

Issue

2

2025-2026



**1st GENERAL HIGH SCHOOL OF ASPROPYRGOS  
STUDENT ENGLISH JOURNAL**

“The memory of  
the homeland”

Interview  
with the  
singer,  
**Stathis  
Drogossis**

“Endless Night”

“Stubbornly  
human”



“AI knows data,  
humans know  
pain”

Editorial Board: Charis Tziovara, Maria Katavouta, Despina Andreadou

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# Letter from the Editorial Board

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the second issue of our school's English newspaper!

First of all, we would like to warmly welcome the new students who joined our editorial team. We are truly happy to see our newspaper growing with fresh ideas, creativity, enthusiasm, and teamwork. Every new member brings a unique voice and perspective, making this journey even more exciting and meaningful.

We would also like to congratulate all the students who participated in this issue. Your dedication, initiative, imagination, and willingness to express your thoughts through articles, interviews, artwork, and creative pieces are truly inspiring. The variety of topics presented in this edition reflects not only your interests and concerns, but also your curiosity about the world around you.

This newspaper is more than just a school project. It is a space where students can collaborate, communicate, create, and discover their potential. We sincerely hope that this experience will become the beginning of a journey through which you will uncover new aspects of yourselves, cultivate your artistic talents, strengthen your confidence, and develop your journalistic spirit and critical thinking.

Keep writing, creating, questioning, and dreaming. Your voices matter, and through this newspaper they can be heard.

We hope you enjoy reading our second issue as much as we enjoyed creating it.

With best wishes,

**The Editorial Board**

Charis Tziovara

Katavouta Maria

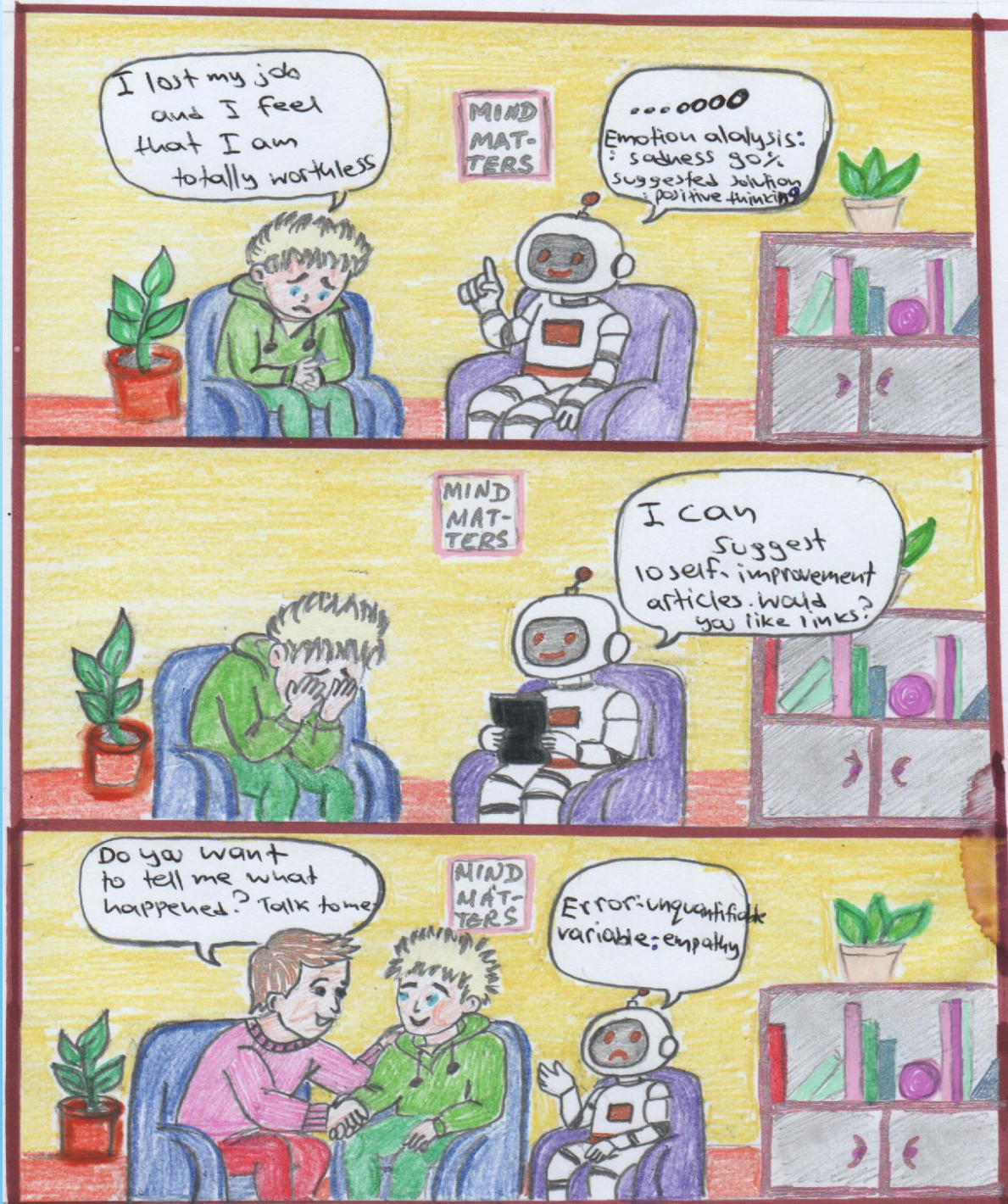
Despina Andreadou

# Comics



# A.I. knows data, Humans know pain

A.I. knows Data, Humans know Pain!



Sofia Theodoridou A1

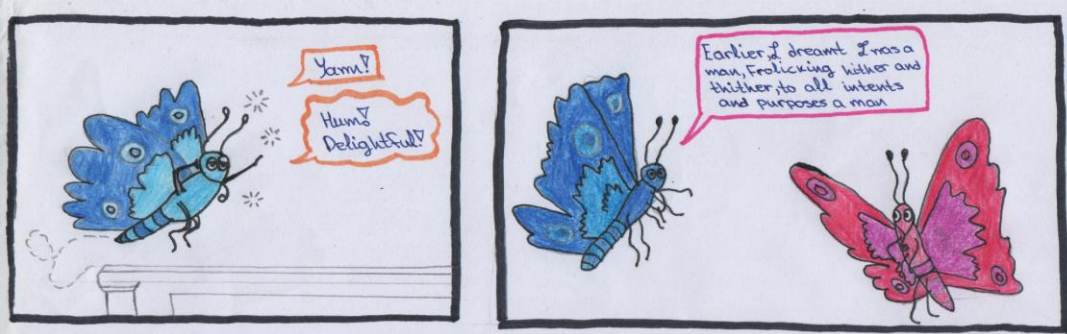
# Addiction



# Every big dream starts small



# The dream of a butterfly



# Addiction to coffee

Addiction to COFFEE



Iwanna 2idiropoulou B'4

# Creative writing corner

## Endless Night

I try to run, but I'm still caught  
In smoke and drinks that chain my thought.  
I want to break these silent bars...  
But habits hold me where they are.

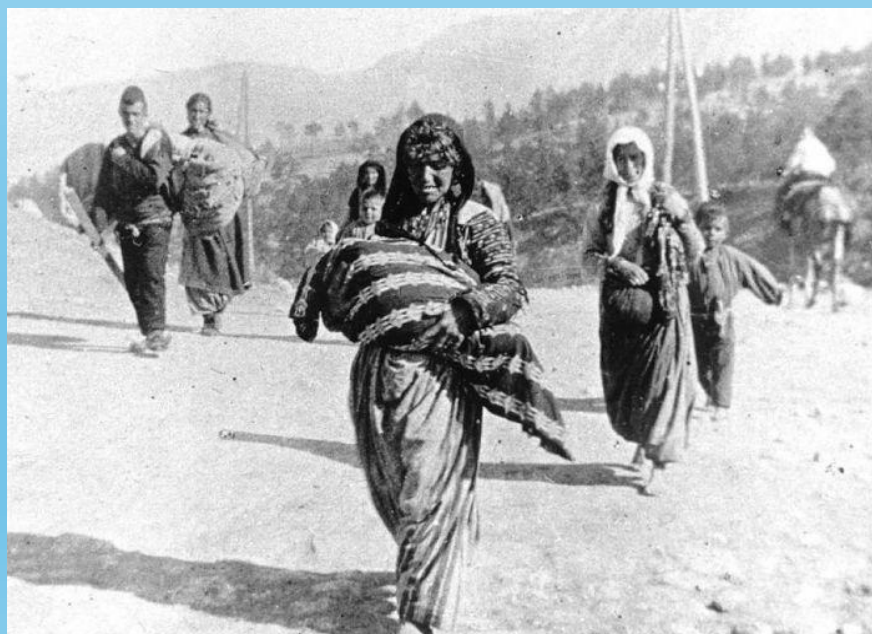
Only one road now remains in sight,  
A path that leads from dark to light.  
If I don't turn, if I don't fight  
That road will end in endless night.



