



# WINTER WONDERLAND

ediția a VII-a







## *Winter Wonderland*

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**WINTER**

**WONDERLAND**



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## *The Winter Story*

**Ciobănică Darius**

3<sup>th</sup> Grade, "Garabet Ibrăileanu"  
National College, Iași

Last winter, when it was snowing for the first time, I and my best friend, Darius, went outside to play with snowballs. The snow around us was up to our knees, so, we decided to make a snow castle with snowmen and a snow horse to guard the throne room where the King and the Queen lived. Outside the castle, my friend Dănuț suggested to build icy watchmen to stop the invasion of the attackers. The King and the Queen were built from two blocks of ice found under the eaves of a house nearby.

We worked at that winter icy castle for about five hours and the result was the best. It was a castle inspired from the stories that we loved so much: *The Youth Without Old Age and Life Without Death*, *The Enchanted Wolf and Prince Charming*, *Ileana Cosânzeana*.

Everybody liked our castle and we were proud of it. It was fantastic! It looked real! It was huge, with many rooms, a room for each story character.

Unfortunately, night came quickly and we had to go home, to leave our icy castle alone.

I went back home to sleep. I dreamt that Prince-Charming met Ileana Cosânzeana in Santa Claus' house. They started to talk about their families, their problems and their life. After a while they realized that it was Christmas Eve and that they didn't have any present to share with each other. They started to cry and their tears changed into diamonds. Now, they were happy. They had diamonds as presents...and they were many.

"What shall we do with so many diamonds?", asked Prince Charming.

"We'll buy a bath of snow, a cloak snow, icy shoes and a crown of ice. I want to look like Snow-Queen", replied Ileana Cosânzeana.

"What shall we do with so many diamonds?", asked again Prince Charming.





"You'll buy presents for the poor children!", answered a voice from a box.

Prince Charming and Ileana Cosânzeana got scared. It was the voice of the Enchanted Wolf.

"You'll be the ones who will help Santa Claus this year with presents. You'll make children happy!", the voice of a fairy said.

Prince Charming and Ileana Cosânzeana picked up all the diamonds and put them on the bed. They all changed into beautiful presents and next to them, the beautiful Snow White and Santa Claus were standing. And they were smiling. The bed turned into a huge sledge. It was the magic sledge of Santa Claus.

In the morning, when I woke up, I looked at my bed and I realized that I had a very nice dream. There was no diamond on my bed, no present. Dissatisfied, I looked out at the window to see if my icy castle was there. And it was...a bigger one, with many little red boxes around it. I knew what I had to do.

It was the most beautiful Christmas Eve, the most beautiful night!

## *Winter, the Most Wonderful Time of the Year*

**Denise Popescu**

4<sup>th</sup> Grade, Junior Primary  
School, Iași



On a beautiful day, a little girl was looking out of the window. It was snowing outside. The girl was very happy and she told that to her parents. Her name was Noelle. She was born on the 25th of December. Winter was her favorite season.

She got dressed and went outside to play with snow and she made snowballs to throw at her sister. The snow was soft and bright. Their garden became white and cold over the night. The tall trees were covered with sparkling snow. The first snow of the year was a joy for the whole family. Even their dog, Panetone, joined them. The girl's grandmother put on the little Saint Bernard a red scarf and a pointed blue hat. It was so cute! After almost one hour of playing in the snow, Noelle's mom called them all inside to have lunch. They ate traditional food and delicious cakes.

In the evening, they sang Christmas songs by the fireplace.

What a beautiful end to such a great day! The two sisters went to bed full of joy.





# Winter

**Maria Gabriela Prodan**

4<sup>th</sup> Grade, “Garabet Ibrăileanu”  
National College, Iași



It is snowing outside, as in fairy tales. The cars, the houses, the trees, the whole city is getting dressed in white. Christmas is getting closer and closer. All the shops are ready now for this moment. I am ready!

But what does Christmas mean in fact? Only presents? I don't think so. Christmas means, first of all, to spend your free time with those you love. It's the time when a magic gate is opened towards a place much loved by all the children in the world. A moment when families stay together and children play with snow.

It's December, the first day of winter, the day when the Winter Fairy will come and hug us with soft snowflakes. I know these snowflakes are her tears. She cries with happiness when she sees so many children waiting for her to come.

I love winter, it's my favorite season. The Winter Fairy is the one who creates ice! And I love skating! Yes! We, the children, have so much fun when we go sledging and receive gifts! Ups! I forgot to mention that the old Santa Claus will fly again above our houses and give us presents. I like the moment when I see presents under the Christmas tree. I feel special. I feel that I am loved. But everybody feels like me? Winter is magic for me. Is it the same for you, too?

Now, watch my words because I want to ask you something about us, people!

How can we become better? At least for a short period of time... for Christmas. Can we? I know I can, I know we can. Our Santa has done his job so well, for so many years! But we!? Have we ever put a present for him under the Christmas Tree?

No!

Maybe this Christmas will be different. Maybe, this time, we will surprise Santa with a present. Why not surprise your parents, your grandparents with something? Let's give the others a present. Let's be Santa, all of us! I want to be Santa and make all the children happy. I know there are children who have nothing. I see them in the trams, buses or on street begging for some money or some food. Don't they have parents? I want to make them happy but I don't know how. Maybe you will help me!

Do you know that Christmas is a gift given by God to make us become better? We have to learn how to cherish this beautiful moment of the year and do the right thing...

Be Santa for a day! Be Santa for the rest of the days!



## *Winter Wonderland*

**Miruna-Lorena Arhire**

3<sup>th</sup> Grade, "Vasile Conta"  
Primary School, Iași



Winter's wonderland is magic. In this land Santa Claus lives with his wife, Mrs. Claus, Rudolph, the red nose reindeer, other reindeers and many elves. In this land the only season is winter and always snows to encourage elves to pack many gifts because they receive so many letters from children. Santa Claus must prepare them in advance.

At a time, Santa Claus becomes angry. Not even Mrs. Claus cookies cheer him. Santa Claus is upset because children only think of them on Christmas.

Instead, elves are very glad to make gifts, wrapping and loading them in Santa's sleigh.

Santa Claus did not want to read letters from children because he knew that every boy or girl will ask for a toy just for him or her and they don't think at the poor ones.

The duty to read his letters comes to Mrs. Claus, of course. She started from day one.

After several selfish letters Mrs. Claus discover that a girl ask Santa Claus to find a shelter for poor children sitting next to her house.

Mrs. Claus decided to show him that there is at least one child who has a good and gracious heart.

Very pleased, Santa goes to his elves, inquire if there is enough space in the sleigh for three children.

Elves said:

"Yes, Santa!"

The next day was Christmas and Santa had to go to the houses of the children to give them gifts.





He decided to go first to the girl who wrote the letter and then to the children who had no home and show them how Santa makes his job.

And he did so. When he reached them they were more excited than ever. They got the sleigh and flew in the sky.

Santa Claus and the three children, after they visited all the houses they went to Santa's house and ate cookies made by Mrs. Claus. He led the girl back to her home the one who wrote the letter and put to bed two children homeless that will keep at him a while. Then Santa Claus took care of the reindeer Rudolph and the others.

While children were having a beautiful dream, a fairy wearing a white dress with snowflakes with blue eyes and shoes of ice came slowly toward them saying that if they go in the Ice Forest they will find a cave. Over there is the "heart of ice". The moment she said that, the children woke telling about their wonderful dream.

They came to breakfast and told Santa their dream.

He thought a moment and said:

"We will start searching for the "heart of ice" tomorrow morning."

The next morning they were all in Santa Claus' sleigh on the way for "Ice Forest". The two children were very excited because they were flying for the first time with Santa's sleigh. After they arrived in the forest they saw thousands of little snowflakes dancing in the sky.

They came to a clearing. There, between the trees appeared Snow Queen. She said: "Follow me!"

They follow closely and they arrived at a cave as the children's dream.

"Here it is" she said.

They turned and ran quickly because it was very cold and they were freezing.

When they arrived at Santa Claus's house he showed them a necklace of ice then put the ice heart in the necklace.

Then the collar was transformed into a portal to a world full of snow and ice.

Santa Claus and two children left outside the entrance, Mrs. Claus to guard the portal.

That world was beautiful. Entire mountains were just ice and snow and in houses of ice biscuits and hot cakes were waiting for you.

Santa ate biscuits and children played in the snow all day long. Santa and children went back in their world at bedtime.

The next day they took Rudolph in the world of ice and he was playing with a snow white reindeer. They promised that they would come back the next day.

How beautiful it was!





