

# READ AND ENJOY



**DOUKAS SCHOOL**  
#PALLADIUM LYCEUM- Founded 1917



WE EXPLORED MANY GENRES: FROM NARRATIVES TO CHARACTER SKETCHES TO PERSONAL FICTION TO THE MARVELS OF NATURE TO ...

## Junior Lightweights Tackle English 158!

One Monday morning at 7:30 after breakfast, I went downstairs, took my school bag and went to the bus stop to wait for my school bus. This is what I do every day! While waiting for my bus, I saw a garbage collector coming towards me. As he came closer, I realized that he was a robot! I could not believe my eyes. He was picking up all the garbage from the bin and popping it in his mouth! It was weird! Every 5 minutes a potted plant of flowers popped out of his tummy. He put the pot of flowers down and continued to the next bin. Soon all the

street was full of potted plants with beautiful flowers. When I heard my mom shouting that I would be late for school, I jumped out of bed and realized that it was just a dream.  
 Suzanna Ousta

One night in Andros, I went on my cousin's big boat out to sea to see the dolphins. Michael and I sat in the front of the boat looking for dolphins. Suddenly, in the horizon, dolphins leaped very high. Michael and I marveled at the dolphins. It was like they were jumping over the stars.

Behind the dolphins, there were shooting stars, like fireworks. After a while, the dolphins left and Michael and I were staring at the star-filled sky counting the shooting stars passing through the Milky Way!  
 Michael Alisafakis

My friends and I went to a forest on a school trip in London. When we arrived there, we sat under the shade of a tall tree and had a picnic altogether among the colorful, wild flowers. Everybody marveled at the beauty and the clearness of the forest. We also



POPPING POTTED PLANTS



DRAMATIC DOLPHIN DANCE



SWEET SQUIRREL STANCE

Research says that good writing skills are critical both to students' academic achievement and to their future success in society. Our budding writers are: Michael Alisafakis, Linda Antonakou, Katerina Douka, Anastasia Douka, Myrto Efthymiades, Christina Kalogeropoulou, Suzanna Ousta, Stella Papanagiotaki, Alexandros Poulouvassilis, Kimon Softas, Alexander Tzotzolakis, Kleon Tsetis and Thelma Hassapi.  
Ms. Mary Fortis, teacher

marveled at the small squirrels which ran across our path.  
Christina Kalogeropoulou

My father and I went hiking up Parnitha Mountain last weekend. While I was hiking up the mountain, I was enjoying the cool air on my face. I climbed higher and higher until I reached the top of the mountain. From the peak, I marveled at the view below. The trees and houses were very small. I was breathing fresh air. The view was breathtaking. It was a magical experience.  
Suzanna Ousta

Last week I went with my family to a place in the woods near a small beautiful lake. I was very surprised to see such a beautiful area. I saw tall trees, a lot of different kinds of animals like frogs, birds, fish, butterflies and squirrels. The weather was very nice and the sun was shining all over the place. The atmosphere was calm. It was like a fairy tale. I was stuck, I couldn't walk. I couldn't even speak looking at the wonders of nature.  
Linda Antonakou

When I was four years old, my aunt was going to be married, so we had to go to Australia. My grandmother also lived there, so we would be able to see her as well. I can say that I was a little bit scared because it was going to be a 24-

hour trip. We boarded the airplane, sat in our seats, and the plane took off. At night, the plane was nice but when I opened the curtains I thought that I was dreaming. The stars were so close that you could just touch them. I marveled at the stars and forgot my fear. I could just stand up and start dancing; the feeling of seeing the stars from so close was magical.  
Myrto Efthymiades

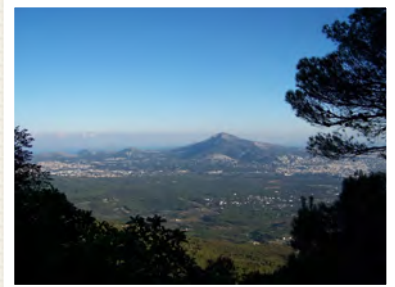
I have marveled at something. A month ago, my birds laid eggs. I was hoping that one of them might be a boy. A few days later, two eggs hatched. I didn't know whether it was a boy or a girl. And today, I think that the one we kept is a boy. I was amazed at how an egg could turn into a baby bird.  
Alexander Poulouvassilis

### A LOYAL FRIEND

I have many loyal friends. Linda, one of them, is eager to do many things for me and she helps me when I have a problem. Our personalities are not exactly the same, but many times we have the same opinion. She is a loyal friend and she will be forever.  
Stella Papanagiotaki

I have only one loyal friend, Helen. She never lies to me and she is always there

## MARVELS OF NATURE



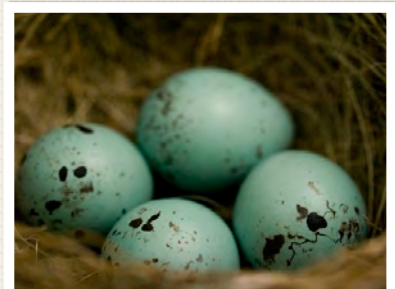
PARNITHA



THE WOODS BY THE LAKE



STARRY SKY FROM ABOVE



LIFE ABOUT TO HAPPEN



when I need her. We never fight and if we don't agree on something, we sit down and discuss it to find a solution. We play every week and we sleep over at each other's house.