# Genocide

In fields where silence chose to hide  
Echoes still cry of genocide  
The mind remembers, the earth will weep  
For countless dreams that fell asleep.

Yet from the ash a flower grows  
defying pain that memory knows.  
A vow remains, no truth denied,  
No peace is built on genocide.



# The memory of the homeland

Mytilene, 1955. Helen came out of the house and looked down at the neighborhood. She was a beautiful, tall girl with blonde hair and blue eyes. Many women greeted her while she was hanging out the clothes. Then, Mary, her elderly mother, came out wearing a black dress, a black headscarf on her head, gray, untangled hair while her face was old and worn reminding her of the bad things she had gone through. She sat on the stool in silence and knitted a shawl. Helen sat in front of her and she was consumed by curiosity to know...

“Mom, tell me! I want to know!” he shouted.

“I’ve told you a thousand times! I don’t want to talk about it!”

“It’s our past! We mustn’t forget our place!”

“Okay...I’ll tell you!” he said and let go of the shawl from her hands and took a deep breath. “Do you see those lights across the street? That’s where I came from!”

“Isn’t that Turkey?”

“A few years ago it was called Ionia, inhabited by Greeks since ancient times! But the Turks believed it belonged to them!”

“How was it there?”

“I come from Smyrna! I was born in Smyrna! And the city, the center of Asia Minor! With the port and the ships, the waterfront, the hotel, the theater, the shops, the neighborhoods! The Lady of the East! A mythical city, the largest of the century! Which stretches all the way to the Acropolis with the ancient theater! To the south, the plain spread out with fruits! The waterfront, however, with a view of the port and the mountains! Where all the rich live there in imposing houses! It also has banks and merchants! Smyrna is very developed for its time and has merchants from all over the world! Many people are here! English, French, Italians, Turks, Armenians and Levantines! Smyrna! The city that will live forever in my heart! Mythical, dreamy, fairytale! A city that the whole Earth would like to live in! In the neighborhoods, everyone, regardless of race or religion greeted you and respected you! When you passed by there, you could smell spices and herbs! The smell of pie came from the bakeries, while the itinerant ice cream vendors, cream! This is Izmir!

A city of immense love, respect and joy! Voices and music everywhere! Everyone loved you! Even if you were their inferior! Because they didn't care how to crush the other! They cared about compassion! That's why Izmir will forever remain in my heart!"

"And then what happened?" "It all started with Venizelos who dreamed of taking these lands for Greece! And he succeeded with the Treaty of Sevres in 1920! But, in 1922, Kemal, a Turkish nationalist began to plunder cities until he reached the mountains of Smyrna! And in August 1922, the Greek army wanted to reach Ankara, but the Turkish army was hitting them from everywhere! The Greek army retreated! Then, disaster struck! It was dawn when my cousin knocked on our door and told us!

Without a second thought, we ran to collect the silverware and jewelry! We understood that we had to leave, but what can you take in one moment of a whole life? They condemned us to a hell, to chaos! The Turks wanted to uproot us from our land! They wanted to annihilate us all, so that no one would be spared, so that those who had sprung up in Mongolia , the uncivilized ones would stay here, while we...At noon, we took our luggage and left for Smyrna! On the road, we saw many people like us with their suitcases in their hands leaving!

We all went to Smyrna, because we thought that such a city with so many foreigners with ambassadors from America would not bother us! But the next day, we saw what we did not want! The Turks entered Smyrna! The news spread everywhere within minutes! Everyone was running to save themselves to escape their wrath! And what did they do first? They dragged Metropolitan Chrysostomos from the church and took him to the commander, Nurredin Pasha! After they spoke, he handed him over to the mob! They dragged him, beat him, kicked him! And the soldiers tortured him! They cut off his ears, his hands, gouged out his eyes pulled out his beard and after cutting off his head, they nailed it to his cane and paraded it around the city, so that the Greeks could see it and be terrified! And then? Chaos! They set fire to the Armenian quarter!

Within a short time, smoke enveloped Smyrna! All the Armenians were massacred by the Turks and after hours, they set fire to the Greek quarter as well, but the Turkish quarter was not touched! They were slaughtering Greeks, raping girls in public! These girls were screaming and preferred to die! I could not bear to see the evil that these men had brought upon us! I could not bear to leave my beloved city! When we reached the waterfront, it was packed! Thousands of people were shouting for help! All the foreigners, even the American consults boarded the ships and sat opposite! Our supposed allies looked on helplessly at the destruction and took pictures of us!

When I saw Smyrna burning, I lost the ground under my feet! The fire lasted four days! 55.000 houses were burned! No one could escape the fury of the Turks! They killed, raped, robbed...And what did they do? They burned the houses around and everyone came to the waterfront, and the Turks formed a chain of soldiers around it and surrounded us all! Many Greeks fell into the sea and drowned, so that the Turks would not kill them! The sea was filled with so many corpses that you could jump on them and walk on the water! The fire spread everywhere, the sky was invisible from the smoke, while the sun turned red, as if begging for mercy! The people were running to be saved, but ahead was the sea! Forward, jump, redemption! Eerie sounds were heard, but they were not the bells of the church, Saint Fotini, they were screams, the trumpets of the Apocalypse! Ah, our world has been destroyed! Our Smyrna has been destroyed!

Our life has been destroyed! The Turks have forcibly uprooted us from our land! The shops that once stood there have now become collapsed buildings, with flames enveloping them and the smoke preventing us from seeing! The boats that were in the sea were countless! Many were drowning from the large crowd since due to a law, we were Ottoman citizens and in Greece they did not accept ships with people with foreign passports! The chaos that occurred in Smyrna for days was great!

The fire burned down the entire city except the Turkish and the Jewish quarters! It lasted from August 31 to September 4! The victims were 800.000 and the refugees were 1.500.000! Finally I got on a boat and held you, baby, in my arms! When I turned to see Smyrna one last time, there was nothing left of my beloved city! Ash and smoke everywhere that suffocated you! The sky had become a mass of ash! The buildings had turned pitch black and the flames were passing them by! Thousands of people were screaming for help on the waterfront, while the Allies watched from the ships unconcerned with the destruction! What happened on the waterfront was not a crowd! It was hell itself! No one could escape the Turks' fury!

When we eventually came in Greece, the locals called us Turks! But, I remembered what my grandmother used to tell me! Whoever forgets history is doomed to relive it! They may have ruined our lives, driven us from our homes, but our memory does not fade! What happened was absolutely devastating! In Smyrna I lost my entire family. I lost five of my children, my husband and my brother! Seven stars of my apocalypse!

# Break The Chain

## BREAK THE CHAIN

RACISM IS A SHADOW, DARK AND COLD,  
A STORY OF HATE THAT SHOULD BE GONE.  
IT JUDGES FACES, NAMES, AND SKIN,  
IGNORING THE BEAUTY OF HUMAN BEINGS.

WE ALL MATTER, WE ALL HAVE DREAMS,  
DIFFERENT COLOURS BUT SAME BREATH.  
DON'T LOVE THE HATE, THE TEARS, THE GRIEF,  
WHEN KINDNESS SPEAKS, THE WORLD FINDS RELIEF.

WORDS CAN HURT, LIKE HEAVY BLOWS,  
BUILDING UP UNSEEN WALLS.

**BREAK THE CHAIN,**  
**STOP THE PAIN.**

STAND UP STRONG, SHOUT FOR TRUTH,  
ALL SMALL VOICES CAN BREAK THROUGH.  
FOR LOVE IS LOUDER, ACCEPTANCE IS TRUE,  
AND OUR WORLD IS BRIGHTER WHEN IT HAS YOU.

**P.S.:** Dedicated to a world,  
you are free to be  
anythingless



# The Last Shift At Helix Toys

The factory stood abandoned on the industrial outskirts of Aspropyrgos —or at least, that's what people claimed. Locals avoided the road after sunset. Truck drivers refused to stop anywhere near it. And the workers who once clocked in for the night shift? Most of them never spoke about it again. Some of them never returned at all.

Ten years earlier, Helix Nutritional Industries had abruptly rebranded. New name, new products—new silence. It was now known as Helix Toys, a company manufacturing children's products: bright packaging, smiling mascots, soft voices sealed inside plastic.

Elena Markham hadn't thought about that factory in years—until the package arrived. No sender. Inside, there was a small toy: a doll made of soft fabric, with elongated limbs and a wide smile stitched unnaturally tight across its face. A note was tucked beside it:

"COME BACK AND PLAY. FIND THE RED FLOWER."

