



Escaping the World

Kaoutar Siraj
Intermediate I

Getting upset from this world, so she tried to find another way to get back to life. She is a girl of sixteen. She loves the silent atmosphere. She likes to be alone, not all alone, but only with this piece of paper. Hanging on her skinny fingers, her magical feather, to travel with her imagination away from reality to another world where there are no lies, no betrayal, no broken hearts. It's the only fantastical place where she can dream however she wants.

She writes everything about her life, her past. She remembers the memories. She cries from time to time. Whenever she tries to forget, she can't because everything around reminds her, and this sensation of losing every beautiful moment, all the people she loved, but not now anymore. She will not support fake smiles, fake people, liars, betrayals, so she left them behind to get into this magic. It hurts her and she knows very much that she can't change reality with such words, but she's still writing at the end. She buries her thinking in her intimate book, that's never getting upset at all of this. When time is off, she comes back to her unbearable life, living as a simple girl. Nobody knows her. She's still an unknown writer.



The Crisis of Reading

Samia Arihane
Intermediate 4

Everybody knows that reading is extremely important and significant in our lives; if we are cultivated and educated, we can understand what happens all over the world. As Voltaire said, "let us read, let us dance; these two amusements will never do any harm to the world."

However, in Morocco, research conducted by the Ministry of Culture in 2001 said that, "Moroccans read only 2.5 books per year, while 1 in 10 do not read books at all." This surely shows that we have a reading crisis.

I have, therefore, conducted a survey, asking students about the reasons that prevent them from reading. The conclusions I have reached from the results of my research include the advent of new technologies, time management problems and a lack of access to books.

Firstly, fifteen percent of the participants refrain from reading because of the Internet. They believe that the Web has increased apathy and has made us lazier than before. According to the interviewees, the Internet gives knowledge in an incomplete and out-of-context manner, as opposed to the specific framework of information derived from books.

Secondly, thirty percent of those surveyed said that they do not have time to read because of transportation problems,

meaning that they arrive home late. Moreover, they suffer from busy university schedules. These two factors result in their rarely having time to read recreationally outside of the set texts for the school year.

Respondents also reported not being in the habit of reading because they were not exposed to reading within the context of family life. As family and schools play key roles in encouraging students to read, we can see that these are major causes of the current reading crisis.

Thirdly, thirty-three percent do not read because of a lack of access to free books and the expense of purchasing them. In addition, most books that are rich in valuable information and in-depth analysis are published in English or French.

Finally, seventy-seven percent of participants do not read books at all, except for 23 percent of the students who read books or articles apart from the program. They read fiction, including love stories, and news articles.

We are now in the 21st century, yet we still seem to suffer from an aversion to reading. The only way to change this habit is to start at an individual level by opening books and reading ourselves. Hopefully, this will implant a better attitude in the next generation, and therefore begin to resolve the reading crisis that we are currently experiencing.

Queen of My Heart

M'hammed El Brahmi
Intermediate 3

The time we spent, the days we've shared,
You've taught me everything, you've shown
me you cared.
The older I become, the additional I know,
My life is you, So I can't live without you.
I've forever been with you,
and forever I'll be yours.
You've usually corrected my wrongs,
And educated me to be strong,
I was your patient and always you cared,
You were forever there.
A man I grow up to be,
And you still worry about me.
With all your love,
With all your care, I'll be fine.
Mom, you don't know how much I really
love you.
You'll always be the queen of my heart.
Because you were my love since my birth,
And will still be until death.

I Am a Woman

Kaoutar Oubdil
Beginning 5

I am a woman and I am proud,
You love me or you hate me,
Both are the same.
It's your own vision,
And you will not be blamed.
I am present in your life,
I am your only aim.
Don't try to ignore me,
Don't say I am ugly,
Surely not.
I am cute and lovely,
You know, man,
Without me, you'll be sad.
When and how,
Surely you'll be mad,
Because I am your mother,
Sister, daughter and wife,
I am your past, present and life.

Motherhood: A Special Job

Omaima Loukili
Advanced 2

In a unique interview for a special job, the boss asked the candidates if they could work more than twelve hours a day with no breaks and no time off in addition to not taking any vacation with no excuses to be absent or even to get sick. Those were the job conditions. Coming to the salary, the interviewer announced, "There is no salary for taking this occupation."

The people refused immediately, and protested saying that this is illegal and has no human sense to it. However, when the interviewer told the name of this occupation, everyone was shocked and wordless. Some even cried after hearing it.

This job is motherhood. It is a full time job that requires a twenty-four hour a day, seven day a week presence, with no breaks and no payment.

In another social experiment, they asked a group of young people between the ages of fifteen and thirty years to call their moms on their phones and say, "I love you." The surprise was that each mom who was called had a weird reaction. The most common answer was, "Is every thing okay?" The

next most common response was, "What is wrong?" Nevertheless, when the callers confirmed that they just wanted to express their love, each mom was touched in a way that could be heard.

These two experiments sound funny and odd. On the other hand, they also reveal a sad reality. Although our moms are so good, kind, and generous (you can add any other adjective that contains benevolence), they also uncover how we, the children, are sometimes ungrateful for our beloveds who brought us into this world.

Some of us rarely express how much we love and care about our moms. We do not really appreciate how much time they spend in order to satisfy our uncountable needs.

All in all, we do not always give them the attention and care they deserve for making our lives better and our world joyous to live in.

As a last word, dear readers, do not forget to surprise your mom with how much you love, care and need her in every chance you have. Because, in the end, we only regret the chances we missed.



