



Man Thinking / c/o Pixabay

As a Man Thinks

Meryem Sabor
Advanced 6

“As a man thinketh [thinks] in his heart, so is he...” This is quite a well-known aphorism quoted by James Allen. This author is known for his beliefs, saying that men are the complete sum of all their thoughts, and therefore, their thinking blossoms to result in their behavior, as well as their demeanor, be it real or sham.

We live in a world where good and evil are walking all around, finding a way to coexist within the same space, and, considering that fact, people can be who they pretend to be, or they can be what lies in the shadow of that which they pretend to be.

Philosophy sustains that we can never know people for real since their demeanor could be forged to appeal to the viewer, even though deep down, that is the ugliest thing possible. Hence, what I’m saying is that someone who appears to be eerie can actually be normal. Someone who appears at his highest level of happiness can, deep down, be carrying a stab wound of sorrow. Someone who appears to be real can be nothing more than an illusion. Someone who appears to be beautiful and perfect can actually be narcissistic. Someone who ap-

pears to be as calm and steady as the ocean waves on a sunny day can be a time bomb.

Isn’t it odd? It’s astonishingly unbelievable how wrong you can be about someone. Is it that easy to put on a mask and wander around in it? Are people’s feelings this meaningless? There aren’t enough words to describe the depth of my bewilderment. How can one’s thoughts be disgraceful to the point of beguiling the people closest to them? Figuring this out remains beyond my capabilities.

After realizing we have been betrayed by the closest ones, we end up fearing the unknown, building tremendous walls of caution to hide behind, cutting off any kind of human contact. There is nothing worse than betrayal, deception, and disappointment. Such heartache results in becoming cold as a rock, isolated, enclosed. We become the pure embodiment of loneliness. And no apology can bring the pieces back together because once something is broken, you have to accept that it is broken.

Like James Allen said, “I am the complete sum of all [my] thoughts.” I make and shape my own decisions. I grow the seeds of my behavior, but still, I try my best not to betray, nor deceive, nor disappoint.

The Real Best Friend

Hiba Allache
Intermediate 6

As many of us know, the celebrity and screen world is full of lies and misunderstandings, and all that we see on the screen is just bogus. Actually, in this world, everyone shows their other face just to please the viewer’s desire. In this world, most people want to be with you just for their own sake. In this fake world, nobody can be your friend except your pet.

Once upon a time, there was a naïve girl named Jasmine. She was in her twenties. She was very friendly, and had a good sense of humor, but unfortunately, she was just used by the people around her because of her fortune.

She was a millionaire’s lonely daughter, and the wife of a famous American musician. He was always busy with his tours and concerts around the world, and he didn’t take care of her when he was with her. He was always bragging about his status.

She was also so busy because she was a pre-eminent top model. Unfortunately, she had just work relationships, not a real friend or a best friend to support her when she had a real problem. Everyone around her was a hypocrite, wanting only what was in their own best interest.

Her only friend was her dog. She really loved him. This dog was big, and had curly fur. Most people around her didn’t like him because of his ugly looks, but for her, he was the most beautiful dog in the world. This dog was always near her. He knew her better than anyone else did. He knew if she was happy or sad, if she felt good or not, if she was safe or in danger.

Speaking of danger, this dog had almost sacrificed his life to save hers. Indeed, one day, as she was swimming in the sea with her so-called friends, the weather changed all of a sudden.

The waves started to get higher and

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An Interview with: **Naima Alami**

Omaima Loukili

Advanced 5

Student Voice: *Where are you from?*

Naima Hamdouni Alami: I'm from Fez, originally. I was born here, grew up here, studied here, had my children and grandchildren here.

SV: *Have you ever lived outside Morocco?*

NA: No, never, but I've been on holiday to different places abroad.

SV: *Tell us about your life as a student.*

Where did you study?

What did you study?

NA: I studied here in Fez, at the girls' school, Oum Al Banine. After the *bac*, I majored in English literature at Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdullah.

SV: *How long have you been a teacher in life?*

NA: 35 years. From 1980 to 1990, I was a teacher. I sat for an oral exam to become a Teacher Supervisor. I've been a Teacher Supervisor since 1990.

SV: *When did you decide to become a teacher? Why did you choose teaching?*

NA: I think it was during the *bac* that I'd had the idea. I had a French teacher who used to teach dialogues and conversations. She would praise me. I started hearing a voice inside me that I would be a great teacher. I didn't intend to. I had an opportunity to study at the Sorbonne, but I missed the opportunity. Now, I don't regret

it. I'm happy being a teacher.

SV: *How long have you been a teacher at the ALC?*

NA: I've been teaching here since January 2003, so that's 12 years.

SV: *What do you teach at the ALC?*

NA: English. Well, mostly Beginning 3 and up. I've taught from Beginning 1 to Advanced 3. I think I've taught Juniors three or four times.

SV: *How is teaching at the ALC different from teaching at other schools?*

NA: It is different in many ways. This is a very enriching experience for me. Most students are motivated, and what's great is that you meet different kinds of teachers—native speakers and university professors. It's fun to teach here.