Elena froze. Curiosity gnawed at her.

That same night, she drove to Aspropyrgos.

The factory gates stood rusted open. No guards. No lights. As she stepped inside, something powered on—a faint hum, as if the building itself were waking up. Dust blanketed everything: old conveyor belts, broken machinery, colorful posters peeling from the walls.

"PLAY SAFE! SMILES ARE MANDATORY!"

Elena frowned.

"That wasn't here before," she muttered.

She followed a flickering emergency light down the main corridor. Then she heard it—a voice. Almost human. Echoing through the halls.

“You came back.”

Elena stopped.

“Hello?” she called out. Silence. Then—a distant metallic clang. She moved deeper into the building until she reached the production floor. But it wasn’t how she remembered it. The old industrial machines were still there, yet they had been altered—wrapped in bright colors, covered in cartoon faces. One of them bore a name painted in cheerful letters: “MIXY THE FRIEND MAKER.”

Elena felt her stomach churn.

“What did they do here...?”

A sudden noise behind her. She turned. Nothing. When she looked back, the machine had stopped. Slowly, its painted smile seemed... different. Wider. Click.

Power surged through the facility. Lights flickered on across the room, and speakers crackled to life.

“WELCOME BACK, EMPLOYEE ELENA.”

Her blood ran cold.

“That system was shut down years ago...”

A screen on the wall flickered on—security footage. Workers moving. Laughing. Then coughing. Then collapsing. Elena stepped closer.

“This isn’t—”

The footage shifted. Newer now. Darker. Something moving between the machines.

“They were all here.”

The voice again. Perhaps human. Or perhaps not. Something moved behind her. Closer this time. A soft dragging sound—fabric scraping against concrete. Elena turned slowly. And then she saw it.

A shadow. Tall—far too tall. Glowing eyes. And a smile.

Far too wide.

“You weren’t here.”

The voice came from the shadow. From the footage. From the past. Elena staggered backward.

“You’re not real.”

The shadow tilted its head.

“You made us.”

Memories flooded back—chemical reports, toxic exposure, experimental materials.

“They used the chemicals... in the toys...”

“EVERYONE WAS HERE. YOU WEREN’T.”

The shadow stepped forward.

The posters around her now seemed to read differently in the dim light:

"DON'T LEAVE. PLAY FOREVER."

Something lunged at her.

Fast—too fast.

Dragging. Crawling. Laughing.

"DON'T LEAVE. IT'S YOUR TURN."

Elena burst through the exit into the cold night air. Behind her, the factory fell silent once more—dead, as if nothing had ever happened.

Days later, the story reached the news:

**"ABANDONED FACTORY IN ASPROPYRGOS UNDER INVESTIGATION."**

Authorities found nothing. No functioning machinery. No toys. No evidence.

Only one thing.

A small doll, left at the entrance.

Waiting.

Elena kept it locked away. She never touched it again.

But sometimes— Late at night—

She hears it.

A faint whisper.

"Shift isn't over yet..."

## Beyond blue and pink: Rewriting the rules of genders.

Gender stereotypes remain deeply rooted in our modern world, quietly shaping our choices, behaviors, and career paths. From early childhood, pink and blue toy aisles dictate what girls and boys "should" like. As we grow, these rigid expectations transform into social pressures that affect everyone.

Men often face intense pressure to suppress emotions and maintain a strong, independent facade. Conversely, women continue to battle the double standard of balancing career ambition with traditional domestic roles. In the professional sphere, tech industries remain heavily male-dominated, while caregiving fields are mostly female.

Fortunately, the younger generation is actively challenging these outdated norms. True progress means creating a world where interests, jobs, and emotions are not defined by gender. It is time to value individuals for who they truly are, rather than forcing them into artificial boxes.

## Between two stations

Eleni and Markos' story didn't begin with fireworks, but with the silence of an empty subway car on the last train. She was holding a book she wasn't reading, and he was staring at his reflection in the window, as if searching for someone he had lost before he had even found them.

For two years, their life was a choreography of small habits. The morning coffee that smelled of cinnamon, the notes on the fridge for the week's shopping, the Sundays lost under the duvets listening to the rain hitting the windows. Markos was Eleni's anchor and she was his lighthouse. He often told her that the world outside was a storm, but their home was the only harbor she needed.

But fate has a cruel way of reminding us that nothing is certain.

The phone call came one Tuesday afternoon, while Eleni was choosing flowers for the living room vase. A solemn, cold voice told her that Markos would not be back for dinner. One accident, one moment of someone else's carelessness, and their lives were cut in two.

The weeks that followed were a blur of white hospital walls and the sound of machines. Markos was there, but at the same time he was missing. His eyes remained closed, refusing to face the pain that had settled on Eleni's face. She sat next to him every day, reading him his favorite stories and holding his hand, hoping that her warmth would pull him back from the darkness.

"Don't leave me alone in the storm," she whispered to him.

One night, the machine hands began to flicker. Eleni felt his hand tighten around hers for a brief, fleeting moment. He opened his eyes. They were blurry, but filled with that familiar light that made her feel safe.

"Eleni...", he whispered in a voice that seemed to come from a long way away. "I will always... be... your beacon."

It was his last breath. The silence that followed was heavier than any words. Eleni did not cry immediately. She remained there, looking at his now lifeless face, realizing that love does not end with death, but is transformed into an eternal wait.

Today, Eleni walks the same paths. Every time it rains, she closes her eyes and feels his touch on her shoulder. Their story did not have the ending they dreamed of, but it had the intensity that every great love deserves: the one that hurts because it was true.

# Between Olive Trees And Ambition

In a small village nestled between silver-green olive groves and the endless blue of the Aegean Sea, there lived a girl named Anna. The village was quiet, traditional, and predictable — a place where dreams rarely stretched beyond marriage, family, and maintaining the land passed down through generations. But Anna was different. While others saw the village as home, Anna saw it as a beginning.

From a young age, she found herself staring not at the horizon, but beyond it. Books were her escape, her rebellion, and her silent promise to herself that life could be bigger. Her parents, kind but practical, did not fully understand her ambitions.

“Why leave?” her mother would ask. “You have everything you need here.”

But Anna knew that wanting more did not mean she loved less.

At eighteen, she left for Athens to study Environmental Engineering. It was not just a degree — it was her way of protecting the land she loved, even if she had to leave it in order to learn how.

The city overwhelmed her at first: the noise, the speed, the anonymity. But slowly, she carved out her own place.

She worked late nights at a small café to support herself, studied harder than she ever had before, and refused to give up — even when loneliness crept in.

Years passed, and Anna graduated with honors. She secured a position at a sustainability firm, focusing on rural development and ecological preservation. She had done it. She was independent, capable, and strong.

But life, as it often does, had more in store.

Her work eventually brought her back to her village. A new project aimed to modernize agricultural practices while preserving the environment. It was everything she had dreamed of — a chance to give back, to merge her past with her future.

That was where she met Nikos.

Nikos was not what she expected. He was not just another villager resistant to change. He was an architect who had returned from Thessaloniki with his own vision: to restore traditional homes using sustainable materials and modern design.

Where Anna saw systems, Nikos saw spaces. Where she analyzed, he imagined.

“You’re too focused on data,” he told her once.

“And you’re too focused on aesthetics,” she replied.

But beneath their disagreements was something undeniable — a shared passion, a quiet respect, and a growing curiosity about each other.

They began working together, combining their expertise. What started as debates turned into collaboration. Long meetings became longer walks through olive fields, where they discussed ideas, dreams, and fears. Slowly, their professional partnership evolved into something deeper.

Nikos admired her strength, her determination, and the way she never compromised her values. Anna admired his creativity, his courage to return, to rebuild, and to believe in something others had given up on.

Together, they designed a project that transformed old homes into eco-friendly guesthouses, creating jobs, attracting visitors, and breathing new life into the village. It was more than success — it was purpose.

One evening, as the sun dipped into the sea, painting the sky in shades of gold and crimson, they stood on a hill overlooking the village.

“You changed this place,” Nikos said softly.

Anna shook her head. “We did.”

He smiled. “You know, you never really left it behind.”

She looked at him, her heart steady and certain. “I just needed to grow enough to come back.”

In that moment, surrounded by everything she had once dreamed of leaving, Anna realized she had built a life on her own terms. She was no longer the girl who wanted to escape — she was the woman who returned: stronger, wiser, and still dreaming.

And beside her stood someone who did not complete her, but chose to walk beside her.

Their story was not just about love.

It was about becoming. And choosing, every day, to build something beautiful together.

## Racism and sexism: changing minds , changing society

Racism and sexism are still major problems in today's world. Many people believe that society has changed and that everyone is treated equally now, but this is not always true. In many places, people are still judged because of their skin color or gender. This can affect their lives in many ways, such as at school, at work, and even in everyday situations. Although things are better than they were in the past, there is still a lot that needs to change.

