am scared too". He said: "I only want to get back with my wife, GETA". I was so happy! "Geta wants to be with you too", I said. "I know" he said sadly. He got out of the army thankfully and got back with Geta.

Then I woke up. It was just a dream!! This day was my birthday so my mum came in my room with a present in her hands. I opened it, it was a beautiful necklace. This necklace looked familiar, but I couldn't remember where I saw it. Wait a minute, it was the same one that Geta wore.

Nita Rexhepi 7.i

## A Day In the Life Of a Roman Soldier in Britannia

"Caesar!" The centurion shouts. "Yes, sir!" I reply. "Go down to the barracks and get the other soldiers," he shouts.

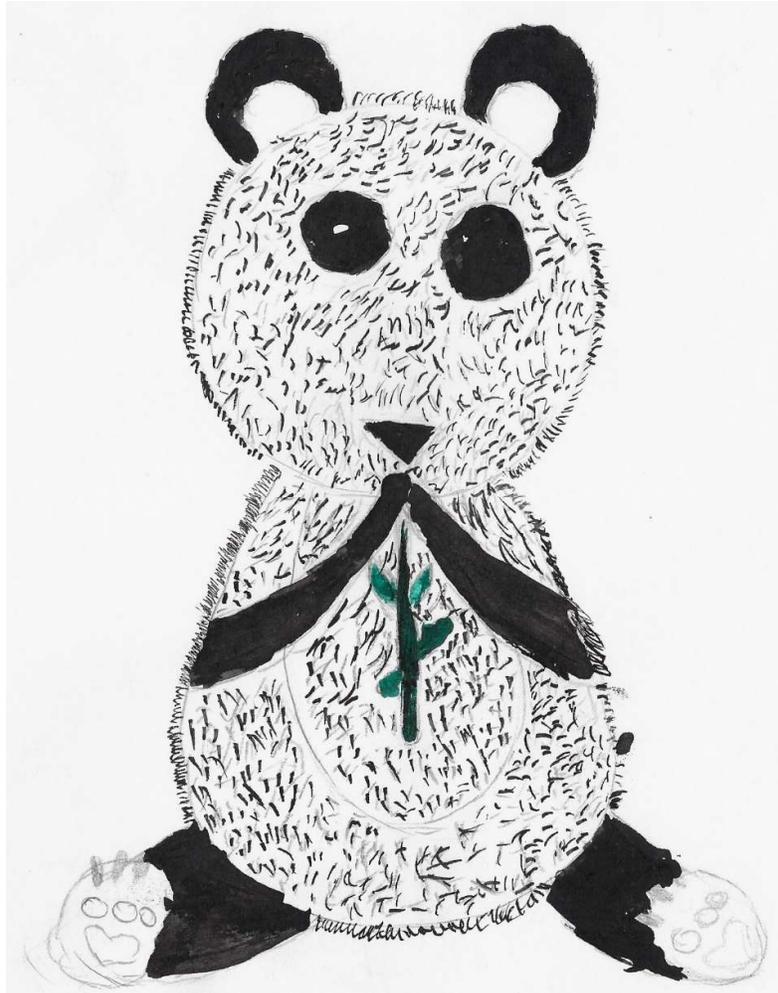
I obligingly go down to the barracks noticing the rather damp conditions and I'm thinking to myself that maybe I shouldn't have signed up to go to Britannia in the emperor's name. Britannia is wet and damp and cold and miserable and absolutely nothing like my beloved Rome, but at least the pay is good and I get fed well.

Now I'm coming to the room of the local British soldiers. I can't smell any beer; centurion has probably whipped them into shape. That's good, because it means I can finally get some sleep. I knock on the door three times and the door opens and I see a burly light-haired man called Thrym. "Hello, Thrym, centurion wants us expeditionary soldiers to do some drills with you Britons because he wants us to move and fight like one," I say. "Okay, I will just fetch the others," he replies in his heavily accented Latin.