Myrto Efthymiades

A loyal friend has to help his/her friend and always be by their side in good times and bad. I believe that I'm a loyal friend.  
Anastasia Doukas

A loyal friend is a friend that is really your friend, not a friend who is your friend because you have a nice house or a dog. A friend that keeps your secrets and is one that wants the best for you. I think my best friend is loyal because she loves me and she keeps my secrets.  
Katerina Doukas

My best friend is the perfect type of person to talk to. His name is Konstantinos and he has a sense of humor. He has a fat, squishy tummy and bulldog cheeks. He has brown eyes and hair. He likes handball and nearly never ties his shoelaces. His favorite thing to do is to annoy everyone!

Michael Alisafakis

## A Loyal Friend

It was the first day of school and I was surprised. My teacher was Miss Mary. I knew her for two reasons. First, she was my sister's old teacher. Second, she always smiled at me when I would pass her at recess. I will never forget the day I saw a lady with red hair like Miss Mary's. I said, "Hi, Miss Mary!" She looked at me and then I ran away. She also has a very sweet voice like candy. She has bright red hair, like a fox. Her eyes are like sparkling diamonds. She says we're going to have a basketball tournament and she is going to be LeBron James.

Michael Alisafakis



## STELLA

MR. VANGELIS IS OUR GREEK TEACHER. HE DOESN'T SHOUT AT US EVEN WHEN WE PLAY WITH OUR PENCILS AND RUBBERS AND EVEN WHEN WE TALK. HE IS VERY TALL. HIS HAIR IS NOT VERY SHORT. HE IS VERY GOOD WITH US AND EVERY DAY HE SMILES. I THINK THAT A LOT OF CHILDREN IN OUR CLASS MAKE HIM ANGRY BUT HE DOESN'T WANT TO SHOW IT BECAUSE HE IS A GOOD PERSON AND HE DOESN'T WANT TO MAKE US FEEL SAD. I WILL NEVER FORGET THIS TEACHER.



## ALEXANDER

DRY BONES IS A SKELETON TURTLE WHO IS IN MOST MARIO GAMES. HE IS LIKE A HELPER TO HIS FRIEND, DONKEY KONG. WHEN DRY BONES GETS ANGRY, HE QUACKS LIKE A DUCK. HE LIVES IN A JUNGLE WITH DONKEY KONG. HE DOESN'T EAT BECAUSE HE'S A SKELETON. DONKEY KONG TRIES TO MAKE HIM FORGET THE TIME HE FELL IN LAVA AND BECAME A SKELETON. SOMETIMES HE'S HARMLESS, BUT HE CAN ALSO BE AGGRESSIVE. HE IS A KOOPA. THE KOOPAS TREAT HIM NICELY BECAUSE HE'S DIFFERENT. EVEN AS A SKELETON, HE'S STILL MY FAVOURITE CHARACTER.



## LINDA

I HAD A TEACHER FOR TWO YEARS. NOW SHE LEFT OUR SCHOOL. I LIKED HER. SHE WAS GOOD, SWEET AND POLITE. SHE ALWAYS CHECKED YOUR HOMEWORK LIKE A CAMERA. SHE NEVER LEFT ANYTHING UNCHECKED. HER EYES WERE LIKE DIAMONDS. I MISS HER. BUT NOW WE HAVE MISS MARY. SHE IS LOVELY, TOO. SHE LOVES TO JOKE LIKE CLOWNS. HER JOKES ARE FUNNY, REALLY FUNNY. SHE LOVES ROME AND ELVIS. HER HAIR IS LIKE RED ROSES. SHE REMINDS ME OF A ROSE IN MY GARDEN. SHE BLOOMS FROM HER BEAUTY. I LOVE THEM BOTH. THEY'RE MY FAVOURITE TEACHERS.

# Endangered Animals

Kangaroos live in Australia and New Guinea. They are strict herbivores. Some of them eat grass, and shrubs. The smaller species eat fungi. They like running and hopping. They hop at about 20-25 km/h. Eagles usually eat smaller kangaroos. Also, iguanas and other reptiles pose a danger to smaller kangaroos. Dingos, some kinds of foxes and feral cats eat kangaroos, too. Kangaroos live up to 4-6 years. Kangaroos are endangered animals because they are eaten by bigger animals in the jungle and sometimes are killed by cars on the road.  
Christina Kalogeropoulou

The brown bear is one of the largest bear species. Males are 6-9 feet long. Females are about 5-8 feet long. Brown bears can climb trees to eat or escape but only when they are cubs! As they become adults, they become too heavy for climbing. Brown bears like to eat grass, leaves, wild berries, nuts, seeds, fruits, buds and tubers. There are about 200,000 brown bears in the world. The largest populations are in Russia with 120,000, the United States with 32,500 and Canada with 21,750. Brown bears are endangered. Humans kill them because they damage their farmlands. They also kill brown bears for their meat. As a result, the number of brown bears is decreasing!  
Suzanna Ousta

The walrus is a large marine animal. It has two very large tusks. It eats clams, mussels and other seafood. They weigh 2000 kg. They use the tusks to dig holes and fight. Walruses are endangered because people hunt them. They hunt their meat and their tusks. The actual hunters are Chinese and Japanese.  
Alexandros Poulouvassilis

Polar bears are found in the USA (Alaska), Russia, Norway, Canada and Denmark. They are large mammals with thick white fur. Polar bears are one of the biggest kinds of bears. They may measure 8-11 feet in length. Polar bears live only in the Arctic. When the weather gets warm, they move north, then return in the winter. They try to follow seals to eat them. Polar bears can go for four months without food. They also like swimming. It's what they do everyday. Polar bears mate only for a week in April or May. 1-3 cubs are born in late December or early January. Each

cub weighs 600-700g. Polar bears are endangered because the ice is melting.  
Anastasia Douka