# Winter

**Medeea Doboş**

3<sup>th</sup> grade, “Garabet Ibrăileanu”  
National College, Iasi



Each season has its beauty but winter has something magic... I don't know if it is the magic of the snowflakes which fall down so peacefully, bringing joy to the children, and to the hearts of the grown-ups. Well, when we talk about grown-ups, we have to take into consideration that they have so many worries, especially when winter comes! Their life is so full – they think all the time at their winter car tires missing, they have to earn money to buy thick clothes and they aren't able to enjoy the winter spirit as they should.

For children it's something else. Maybe it is the magic of the games. Oh, how much we do enjoy watching the first snow that calls us all together outside! Each winter, there is a festival which is organized on my street. It's so beautiful! We make snowmen, with huge carrot noses, we fight with snowballs and make butterflies in the snow. We stay outside till late at night, not being afraid of the dark. It's so good to be a child!

Winter is my favorite season. I love winter. I like the smell of the snow, the color of the snowflakes melting in my warm hands. I love this season maybe because we have a three week holiday this time of the year and we can enjoy the spirit of Christmas. It is a magic winter holiday.

Me, my sister and my mother use to sing carols all day long. My mother has a very nice voice and I love listening to her again and again. She's got an angel voice. When she sings *Silent Night*, I imagine myself being on a white, fat and soft cloud, watching the stars above me.

My father doesn't like what we sing. I don't understand why. He usually tells us, rolling his eyes: “*Oh, not again*”. But we know that somewhere, inside, he likes what he hears. I'm sure of this.

Another thing that makes Christmas special is obviously the Christmas Tree and our beloved Father Christmas. All the children write letters to him, saying how well they behaved during the year. Of course, Father Christmas knows better which one was naughty or nice. Even so, he still comes to every single one of them. He's so kind and generous!

I think I have made my mind out: all these beautiful things make the winter Magic.  
I love Winter!



## Winter Express

**Petra Irimescu-Mitocariu**

4<sup>th</sup> Grade, Junior Primary  
School, Iași



Once upon a time, when the snowflakes falling created a thin blanket on earth and the trees had transformed in to white silhouettes, Daisy was sitting outside the house next to the door. She was freezing but she was happily waiting "The Express", the train which was taking her to school. In the same time, her brother was playing in the garden, building a snowman. The little cold man was well dressed, with thick clothes.

After a while, a strong whistle was heard. At the beginning, the children were afraid but soon they realized it was the train. Daisy and her brother went to the boarding gates where a man looking like an elf was welcoming them. He was wearing a red and green uniform and a big elf cap. He asked politely for the tickets, saying to them: "We will arrive tomorrow when the school starts." "Thanks for telling us" said the children.

The children were sitting on two beautiful and big chairs, then they put their luggage in the colourful compartment.

After that, they went to the window to say goodbye to their parents. They started to admire the train. The Express had comfortable chairs, a vase with flowers and walls painted like no others. The train had also a library where you could read whatever book you wanted. It had a small restaurant too, which they discovered in the afternoon, at lunch.

After that the children went to their compartment and they happily eat some tasty apples. Later, they fell asleep.

When they waked up the next day, the air was full of a pleasant flavour. The breakfast was waiting on the small table: a hot tea, bread, butter and jelly. While eating, the children heard a familiar whistle. They easily recognized "The Express". They arrived at the destination. A minute later, they were off the train smiling back to Mr. Elf who said tot hem:"Good luck with your school". The children said good bye to Mr. Elf and to their friend "The Express".

A new adventure was waiting for them.

The begining of school.



## Winter Wonderland

**Maria-Denisa Ursachi**

4<sup>th</sup> Grade, “Garabet Ibrăileanu”  
National College, Iași



It was Christmas Eve, another frozen winter day. It was snowing with fast tiny snowflakes. The London house's roofs were covered in smooth snow.

As happy as any other little girl was that time of the year, Viry Elisabeth couldn't wait for the Christmas to come. She knew that Christmas was that time of the year when Christmas carols are sung and the most important thing that long-awaited moment when the Santa Claus came to every little child. That night she immediately fell asleep.

In her dream, she was in a little town, named “The Candy World”. Elisabeth was surrounded by lollipop trees, houses with biscuit roofs, mint-candy doors and pancakes windows, the card had marshmallows doors and vanilla donut heels. When the girl saw all that stuff, she became hungry.

She seemed to see a human-liked shadow, but the closer she came, the more she realized it was a gingerbread-man. The girl saw in the sun fall line a castle. She wanted to go there. Because of the fact that she didn't know whose palace was that, she asked the gingerbread-man. He replied:

„Dear little girl, I would like to give you a piece of advice. Don't go there, because that is “The Candy Swallowup Queen's Castle”. The last person who tried to go there suddenly disappeared.”

„But how? How did this happen? Didn't that person fall in the candy floss abyss?” , the little girl asked.

„No! The Candy Swallowup Queen boiled him and gave the poor man's body to her dogs, dogs which have steel teeth.”

„With or without any permission, I will go there. I know I am very hungry. I am starving and I would die for one little marzipan bite from that castle.”

„That is your wish, fine. If you want to go there, I will come with you.”

The little girl and the gingerbread-man went in their little adventure. On the half of their way, they met a dog with jelly tail and chocolate ears. That dog asked the girl:

„Can you take me with you? My owner left me here when he wanted to go to the castle and since then I have been waiting for him, but he never came back.”

„Of course I will take you with me.”

Those three arrived to The Candy Swallowup Queen's Castle. When the girl tried to take a little marzipan bite from the castle's window, the queen opened the door and shouted:



- Don't even dare to touch my castle! If you touch just a little piece of my whole empire, I will eat you and your friends!

Elisabeth became stone, she was so scared for the moment. They started to run, but the queen was following them. As the queen ran after them, she tripped on the cream grass and destroyed her in the lollipop trees. She lost her balance and fell in the candy floss abyss. The girl heard that sound and she looked back. That moment she realized the queen disappeared for ever.

They quickly ran back to the castle. When the news was spread away, Viry Elisabeth was crowned. After she became the queen, a castle's maid brought her a gold cup of hot chocolate. That hair-rising smell waked her up.

With her huge black eyes, she saw her grandmother in front of her bed, with a cup of hot chocolate in her hand. That moment she realized everything was just a dream. With her mind in another world and her eyes on the frozen window, she took a sip of her grandmother's hot chocolate.





## *The Summoning of Winter*

**Anisia Patraş**

4<sup>th</sup> Grade, "Garabet Ibrăileanu"  
College, Iaşi



It's almost midnight. A cold wind blows through the empty trees. The last leaves are scattered, vainly grabbing the branches. There is something strange in the air. It's like in a dream or in a fairy tale.

The sky is clear and the stars throw sparkles from one to another, as if they are trying to hide a secret... Deep in the forest, the squirrel families gather the last acorns in their hollows, up in the oak-trees. The bears are making their shelters with leaves and straws. The rabbits, the mice, the wild cats, the wolves, the deer, all the souls of the forest are preparing themselves for the winter. They say it will be long and cold and the snow will cover the forest, hiding it from the world.

The Sacred Tree from the middle of the forest is ready now to host again the White Winter Owl. She is the one who calls the summoning of winter. All the animals gather around the Sacred Tree and listen to the White Winter Owl's song – a song which, in fact, is a pact. During the summoning, the animals cannot attack each other. The pact is sacred and cannot be broken. The hunting instincts are melting as if there is a magic power in the air. In fact, this summoning is magic. The Owl is magic. All the animals, either big or small, stay side by side watching the White Winter Owl, waiting for the white snow blanket to cover their traces.

The Owl looks at the moon. With a last gaze, the White Winter Owl flies up in the sky, circling around the Sacred Tree, around the animals'shelters. With every flutter of her wings, the wind becomes stronger and colder. From her beautiful white wings, sparkling snowflakes fall gently upon the forest. It is the first snow, the beginning of the long waited white peace.





Winter is here. Every little soul is returning to its hollow. They cuddle up in their beds, mother gather the cubs and enjoy the warmth of their home.

The snow slowly covers the forest. The lake freezes, shining like diamonds under the moon. The trees seem covered in cotton candy. Playful, the Northern Wind scatters silver veils of snow. Only the Sacred Tree remains untouched, forever green, forever magic. It is the tallest fir tree in the forest.

On the highest branch, the White Winter Owl watches the sky, waiting for the Christmas Star to light up the world.

Everything is sunken in peace, silence and dreaming...

## *Winter is About Fun*

**Daria Tofan**

4<sup>th</sup> Grade, Junior Primary  
School, Iași



I think winter is the most beautiful season of the year. We have snow and we have so much fun. We play out all day long.