Soon he comes back with a group of twenty men and we go up to the training ground. Centurion is already waiting for us along with the other expeditionary soldiers. We do a few drills together then watch in amazement as some auxiliary forces do some drills in the training grounds. The Centurion says to us that one day we could become auxiliary forces if we have the right skills and are good legionaries.

Felix De Launey 7.i

## ANIMALS' TAILS-TALES



Natali Bekaia, 5M

## STRIPED HYENA

Hello! My name is Striped Hyena/ზოლებიანი ავთარი. I mostly live in Africa and Asia in savannahs, grasslands and woodlands. I am a carnivore and I love eating baby lions. Oh, and I also eat human refuse. Don't think that I am the only species of hyena in the world; there is also brown, spotted, and aardwolf. I have really good eyesight and I can even see at night. My hearing is so good that I can hear those that are behind me, and I have really sharp teeth. I am a mammal. I

am around 63.5-89cm long, my weight is 41-86kg, my top speed is 60 km and I live around 20-25 years. My predators are lions, leopards, and crocodiles. I am near threatened because of poachers that are killing me for fur and medicine. Also, predators are eating me.

There are now 10,000 hyenas in the world. As for the food chain, I am in the middle of it. I eat baboon's impalas and the lions eat me. I am on the IUCNs red list, AWF is donating money for me, Wilds Arkive are making national parks for me, they have my conservation status plan, they are studying my behaviour biology and ecology. Also, they are trying to change people's negative perspective towards me. The WWF has an adoption centre for me, a donation for me, and they are protecting the areas that I live in. ZOOs help me to be safe, they give me food, if I have an injury they try to heal it, they protect me from predators that can eat me, and from the poachers. Also, they are researching about me a lot, so they can teach me the skills of how to survive and hunt in the wild, then they send me back to the wild safely.

Here are some interesting facts you may not know about me! My species is already 24 million years old, I hunt baby lions. Sometimes my species and lions hunt together, but the lions are so tasty that I really want to eat them. Besides, I am really hard to tame.

Natali Bekaia, 5M

## MY BORING LIFE AS A BEAVER

Hi, my name is Jože and I love adventures, but nothing interesting happens in the life of a beaver. A beaver's life is boring because for many years everybody forgot about us, the Castor Fiber beavers, but then finally in 1998 some people found us in the river Krka. Oh, and I also live in the river Krka but my best friends Lev, Anja, Branka, and Janez live in the rivers Sava, Drava, Sotla, and Mura. It's a long swim to get there. As a result, I am near threatened. But being near threatened is actually the only plus of being a beaver because organizations like IUCN protect us, we are also on the IUCNs red list. So now you know some things about me – let's start with my boring life.

When I was born, my two brothers teased me because I had a big flat tail, but they were also really jealous of me because I was so furry and cute. I was even more cute than them, at least that's what mum said. My brothers are also jealous of me because I am one of the 4 percent of all the beavers who has black fur. My brothers and me are very fat – our weight is 35kg. When I was a baby we moved three times because beavers need to produce more life in other places. That's why one of my brothers lives in the river Mura and one of them lives in the river Sava. When I was 5 my mum taught me how to cut wood and make dams. As a result, I can make dam castles.

When I was 7 my dad died. My mum told me the whole story of how my dad died. This is the story: My dad saw a Sugar Maple tree and he wanted to eat it, but then a lynx killed him and ate him and then a grey wolf killed the lynx and ate him. My mum knew all of that because she saw it. When I was 10 years old I started eating all foods a normal beaver eats. The foods are herbs, wood, water plants and bushes. My favourite foods are herbs, but I really don't like that I can only eat herbs in the summer or when it is hot like most of the other food.