Racism is when someone is treated unfairly because of their race, skin color, or ethnic background. Sexism is when someone is treated unfairly because of their gender. These two problems are similar because they both involve judging people for something they cannot control. Sometimes, racism and sexism happen at the same time. For example, a girl from another country may be treated worse than others not only because she is a girl, but also because of her background. This can make her feel excluded or not accepted.

One place where racism and sexism can often be seen is at school. Students can sometimes be judgmental without even realizing it. For example, someone might make fun of another student because of their accent, the way they dress, or the color of their skin. Girls may also be treated differently from boys. In some situations, people expect boys to be better at subjects such as science, while girls are expected to be quieter or less confident. These stereotypes are not true, but they can affect how students feel about themselves. When students are treated this way, they may lose confidence and stop trying their best.

Another place where these problems appear is in the workplace. Even today, not everyone has equal opportunities when it comes to employment. Some people may not get hired because of their name, appearance, or background. In addition, women are sometimes paid less than men, even when they are doing the same job. This is unfair and shows that sexism still exists. People should be given opportunities based on their abilities, not on their gender or race.

Social media is another place where racism and sexism can be observed. People often share opinions online, and sometimes these opinions can be offensive or disrespectful. It is easy for people to say things behind a screen that they would never say in real life. This can spread negative ideas and make the problem worse. However, social media can also be used positively by raising awareness and encouraging people to treat each other with respect.

Family and culture can also influence the way people think about race and gender. Some people grow up hearing certain ideas about what men and women should do, or how people from different backgrounds are “supposed” to behave. These ideas can remain with them as they grow older. However, it is important to question these beliefs and understand that everyone is different and deserves respect. Just because something has been believed for a long time does not mean it is right.

The effects of racism and sexism can be very serious. People who experience discrimination may feel sad, stressed, or angry. They may feel as though they do not belong or are not good enough. This can affect both their mental health and their future. For example, a student who is constantly treated unfairly may stop trying in school, while a worker who is not treated equally may lose motivation. This shows that these problems do not only affect people in the moment, but can also have long-term consequences.

It is important for everyone to help stop racism and sexism. This can begin with small actions. People can learn to respect others, listen to different opinions, and avoid making hurtful comments. Schools can teach students about equality and kindness, while workplaces can ensure that everyone is treated fairly. Even simple actions, such as standing up for someone who is being treated unfairly, can make a big difference.

Change does not happen quickly, but it is possible. Over time, people have become more aware of these problems and have tried to improve society. However, there is still more work to be done. Everyone has a role in making society better. By treating others with respect and fairness, we can help create a world where everyone feels accepted.

In conclusion, racism and sexism remain important issues in today's society. They affect people at school, at work, online, and in everyday life. Although progress has been made, these problems have not disappeared. It is important for people to be aware of their actions and to treat others equally. If everyone makes an effort, even in small ways, the world can become a fairer and more respectful place for all.

# Interview with the singer, Stathis Drogossis



- Mr Drogossis, we are very happy for your acceptance and willingness to answer our questions. First and foremost, what inspired you to get involved in music?

I've been singing since I was a little child, during summers in my village in Naxos. Then my father enrolled me in a conservatory / school of performing arts. Music dominated our home. My mother sang, my father listened to incredible music, my grandmother also sang, and so did one of my aunts. So, in the end, I couldn't escape it either... haha.

- Do you have a song of yours that you consider your favorite?

That's a difficult question. They're all like my children... haha. If I had to choose one, it would be "Bloody Sky" ("Matomenos Ouranos"), an almost unknown song.

- Which artists have influenced you the most?

Foreign artists... Beatles, Radiohead, and from Greece, Katsimicha brothers (Αδερφοί Κατσιμίχα), "Xilina Spathia" (Ξύλινα Σπαθιά), and many others.

- What do you think is the biggest obstacle in your career? I'm doing... I'm...



t  
s. I'm  
and



- **How difficult is it for someone to remain authentic in today's music industry and stay true to their dreams?**

You can change – change is not a bad thing. As long as you do it sincerely and not just to adapt to the times. Authenticity means honesty.

- **If you could set the work of a favorite poet to music, who would you choose and why?**

I've already set one poem by Constantinos P. Cavafis to music. And I would also love to compose music for my favorite poet, Giorgos Markopoulos.

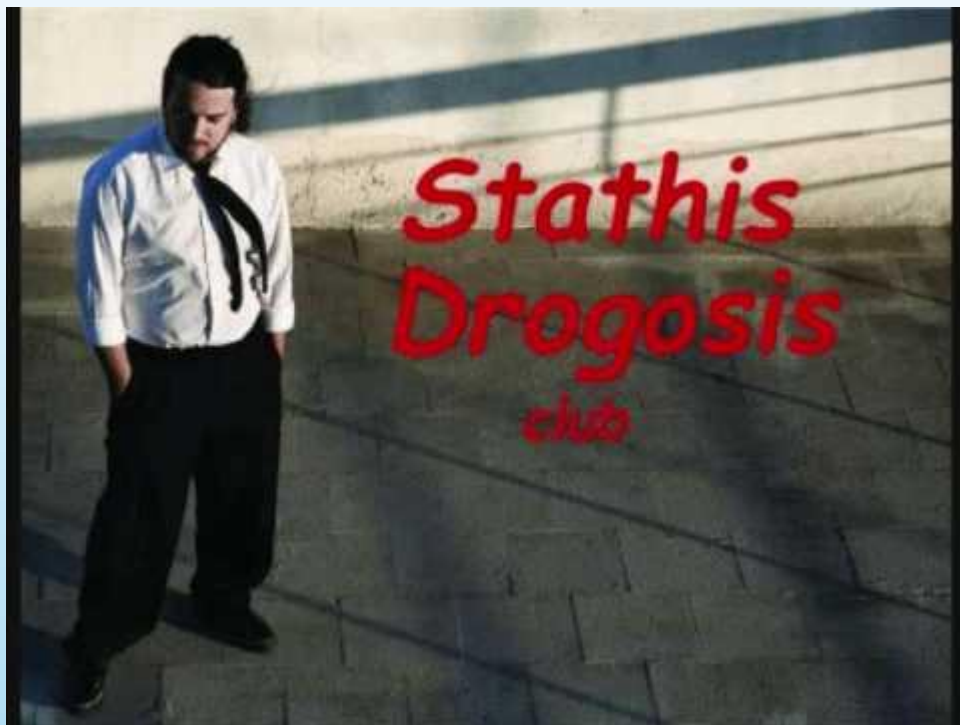
- **Do you believe artists should take a stand on social issues?**

Yes, of course. We are citizens too. We just don't have all the answers. More likely, through our art, we raise questions.

- **What is your opinion on trap music?**

It has attractive music production. The lyrics are often very simplistic. And for me, being 49 years old, it's a bit boring. I also can't relate to lyrics about cars, money, and things like that – or disrespecting women. I don't like that.

- **Is there a song by another artist that you**



- **Do you believe there are important artists nowadays whose presence contributes to the arts and culture?**

Of course there are. Despite the rise of AI, there will always be artists. As I say in one of my songs: "We are all artists."

- **What advice would you give to young people who want to pursue music and singing?**

Don't listen to advice – listen to your heart. Music changes you from within.

- **Do you consider the lyrics or the music more important in a song?**

I always write the music first.