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My Mother

Ilham Akkioui
Intermediate 2

All my life is for my mother. She is my life, my heart. She is the air that I breathe. My life is nonsense without her. I cannot breathe without her existence. I'm still alive because of her, and thanks to God, my mother is protected from the obstacles in our society.

Certainly, it's very hard for a woman to bring up her three children alone in this

society, but, she succeeded and she did a lot of things for us. She managed to help us, make us happy, and give us whatever we needed. She brought me up at the expense of her life, her heart, and her time. And I am ready to do whatever she wants.

I am fighting for her happiness. My goal in this life is to make her happy, healthy and to satisfy all her needs. My hope to God is for favor and protection for my mother, and for all the lovely, faithful, helpful mothers.

A 'Killer' Ghost Story

Manal Amrani
Juniors 9 Advanced

Once upon a time, in a very old port, a young woman was living in a village. Next to her home, there was a haunted house. Every night, she heard the voices of a woman, a man and a child coming from there. She knew that nobody lived there, and so she was very scared.

No one from her family, nor any of her friends lived in the village, so she couldn't talk to anyone about this. She also couldn't go back to her native city because didn't want to lose her job. So, she stayed there and lived with her fears. The voices got louder and louder.

One day, she decided to be brave and to see what all this was about. She opened



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the door and very quietly, she entered. The house was huge and would be beautiful if someone cared for it, but it was covered in dust.

She heard someone breathing behind her. She was frightened. She turned to see who was there and she was shocked. There were three people standing there. They were scary. They looked like horrible ghosts covered in blood.

She started shouting and then she ran. They took a very long knife and they cut her throat. Her ghost is still living in the house and if somebody goes there, they will suffer the same horrible ending.

A 'Dream' Vacation

Laila Chiboub
Juniors 9 Advanced

In my dream, I'm going on a strange journey to the planet Mars with my friends. We're going to meet the Martian people or aliens. They drink a kind of dark water, like petrol.

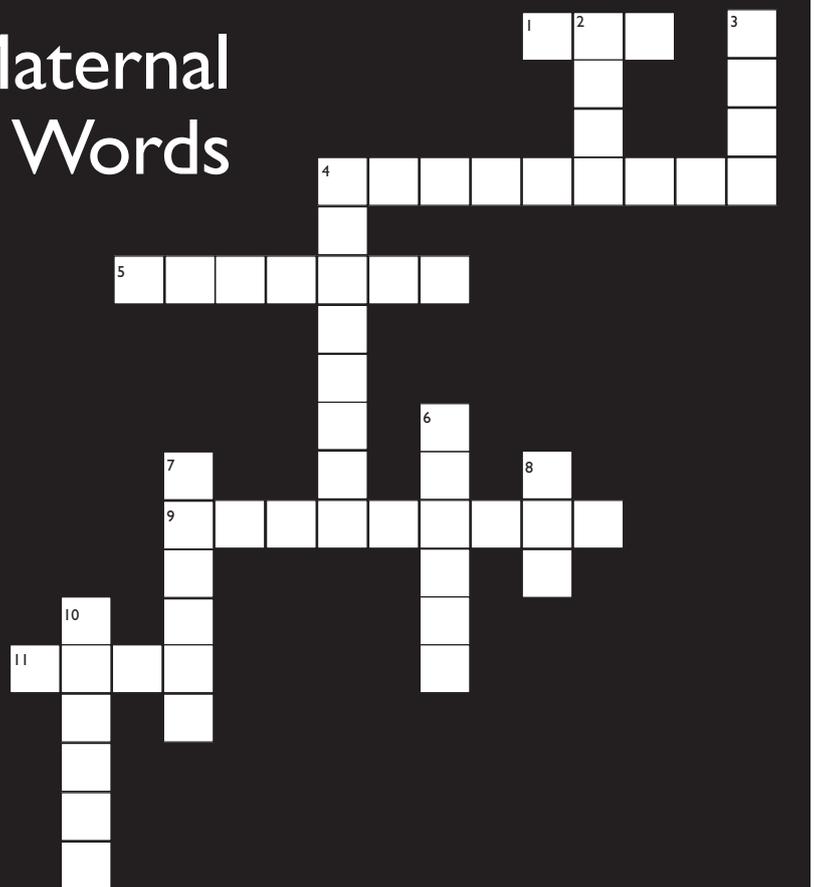
When they see me and my friends, they use their guns (they have strange guns), but they don't kill us. When they shoot me, I can't move. We travel in the spaceship.

The aliens also have a translation gun

and I use it so we can speak. My friends and I tell them that we don't want to do bad things to the Martians or to kill them. We just want to visit their planet and take some photos. They accept our proposition. Then, they use their guns again, so now I can move around the spaceship.

We visit their planet and it's so fantastic and strange at the same time. It's like a Disney movie. We're going to visit the aliens' homes when my dad comes and wakes me up. I'm angry that I don't get to finish my dream vacation.

Maternal Words



Across

- 1 _____ enough to be someone's **mother**.
- 4 a proverb: "_____ is the **mother** of good luck."
- 5 yet another proverb: "_____ is the **mother** of all success."
- 9 "Necessity is the **mother** of _____."
- 11 a slang phrase to show agreement: _____ to your **mother**.

Down

- 2 To hit the **mother** _____ means to find something valuable in abundance.
- 3 It's an insult to say that a person has "a _____ only a **mother** could love."
- 4 a comparison: "Like **mother**, like _____."
- 6 During thunderstorms, we see the power of **Mother** _____.
- 7 another proverb: "experience is the **mother** of _____."
- 8 A family-owned place to shop is sometimes called a **mom** and _____ store.
- 10 Your native language is also called your **mother** _____.

Find the answers on **page 2**.