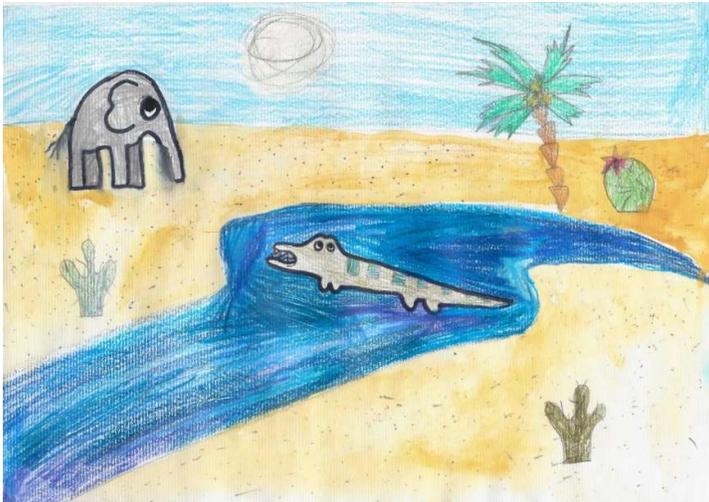
When I was 11, we moved again to the river Sotla due to project beaver. The project was to observe us more in our natural habitat. When I was 13, I hit puberty and that was really bad. My teeth became orange because I cut too much wood and my hygiene was really bad. One month later, fisherman and wardens checked us every day and that was very annoying, but I know that was just to protect us. As I was getting older, my species, the Castor Fiber was becoming nearer to near threatened due to habitat loss and poaching.

Now I am 21, I live in the river Krka, with my wife and 2 kids, Lana and Lan and yes they have big tails. Now, as I write my whole life, I see it's not actually boring at all. I have had so many adventures. And now another one is coming because I am going for a swim in the river Krka, as I am a great swimmer. Now my life adventure will go on and on.

Živa Pilgram 5.M

After exploring fables, myths, legends and other literary types, the students of 4.m designed, wrote and illustrated their very own. Below, you can read two of them.

# The elephant and the crocodile



AUTHOR: Abramenkova Polina

ILLUSTRATOR: Abramenkova Polina

**O**nce there was an elephant. He was big, grey and wise, but very slow. One day, when he was walking next to the widest river bank in Africa, he saw a deep green coloured crocodile. The crocodile had the sharpest teeth in Africa and a large mouth (not larger than the elephant's, of course).



**T**he crocodile started teasing the elephant, but quickly stopped, because when an elephant is angry, you should run away. The crocodile jumped in the river and started to catch fish. The elephant got extremely hungry. He asked for some fish from the crocodile who was smiling nastily. The crocodile had a secret plan.

**H**e answered the said no. The elephant into the catch some fish by already stepped in a while. He knew to eat him. So the from the river with



elephant negatively. He crocodile invited the river so he could try to himself. The elephant the water, but thought for that the crocodile wanted elephant sucked the water the fish in it with his trunk.

The elephant ate the fish and splashed the water that was left at the angry crocodile who wanted to eat. "That is not fair!" the crocodile screamed. "It is," said the elephant. "Nature made you a crocodile, but you could choose your way." "You could be kind, or greedy and bad like you are now." So the elephant stomped away.

**T**he crocodile sat in the river and splashed water at himself. He was very angry at the elephant.

**H**e swam away from that river bank and never came back.

**Moral: Think before you act.**

# The Legend of Mountains

Author: Nicolas Goester

Illustrator: Nicolas Goester

A long time ago before the first mountain was built, the gods had a dragon that was very kind. So the gods sent him to the Earth and he built a magnificent castle on a little island. The castle covered the whole island and people lived in it. The dragon was thin, he had three hands, he had green eyes, he had eight spikes on his tail, and he didn't have wings.

Two years later another dragon took the castle, he was enormous, red, fierce and when he moves there is a meteor shower. He changed the people that lived in it into slaves. On this island there was a liquid called liquid Tibanna it was highly explosive. This island is the only one



that has some. So the bad dragon said "if you escape I will set fire to the liquid Tibanna and the other dragon will kill you." But he was lying. The good dragon who didn't know anything of this was building some mountains with rocks

because the two dragons could be enormous or small.

The bad dragon was very happy because he just needed to move. He did not like a dolphin that was living close by. But the dolphin was a bit magic so he went on land and told the good dragon “the bad dragon took control of the castle, you must help the people that lived in it.” After that the good dragon wanted to kill the bad dragon. “the people will be free” he thought and he swam to the castle.