Children like snow because they can go sledging, make funny snowmen or fight with snowballs. In this season, Santa Claus comes with presents and joy. Not all houses are full of happiness because there are poor families who don't have enough money to buy fir trees, ornaments and presents. Me and my family give presents to our grandmothers, grandfathers and to all the children in the family. After Christmas, we usually go to the mountain to skate or ski. It is fun, but it is very cold and our noses get frozen. I always wear gloves, a scarf and a thick jacket. My mum worries every time I catch a cold and I hate medicine. Together with my brother, we make snowmen. After that we come back home, because there is no place like home. I always feel sad when winter holiday is at the end.

Winter is my favorite season of the year! It is full of joy and traditions.






## *In the Winter*

**David Dosoftei**

4<sup>th</sup> Grade, Junior Primary  
School, Iași



My favourite season is the winter,  
When I become a happy singer,  
When everything is bright and white,  
And I speak with Santa on Skype!

The presents are always not enough.  
When mum sees my list she starts to laugh,  
Maybe she thinks this is a joke,  
But I think she needs another job!

In my house is smelling very nice!  
Like a lemon tea with ice,  
Like a cinnamon and chocolate cakes,  
My grandma is watching now the “Master Chefs”!

My father always buys a Christmas tree.  
We put in it balls and candies,  
These magic things are all we need  
To make my big family so happy!

My favourite season is the winter,  
When we all become happy singers!



## *My Winter Wonderland*

**Ilinca Maria Banu**

3<sup>th</sup> grade, "Vasile Conta"  
Primary School, Iași



My favorite time of the year is definitely the Christmas holiday. Lady Winter comes this year again with her convoy of white butterflies. Now nature is dressed in white and shiny clothes, like a princess who is preparing for a ball.

Large snowflakes keep falling from the sky. Their whiteness is so pure and they sparkle like diamonds under the sunlight. Each snowflake looks like a gentle flower petal white with frost. I am looking up and their quick dance is blinding me.

After the whole ground is covered with shiny lilies-of-the-valley, the winter calls all the children outside sending them to a nice party in the town's "Winter Wonderland".

We enter the park and we see a wonderland, a dream, a fairy tale. The atmosphere is joyful, everything is shining and sparkling all around us. All the snow is bright in the sunlight, there are many colored lights above us and across the park. Even the naked trees look charming due to the lights in them. These marvelous and beautiful lights meet in the center of the park, in the big bright Christmas tree. It is a big and beautiful Christmas tree. It is full of shiny decorations and bright lights. Under the tree there are the gifts for all the kids in town, prepared with love by Santa's elves through all year.

Rudolf, the little red-nosed reindeer, parked Santa's sleigh just near the Christmas tree. There are so many gifts that the sleigh is full and so is the Christmas tree.

The joyful Santa, with his white beard and his kind eyes, holds all the kids on his knees, one by one, listening to their wishes, their stories and gives them presents. The children's joyful eyes fill Santa with happiness.

In Santa's workshop the tireless elves helped by the kids and their parents, help Santa finish packing all the nice presents.





Mrs. Claus is there too, together with the girls, their mothers and their grandmothers making nice, colored gingerbread trees, animals, dolls for the whole park. Everything smells like my home when my mummy is baking Christmas treats.

I really like this time of the year, when everybody smiles, being happy and joyful.

The evening comes and the winter, our princess, will soon shine under the moonlight and the Christmas tree lights.

The skating-rink has already opened and we can skate there on the shiny and crackling ice. On the skating-rink there is a big snowman with a red hat and a big orange carrot as a nose. All the kids are dancing around it and everybody is singing Christmas carols.

Unfortunately, it is late, and I have to go home, to leave the Winter Wonderland, but next year I hope I will meet everyone here as well. I will meet Santa Claus, Mrs. Claus, the elves, the reindeer, the snowman and all the happy kids.

This is my fairy tale land, my Winter Wonderland adventure.

## *The Christmas Night*

**Paul Dulama-Pruteanu**

3<sup>th</sup> Grade, "Vasile Conta"

Primary School, Iași



It is the Christmas night. It is snowing outside and fluffy and white snowflakes are covering the ground with a silver cloak. A snowman is standing in the snow gales and he is looking at the nicely decorated Christmas trees.

I think it is the time to go out and play in the snow or go sledding in the yard nearby. I tell my father and we decide to go together. We start our adventure among the snow drifts. My fingers and my nose are frozen, but I am very happy. The snow is magic and my sleigh is my best friend. Oh! But I hear some singers. Why?... I realize that it is Christmas Eve. The carol singers come to our house to let us know that Jesus Christ was born on this holy night.

Dad and I quickly rush home. Cheerful and playful, my sleigh is running through the snow while my father is pulling its strings. When I get home, my mother is waiting for us with Christmas-tree-shaped cookies. Some carolers knock on our door. My mother opens the door and they start to sing the wonderful carol "Star rises above".

On every Christmas night, my family goes to visit our grandparents. So we start preparing for that. Mom takes some delicious cakes and dad takes a bottle of champagne. I take the presents for my beloved grandparents. Chippy, my parrot, rests at home to admire the multicoloured Christmas lights.





When I go out, I feel the freezing cold night and I get into the car as quickly as I can. It is snowing magnificently with huge snowflakes, which are dancing a wild dance in the air. The road to my grandparents' house is covered with thick snow. The other cars we pass by seem to be buried in the white cloak and the landscape is entirely covered with a huge white blanket. We get to our destination. Grandma is looking out of the window and grandpa is in the yard. Oh, I like this image! I love my grandparents. I enter the house and I offer my grandparents their presents. They are so happy. They start arranging the table for Christmas dinner. Grandma brings the delicious food. We eat, we sing carols and we have a lot of fun. But unfortunately, it is time to go home. Santa is coming tonight, so I must be at home with Chippy.

When I get out, I can see a gorgeous full moon, lighting the night. What a beautiful landscape! It is something special, It is the silent holy Christmas night. We finally get home and I meet Chippy, my friend. I get dressed in my pyjamas and I go to bed. It is late. I am sleepy, but happy. I know that Santa will bring me a beautiful present. I close my eyes. What a night! It's the most wonderful night of the year.

## *Winter Wonderland*

**Ioana Mihăilă**

4<sup>th</sup> Grade, "Gheorghe  
Asachi" Primary School,



Winter is the most wonderful season of all because we have a lot of fun. We can make snowmen, we can go to the skating rink and we can fight with snowballs. We can make many friends at the skating rink. And on Christmas Eve we wait for Santa. He sometimes comes with gifts and sweets.

Two years ago something amazing happened to me. It was Christmas Eve. I was sitting around the tree waiting for Santa. I didn't believe he existed. I thought it was just a story meant to make children obedient but that night changed everything. It was very late. My parents were sleeping. I was planning to stay awake to see him putting the gifts under the Christmas tree. It was very late and I didn't think he would come. So I fell asleep because I was very tired. I had a dream about Santa, Mom and Dad. My mother was telling me a story. "Once upon a time there was a six-year-old girl named Diana who got everything she wanted from Santa Claus because she was obedient." Then my father stopped her and said that it was actually a five-year-old boy named Andrew. He told me that Santa would bring me whatever I wanted if I was a good girl. I told them that I did not believe in him, but they said that I should. Then I entered the dining room and I saw Santa. He brought me everything I wanted. I realized that he only came when children





were not in the room. He is very cunning. He always manages not to be seen by children, but this time I saw him with my own eyes. After that, I had a little chat with him.

- Why do you bring gifts to children every year?

- I am the spirit of Christmas and the messenger of joy. I always give presents to the little ones because all the children should be happy at this time of the year.

- But who gives you presents, Santa?

- Every time a child smiles is a gift for me.

- Thank you, Santa! You are very kind.

- Thank you! Now let's see what I brought you. I must go now because I have only one night to deliver the presents to all the children. Goodbye, my dear!

- Goodbye, Santa!

Then I opened my presents. I've got everything I wanted: a doll, a very interesting book, a beautiful dress and what I wanted most, a ring.

It was morning. Then I realized that everybody was sleeping. Under the Christmas tree there was all that I wanted. I did not expect him to know what I wanted. Then my mother woke up. She told me:

- Santa always knows what the children want. And he buys everything they want no matter how much it costs.

- Really? That means I doubted him all this time?

- Yes.

- I have to write him a message to tell him I'm sorry that I never believed in him.

- He already knows that.