SV: *What do you enjoy most about teaching?*

NA: I like the idea of seeing new faces every time. You have new students every term. It helps you avoid boredom. Some students are

great and so fluent. Some are slow and have difficulties. When I can help them advance and improve their English, I feel really proud of myself and proud of them. It's an everlasting process. You go on learning. It never stops. I always try to change the materials, so I won't feel bored.

SV: *What is the role of a teacher in the classroom?*

NA: A teacher should be a friendly person, creative, well-organized, and well-prepared.

Lenient and flexible, but have rules. A teacher should be able to improvise, and anticipate students' questions because sometimes you're faced with an unexpected question. A teacher should have a good relationship with students. Humor is important. Students come here to have fun and learn at the same time.

SV: *If you weren't teaching English, what would you be doing?*

NA: I think I would be a journalist. That's a job I would really like to do.

SV: *Describe your teaching style in three words.*

NA: Well, I'm funny. Creative. Hard-working.

SV: *What qualities do good students have?*

NA: Good listeners, active listeners, and disciplined, too. Lively, engaged, and respectful. They're not too shy to ask questions. They express opinions without being shy and afraid.

SV: *What's your favorite word in the English language?*

NA: *Onomatopoeia*. That's a word that sounds in my ears. It reminds me of a teacher that used to teach me poetry.

SV: *What's your least favorite word in the English language?*

NA: *Surrender*. It means to give up. I don't want to surrender. When you fall down, you have to get up again.

SV: *What word do you overuse?*

NA: *Definitely*, especially when I agree with students.

SV: *What is your motto?*

NA: Life always offers you a second chance—tomorrow.



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Advanced 5 Zineb Mekouar

Advanced 6 Fatima-Azzahrae Sayarh

I'm a Belieber

Ikrame Yahyaoui
Intermediate 5

Justin Bieber is a singer who was born 1 March 1994. He is now known as the new "King of Pop." His fans are called "Beliebers." He began his career when he was still young. He was discovered on YouTube by Scooter Braun, who is his manager now.

Personally, I think Justin Bieber has saved my life. Why? He loves his fans, and he does things no other pop idol can do. He taught me a lot of wonderful things, such as being strong no matter what happens. He teaches us fans to believe in ourselves and our dreams, and never to let haters ruin our lives. If we do these things, everything will be alright. He is simply the most amazing pop idol a fan could ever have.

His music and lyrics are wonderful. When you listen, you know the exact

meaning behind each word and you feel strength and power inside yourself.

Moroccans criticize him a lot. We know this as a fact. I don't know the real reason why they say bad things. I wish that Moroccans would respect him, support him, and understand that he is a human being and that he has feelings, too. He has done a lot of great things for poor people, like building a new school for children in the Philippines after the natural disaster there. It's rude to criticize him. Let's learn what respect means for all human beings, even Justin Bieber.

Some Moroccans even criticize his fans, the Beliebers. Every time I think of Justin Bieber, I smile like an idiot, but I feel so happy and glad. I hope someone will understand me and all of us Beliebers.

Being a Belieber is a promise, and I'll never break it.

How to Prepare to Meet Your Pop Idol

Ikrame Yahyaoui
Intermediate 5

I'd say that one of the best things in my life is being a part of a fandom. Having an idol is beautiful because it's like caring for someone and knowing him or her. I know you'll say that my idol doesn't even know that I exist, but I sincerely follow what my heart tells me, so don't waste your precious time trying to change my point of view.

Personally speaking, I've been in a fandom for five years now. I'm a Belieber (a fan of singer Justin Bieber). I always think hard about my dream, the dream that I'll finally meet Justin.

First, what will I wear? To get my idol's attention, I'll have to wear something attractive. Neon colors, maybe, or maybe a whole different style than the other Belie-

bers, such as a weird, colorful hat?

Okay, then there's the sign I will hold. The writing should be alluring, and as a proud Moroccan, I had the idea of writing, "We make couscous every Friday! You're invited, Justin!" so that he'll wonder what couscous is. That's probably a nice idea.

Let's see, what else? I should control my own behavior when I see him. I certainly shouldn't cry, because that's what most of his fans do, and it doesn't really seem to get his attention. I'll be confident and trust myself.

Finally, I'll get a group of fans to do a special action, like holding the same sign, to get all of his attention. That should do it. When Justin comes to Fez, I'll be ready for him.



Believe Tour 13 2012 by Joe Bielawa / Creative Commons



Taylor Swift 1989 Tour at Ford Field in Detroit 5/30/15 / Creative Commons

Taylor Swift

Sara Dekkak
Juniors 6 Advanced

My favorite celebrity is Taylor Swift. She's a singer. She has short, wavy, blond hair. She's tall and slim. Her eyes are blue.

She usually goes to parties and festivals. She has a lot of interviews every day. She usually relaxes at home every day, and she usually visits her family or friends. She usually hangs out or goes shopping and eats in different restaurants. During the week, she travels to different cities and countries.

Maybe she's eating Japanese food in an Asian restaurant right now. It's cool to be a star!