The Blue Whale is the largest of all whales and it is said to be the largest animal in Earth's history. The average length of an adult blue whale is 79-88 feet and the average weight is 130-150 tons! Blue whales are endangered because of over-fishing by the people that hunt them. They are used for food, their bones and for their oil. They have been endangered since 1970.  
Myrto Efthymiades

White whales are found in the Arctic Ocean. The beluga may reach a length of 5.8m and weigh 4400 lbs. The young are born a dark blue-gray color, but the color fades to white or cream at 4-5 years of age. White whales have been hunted for their oil, hide and flesh. They are used in the Arctic as food for humans and dogs.  
Linda Antonakou

The Loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) lives in areas such as bays, lagoons, salt marines, creeks, ship channels and mouths of large rivers. Loggerheads nest on ocean beaches and on estuarine shorelines with suitable sand. They like to feed along the coast, as well as in the shallow water along the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans. In the Mediterranean, Loggerheads mate from late March to early June. They lay between 70-150 eggs. Each egg is about the size and shape of a ping-pong ball. They live about 30-50 years. Loggerhead sea turtles were once intensively hunted for their meat, eggs, their fat, (which is used in cosmetics and medications) and for their shells.  
Stella Papanagiotaki

The Great White Shark is found in coastal surface waters in all major oceans. The Great White reaches lengths of more than 6m and may weigh up to 2240 kilograms. It becomes sexually mature at around 15 years of age and has a lifespan of 30 to over 100 years. The Great White Shark eats dolphins, porpoises and whales. Before movies such as 'Jaws' and 'Shark Attack', Great White Sharks did not have much of a reputation in the public eye. The number of shark attacks on humans has not been significant enough to warrant a real scare from beachgoers and boaters. They are endangered

because of hunting, over-fishing and habitat destruction.  
Michael Alisafakis

The tiger is the biggest cat species in the world. Males weigh 500 pounds and females, 300 pounds. Males are ten feet long and females, eight feet. They are three feet tall. Tigers have short, thick fur, dark stripes and sharp claws. They can be found in tropical forests, evergreen forests, woodlands, grasslands and savannas. Tigers can adopt to many different surroundings as long as they have sufficient water, shade and food. They usually stalk their prey alone and at night. They eat deer, moose, rabbits, goats, birds and some other small animals. Cubs are born from 100-112 days after the parents have mated. They weigh under three pounds. Cubs learn to kill at 16 months and they're on their own at 2-3 years of age. Today, there are about 5000-7000 animals. An effort is under way to save the endangered tigers. Unfortunately, tigers are still illegally hunted for their fur and bones.  
Katerina Douka

One of the most special animals is the Giant Panda and it is endangered. Usually, the Giant Panda has a body shape typical of bears. It has a black and white coat and black fur on its eyes and ears, arms and legs. Its face is white. Pandas live in the mountains of China. Pandas eat 99% bamboo and honey, eggs, fish, oranges and bananas. They are popular attractions at the zoo because they are pretty to look at.  
Kleon Tsetis

The Pink Dolphin is an endangered river dolphin that lives in the Amazon Basin. This animal can stay submerged up to fifteen minutes in the rivers. Males sleep just below the surface and they come up to breathe as a reflex. These dolphins measure 2.5-3 meters in length. Their beaks are long and they have tiny hairs on top. They weigh approximately 90 kilograms. The Pink Dolphins eat a lot of food per day: crustaceans, catfish and small fresh water fishes. During the night they hunt zooplankton. The Pink Dolphin is endangered because of humans who are destroying the South American tropical rainforest. They are also dumping chemicals into the rivers.

Another reason is that they get trapped in fishnets accidentally.  
 Kimon Softas

## BIOGRAPHIES OF FAMOUS PEOPLE, DEAD OR ALIVE

The Giant Panda is about 1.2-1.5 meters in length and weighs 75-160 kg. They have a thick coat of black and white hair and are probably one of the most recognizable animals. They are found only in the bamboo forests in the mountains of China. Giant Pandas eat bamboo and grass but their main meal is bamboo. Pandas are dying out mainly because of habitat loss. Bamboo takes a long time to grow. This problem wasn't present when pandas were spread throughout southeast Asia. When they ate the bamboo from one forest, they could simply move to another one. Now the supply is harder to find or reach.  
 Thelma Hassapi

The tiger belongs to the large cat family. It is a beautiful animal that lives in Africa and in Asia. Tigers usually live with their families. They eat other smaller animals such as deer. They weigh between 150-200 kilos. Tigers are muscular. They live about 50 years during which time they can have baby cubs several times. They are endangered because they live in shrinking wildlife areas and because tiger skins and body parts are worth a lot of money in many countries. The poor animals are being hunted to death.  
 Alexander Tzotzolakis

Sylvester Stallone was born in NYC on the July 6, 1946. As a teenager, they called him Michael or the Italian Stallion. Sylvester became one of Hollywood's highest paid actors, usually playing monosyllabic, antisocial, underdog heroes. While Stallone has attempted to extend his range into film comedies and drama, he has also played in action films like 'Rambo'. He is 1.77m tall. After seeing 'Rocky 4' I realized many things about my life, like when you lose a friend or a family member that you love a lot, you should never give up your hopes. Sylvester Stallone is my hero!  
 Michael Alisafakis

Hannah Montana was a famous singer until she became an actress. She only started doing some episodes for television and after some years of success, she made her movie. Her real name is Destiny Hope Cyrus, better known as Miley Cyrus. She was born on November 23, 1992 in Nashville, Tennessee, USA. In the television series, her dad is her real father. The series focuses on a girl who lives a double life as an average teenage schoolgirl named Miley Stewart (played by Miley) by day and a famous pop singer named Hannah Montana by night, concealing her real identity from the public, other than her