When he arrived he saw the bad dragon was sitting on the throne. When he saw him he looked at him with his two greedy eyes and they fought. The two dragons were hitting each other with terrible strength



and screaming at each other. During the battle the people said “get to the boat “but the owner was one of the slaves. They went to the closest island, but it was only one kilometre away from the castle and they could see it.

At the end the good dragon decided to set fire to the liquid Tibanna. A man said “where is he? Where is he?” and another said. “He is doing what a helper does, sacrificing himself for the lives of others.” On the island the people saw a tremendous explosion from a distance. After that sacrifice, the gods decided to give another life to the dragon but he was invisible and he still built some mountains, but very slowly and the magic dolphin helped him.

Usually, we get to know a culture by getting to know its people. This is why 6.m students decided to interview Ms Nadia Ramtoola, our new English language assistant. The students brainstormed ideas for the interview questions and the most frequent and relevant ones were selected for the interview. Their questions mostly fell into three categories: questions about Ms Nadia herself, questions about Australia (It seems many students' first associations about Australia had to do with animals) and the ones comparing Australian and Slovenian cultures.

***Were you also working as a teacher in Australia? If so, which grade or subject did you teach?***



Yes, for the last two years I have been working as a teacher in a primary school in Sydney. Last year I taught grade six and as a classroom teacher, I taught all subjects.

***How did you decide to come to Slovenia?***

When I was traveling through Asia, I met my partner who is Slovenian. We lived in Australia for a year and a half. I had always heard what a beautiful country Slovenia is so we decided to move here to see if it is a place I could call home.

***Are you planning to return to Australia someday?***

I am certainly planning to return to Australia to visit (hopefully once a year). We will probably eventually live there again someday.

***Living here, is there anything that you miss about Australia?***

I miss my family and my friends the most. Also, I miss going for a swim at the beach after work in the summer. And I really miss driving on the left side of the road in an automatic car 😊

***How do you find life in Slovenia?***

Life in Slovenia is very different to Sydney, however, I really enjoy the lifestyle here too. I love that you could be in the mountains in the morning and at the seaside in the afternoon. The relaxed culture in the country side and the strong sense of community in the village where I live has really helped me to settle in and feel welcomed. Also, almost everyone here has a really good level of English which has made it easier for me to find my way around. I am learning Slovene but it is a slow process as it is quite a difficult language to learn.

***Is there any Slovenian habit that you find surprising or annoying? Is there any Slovenian food that you like?***

This is not really a habit but I think the most surprising thing for me here is to find that a lot of Slovenian families all live together as neighbours in villages. Families are a lot more spread out at home. My favourite food would have to be goulash (even though I recently found out that this dish isn't Slovenian) which my partner's mum has taught me to make.

***What are the first five differences or similarities you think of if you compare Australia and Slovenia?***

Everything is really close in Slovenia so it is easier to have diversity among landscapes, whereas Australia is a really big country and driving between cities can take a long time.

A lot of people here in Slovenia have big gardens and grow their own fruits and vegetables. At home, this is not so common.

In Australia we drive on the opposite side of the road which made roundabouts very confusing for me when I first arrived!

Another big difference is that in Australia you would never be sharing the road with a tractor in the city!

Slovenia and Australia are similar in the way that outdoor activities, such as camping and going to the seaside, are very popular.

***What other languages are spoken in Australia besides English?***

Australia is a very multicultural country so even though English is the official language, you will easily find communities where people who have come from the

same country live and settle, opened restaurants with their country's food and use their native language.

***Is life more expensive in Australia or in Slovenia?***

Life has become much more expensive in Australia over the last ten years. Even though the average salary in Australia is higher, it is still very difficult to afford to buy a house in the cities.

***What is typical Australian food like?***

Australians typically like to have barbecues and eat a lot of meat such as steaks. Although, kangaroo has also become a popular food to eat nowadays! Being surrounded by ocean, seafood is also quite typically eaten.