Since then I believed everything my mother told me about Christmas

## *The Two Friend's Journey*

**Ana-Maria Costescu**

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade, "Vasile Conta"

Primary School, Iași



Once upon a time, there was a girl called Elise. This girl had a devoted dog she named Arthur. He had got cute story-like eyes and a shiny nose. Elise and Arthur were the best friends. If Elise had been in danger, the dog would have helped her. The girl would have done the same for her friend.

One day in winter, the two friends wanted to go on a journey to discover new things and have fun. So, after they had packed some food, they said goodbye to her mother and started their journey. It was snowing with big fluffy snowflakes.

While on their way, they came across a tiny frozen lake and a beautiful forest. It looked like an army of white ghosts. When the night came, the two friends found a squir-





rel that let them sleep in her home, which was a hollow in a tree. Inside, there was light and the girl liked that place. Elise and Arthur slept in a hay bed.

The next day, the two friends thanked the squirrel and had something to eat together before they left. When they got out, they met some wild ducks and gave them some breadcrumbs they had in their pocket. They watched the big snowflakes that were dancing in the sky. They even met on their way a talking rabbit with a fancy hat and a shiny walking stick that showed them a funny dance and some tricks. They had a lot of fun, but Elise started missing her mom. They decided to go back home, after all these adventures. Elise told her mom everything they had done.

After that, they spent more and more time together. They understood that adventures are gorgeous, but the family was the most important and beautiful thing in their lives.

## *Christmas Night*

**Mara Cornici**

2<sup>th</sup> Grade, Spectrum  
Primary School, Iași



Christmas Night is magical. Santa comes when the children are sleeping. Santa's elves had to work hard to make toys for children. Santa has got black shoes, red pants, red blouse and a big white beard. He brings presents and leaves them under the Christmas tree. And the night comes and children open the presents and everyone is happy.

Santa is magical, don't you forget!



*Secondary School*





## Remembrance - Part 2

**Camelia-Raluca Mihai**

7<sup>th</sup> Grade, "George Călinescu"  
Secondary School, Iași



I

It's morning. The sun rises up in the sky and all nature comes alive... somewhat. Only a few birds are singing, the brave ones who are staying here, facing the winter. A few steps away from me, there is a small house. A girl exits from the door and shouts:

"It's snowing! It's snowing!"

Her brother and mother also go outside the home. The little boy says really excited and overjoyed:

"Mom, look, it's snowing!"

"Yes, dear, it's snowing, said the woman, looking like she wants to see her children happy, but she doesn't agree with what she told them.

"Mom, did something happen?" asks the girl, worried about her mother's face.

"No, my dear daughter, nothing is wrong. Please don't pay attention to me. Why won't you play with your brother? Make a snowman! Everything you want! I just want you to smile!"

"No, Mom, you have..."

"Stay outside and play, and I'll watch you."

"Okay, Mom."

They run happily and laugh. Only the mother thinks of something that worries her.

"This is happening every Christmas. The children and I are alone."

In the tall and beautiful Christmas tree, two mini angel statues are waiting with bells in their hands.





## II

Meanwhile, at Santa Claus' storage...

"Come on, elves, we have to work! Tonight many kids will get their wished gifts!" says the Captain of the elves.

"But, sir, after my statistics, there aren't enough presents."

"WHAT DO YOU MEAN???? NOT EVERY CHILD GETS A PRESENT?? WHY?? I WANT AN ANSWER!"

"Well, sir, we can't find presents for Candy and Ace Parker."

"Where do they live?"

"In the Kingdom of Snowy Lands."

"It's really hard to get there. Let's continue our work."

From his gingerbread office, Santa sees the discussion.

"It can't be! They have to receive something! And Sweetie Parker... She was one of the most loyal admirer I have ever had. She was cute, friendly, funny, cheerful, positive, and she was always telling the truth. Ho ho ho!!! When I remember her, I'm full of joy."

Then he stands up from his marshmallow chair and goes outside from the room.

## III

The magic of night spreads out on the already sleeping nature. Candy, Ace, and their mother Sweetie are in their house.

"Did you like the hot chocolate?" asks Sweetie, curious for opinions.

"Sure, Mom, we love it," say the children, giving the empty cups.

"I'm glad."

"But where is Santa, Mom?"

"I think he'll come, just wait. I once heard a quote when I was little, which says: 'With patience you can cross the sea'."

After this, some hours go slowly. The kids fall asleep. The mother comes and wraps them with a Santa blanket. Sweetie looks at the blanket:

"Santa... If you really existed, you would have come earlier. It looks like you were just one of my fantasies. Childhood fantasies."

She kisses her son and daughter softly and says:

"Goodnight, my Candy and Ace."

Sweetie goes to her room.

"Ho ho ho! Don't you remember your past? Your moments of happiness? I have to help you! And your kids too!"

Then, with one of his toys, he enters Candy and Ace's minds.

"Candy, Candy, do you think this is a good idea?" Ace says scared.

"Calm down, brother, everything will be fine, you'll see. This is your first time when you are riding a sleigh."

"I'm not sure about this."

"When I was your age, I thought the same, but I discovered that I really like it."

"I'm still not convinced."





“You’ll be, Ace, if you try it!!” shouts Candy, pulling the sleigh.

Then the girl climbed on the sleigh.

“Wooohoooo! This is awesome!”

“It’s awesome for you, but not for me.”

Suddenly, the sleigh becomes more beautiful. Now it’s covered in the finest gold. The door, the back and the front are decorated with pieces of the most rare and beautiful rubies, emeralds, sapphires, amethysts and diamonds. They are shining in the light of the moon. The reindeer, with Rudolph as the one who leads.

“Where are we,” the children are wondering.

“In Santa’s sleigh,” answers Rudolph.

“You can talk?!?!?”

“Sure we can talk. We are special reindeer. Santa created us to have somebody to spend his time with. He treats us like his sons.”

“Okay, so let’s recap,” says Candy. We are in Santa’s sleigh, driven by his reindeer, but where is he, anyway?”

“We don’t know either. He said we have to wait for him and come after an hour in a house.”

“Hey, Candy, look, there is Toy London!”

“And over there I see a shadow of Crystal Paris!”

“And there is Kory Wen!”

“Let’s play ‘I spy...’! I spy with my little eye... something... green.”

“Your jacket! Now let me try, Candy. I spy with my little eye... something brown.”

“A reindeer.”

“Which reindeer?”

“I think it’s Rudolph.”

“Now, I spy with my little eye...” says Rudolph, “your house!”

“What?”

The reindeer land on the ground.

“Kids, you may get down.”

They do exactly what Rudolph says, going closer and closer to the door. Candy pulls the handle and she remains surprised by what she sees.

To be continued...





# Winter

**Diana Hrapciuc**

7<sup>th</sup> Grade, “Ion Simionescu”  
Secondary School, Iași



If we had to choose one word for winter, it would be “people”. Winter is like those people who come to our life without any reason, who make us change. Those people who come and go but leave their mark in our soul and “wake” our feelings. They take us up, but they also bring us down. We love them but we may also be better off without them. When they go, we are left with a feeling of emptiness that nothing can fill and only time can heal us. They define what we are. As the people around us will make up this resemblance, so will winter. It is one of the most beautiful seasons, which stirs mixed feelings in our souls.

But winter can be described by many other words. It is the frost. It is melancholy. Tears. Sky. Joy. Presents. Snowflakes. Snow. Love. Christmas. It is rosy cheeks, little eyes, cold hands and feet, children freezing on their sledges.

It is the season when we all try to be better and we ask the others to forgive the mistakes we made. Carolers come to our door and our mothers give them sweet Christmas cake. Grandparents tell long forgotten stories to their grandchildren, sitting around the table. Children decorate the tree and, hidden in the wardrobe or behind the door, wait for Santa Claus.

Winter means change. It is the hope for a better world in which we all do good deeds and give presents to each other. Winter means being together like a big family – we are all brothers and we feel our Heavenly Father protecting us. It is Jesus Christ’s birth celebration.

Winter is also chocolate, sweets, joy and happiness. It is the smell of sweet Christmas cake, with nuts and raisins. It is the taste of ginger. It is mistletoe and kiss. It is a forgotten love story. It is a broken heart which is just healing.

Winter is the sparkling snow. It is the playful snowflakes. It is silver towns. It is the time of the year when the angels come down from the sky and sit next to us. Winter can turn any insignificant thing into a wonder. Its magic has a powerful effect on us, making us feel the excitement and joy.

Winter is a fairy. It is a crystal princess with a clear voice and fair hair, who turns the drops of water into bright snowflakes.

But as winter has its share of joy and magic, it also has its share of malice. It is sly. It brings its cold upon us, with heavy snow and sparkling ice layers. It is emptiness. Animals hide and birds leave for warmer countries.