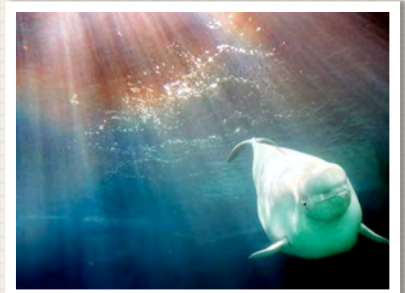
## MARINE ENDANGERED SPECIES



PINK DOLPHIN



GREAT WHITE SHARK



WHITE WHALE



CARETTA CARETTA



# PHOTOS OF FAMOUS PEOPLE



close friends and family. I chose Hannah Montana because I like her songs and the way she acts. If I had a chance to see one of her live concerts, I would love it.  
Myrto Efthymiades

Aiki Vougiouklaki was born in Marousi, Athens. She was a Greek actress. She attended classes at the National Theatre of Greece and started to act while she was a student. She appeared in 42 movies, mostly musicals, and in a wide variety of television programs, theatre and stage productions. In 1960, she collaborated with Dimitris Papamichail in a number of popular movies. They married in 1960 but divorced in 1975. In 1970, she was given the title, National Star of Greece. On June 4, 1969, Aiki gave birth to her only child, Yiannis Papamichail. Eventually, her relationship with her husband, Dimitris Papamichail, became troubled. She died on July 23, 1996 in Athens from pancreatic cancer. Her funeral was attended by thousands of her fans. She was buried at the First Cemetery of Athens. I chose her because she was a big star and many people loved her. She was very famous and I want a lot of people to learn about her. I am one of her biggest fans!  
Stella Papanagiotaki

Jon Bon Jovi (John Francis Bongiovi) was born March 2, 1962. He is best known as the lead singer and founder of the band, Bon Jovi. Jon is an American Academy Award nominated musician, songwriter and actor. Jon Bon Jovi was born in New Jersey. He is Italian-American. In his career, he has made eleven studio albums with his band. Jon Bon Jovi recorded a solo album called 'Blaze of Glory' and another one called 'Destination Anywhere'. I admire him because he and his band have written some very nice songs.  
Kimon Softas

I picked Walt Disney because his biography is interesting. Disney was born on December 5, 1901, in Chicago, Illinois. He was an American film producer, director, screenwriter, animator, entertainer and philanthropist. In his teenage years, Disney became the cartoonist for the school newspaper. He is best remembered for his theme parks and film studios, where children from around the world visit and watch the Disney films. Walter received 59 Academy Award nominations and won 26 Oscars. Disney died of lung cancer in 1966, a few years before the opening of Walt Disney World in Florida, his dream project. Many people say that he is cryogenically frozen under the 'Pirates of the Caribbean' ride

## FAMOUS PEOPLE

1. SYLVESTER STALLONE
2. HANNAH MONTANA
3. ALIKI VOUGIOUKLAKI
4. JON BON JOVI
5. WALT DISNEY
6. ELVIS PRESLEY
7. LADY GAGA
8. PAUL MCCARTNEY
9. BEYONCE
10. MICHAEL JACKSON

in Disneyland. Walter loved kids but he never had his own. That's why he said that his kids are all the kids of the world. I wish I could meet Walt Disney.  
Katerina Doukas

Elvis Aaron Presley, was a very famous singer. He was born on January 8, 1935 in Tupelo, Mississippi, USA. He and his parents moved to Memphis, Tennessee in 1948. Elvis starred in 33 movies and made history with his television appearances and his dancing moves. Globally, he has sold over one billion records. His American sales earned him gold, platinum or multi-platinum awards for 131 different albums and singles. His death was a shock to the whole world. I admire Elvis Presley a lot because he was a great singer and performer. The reason I wrote about this famous person was mainly because Ms. Mary likes him a lot!  
Linda Antonakou

Stefani Joanne Angelina Germanotta or 'Lady Gaga' was born in 1986 in New York. She is a very famous American singer. When she was a little girl, she would sing on her mini plastic tape recorder. She loves the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, rock, pop and R&B music. When she was 4 years old, she learnt how to play the piano. By age 13, she had written her first piano ballad. When she was 20 years old, she wrote songs for other artists such as 'Pussycat Dolls'. She also worked with Cristina Aguilera. I chose to write about Lady Gaga because she is a very good singer. I think that her life has been difficult for her because she had to stay alone at home without her parents because they had to work.  
Suzanna Ousta

Paul McCartney was born in 1942 and he is 67 years old. He was part of the Beatles along with Ringo Starr, John Lennon and George Harrison. John Lennon's best friend, Paul McCartney, used to play bass. John Lennon played electric guitar and classic, Ringo Starr played the drums and George Harrison the electric bass and classic. The Beatles started in Liverpool. John Lennon was killed in front of his house 27 years ago. I like Paul McCartney's solos.

Kleon Tsetis

Beyonce was born on September 4, 1981 in Texas, USA. She is an African-American R&B signer, actress and songwriter. Beyonce has been named the princess of pop. Her solo album, 'Dangerously in Love' topped both the R&B and pop charts in America as well as the main albums in Canada and the UK. Another popular song is 'No No, No'. In 2001, Beyonce won the songwriter of the year award, the first African-American woman to do so. Then she started acting without previous training. In 2002, she acted in the film 'Austin Powers' Also, she produced a music video called 'Work it Out'. At the end of 2003, she played in the movie 'The Fighting Temptations.'