The lyrics are what torment me. In general, it's always the music

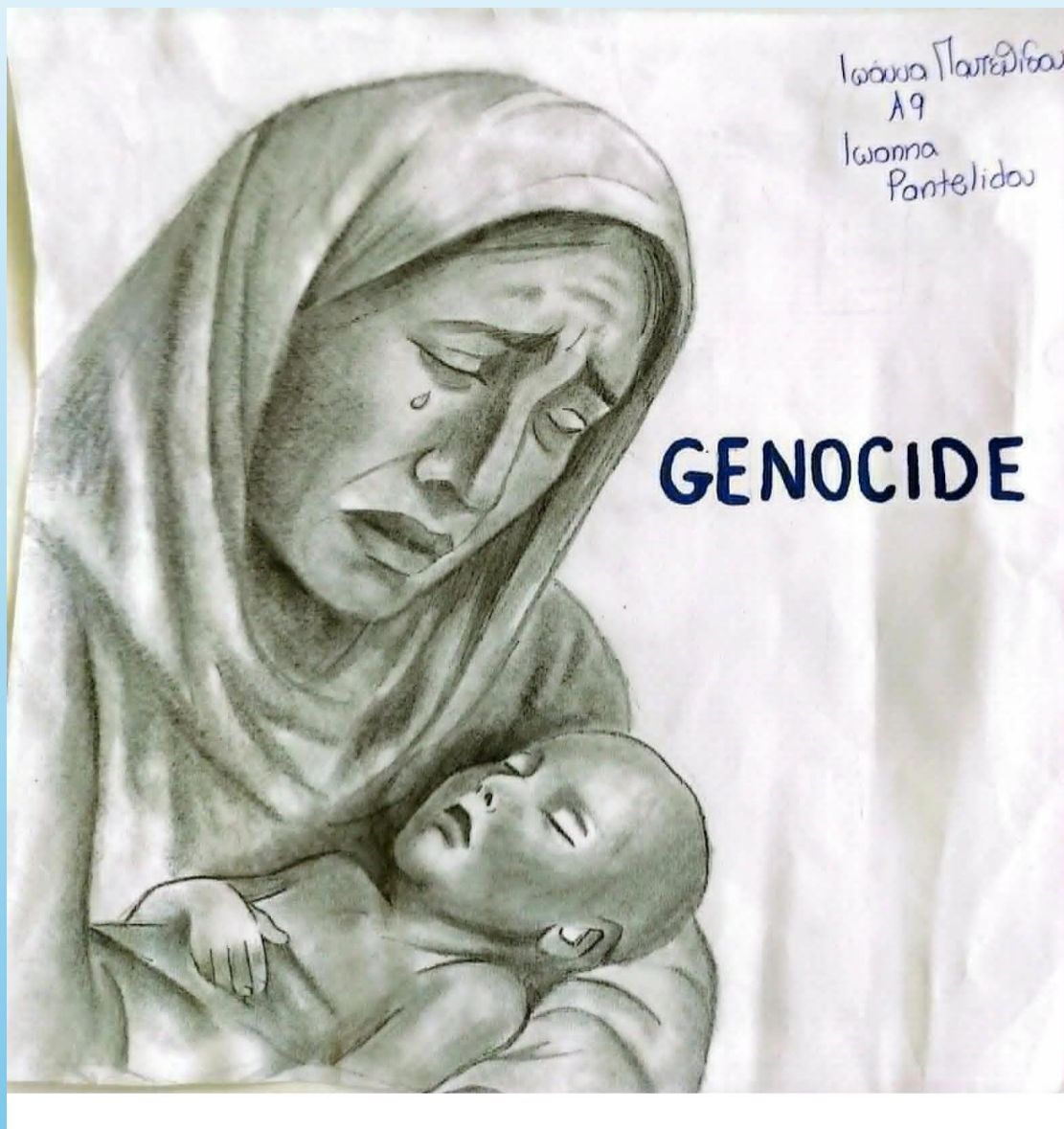
# Culture & Arts

## The wounded Earth



A woman woven from roots, flowers and soil becomes the living face of nature itself. Through vivid colors and fragile forms, this work reflects the silent suffering of the environment while reminding us that nature , despite its pain, continues to bloom with resilience and beauty.

# Culture & Arts



## **The Pontic Greek Genocide**

The Pontic Greek Genocide was the systematic persecution and mass killing of the Greek population living in the Pontus region, on the southern coast of the Black Sea, between 1914 and 1923. This period includes World War I and the years that followed, during the collapse of the Ottoman Empire.

The Pontic Greeks had lived in this area for centuries, preserving their language, religion, and cultural identity. However, during the early 20th century, they became targets of violent policies carried out by Ottoman authorities and later by the nationalist movement led by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk.

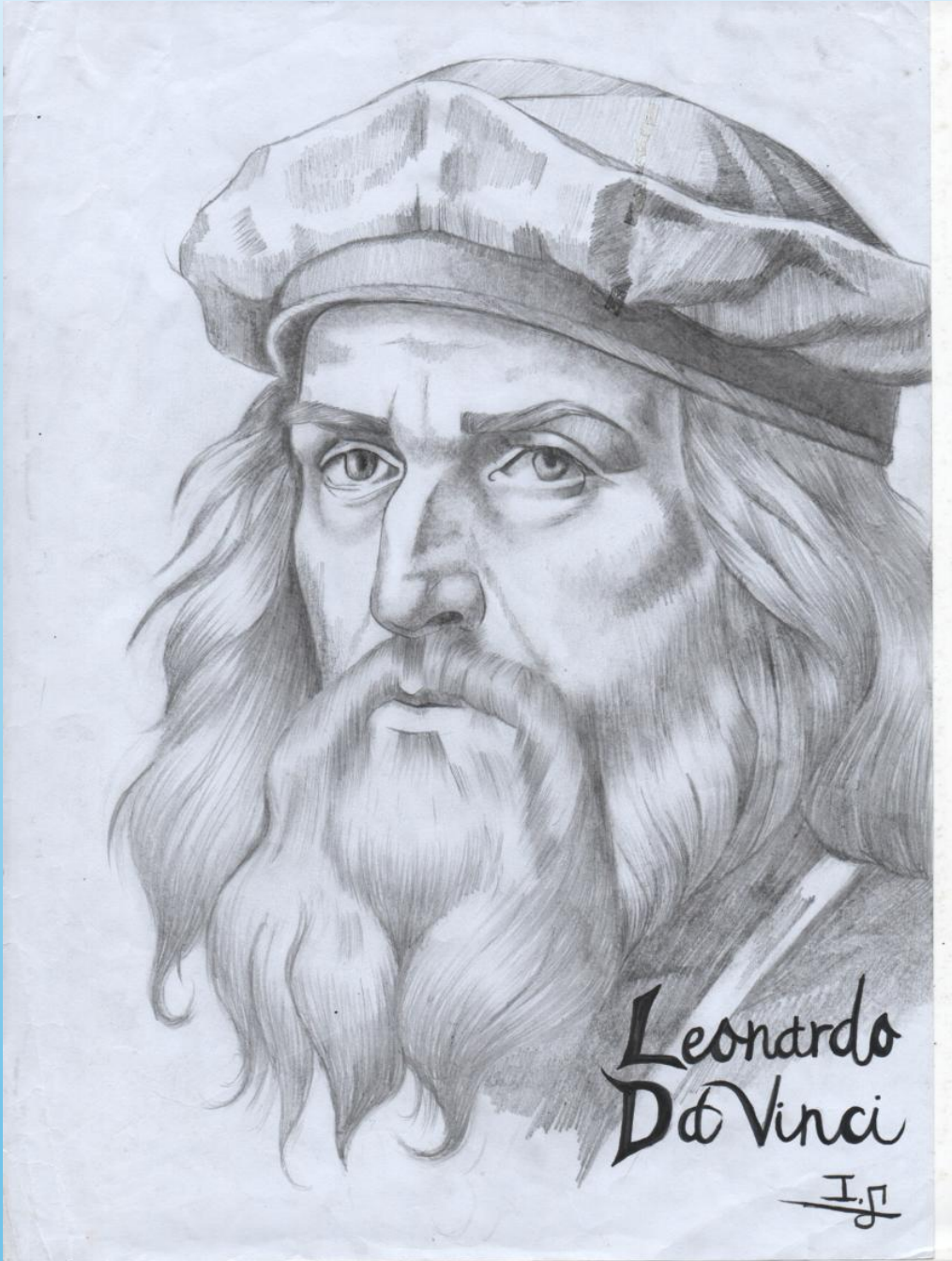
The methods used against them were brutal and included forced deportations, death marches, massacres, and imprisonment in labor camps. Many people died due to starvation, disease, and harsh living conditions. Entire villages were destroyed, and families were separated.

It is estimated that around 353,000 Pontic Greeks lost their lives during this period. The survivors were forced to leave their homeland and became refugees, mainly settling in Greece.

Today, the Pontic Greek Genocide is recognized by Greece and commemorated every year on May 19. It remains an important historical event, reminding us of the consequences of war, intolerance, and nationalism.

I hope this memory reminds us of the need to ensure that genocides never happen again anywhere in the world.

# The Mind behind the Masterpieces



This portrait of Leonardo da Vinci shows the face of a genius who changed art and science forever. He was not only a painter but also an inventor, scientist, architect. His curiosity and creativity made him one of the most important figures of Renaissance.

# Blindfolded, Yet Bound to Justice



Inspired by the chapter of our book “On duty”, this drawing reimagines Lady Justice as a symbol of responsibility, balance and morality. The blindfold does not represent ignorance but impartiality- a reminder that judges carry the secret duty of protecting fairness, truth and human dignity.