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higher. Nobody knew what was happening. As everyone went to save their own lives, poor Jasmine couldn't because she was in shock. In fact, she was close to death. As the minutes passed, there was no trace of her, but no one noticed that she was missing, except for her dog. Her loyal dog was there to rescue her without worrying about his own life.

At the last minute, her dog saved her with a lot of effort. Getting away from the dangerous place, he started licking his best friend's cheeks to help her regain consciousness. After a long time, Jasmine opened her eyes and noticed that her dog was willing to lose his life just for her.

After this bad event, Jasmine decided not to have a lot of so-called friends anymore, because having only one real friend was enough, even if he was just a pet.

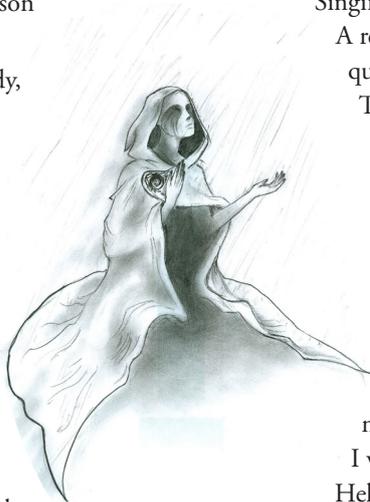
Red Rain

Ayoub Benslal
Intermediate 2

Born in the dark,
Born in its noise,
Felt so cold,
Under a rain that keeps falling.
Heard the beating,
Heard the life,
Glimpsed the light
That lights the night.
What I've seen
Was worse,
About the curse,
And the crimson rain.
Bloody, bloody,
bloody me,
Covered with
wet fears.
Hearing
thunder
And red
tears,
A song
landed
among
my fears.
Sparkle, sparkle,
drops
On my skin,
And under my knees.
Flow on,
In, then out,
From scars
That can never heal.
Wash away
My pain and fears,
And drain me out,
So I can tear
My soul and creed,
Then let me know
Where I will be asleep.

All the hopes
I'm longing for,
And all the breeze
I wished to feel,
Swelled out
As plague on my skin,
Sickening me
Under the rain.
I became haunted
By a thought,
By a teasing pain
Of mind,
A whispering torture,
Singing with the rain,
A requiem of
questions
That got planted
in my brain.
If only there
were someone
around.
If only there
were
someone
sensing
my pain.
I would have
Held him closer,
And told him that,
All I want
Is a constant light,
A ray of hope
That I can adopt.
One passing thought,
Those dark
Reddish clouds,
Glowing in my thoughts,
And in this bloody
storm of doubts.

art by Ayoub Benslal



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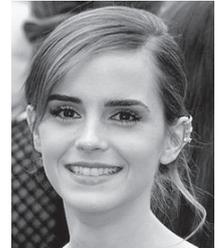
Emma Watson

Douae Arrad
Juniors 6 Advanced

Emma Watson is a fabulous actress. I like her a lot. She's average height and slim. She has long, wavy hair, but she usually cuts it. It's red. Her eyes are hazel.

She usually goes shopping, because she wears nice clothes. She also goes to the spa to have gorgeous skin, hair, and nails. I think she's shopping right now. If not, she's in a hair salon to try new hair styles. Maybe she's relaxing at home, and watching TV, because stars have their private lives, too.

Emma lives in a big house. She has pets to play with. She has a good life, so she can travel to another country, or even an island. I think she likes her life, but she also wants to be a normal person.



Georges Blard / Creative Commons

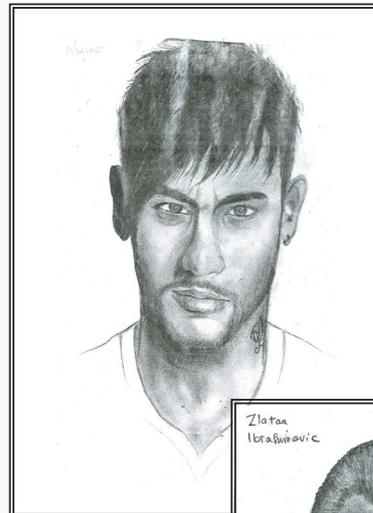
GOAL!!!

Adnane Mansouri
Juniors

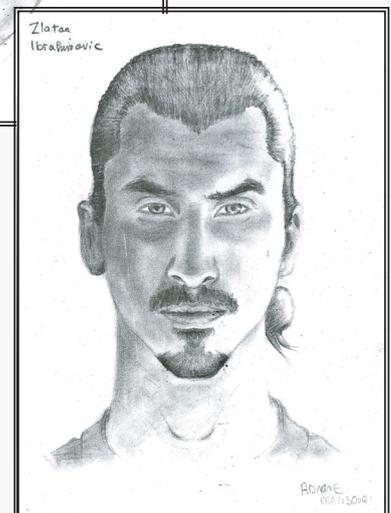
ALC student Adnane Mansouri shared his incredible artistic talent with the *Student Voice*.

Here are FC Barcelona player Neymar and Swedish footballer Zlatan Ibrahimović.

To see more of Adnane's drawings, check out the ALC Student Voice Facebook page.



Neymar / Adnane Mansouri



Zlatan Ibrahimović / Adnane Mansouri