Thelma Hassapi

I wrote about Michael Jackson because he was the King of Pop. Michael Jackson was born August 29, 1958 in Indiana, to an African-American working-class family. His parents were very strict. His father performed with an R&B band called 'The Falcons'. Jackson had three sisters and six brothers. He showed his talent early in his life, performing in front of classmates during a Christmas recital in kindergarten. In 1964, he joined the 'Jackson Brothers', a band formed by his brothers, as a backup musician. Later he performed backup vocals and dancing. At the age of eight, he assumed lead vocals and the group's name was changed to 'The Jackson 5'. Michael Jackson was an American musician, dancer and entertainer. He was one of the most successful and influential entertainers of all times. Michael Jackson, while preparing for his 'This Is It' concert tour in 2009, died at the age of 50. I admire him because in his free time, he helped poor people.

Anastasia Doukas

Alexander the Great was a very famous king of Macedonia. He was the son of Philip the Second. He lived from 336-323. He died in Babylon after a serious illness. During his short life, he conquered all the known world of his time up to India. He fought lots of battles and always won them. He was forced to return to Babylon because his soldiers didn't want to go any further. The name 'Great' was given to him

because he was a great warrior and because he spread Greek civilization all around the world. I chose Alexander the Great because he was interesting, brave and a great conqueror.

Alexander Poulouvassilis

John Lennon was born in October, 1940 and died in December, 1980. He is my hero because he is one of the greatest musicians ever to have lived. John did not live with his parents but with his aunt. He taught himself to play the guitar from a music book. His first group used to play in the streets of Liverpool. After that, John met Paul McCartney and George Harrison. John asked them to be in his group. When they went on a tour to Germany, they met Ringo Starr. They asked him to be their drummer. Later they were discovered by a man called Brian Epstein, who became their manager and helped them to become famous. The name of the group was the Beatles. John thought of this name.

They Beatles became famous in 1962. Their first song was called 'Love Me Do.' They immediately became a big success. The Beatles were the first rock group who wrote their own music. They gave concerts all over the world. Everybody loved them because they sang great songs. The Beatles played together from 1960-1970 when they split up. John and Paul were best friends; they used to write all their songs together. He met and married a Japanese woman called Yoko Ono. It was around this time that John became tired of being a Beatle. So they decided to split up. Their fans cried. For the next 10 years, John lived with Yoko in New York City, which became his new home. He still wrote some music from time to time but now he was more interested in being a good husband and a good citizen of the world. He was against war and tried hard to make America stop its long war with Vietnam. In 1977, John became a father for a second time. His son was called Sean. He was a very good father to him.

On the morning of December 6, 1980, John and Yoko were leaving their home to go to the music studio. A fan of his was waiting outside and asked him for his autograph. John gave him his autograph and also had his photograph taken with him. That evening when John and Yoko were coming back from the studio, that same fan was waiting for them. This time, however, he took out a gun and shot John 6 times in the chest. John died on the spot. Nobody can explain why this happened. Although John died tragically young, his music has lived on and will do forever. He is a true legend.

Alexander Tzotzolakis

## MORE FAMOUS PEOPLE



BEYONCE



MICHAEL JACKSON

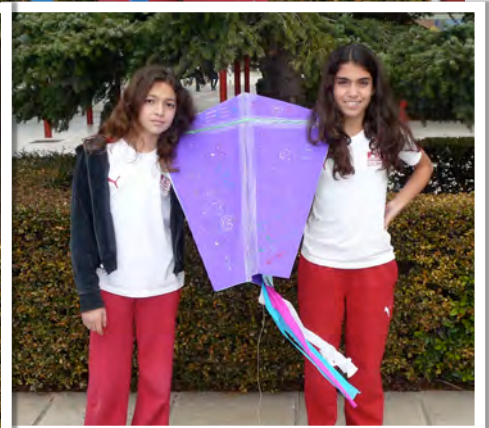
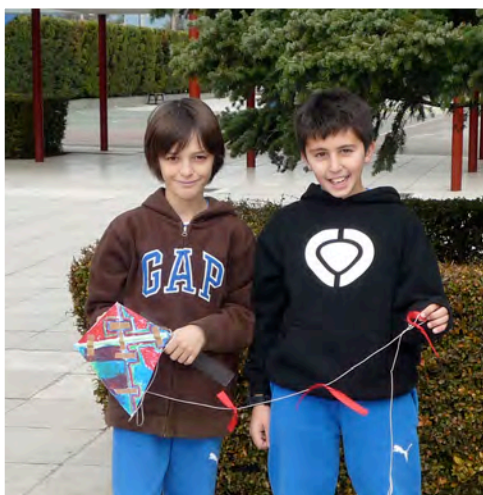


ALEXANDER THE GREAT



JOHN LENNON

# INSPIRED BY THE EMPEROR AND THE KITE



DJEOW SEOW SAVES HER FATHER, THE EMPEROR, BY USING A KITE TO SEND FOOD TO HIM AND BY MAKING A ROPE HE CAN USE TO ESCAPE.

DID YOU KNOW THAT THE CHINESE INVENTED KITES ABOUT 3000 YEARS AGO?

THE VERY BEST KITE IS ONE YOU MAKE AND FLY YOURSELF. MANY KINDS OF KITES CAN BE MADE WITH MATERIALS FOUND AROUND THE HOUSE.

## DESCRIPTIVE PARAGRAPHS

My room isn't as big as the one that I had before but it's nice. It's green and yellow. I have a new white desk and chair. I also have a little small table where I put many things. My father bought me a new mirror with two small angels. I like my room.  
Stella Papapanagiotaki

Every time we go to our country house in the mountain, we become excited because you forget all your worries. The shining sun, the colourful woods, the peaceful sounds and the view are reasons to be proud of having a house like this. In the morning, we go for long walks along the rough trails. Every afternoon, we rest in our warm beds and wake up to the sweet smell of tea and delicious cake. It is pure bliss.