***Which is your favourite Australian animal? Which Australian animal are you most afraid of?***

Wallabies are my favourite animal because they're a smaller version of a kangaroo and therefore much more approachable to pat. Despite all the snakes and spiders, I am probably the most afraid of Magpies! In the spring time, they catch you by surprise and swoop at you to protect their babies!



The final entries to this paper are copies instead of transcriptions, because the text is inseparable from the artwork itself. Enjoy these inspired and inspirational sonnets written by 8.m students.

"A Long Distance Parallel" By Ben Weeks

The sun loves the moon,  
But its love it shall not receive.  
Perhaps he told her too soon,  
But no, he wants to believe.  
He likes those solar eclipses,  
So that he can see her in all of her glory.  
And every time the Earth has some awesome remixes.  
Truly, it's a fascinating love story.  
But in a few million years,  
The moon will move farther away.  
And the sun will shed all its tears.  
And the sun will be feeling quite gay.  
As the moon has some fears, the sun washes away his tears.  
But parallel they forever will stay.



Benjamin Weeks

# NATURE

When I am in nature I see trees  
In the forest I walk  
Many times I feel a breeze  
In nature I like to talk  
I love nature because there are no cars  
There is always fresh air  
In the night sky I see stars  
I don't like to meet a bear's  
In the city the day is grey  
I am happy that there are no schools  
When I come to nature I stay  
And truly school is for fools  
That is why I love nature  
Together we can become greater

Dominik Moro

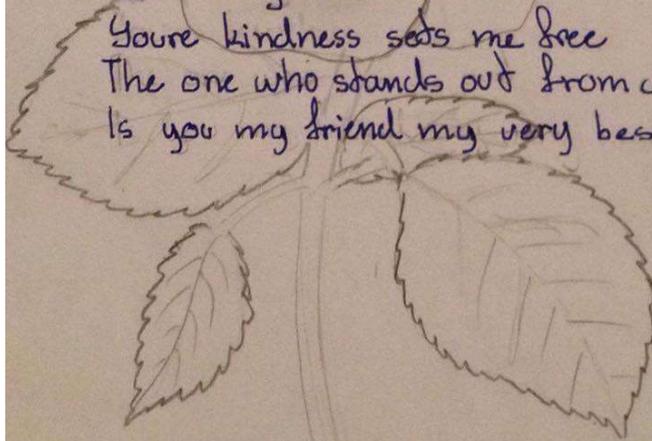
## The Ocean

Gentle as the nights approach  
Shimmering with the light of dawn  
Unpredictable like a cockroach  
Full of mysteries down below  
The waves crash every day  
Feeling the fierce wind blow  
Carefully into the bay  
Making the birds crow  
It's so very salty  
It's the basic elemental  
But not at all faulty  
Completely non-judgemental  
In fact it's completely pure  
Taking the summer loss easier to endure

Ema Toplak

# Sonnet 100

As months go by day by day  
I've been up and I've been down  
I've been for long on life's highway  
It just went round and round  
Many times I couldn't have made it through  
You make me smile  
And I have a friend like you  
Waiting for you is worthwhile  
I'll never let you go  
You're always there for me  
Just for you to know  
Your kindness sets me free  
The one who stands out from all the rest  
Is you my friend my very best



Nina Samardžija



When I first saw you I knew you my friend  
As I took you in my hands I knew you were the  
And I will love you to the very end  
To have as much fun