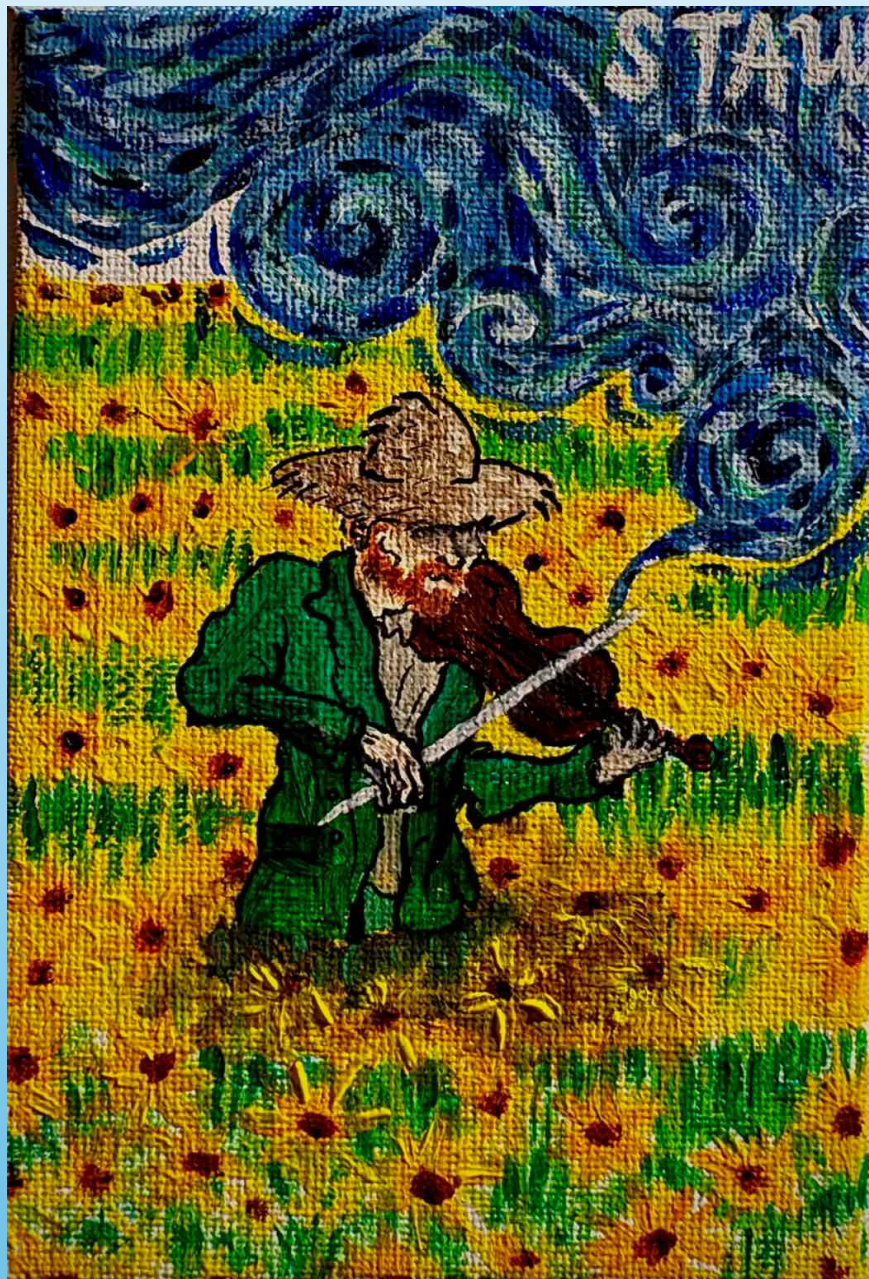
# Dreaming Under the stars (acrylics on canvas, hand-painted)



This painting is inspired by the *Starry Night* of Vincent Van Gogh. The bright stars and the swirling sky create a magical atmosphere. It is an attempt to make the night come alive.

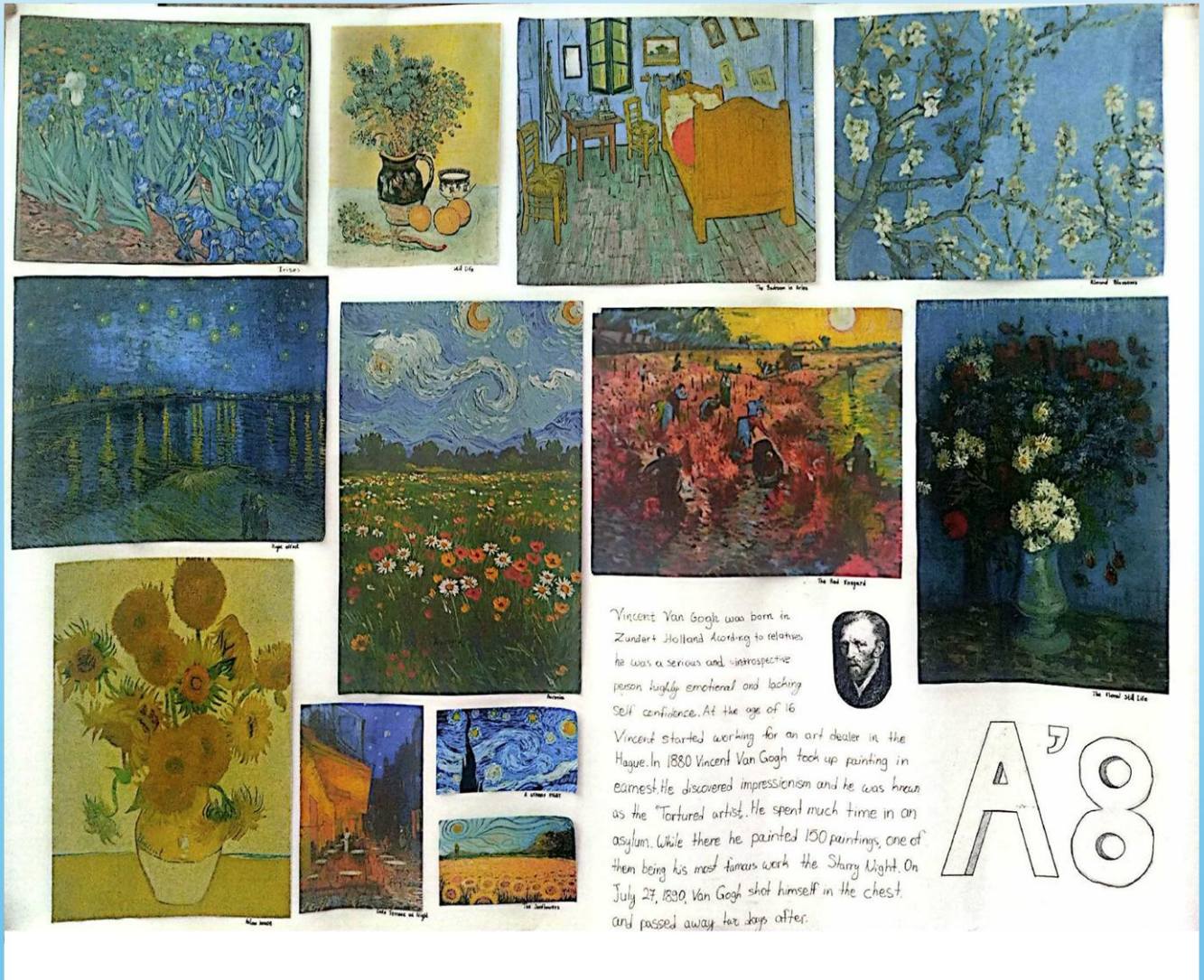
# My Van Gogh

(acrylics on canvas, hand-painted)



This artwork was inspired by Vincent van Gogh and his colorful style. Vincent as a violin player in the field looks like he is creating music together with nature and the night sky.

# A picture collage with works of art by Vincent Van Gogh



# The Last Journey



A lone railway stretches through a silent landscape filled with crosses guiding the viewer toward loss, grief and remembrance. Created as a tribute to the victims of the Tempi tragedy honoring lives that should never have been lost.

# Too much screen time



I like being on my phone. It makes my life easier but every now and then I wish I weren't like this and did more activities or new friendships. Although I am stuck in this loop, I cannot break it even if people tell me to stop. I do not want to... and in the end I feel regret.

# Oscar –Claude Monet & Pablo Picasso

Oscar Claude Monet was a French painter and founder of Impressionism who is a key precursor to modernism, especially his attempts to paint nature as he perceived it.

During his long career, he was the most consistent and prolific practitioner of Impressionism's philosophy of expressing one's perceptions of nature, especially as applied to *plein air* (outdoor) landscape painting.

The term "Impressionism" is derived from the title of his painting *Impression, Sunrise* (Impression, soleil levant), which was exhibited in 1874 at the First Impressionist Exhibition, initiated by Monet and a number of like-minded artists as an alternative to the Salon.



IMPRESSION, SUNRISE

Throughout the years, Claude Monet's *Impression, Sunrise* has been celebrated as the quintessential symbol of the Impressionist Movement.