Myrto Efthymiades

The most relaxing room on earth is my mom's bedroom. In the summer, I like to go there because it is cold from the air-conditioning. I usually doze off on the crispy white bed sheets. Sometimes I like to do my homework there because it inspires me. I think that my mom's bedroom has magical powers!

Anastasia Douka

At my summer house in Kefalonia, the thing that gets everyone's attention is the white hammock. At the house, we spend our time reading, relaxing, playing and swinging. When I lie there, I take in the sea and pretty view. When I relax in the hammock, I doze off.

Katerina Douka

My summer house in Eretria is not very big but it is the best place for summer holidays. From my front porch, I see the brightest blue sea you can imagine. I love the feeling of the hot sun when I am building sandcastles and playing with my friends. Every night when we sit on our front porch, I feel a light warm breeze on my face. I hear the waves splashing on the beach and the smell of flowers from our garden. Next to our house there is a fish restaurant where we have lots of tasty, delicious dinners.

Suzanna Ousta

Our swimming pool in our summer house is the best place to spend the summer. From there I can see the sea and the waves. I also see speed boats, birds and rocks. In the distance, I hear the waves. I like swimming and listening to the waves. I also like the warm breeze that is blowing. Then I drink a nice cold lemonade and eat some fruit.

Thelma Hassapi

## ANASTASIA



ANNA: WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST JOB?

LILA: THE VERY FIRST JOB I HAD WAS WORKING ON A TV MOVIE IN 1984. I WAS ASKED TO WORK AS A STAND-IN FOR THE LEAD ACTRESS. MY ROLE WAS TO DIVE OFF A SAILBOAT INTO THE BLUE WAVES OF THE BAHAMAS.

ANNA: REALLY! WHO WAS THE LEAD ACTRESS?

LILA: THE LEAD ACTRESS WAS BROOK SHIELDS.

ANNA: THAT SOUNDS LIKE SO MUCH FUN. WHAT DO YOU DO NOW?

LILA: WELL, I HAVE BEEN A FULL-TIME MOTHER FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS. I MUST SAY THAT IT IS THE GREATEST JOB IN THE WORLD, MAYBE UNDERPAID, BUT IT'S FUN!

## MYRTO



MYRTO: WHAT DID YOU DO IN THE PAST?

ALKMINI: I TAUGHT ENGLISH AS WELL AS GREEK.

MYRTO: WHAT HAVE YOU DONE UP TO NOW?

ALKMINI: I USED TO HAVE A LANGUAGE SCHOOL BUT UNFORTUNATELY, I HAD TO CLOSE IT DOWN BECAUSE I GOT PREGNANT.

MYRTO: WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING RECENTLY?

ALKMINI: I HAVE BEEN WORKING IN A PRIMARY SCHOOL AND I HAVE BEEN RAISING MY DAUGHTER.

## KIMON



I HAVE A SUMMER HOUSE IN SOUNIO. MY HOUSE IS IN AN APARTMENT COMPLEX, BUT IT'S VERY NICE. IN FRONT OF THE HOUSE THERE IS A BIG POOL. ON THE SIDE WE HAVE PLANTED COLORFUL FLOWERS. NEAR MY HOUSE THERE ARE TWO BEACHES: A SMALL ROCKY BEACH AND A BIG SANDY BEACH. I DIVE IN THE WATER WITH MY FRIENDS AND FIND SHINY SHELLS. I LOVE MY SUMMER HOUSE.

### PERSONAL NARRATIVE

Today, the 24<sup>th</sup> of March, our school dance team performed a show and I was one of the dancers. I was very nervous and I had stage fright. My classmates and I were standing backstage watching the little kids and waiting for our turn. When the lights went on and our teacher gave the signal, we went slowly onto the stage, waiting for the curtains to open. The theatre was full and my heart was pounding. Suddenly, I found all the courage to dance as the music began. My feet moved without me even thinking. It felt like I was on a cloud. It was a magical feeling! When we finished our dance, the audience applauded loudly. All the team felt great. We wanted to dance all night!  
Myrto Efthymiades

Last week, I danced in my school dance contest. Before it was my turn to dance, I waited backstage until it was my

turn to dance. I was very nervous and my knees shook! When I heard my name, I went out. Everyone started clapping. The spotlights shone on me. The room was full of people. And then I wondered, "Can I do it?" Soon the music started. I went to the middle of the stage and I started to dance. I danced as well as I could. Afterwards my friends came and said they were really proud of me. I was also proud of myself. Now I will try not to be nervous again.  
Thelma Hassapi

My family and I went to Beyonce's concert. I was very excited to see her perform. When we got there, the security guards told us where our seats were. After waiting for several minutes, Beyonce appeared on stage. We all started screaming! First she started dancing with her dancers and singing, "Deja vu." In the end, she said that Greece is wonderful and left the stage.  
Katerina Doukas



## More Personal Narratives and Favorite Characters

### GENRES

1. INFORMATIVE PARAGRAPH
2. BIOGRAPHIES
3. INTERVIEWS
4. LUXURY OR NECESSITY?
5. NARRATIVES
6. CHARACTER SKETCHES
7. DESCRIPTIVE PARAGRAPH
8. FAVORITE CHARACTER
9. INCREDIBLE FICTION
10. LETTER WRITING