It is silence. Its song is just a whisper of the wind, which paints little twinkling stars on the windows. Only the noise of children going sledging and icicles falling can be heard. It is glacial. Our warm breath forms smoke rolls.

Some people love it, some do not like it. But we all love its magic when we are waiting for Christmas...



## Winter Wonderland

**Maria Pricope**

8<sup>th</sup> Grade, “D. A. Sturdza”  
Secondary School, Iași



I hate winter! Why would anybody like a season when you are constantly cold, you sneeze all the time and the day is shorter? So you can't imagine the horror on my face that morning; I woke up, happy 'cause it was Friday, I went towards the window and I saw that it was snowing. I couldn't help but wonder, why was this happening to me?! I did my morning routine, trying not to scream, I put my shoes on, my jacket and left for school. On my way, I tried not to focus on the fact that I was swimming in to a big white sea. And to make things even better, I fell down, stumbling over a rock. I couldn't take it anymore so I screamed to release myself.

“Are you ok?!”

I jumped in terror and turned around. But there was no one behind me. Just some sad looking dog. I turned around, picked up my school bag and I was ready to go when I heard the voice again:

“Hello? Please don't ignore me. I've been ignored the hole week”.

I turned around again, to see the same dog.

“Thank you!”

To my surprise, the dog was the one talking all this time. Do you know that scene in movies, when girls meet talking dogs and they get closer and start a friendly conversation with them?! Well this was not my case. I hit myself on the face, closed my eyes and opened them, expecting to see only the rock and the snow. But no! The same dog, with the same sad face was staring at me like I was the first person to do that.

“Why did you hit yourself?”

I screamed and started running, forgetting about school, about winter, about everything. I went around a corner and when I thought I was far enough, I turned to look for the dog. But it wasn't there. Happily, I looked at my watch, only to see that I was late. I was ready to go to school but I realized the only way to go to school was the way I had just came from. The way the dog was. And the path in front was blocked because of the snow. Another reason to hate winter. I thought, and thought, but no other idea came up. So I decided to just be brave and went on the *dog's way*.

“There you are. Please don't run away again. I'm alone and I really want a friend. Please!”



I was ready to run again but something in those big sad eyes that were staring at me made me realize that it wasn't going to hurt me.

"O...ok! I guess... I'm Maria."

"I'm Doug. Nice to meet you!"

"Where are you from Doug?"

"I'm from Narnia."

"From where?"

"From Narnia. It's a universe where we all live in peace. But to get there you need to find a working closet. These days you can't really find one working. It's summer there and I hate summer. I decided to go in the first working closet hoping to find winter and I did."

"Winter? Why on earth would you like winter?"

"Are you kidding me? Winter is the most amazing thing in the entire universe! Let me show you!"

Without any warning, Doug jumped on me. I screamed and closed my eyes. I found the courage to open them to find myself with trees and a lot of snow. I have to admit it was incredible.

"Have you ever noticed that every single snowflake is different? You can't find two the same. Have you known that?! Snowflakes are my role models. They are all different but perfect in their own way."

"I never looked at it this way..."

"And snowmen. Each and every winter you have the chance to create a person on your own liking. He or she can be your friend. A friend that comes to visit you every winter. And when you feel blue it will listen to you."

The dog transformed itself into a snowman. It smiled and waved. It threw itself to the ground and created an angel. I did the same thing. Doug got up and threw a snowball at me. In a few seconds the forest was a battle field. I didn't even realize that it was getting dark. The fight was over. Tired, I sat down in the snow with a huge smile on my face. It was starting to snow again, and each snowflake had a different shape. A shape of a bear, a shape of a bell. Doug gave me its carrot nose.

"You must be hungry, eat!"

"Thank you!"

"We have to go back!" Doug said with a smile.

"When will I see you again?"

"I told you, every winter you can shape me, and I will be there. Goodbye, Maria!"

"Goodbye, Doug!"

I wake up in my bed. I was happy, but not because it was Friday. Because I looked at the window and it was snowing. I ran out of bed, went out in the garden and made a snowman. When I was done I placed the carrot and just looked at it.

"Hello, Doug!" I whispered.

I didn't get an answer back, but I could swear I saw it blink.

Who knows? Maybe dreams do actually come true ...





# *The Secret Land of Christmas Sweets*

**Daria Bani**

5<sup>th</sup> Grade, Spectrum  
Secondary School, Iași



One night before Christmas, under the Christmas tree, a chocolate soldier and a chocolate ballerina met for the first time. They started to talk to each other about their news and views. It wasn't long before they fell in love with each other and they realized they have the same fear : to not be eaten by the children .

Then, the chocolate soldier had an idea: to run away with the ballerina. But where could they go? The soldier went to ask for help from the sugar mice. The mice told him about a magic world of sweets where they can't be found and eaten.

The soldier accepted the plan and the ballerina too. Before they started their plan the mice went to a sweets shop and took some sugar wings and some lollipops for their friends in their adventure. Then they went back home. The soldier and the ballerina were very happy! After some time they sat on the sugar mice and went with the lollipops in the sky! They saw a lot of Christmas decorations in the city! First they flew over the big Christmas tree in town and took one toy fairy from there. After some time the toy fairy started to talk and fly! The soldier and his friends were very surprised ! The little fairy said that she knew a shortcut to the town of sweets but she would take them there faster if someone told her a funny Christmas Story! The soldier tried to remember a great Christmas Story but it was so hard! Then the mice tried to remember one ! But the ballerina knew the greatest Christmas Story! After the ballerina finished telling her story, the Winter queen came to them ! She said that she heard the story from far away and it made her laugh very , very hard! And for that, she will help the fairy take them to the magic Sweet Town ! They all were very happy and then the queen and the fairy made a magic spell and took them to the Sweets Town! There, everything was made of sweets! The houses were made of chocolate, the trees were made of cornflakes! And the people too! The soldier and his friends were happy again! The first thing they did in the town was to go to the Christmas decoration shop! There, they looked at the toys made of chocolate!

And then the Lollipop mayor gave them a vanilla house! They all were very surprised! Before night came , they went to the chocolate Christmas tree and took photos! At midnight they went to the Christmas Concert ! Here, all the sweets came to listen to the great songs! And sweets animals came too! They had a very beautiful life in the sweets Town! The soldier and the ballerina got married! The lollipops were TV presenters and the mice were guardians of the Ice – Cream Queen and the Pie king!

If you will ever want to go in the land of Sweets I can tell you for sure that you will meet the ballerina and the soldier's children and the rest of their friends!



## *White is This Winter Night*

**Daniel Miton**


6<sup>th</sup> Grade, "Vasile Alecsandri"  
Highschool, Iași

Have you seen the mistletoe?  
It fills the night with kisses.  
Have you seen the bright new star?  
It fills your heart with kisses.  
Have you seen the candlelight?  
It shines from every window.  
Have you seen the moon above?  
It lights the sky in silver.

Green is in the mistletoe  
And red is in the holly,  
Silver in the star above  
That shines on everybody.  
Gold is in the candlelight  
And crimson is in embers.  
White is in this winter night  
That everyone remembers.

Have you heard the boys who sigh  
When all the girls are skating?  
Have you heard the sweetheart's cry  
For all this time he's waiting?






Have you seen the children playing?  
While tiny hands are frozen?  
Have you seen them hurrying home  
When suddenly it's snowing?

Have you heard the bells just ringing,  
Singing out their story?  
Have you heard the choir singing:  
Glory! Glory! Glory!

## *Winter Wonderland*

**Alexandra-Gabriela Mosiese**

7<sup>th</sup> Grade, "Ștefan cel Mare"  
National College, Hîrlău



A forgotten legend says that, when the planet Earth was made, a piece of the core was lost in the space. Some people think that the part of the core reached the far end of the universe, turning into a planet, others simply forgot about it, never caring whether it had ever existed or not.

Currently the planet is called "Winter Wonderland", because it is always covered by a layer of snow high to the knee of an adult. In the day time the snow is shining, reflecting the joy of the world. In the night time the snow is reflecting mystery and fear, and sometimes curiosity and courage. They say, that if don't have any, at midnight you can get some of them, only by staying there still and concentrating hard.