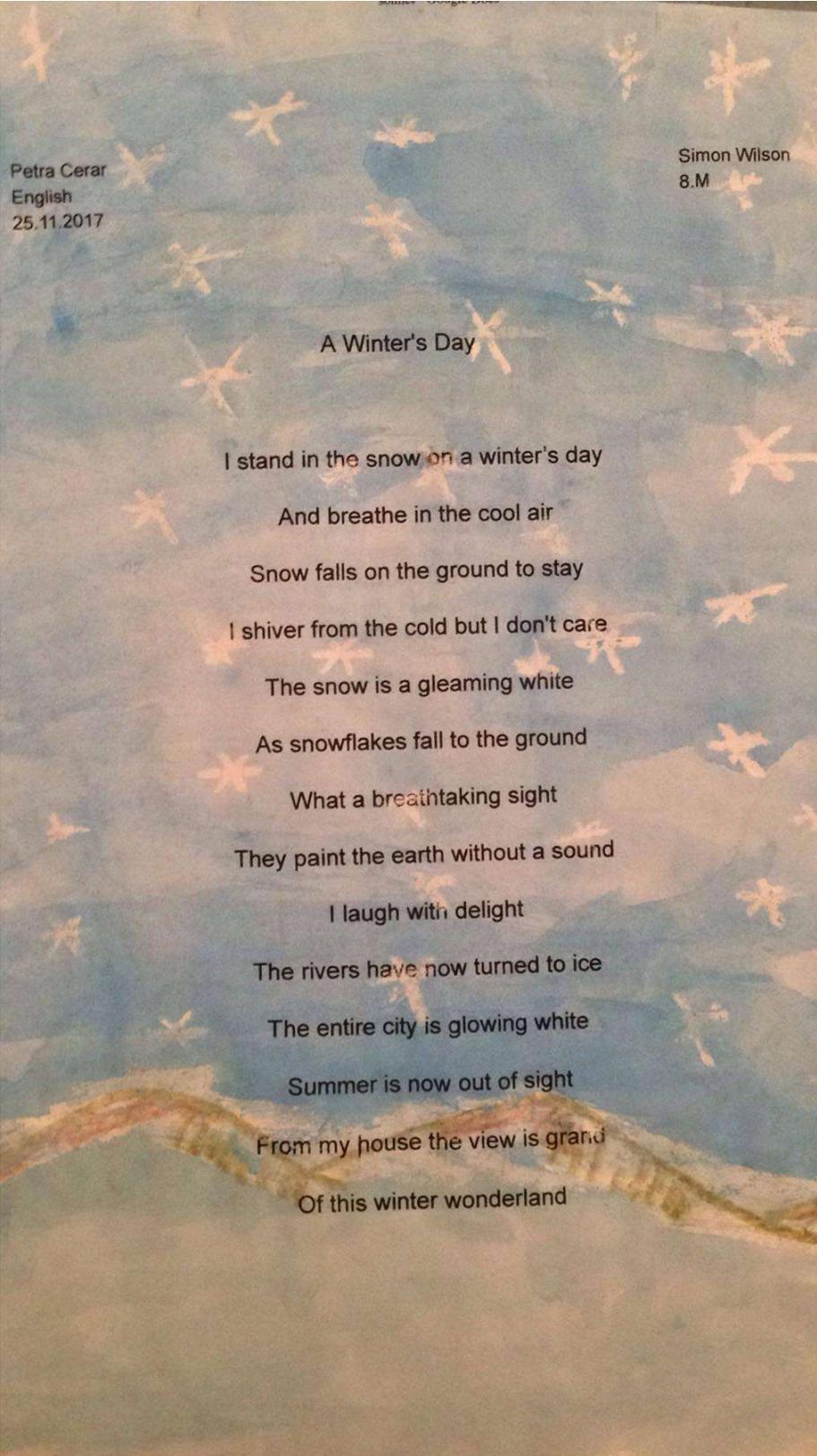
When you beg me for the food you get  
You stand like a human on your back feet  
And when I take you to the vet  
You always get something to eat

As we go outside to play with your friends  
You run around and play catch  
The fun outside never ends  
It's like watching a wrestling match

When you greet me every day  
I'm glad to have you in my way



BY: SARA



Petra Cerar  
English  
25.11.2017

Simon Wilson  
8.M

### A Winter's Day

I stand in the snow on a winter's day

And breathe in the cool air

Snow falls on the ground to stay

I shiver from the cold but I don't care

The snow is a gleaming white

As snowflakes fall to the ground

What a breathtaking sight

They paint the earth without a sound

I laugh with delight

The rivers have now turned to ice

The entire city is glowing white

Summer is now out of sight

From my house the view is grand

Of this winter wonderland

Simon Wilson