One day I went to an airplane convention with my friend, Konstantinos, and my mum. We boys went over to the army planes and my mum went elsewhere. While Konstantinos was looking at the F1-H3, I found a way for us to climb in. We saw millions of buttons. Konstantinos pushed one and it made a funny sound, so we started pressing all the buttons. Next thing we knew, we were in the air, flying! Konstantinos started shouting for help and I tried to fly the plane. Before long, I got the hang of it and headed it back towards the convention. We landed safely and walked back to the convention. Nobody had realized what had happened. The next day after breakfast, I turned on the TV and guess what? On the news, they reported that a missing plane was found on Havills St. They didn't know who did it. Some day I'm going to be behind bars! Just kidding!  
Michael Alisafakis

### Favourite Characters in Donovan's Word Jar

The character I liked the most in the story was Grandma because she was a happy person, the only happy person in the building. Grandma had a colorful apartment and collected things, like old-fashioned dolls, strange seashells, ivy, African violets, etc. Grandma is a great character.  
Kimon Softas

Donavan is my favorite character in this story. I like him because he has a collection of words and he is nice. His collection of words makes people happier. One day the people were sleeping in front of the TV in the lounge. Donavan left his jar on a desk and went to get his grandma. When he came back, he saw that everyone had taken one of his words. First, he got upset but then he felt happy because everyone was reading and not sleeping

anymore. I like Donovan because he brought life back to all the old people.  
Alexander Poulouvassilis

I find Donovan interesting because he had an idea of making a Word Jar. Plus, he is very specific.  
Michael Alisafakis

### INCREDIBLE FICTION

Once upon a time there was a little girl named Maria. Maria had a big family that was very simple. There were 20 kids and her mom and dad. Maria kept on dreaming that she went to school, had friends, had more money and had more to eat. But she only had a piece of bread to eat each day. Soon it was Maria's birthday. She asked her mom if she could get a pen for her birthday present. "Yes," said her mom, "but it can only cost up to one euro." "Of course," said Maria. It was enough money to buy a pen. Maria and her mum finally saw and bought the pen that Maria wanted. Once at home, Maria took her new pen and started to write. She wrote down her dreams and other things. After a week, what she had written on that paper became true! Firstly, she had money because her dad got a job. Secondly, she had plenty of food to eat and lastly, she went to school and made friends. She understood that the pen did something. After all, it started when she began writing everything down. She wrote and wrote until the ink finished. She bought more pens but none of them were the same. She was satisfied with what she had. In the end, Maria's family became the richest people on earth!  
Thelma Hassapi

One day I made a time machine and I used it so I could see what it was like living in a cave and not having light. I pushed the button and suddenly I was in a jungle. Then I heard a loud roar. I started to run. Oh, no! It was a dinosaur! Finally, I entered the cave, knowing that I would be safe there. But then, I heard someone speaking nonsense. I looked and saw a person who was like a monkey. I tried to speak to him, but he didn't understand. I showed him things that he could do using energy. Later, I went back home. It was a lot better than it was in 850 B.C.!  
Anastasia Doukas

Once upon a time, there was a girl named Serina. Serina had a godmother who was a fairy. Whatever Serina wanted, came true. One day she wanted to fly and her grandma made her wish come true. They flew over America and Europe. They arrived in a place called Fairy City. Serina loved it there and she

stayed there forever. She worked with elves, made fairy friends and even went to fairy school.  
Katerina Doukas

### NARRATIVES

I have a friend named Helen. She is 13 years old and she likes adventures. She also like mountain skiing. Last year she went on holidays with her parents to the mountains. She didn't listen to them and she got lost. Her parents were upset. They asked everybody if they had seen her. Finally, after looking for four hours, they found her under a tree, frozen and hurt. They carried her to safety. She promised to be obedient.  
Stella Papapanagiotaki

One sunny morning, my Dad suggested that we go for a walk in the nearby valley. We called our friends, Andreas and Alkisti, from the village to come along with us. We met them at the village square. Everyone had a small backpack with water and some food. We started walking until we reached a little stream of water. Alkistis was tired so I stayed behind with her. Dad, George and Andreas told us to stay put, while they went to see the waterfall a little further up. As we waited, small butterflies fluttered about. We tried to catch one or two and somehow lost our way. We started shouting for help because Alkistis and I felt frightened. At first, there was no answer, but soon we heard Dad and the boys calling our names. When we saw Dad in the distance, we both ran to him and felt relieved.  
Myrto Efthymiades

As I was playing in my garden, I saw a grey mouse with enormous ears like a baby elephant. Then I went near him and he ran away like a scared kitten. After that, my mom brought my dog from the hair salon and I petted him. He was a soft furry blanket. He looked white!  
Katerina Douka



### TV - Luxury or Necessity?

TV is a luxury. We don't really need it. We watch the news on TV, but we can just buy a newspaper. We watch films but it would be more pleasant to go to the movies. We waste a lot of time watching dumb programs, when we could be playing sports.  
Kimon Softas

I think that television is neither a luxury nor a necessity in our modern world. When you watch a lot of TV, you end up wearing glasses. When you eat in front of the TV, you eat more and more. And finally, TV is not healthy because if you watch it a lot, you become antisocial.  
Anastasia Doukas

TV for many people is a necessity, like it is for our family. You can watch what happens in the world, you can enjoy and learn about many important things from documentaries. You can spend your time watching a film with your friends. I love watching television.  
Stella Papapanagiotaki

### PROBLEM SOLVING

Problem: I miss my brother.  
Solution: Have a photo to remember him. Call him and talk to him.  
Suzanna Ousta

My problem was that my dog was lost in the neighborhood. I took a piece of paper and wrote down the following information:

#### LOST PUPPY

**Lost on September 4, 2008. His name is Rocky. He was last seen at Ifigenias 6 wearing a green collar. Rocky is a white Maltese. Call at 210-8015555. Reward: 50 euros. Thank you.**

Three days later, a woman found him and after reading the poster, she called us. Then she brought Rocky to us. I was very happy! That is how I solved my problem.  
Anastasia Douka

In second grade we were in a pageant. But the problem was that I was shy. I didn't speak clearly. This pageant was about fruit. I didn't have a part in it but I loved the part of the carrot. My teacher chose a girl to play that part. I was upset. The girl became sick and she couldn't perform. So I decided to go and ask to play the part of the carrot. I knew the lines! The pageant was great. After that, I was never shy again.  
Linda Antonakou

When I was seven years old, I had a good friend who was from another school. When she came to my house, she told me that she didn't like her part in the school play. She solved her problem in a different way from Maria Isabel. Her mother went to school and asked her teacher if she could change her daughter's part in the play. The teacher agreed. So she played the part she wanted so much.  
Stella Papapanagiotaki

# Letters to Lydia Grace from 'The Gardener'

Dearest Lydia,  
You're welcome about the seeds. Try not to sleep until you arrive in the city.  
Love from all,  
Mama, Papa, Grandma  
(Suzanna Ousta)

Dear Lydia,  
It was a good idea to write a poem. I know that Uncle Jim didn't smile but it doesn't matter. Your drawings were very nice. If you liked the bulbs, I could send you more.  
Love to all,  
Grandpa  
(Stella Papapanagiotaki)

Dear Lydia Grace,  
I would love to come and see the window boxes so we could plant flowers together. I am sure that Uncle Jim is a happy person and he is only shy. Really, what is your favorite sweet that you have made at the bakery? Please send me a photo of where you now live and work.  
With love,  
Myrto Efthymiades

Dear Lydia,  
It doesn't matter that you don't know about baking. I have a bakery so someone will teach you how to bake. In the city, also we have window boxes so if you want, you can plant seeds. And now that I know that you like to be called Lydia Grace, I will call you like that.  
Your Uncle Jim  
(Thelma Hassapi)

Dear Lydia,  
Lydia Grace, I'm so happy for you and your family. You must know that I also like flowers. Did you like your cake?  
Love to all,  
Linda Antonakou  
P.S. What did you do with your secret place?

Dear Lydia,  
I'm happy you made new friends and I love cats, too! It was about time for you to learn how to knead bread. I miss you.  
Love,  
Grandma  
P.S. I don't think that Uncle Jim will smile soon. It's not in his character.  
(Kimon Softas)

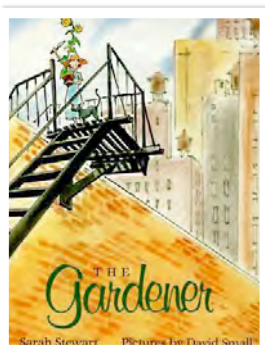
Dear Lydia Grace,  
I hope you had a lovely time with Uncle Jim. A good thing is that you almost made him smile. The nicest things of all was that he made you a cake with lovely flowers on the top. Now you can go back to your village and stay with your family. That's a great thing to do!  
Love,  
Christina Kalogeropoulou

Dear Lydia Grace,  
I am so anxious to see the new place you discovered. It must be beautiful and exciting. This weekend, I'll go shopping with my mother and I'll try to find some little plant pots for your seeds. I'll send them as soon as possible.  
Love to all,  
Anastasia Douka

Dear Lydia Grace,  
I hope you really liked the seed catalogue I sent you. How were the bulbs? Are they growing fine? Yesterday I received your drawings. They were really nice. What was the poem about? I know he didn't smile or seem like he liked it. He may smile soon.  
Love,  
Mama, Papa and Grandma  
P.S. Did you have a nice Christmas?  
(Alex Poulouvassilis)

Dear Lydia Grace,  
I would love to send you some seeds, but I can't. I hope your uncle will smile when he sees the secret place. I also want to see it.  
Love to all,  
Katerina Douka

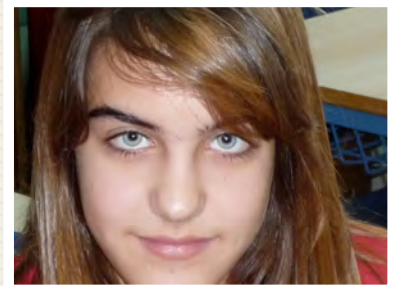
Dear Lydia Grace,  
We are sure that you'll make the city prettier with all the seeds we will send you. We hope someone teaches you how to bake.  
Lots of love,  
Your family  
P.S. We knew Uncle Jim doesn't smile.  
(Michael Alisafakis)



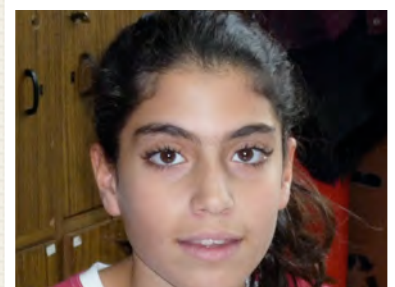
## FAMOUS AUTHORS



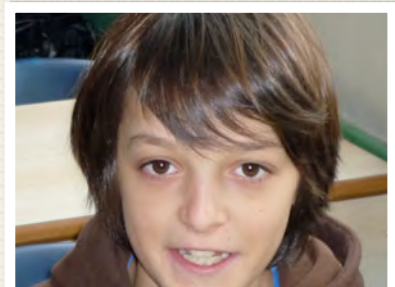
MICHAEL



KATERINA



SUZANNA



KLEON