Winter Wonderland is full of different kind of creatures. Animals from reality or fantasy can be seen everywhere. Nobody is surprised, as this has been so since always. Not five minutes passed until a hoarse roar is heard, and in the light blue sky is seen the silhouette of a dragon enjoying its wings. Pegasus and unicorns have adapted and learned to eat snow, which give them an unseen shine to feathers, ridge and tails. White and grey bunnies dig their burrows, making small sounds unhappy. White foxes went with elegant steps in a pine forest, where trees are struggling to shake off the snow from their branches. Magical snowmen are fighting with snowballs in the plains, laughing when the pieces of coal fell from their body. They don't care whether their „warm” coats remain unbuttoned. So what? As long as you can have lots of fun! Cats and panthers are sneaking through the snow, hunting different kinds of animals. The birds with white feathers sit on the trees at the edge of the forests and sing, while a phoenix with blue flames flies over the entire planet. Polar bears are trying to break the ice on the lakes to catch fish. Wolf packs are



hiding in caves, trying to hide their existence until the night comes. Little fairies with different colors are using their magic to make the flowers grow resistant to cold. Mammoths and dinosaurs haunt the planet, hoping to have luck to find food.

There are cities with modern buildings, colored in gray and light blue. Of them are hanging icicles that drew sounds of musical instruments on touch. On streets are heard flying brooms, ridden by wizards who wear wolf furs. Kids are playing in parks and on the sport fields. Some of them are dueling, others are playing Quidditch, while others are playing with their penguin pets. Well-groomed stores are open from the sunrise until sunset, and quiet songs can be heard from inside. Trolls, dwarves and vampires are strolling the streets, living in peace.

On every sunset, in city centers, a Christmas tree appears, and people are singing and laughing around him, without knowing about the existence of Earth. They don't even need to know that because they are supported by winter, preserved and made to be happy.

## Winter Flower

**Ioana Petrovici**

8<sup>th</sup> Grade, "Garabet Ibrăileanu"  
National College, Iași



Winter is here! The fluffy white duvet that covered the earth is the greatest joy that winter could have brought to every child. I usually spend this time of the year with my family by going sledding. I set the sled on top of the hill but it slips. It is fun for a moment, but the sled isn't stopping. I enter the forest. Finally it stops near a bush where there is a beautiful blue flower. The strange thing is that the flower can talk and says to me:

"Hello! I am a winter flower."

"But...but... there are no flowers in winter."

"True, but I am a special flower. Look:" It stands up on the two little feet of hers, the roots.

"I am like a human. And I don't know why. That is why I am sad. I want to be a simple flower, just like the others. Winter seems so cold and lonely..."

"Don't worry! I will help you!"

"Thank you very much!"

"But how can I help you? Where do I have to go?"

"I have an idea: I have heard about a Winter Fairy. Only she can bring magic to the world."

"Ok. Let's go. Do you know the way?"

"Every flower needs to know the way! Of course I know the way!"





And so I set off on finding some help for the sad flower.

“The Fairy's castle is on top of that mountain. We have to pass the forest first” says the little crystal flower.

Snowflakes are performing a fantastic dance in the frosty air and the soft snow is melting under my heavy feet. The winter flower is standing on my shoulder and I think that the shy flavor of cetin that I can feel is coming from it. I guess winter flowers do have this kind of scent.

Suddenly, we hear a bear's roar and we look behind us. When I see the bear, my hearth starts racing and I run as fast as I could to the castle. When we arrive, I knock on the door but it opens by itself. Of course... I enter the castle. It has a very beautiful blue color and it is very big. On top of the stairs a woman with a nice smile says to me:

“Hello. I can see that you have traveled a lot to come to our world, dear child. What can I do for you?”

“Hello. My name is Emma. I have found a winter flower that needs some help...”

“I don't want to be a winter flower anymore!” cries the little flower.

“I see... I love to see flowers in the winter so you are going to convince me that this is your wish. You are going to ask me any question you want and if I know the answer I'll help you, but if I don't, you'll be a winter flower for the rest of your life. ”

The little flower stopped and thought for a moment, then she asks the Fairy:

“Why does a flower feel sad in winter?”

“That's simple. Because they're rare, lonely and unloved.”

“Wrong answer!” says the little flower.

“Wrong? There's nothing wrong with my answer.”

“Flowers feel sad on winter because we can't see what we love the most... The Sun.”

A bright light covered the little flower and after that it froze.

“Flower?”

But she isn't moving any more. I know that this has to mean something so I took it back to the forest and returned to my parents. Maybe I will be able to meet her again in spring.

What can I say? Winter has its own and unique kind of mysteries and one of them is my little Winter Flower.





## *The Spirit of Christmas*

**Sabina-Catinca Băcaoanu**

6<sup>th</sup> Grade, National College, Iași



Winter, the streets are all covered in white. But how many beautiful depictions about winter have we not heard?

Does that atmosphere, which Vasile Alecsandri wrote about in the poem “Iarna” still even exist?

Oooh, and what poet would not love to write a poem about this atmosphere that I am talking about?

Our great-grandfathers had only beautiful and honest things to say about Christmas and winter. Is it possible for us to do the same thing?

Do you know what? When somebody asks us what we are doing on the Eve 24<sup>th</sup> of December, our answer is: I am celebrating Christmas with my family, of course!

Did anyone of us think that in 2016 nobody celebrates or thinks about Christmas as it truly is? I do not wish to be mean, but just think about Christmas in the time of our great-grandfathers! From the stories I have heard and the articles I have read in magazines, I am picturing it like this: 6 o'clock pm, a bunch of children go from house to house and sing Christmas carols to people, then they come back home at 9 o'clock pm to a traditional Christmas meal, like the well-known “*sarmale*”, with the family, and exchange hand-made gifts. At around 10 o'clock pm, everybody sits around the fire and tell stories about everything and nothing.

This is how I picture a traditional Christmas evening. But how do we celebrate it now? Well, I will just present you a schedule which I think everybody rigorously respects, the only variation being the hours at which it starts and it ends. At about 7 o'clock pm, everybody gathers around the Christmas Tree and they exchange gifts and at 8 o'clock pm they have their Christmas dinner. And that is it. But the following question arises: is Christmas the same as before? I really doubt it. There are many questions related to this topic, some of which I can even answer, and I am eleven years old. But there are some which no one can really answer, but the common reply is “*time passes*”, “*times change*”.

Can we do something to bring back “THAT CHRISTMAS”?

In my opinion, we can change it inside our families or at least try and change the general attitude in our group of friends and the people to whom we are close to. No one can stop time, nor can anyone change what now is fashionable or what everyone is doing.

Let us also discuss what some will deem as “*childish*” things (even though it is not like that). Do you remember those happy times, when you were about 6-8 years old? Those moments when there was not a single care in the world, when “*True Happiness*”



(which for some now lies only in money, unfortunately) meant a doll, a car or better yet, a dog? I would really like to talk about those kinds of moments. I would really like to talk about Santa Claus. Who remembers him anymore? Everyone does of course! This leads me to ask another question, who still believes in him? Only children.

It should not be that way. We should change this way of thinking because he truly exists. I am certain that when a grownup asks another, “*do you still believe in Santa Claus?*”, the common answer would be “*no, obviously, we all know that since we were 10 years old*”.

Personally, I found out that he “*does not exist*” about one year ago.

I was on a plane coming back from Frankfurt and I kept questioning my mother until she gave in and told me that he actually “*does not exist*”. I cried because I believed in all the stories in which he is travelling on a sled pulled by reindeers. I used to leave a letter by the window and “*someone*” mysteriously took it away. One time, my parents did not allow my older sister to leave on a trip with her friends, but I asked Santa Claus to talk to my parents and to allow her to go. And the amazing thing is that they allowed her to go in the end. That night, after saying my prayer, I asked God to tell Santa Claus “*thank you*”. Every time Santa granted me my requests, I always made sure to thank him afterwards. After all of these things, to then find out that it was not Santa Claus taking away my letters and fulfilling my wishes, it was very hard for me to accept that. But after having done some thinking, I realized that though it was not Santa Claus who was taking my letters and granting my wishes, it was the spirit of Santa Claus that made it happen.

We all have to understand that just because something does not exist in flesh does not mean that it does not exist. We can still believe in it.

We cannot see God, but he exists, at least according to orthodox religion.

With this essay, I did not wish to criticize my generation, nor the time we live in. I merely wanted to present another reality, one which should be considered

**SANTA CLAUS DOES EXIST.**





## Winter Wonderland

**Tudor Costăchescu**

6<sup>th</sup> Grade, National College, Iași



Christmas is about to come and I'm eagerly waiting for Santa to visit and bring me what I asked for in the letter, last summer. I wanted to be the first child who sends the letter to Santa. I think he has a factory and his factory is called *The Christmas Toy Factory*.

When I was little I used to hear lots of different stories about Santa Claus, his elves, Santa's factory or his reindeer, but now I am old enough to tell my own story about Santa Claus and his magic world.