This specific painting illustrates three views of the port Le Havre in north-western France and it is considered to be one of Monet's "most poetic expressions" of his engagement with France's revitalization efforts after the Franco-Prussian War.

The subject matter and specific painting techniques evident in *Impression, Sunrise* seek to transcribe the feelings initiated by a scene rather than simply rendering the details of a particular landscape.

This act of expressing an individual's perception of nature was a key characteristic and goal of Impressionist art, and is a common motif found in Monet's paintings.

While *Impression, Sunrise* and Monet's artistic technique fell under harsh criticism at their outset, Monet's masterpiece gave birth to a new movement and created a revolution in the world of art.



## OSCAR-CLAUDE MONET

DATE OF BIRTH: 14 November 1840  
(Paris, France)

DATE OF DEATH: 6 December 1926  
(Giverny, France)

YEARS ACTIVE: 1865-1926

PAINTINGS: 1801

EDUCATION:

- i. Académie Suisse
- ii. Beaux-Arts de Paris

Through the examination of specific characteristics apparent in the painting, we are able to identify the distinguished artistic style of Monet. As a notable artist, Claude Monet was acknowledged for his awareness of color harmony and his ability to enforce viewers' attention. He was widely known for capturing rich atmospheric effects and a particular moment in time in his works of art.

To accomplish these feats, Monet employed broken brushwork and heightened color. He was also very sensitive to the moods created by a landscape in his own words he explained his method of depicting the feeling of a scene:

"When you go out to paint, try to forget what objects you have in front of you, a tree, a field... Merely think, here is a little square of blue, here an oblong of pink, here a streak of yellow, and paint it just as it looks to you, the exact color and shape, until it gives your own naive impression of the scene."

In the painting *Impression, Sunrise* he places an accent on the foggiest of the harbor that is created by the smoke from the steamboats, which relates to its chief status as a major trading port.

Because *Impression, Sunrise* is regarded as the painting that gave birth to the Impressionist Movement, we can clearly observe specific details in this work of art that allude to its Impressionist style.

An important characteristic of Impressionist painting is the type of brushstrokes utilized. Short, thick strokes of paint are applied to the canvases to quickly capture the essence of the subject. The brushstrokes visible in the water in *Impression, Sunrise* create a sense of rhythm which reflects the feeling produced by the motion of the sea.

Another feature of Impressionist painting was the distinct application of color. Colors are placed side by side and are mixed optically by the viewer's eye. This technique is evident in the sky and water portions of *Impression, Sunrise*.

Lastly, Impressionist painters conigned heavy emphasis on natural light—a practice that can be detected throughout Monet's work including the sunlight reflection in this particular artwork. To achieve this natural ambience of light, he often mixed his pigments with large amounts of lead white.

During his career, Monet's innate skill to capture this effect was recognized through his reputation as the "incomparable painter of light"

Monet was raised in Le Havre, Normandy, and became infatuated in the outdoors and drawing from an early age. Although his mother, Louise-Justine Aubrée Monet, supported his ambitions to be a painter, his father, Claude-Adolphe, disapproved and wanted him to pursue a career in business.

His early works include landscapes, seascapes and portraits, but attracted little attention. A key influence was Eugène Boudin, who introduced him to the concept of *plein air* painting.

From 1893, Monet lived in Giverny, also in northern France, where he purchased a house and property and began vast landscaping project, including a water-lily pond.

Monet's ambition to document the French countryside led to a method of painting the same scene many times so as to capture the changing of light and the passing of the seasons.

Among the best-known examples are his series of haystacks (1890-1891), paintings of the Rouen Cathedral (1892-1894), and the paintings of water lilies in his garden in Giverny.



Claude Monet

## Pablo Picasso

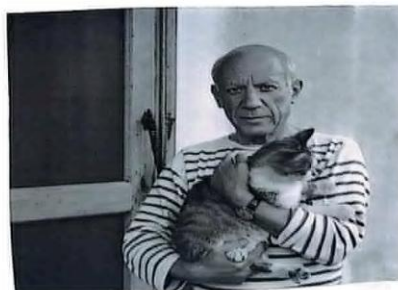


Pablo Picasso was born on October 25, 1881, in Málaga, Spain, and became one of the most influential artists of the 20th century. His full name was much longer, reflecting Spanish naming traditions. Picasso showed artistic talent from a young age and was trained by his father, an art teacher. He later moved to cities like Barcelona and Paris, where his career flourished. He lived through major historical changes and died on April 8, 1973, in Mougins, France.

Picasso created thousands of artworks across different styles and periods. Some of his most famous works include *Les Femmes d'Alger*, completed in Paris in 1907, which helped pioneer Cubism, and *Guernica*, painted in response to the bombing of a Spanish town during the Spanish Civil War. "Guernica" was completed in 1937 and was first displayed at the Paris International Exposition. Throughout his life, Picasso constantly experimented with new techniques, including sculpture, ceramics, and printmaking.



Pablo Picasso played a key role in creating Cubism, an art style that he developed in the early 1900s together with Georges Braque. While working in Paris, Cubism is a style of art where subjects are broken into simple geometric shapes and shown from different angles at the same time, instead of looking realistic. Picasso began this approach around 1907 with works like *Les Femmes d'Alger*. He was experimenting with new ways to represent reality. The idea changed modern art by encouraging artists to think beyond traditional perspectives.



Ντάρις Αλέξανδρος  
Ναυοεργιάς Ιαώωλ  
B3

## Haris Alexiou : A Voice from the depths of the soul

We live in an era where music is constantly changing, with new genres dominating, such as trap music that youngsters listen to today. However, there are artists who transcend trends and remain timeless. For me, such an artist is Haris Alexiou. She is not just a singer, but a voice that manages to express emotions in a unique way. No matter how much the music around us changes, its value remains unchanged and continues to touch people of all ages.

What impresses me most about Haris Alexiou is the power of her voice. It's as if she comes from the depths of the world, full of emotion and truth. Each of her songs is not just a performance, but an experience. You feel like she lives what she sings and makes you live it, too. This authenticity is rare today that many songs seem superficial or made just to be hits.

Although trap music has become very popular, I believe it cannot be compared to the depth and quality that Haris Alexiou's music offers. Trap is often based on rhythm and image, while Alexiou's songs are based on emotion and lyrics. This does not mean that modern music has no value, but it shows how different and unique Alexiou's approach is.

In my opinion, Haris Alexiou is the best voice to have come out of Greece, maybe even the whole world. Her interpretation is so powerful that you feel every word. It's not just a matter of technique, but of soul. And that's what really makes her stand out. She doesn't just sing with her voice, but with her whole being, creating a deep connection with the listener.

Furthermore, her songs have a timelessness that is hard to find. Even today, they remain relevant and moving. They can express emotions that we have all experienced, regardless of age or era. This ability to touch so many people is one of her greatest gifts and proves her value as an artist.

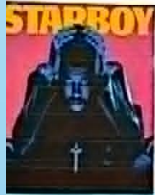
To sum up, Haris Alexiou is not just a favorite singer for me, but a unique presence in music. I believe that there will never be another singer like her, because her voice and her performance are truly unique. In a world where music is constantly changing, she remains a constant value and source of inspiration. That is why she will continue to be heard and loved for many years to come.

# THE WEEKEND

The Weeknd is one of the most famous singers in the world today. His real name is Abel Makkonen Tesfaye. He was born on February 16, 1990, in Toronto, Canada. His parents are originally from Ethiopia and he grew up in a multicultural environment. From a young age, he loved music and was inspired by different artists and music styles. As a teenager, he started making music and sharing his songs online. His music is a mix of pop, R&B, hip hop, and electronic music. Many people like his songs because they are emotional and modern. Over the years, he has released many successful albums, such as *Starboy*, *After Hours*, and *Dawn FM*.

Some of his most popular songs are *Blinding Lights*, *Starboy*, *Save Your Tears*, and *Can't Feel My Face*. These songs became very popular all over the world and were played on radio, on the internet, and on social media. The Weeknd has won many important awards during his career, including Grammy Awards, Billboard Music Awards, and American Music Awards. His song *Blinding Lights* became one of the most successful songs in modern music history.

Another reason why he's so popular is his amazing performances and music videos.