I think its origins started from a wonderful friendship between a fairy named Frosty, an elf named Tom and a reindeer named Barry. They were living in a cozy small house where they were creating and making toys for children all over the world. One day, they would have a big factory and its name would be *The Christmas Toy Factory*. Their factory would be the biggest and the most amazing toy factory of all times. But until then, they had plenty of work to do.

Frosty the fairy, Tom the elf and Barry the reindeer decided to employ a person who could deliver their toys to the children. They sent an e-mail to the all grown-ups in the world. Hundreds of people came and applied for this job, but no one was good enough for their request.

A week later, a tall man came. He had a long curly white beard and long white hair. This kind man was someone's grandfather, but he had lost all his family in a tragic accident. He came to the factory because he wanted to be the grandfather of all the children in the world. The other people wanted fame and money. This man wanted nothing. Just a warm place and a family. He was perfect for the job.





The fairy, the elf and the reindeer asked him to stay. To stay forever. They tried to find him a name which people and children would never forget. Since then, Father Christmas or Santa Claus has been helping the three magic friends to design and deliver wonderful toys.

This is my version of Christmas with its short but magic moments that happen once a year.

## Winter Wonderland

**Denisa Muntianu**

6<sup>th</sup> Grade, "D. A. Sturdza"  
Secondary School, Iași



Once upon a time there was a girl named Elena. She was a very spoiled little girl, who had everything that she wished for. One day, she met on the street another little girl, but this one had nothing.

"Please, help me", said the poor little girl.

Elena didn't raise her eyes from her mobile phone and pushed the little girl away.

The next morning Elena woke up in the street. She didn't know how this happened, where she was, and when she saw her face in a pond she saw that she looked exactly like the little girl she pushed away the day before. There was only one week before Christmas and now Elena was abandoned and all alone.

She was desperate because she didn't have any money or clothes and no place to sleep. She wandered the streets until she noticed that in her dirty, old jacket there were some pennies. From that money she bought five candles and some flowers and she tried to sell them. But two days went by and nobody bought her things. Just an old man bought a candle when she saw her shivering in the cold. Elena started crying when she saw that the money she received is enough only for a small loaf of bread. She sat on a bench and started crying. After several hours an old woman approached her and gave her a candy and some money. After the woman left, Elena got up and started to search a place to sleep. With the money she had from that old woman, she could find a warm, nice place to sleep in.

But suddenly, at the corner of the street, she saw a little child. He had a glass in front of him and he stood there, shivering. "It will be Christmas for him, too", she thought. So she took her money from her dirty pocket and put it into the boy's glass. The boy smiled at her and his eyes were so similar to the eyes of the old lady that helped her and with the eyes of the little girl she had ignored.





There were two days before Christmas and Elena did not know what to do; she was hungry and cold. When she put her hand in her pocket she had nothing. She began to worry, cry and tremble from all the joints. She was on a bench when suddenly the old woman who helped her appeared. She asked her to come home with her for Christmas. Elena accepted, even if she didn't really trust all people. But she was too cold and hungry to think of these things.

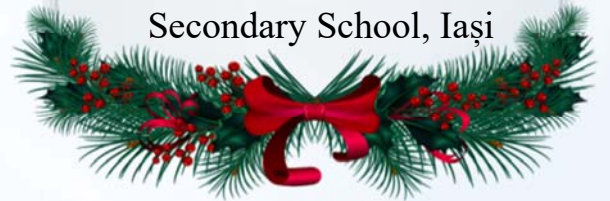
There was one day until Christmas. The old lady wanted to go shopping for Christmas, but Elena did not want to. She said that for Christmas she only wanted her parents.

When the Christmas day came, Elena woke up in her bed. She ran to the Christmas tree and there were her parents, putting gifts under the tree. She hugged them and started to cry. She asked for the old lady but her parents told her that there was nobody else in the house. It was snowing outside. Elena understood her mistakes from the past and since then she had been an example for everyone.

## *Winter Dream*

**George Vargan**

5<sup>th</sup> Grade, "Vasile Conta"  
Secondary School, Iași



The town was covered by the black blanket of the night. The snowflakes were flying in the air like a swarm of white butterflies, and the twilight was closing his eyes under the beautiful blanket of stars. The mountains of snow were growing helped by the chilly ruthless wind. It was snowing like a storm of wheat flour.

The forests seemed to wear earrings of sugar flowers, the trees seemed made of silver and the fields made of crystal and all those beauties were admiring themselves in the big frozen mirrors while looking in the lakes. The houses were protected by the white wings of the winter's angel.

The tireless children were flying with their sleighs while their mothers were cooking delicious cakes for the carolers.

Santa started receiving the letters from the good children. His elves were working and Rudolph announced the others reindeer that they would travel soon all around the world.

I was watching through the winter all the winter miracles. It was late, so I got into my warm and fluffy bed. I fell asleep and I started to dream.

I was in a beautiful city named Winter Wonderland. It was a place with fairies and everything was happy because they were ruled all the time, by the queen Winter.

I saw a fairy and I asked her:





“How can your town be so happy?”

“Because it is ruled by the happy good fairies. Would you like to see the city?”

“Of course!”

At that moment, a white horse appeared in front of my eyes. It had angel wings and he told me:

“Come with me, I will bring you wherever you want to go.”

When my window saw the sunrise, my little trip was over and I had to leave back home. I said goodbye, and there were tears in my eyes: I would like that my parents could see the beauty of that town too. It was something coming from a dream, something gorgeous, unreal, fascinating and unforgettable. I wish I could get back to that Wonderland, but together with my parents, since they are the most important part of my happiness.

## *Christmas Miracle*

**Georgiana-Delia, Gorgan**

6<sup>th</sup> Grade, Secondary School

No 1, Lunca Cetățuui



Over villages there was unbelievable silence. It was cold and animals were in shelters. Trees looked like crystals. Everything was frozen like Elisa heart. She was a twelve years old girl who was on her own in the world because her parents had a terrible disease and died. They were poor and didn't have money for medicines that could help them.

She lived on the streets and her clothes weren't thick enough to keep her warm. She ate what she could find or what other gave her. From her jacket pocket, she pulled a picture of her and her parents. A tear dropped down her cheek. Then, suddenly, the strong wind blew away her only memory of the past. She started running until she reached the corner of the street. There, she saw a little puppy shaking. She took it in her arms and thought it would not be bad to have some company. She called it Puf. He looked very happy.

They arrived near a large Christmas Tree and she decided to stay under it during the night because she had nowhere else to go. It started snowing. Elisa caught some snowflakes in her palm and watched how they were melting. She looked at them and made a wish: to have a warmer Christmas this year and someone to share it with. She remembered a story her mother told her, and she thought Puf would like it too.

“It was once, a magical snowflake who lived in Flake's Paradise which is above the clouds. In a very important day, Flake woke up late and panicked because no one was home. He went quickly to his friend and asked him where everyone else was. He responded that all the flakes went down the city. Some of them were on the house's roofs, others





on the cars and some of them on people's clothes. The wind was blowing and made the Flakes dancing in the air. A dog barked and scared some of them away."

While Elisa was telling Puf the story, she thought that snowflakes are alone too and that is nice that they have a home and they are together and they have fun. She wished for that in secret.

As Christmas day arrived Elisa could see people with a lot of bags full of presents. She thought that Christmas is about family love more than gifts. Family was the most important thing for her. As she was thinking about that, a woman stopped in front of her and asked:

"Hey, why are you standing here in the cold weather?"

"I have nowhere else to go", Elisa said.

"What about your family?", asked the woman. But Elisa looked down and gasped.

"Look, my name is Mrs. Hall and I think I can help you. Would you like to come with me? I am going to give you warm clothes and something to eat and you can meet new children there. What do you say?"

"It's OK if I can keep the puppy", said Elisa.

"You can bring the puppy with you, if you like".

Mrs. Hall took care of Elisa, fed her and gave her a bed to sleep and promised to take care of her. Elisa felt safe and began to trust Mrs. Hall. She also took a lot of care of Puf, who was very grateful too.

It was indeed a Christmas miracle!





## *The First Christmas*

**Anca-Alexandra Penu**

7<sup>th</sup> Grade, “Varlaam Mitropolitul”  
Secondary School, Iași



In a day, not far from here  
There was a magical land: Heaventear  
It was winter, day and night,  
And never showed a tear of light

The creatures there were happy and free  
They were playing all day with butterflies and bees  
Some of them were magical  
Some of them were making symphony

They never showed their real face  
To never be discovered in that place.  
On that day it started to snow  
Because it happened next to be a show

For the first time it started to light  
Everybody was curious about that in the night  
Creatures and creatures reunited to see  
What that light it could be!

It was a fir tree on a stage with lights and colors all covered. It was the most beautiful tree in the world. Under it there were lots and lots of candies, sweets and toys with





names and photos on them. They had never had such a beauty in their land. That day was no other day than the greatest day in the world: Christmas day. No one knew what to do, but one moment there came an elf. He was all covered with color and sprinkles on the face and was wearing a funny red hat. He said:

“- Hello, dear creatures! I am here to show you Christmas for the first time! You never knew but this is the most wonderful time of the year! But before starting what I have in plan you need to meet someone ... Santa!”

“- Ho, ho, ho! Hello! I am Santa Claus! I have brought you here all those presents for you guys because this is my job. The last years I have not even seen any light on this land so I could not see where to give the presents and I have not seen the land on the map! I am very sorry guys, but this year I succeed to get here because of these new helpers that I have got, that also helped with making the presents for you! “

“- Oh, thank you, Santa! answered someone from the crowd.”

“- You are welcome, but you do not have to thank me, this is my job. Well then, let’s start the show.”

In that moment 1000 elves started to dance on the stage. After the dance, Santa sang a song. After the song, Santa gave everybody their presents. Everybody was happy because Santa knew their wishes and gave them exactly what they wanted.

When everyone was occupied, Santa and his elves jumped into his sleigh and left to the North Pole.

The crowd was surprised about how Santa and the elves disappeared, but not for a long time because they were paying attention to the presents.

At the end of the day, on the sky appeared very many sparkly flowers that were appearing and disappearing. The earth started to dance softly and tried to sing a song for Christmas.

That was the day that changed everything in that land. The light appeared on the sky, the magical creatures started to show their real faces and more other fantastic things.

Every year the creatures there keep the tradition of celebrating Christmas.





## *Sam-the-snowman*

**Iulia-Gabriela Ursescu**

5<sup>th</sup> Grade, “Garabet Ibrăileanu”  
National College, Iași



It was the day before Christmas. Sam, a seven years old boy, and his parents were laying on the couch, watching TV. He was so happy! He'll get presents tomorrow, why wouldn't he be? They were watching a Christmas film, of course.

After that it was time to go to bed. They said Good Night to each other and got in their bedrooms. Sam was excited and tired at the same time. He landed right and hugged the blanket close to him, soon falling asleep.

Sam woke up in a snow storm. He placed his hands around him, trying to warm up. The boy started dragging his feet, trying to walk out of the storm. He soon came to realize the storm was immense. When suddenly...

He appeared as a snowman. Oh! Looks like some children were placing a big red pot on his head and a carrot instead of his nose. He tried to somehow get out of the snowman body, to no results. The kids started pushing some buttons on him, two twigs as arms and another twig the smiling mouth. After they finished, the children started a snowball fight, accidentally hitting Sam-the-snowman to from time to time. Later the kids walked each into their house, leaving Sam out alone in the night.

I suppose this was his chance to walk away. And it was. His hands could move, so he took the pot off and placed it on the ground. Then he started walking away on a white and snowy meadow. 'I can't say a snowman lives such an interesting life', Sam was talking to himself.

After a couple hours of walking, a thought came in his mind. 'Why not visit Santa Claus?!' he thought out loud. 'Good idea! Can I come with you?' a small, grey puppy barked excited from behind a bush, then padded out. 'Sure! I'd be happy to have someone to travel with! But... Do you, by any chance, know where Santa lives?' asked Sam. I heard his house is at the North Pole! I know someone who can get us there!' the puppy said and walked towards a big house.

'Who?' asked Sam. The puppy, Happy, lead them to a pillow.

'How will this help us?' spoke Sam. 'Well, she can turn into anything! A plane, a bird, a lion... I know, this sounds a bit weird, but it's true!' Happy barked... 'Awesome!' responded Sam. 'Puffy, plane!' Happy gave the pillow the command. 'Take a seat in my exclusive Puffy plane, please!' the puppy said as he sat on the pillow-plane. Sam sat beside him. 'Puffy, North Pole!'

The pillow-plane took off into the sky gently. Sam was amazed by the view. Oddly, Happy wasn't. I suppose he flew on Puffy already. After e few minutes, they were



already at the North Pole! Looks like Puffy is really fast! Now they just had to find Santa's house. Both were extremely excited to meet Santa!

Good it wasn't that hard finding Santa's house. It was covered in shiny Christmas decorations and a lot of elves were all over the place. Sam-the-snowman and Happy landed and approached the house. Sam knocked on the door. Santa Claus opened the door, smiling brightly at them.

Suddenly Sam opened his eyes and sighed. It was just a dream. His mother cracked the door open quietly. 'Good Morning, Sam!' she smiled. 'Merry Christmas!' his father's head appeared, smiling as well.

Guess he'll have to talk to Santa in real life now!

## *Dear Santa Clauss*

**Alexandra Rusu**

7<sup>th</sup> Grade, "Emil Racoviță"  
National College, Iași



I am by the fireplace, fascinated by the colors of the powerful flames which are protecting me from the cold...Lilies and roses are blooming on the windows as coldness is trying to enter my house. Outside, the flakes are kissing the earth so gently and the trees are going deeper into sleep with each falling snowflake. The buildings and the benches along the streets are creeping in the cold as if in pain. The bushes are now lumps of sugar and the houses are cloaked with crystals. Peoples' breathe rises in visible puffs to join the dark clouded sky. Everyone is overwhelmed by the sights, the sounds and the spirit of Christmas! Even on the coldest day of winter, the sun is shining in the sky, bringing joy to our hearts. Children with woolen hats over their ears, thick coats and scarves which cover more than a half of their face when they go out, look like dolls as their cheeks are getting aglow. To my delight, this winter is so beautiful!

Going back to the letter, I am writing to you because this year I have realized the fact that I have never told you "Thank you! ". For the last five years, I have sent you a list with my wishes but this time I will not ask you for material presents as before. This time it will be different!

Firstly, I want you to know that I am really sorry for all the things I have been asking you to bring me, because I must admit that I did not need most of them...Maybe, you have complained to your elves that you have not seen such a child before, a child who wants everything possible. However, to be honest, I do not regret that collection of dolls you brought me when I was five or six, because I still have it!

Secondly, I want to apologize for my thinking that Christmas is just about gifts and spending time in shops! I could not have been more wrong! Christmas is about family, friends, love and, of course, Nativity! You cannot help being happy or touched when you





see groups of children singing carols ,making snowmen, fighting with snowballs or going sleighing. Also, when you are decorating the Christmas tree and you feel its smell, you cannot say that you are not excited, even if you are an adult. In fact, this time of the year, you feel like a child again. Sometimes, adults forget where and who they are, and they are singing and dancing as they used to in the past, when they were young.

Last but not least, I have to admit that the traditions and the costumes are really unforgettable, especially the moment when you go to church on the First day of Christmas or when you have family reunions!

By this letter I hope you will understand how much I regret not realizing what Christmas means until now ...Maybe you will wonder why I am telling you all these things now. This is my favorite part! Well, yesterday, I received an interesting letter from Mrs. Claus. In the envelope, there was a list of my mischiefs. Please don't be angry with her for writing to me. I know you had told her not to send me any letters, but you know her...she is too kind and friendly not to warn naughty children!

These being said, I wish you a memorable Christmas and thank you again for everything!

Love,  
Alexandra

## *Winter Wonderland*

**Daria Volcescu**

6<sup>th</sup> Grade, "Ion Simionescu"  
Secondary School, Iași



It is winter now, the season loved by children most of all, but also by adults. Outside everything is white and fluffy, so beautiful that you do not dare to step on the soft carpet because you do not want to ruin its beauty and brightness.

The trees are covered with snow and among their white branches there are also playful snowflakes dancing like some frail, white butterflies. The houses can hardly be seen and the icicles sparkle in the sun, making this landscape look like a fairytale land, magic and unreal.

Cheerful voices of children can be heard in the distance, as they are playing snowballs, going sledging and skating on the frozen lake. They are red because of the bitter cold but they do not want to leave this crowded place until the night will make them go away. Only the happy, bright face of the moon will remain shining over the frozen lake...

In the gardens and on the houses of the little village, you can see colorful lights flashing, making the snow sparkle even brighter. It makes people get into the festive atmosphere; children are happy and nervous, waiting for sweets and presents.

The smell of cakes and sweets makes us think of Santa Claus who will come very soon, filling our life with joy and wonder. It is the time of the year when everyone is happy and is trying to be a better person...





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## Winter Wonderland

**W** hisper  
**I** nspiring  
**N** atural  
**T** ransformative  
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**R** efreshing

**W** ondrous  
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**D** elightful

*Victoria Lang*  
6<sup>th</sup> Grade





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