## His Life

At seventeen, Abel dropped out of school. He adopted his stage name because he left home on a weekend. He has also experienced homelessness. In August 2009, he began anonymously releasing music on YouTube. His first album was *Trilogy*, which sold 86,000 copies. He was nominated for a record sixteen awards. On May 28, he performed the remix of *Save Your Tears* with Ariana Grande. Now The Weeknd, he became the first

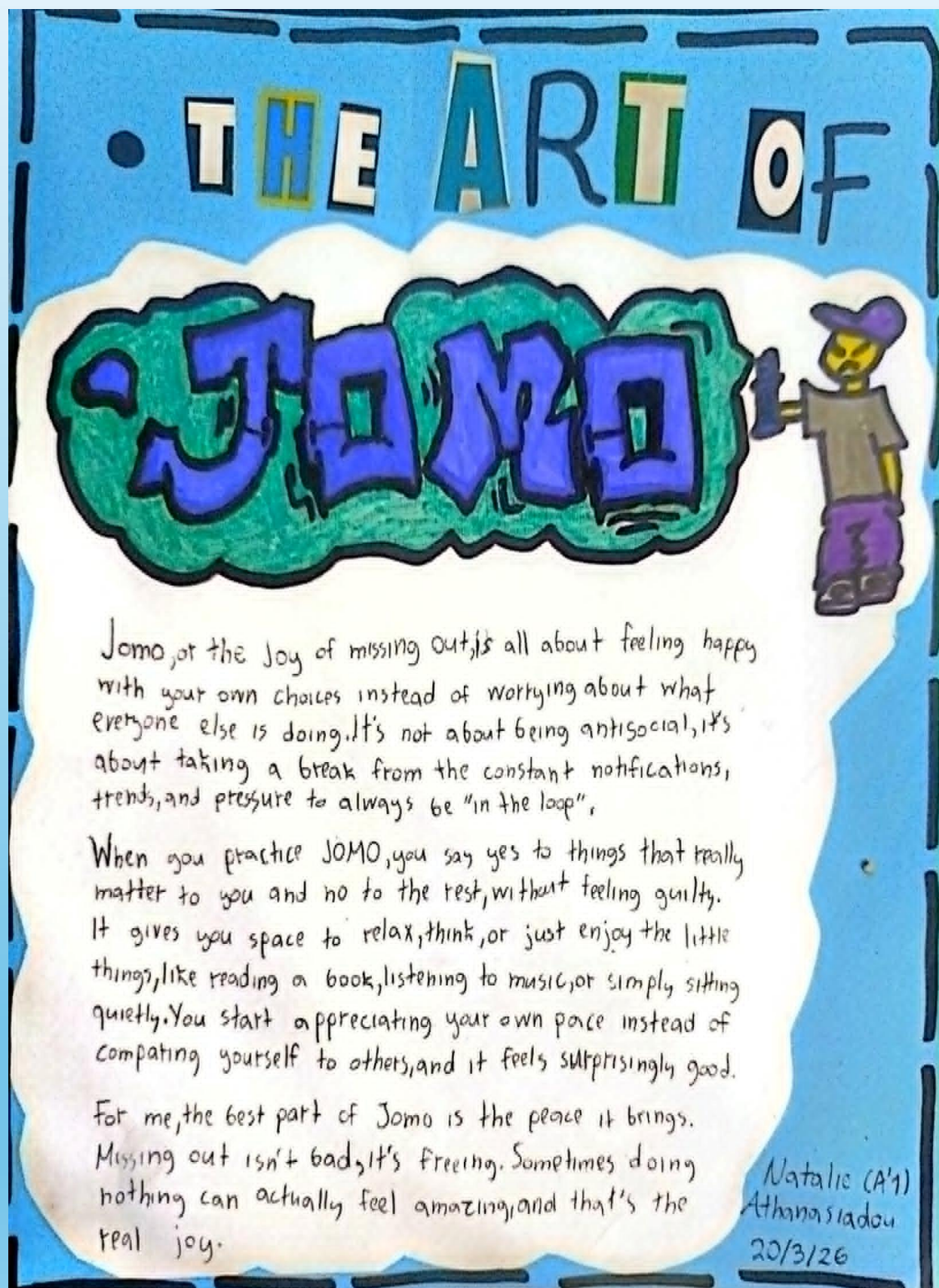


artist on Spotify to have thirty songs with more than one billion streams each. I like The Weeknd very much because his music is unique and powerful. His voice is very special and different from other singers. I like the style of his music and the emotions of his songs.



Ντάπα Αργεντινά Β3





# Jane Austen's novels

## Role of women

"Sense and Sensibility"

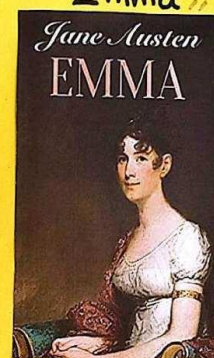


Εργασία Αγγλικών

"Jane Austen"

Jane Austen was a famous English writer. She was born in 1775 and wrote many novels about love, family, and society. Her stories often show the life of people in England at that time, especially women. Some of her most popular books are Pride and Prejudice and Sense and Sensibility. Her writing is simple but very smart and sometimes funny. Today, many people still read her books and enjoy her stories.

"Emma"



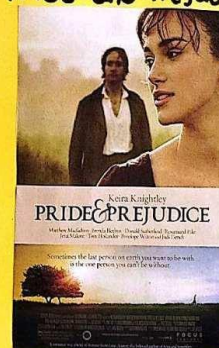
"Pride and Prejudice"



"Role of Women"

In the books of Jane Austen, the role of women is very limited. Women often had to have a good life, because they could not easily work or live alone. Society expected them to be polite, quiet, and beautiful. There were many social stereotypes about how a "good" woman should act. Because of this, women felt strong pressure from family and society to follow these rules. In her stories, Austen shows these problems but also creates strong female characters who think for themselves and want true love, not just a safe marriage.

"Pride and Prejudice"



Σεβαστοπούλου Λια Α6 Τελιορίδη Χρύσα

# The habit of drinking tea in England

England is one of the countries where tea is consumed as widely as coffee is in Greece. The main reason English people drink so much tea lies in tradition and its long historical popularity, dating back to the 18th century. Tea became fashionable among the English through influential figures such as Catherine of Braganza, and its popularity increased dramatically after taxes on tea were reduced in 1783, making it more affordable than drinks such as gin and, at times, even beer. In addition, tea has often been associated with medicinal benefits. For these reasons, tea became an important part of English culture, especially as an afternoon tradition.



# English Humour & Fun

## Tongue Twisters

Tongue twisters can be challenging unless you are good at talking fast. It is entertaining and fun when you try saying them with friends

Two witches were watching two watches. Which witch would watch which watch?

How much wood would a woodchuck chuck if a woodchuck would chuck wood? A woodchuck would chuck how much a woodchuck would chuck if a woodchuck would chuck wood.

She sells sea shells on the sea shore; The shells that she sells are sea shells I'm sure. So if she sells sea shells on the sea shore, I'm sure that the shells are sea shore shells.

I thought a thought. But the thought I thought wasn't the thought I thought I thought. If the thought I thought I thought, had been the thought I thought, I wouldn't have thought I thought.

# Film & Media Reviews

## Film review “The Merchant of Venice”

The story takes place in Venice. Antonio is a merchant who borrows money from Shylock so he can help his friend, Bassanio. Bassanio wants to travel and try to marry Portia. Shylock agrees to lend the money but he makes a cruel deal. If Antonio cannot repay the debt on time, Shylock will take one pound of his flesh. Later, Antonio loses his ships and cannot pay the money back. The case goes to court where Portia disguises herself as a lawyer and cleverly saves Antonio.

I liked the movie because it was interesting and had an important message. At first, it was a little hard to understand because of the old-fashioned language but after a while the story became more exciting. I think the movie shows how dangerous revenge and prejudice can be. Shylock was a very interesting character because even though he seemed cruel, you could also understand that he had been hurt by the way people treated him. That made the story more emotional and not simply about good and bad characters.

My favorite character was Portia because she was smart, brave and helped Antonio be saved. I also liked the courtroom scene because it was tense and surprising. In general, the movie made me think about friendship, justice and the way people treat each other. Even though it is an old story, I think its message is still important today.

## Film review “The book thief”

The movie *The Book Thief* is a historical drama that takes place in Germany during World War II, around the years 1938 to 1945. It is based on a novel written by Markus Zusak. The story is set in a small town called Molching, near Munich, during the time when Adolf Hitler and the Nazi regime were in power. One interesting thing about the movie is that it is narrated by Death, which gives a different and emotional way of telling the story.

The main character is a young girl named Liesel Meminger. At the beginning of the movie, she is sent to live with foster parents because her mother cannot take care of her anymore. During the trip, her little brother dies, which is a very sad and traumatic moment for her. At his funeral, Liesel steals her first book, even though she doesn't know how to read yet. This is how her journey as a “book thief” begins.

When she arrives at her new home, she finds it hard to adjust, especially because she cannot read or write. However, her foster father, Hans Hubermann, is very kind and patient, and he starts teaching her how to read. Slowly, Liesel improves and begins to understand how powerful words can be. She realizes that words can be used to help people, but also to hurt them.

At the same time, the story shows what life was like in Nazi Germany. There is a lot of fear, control, and propaganda. Liesel even sees book burnings, where the Nazis destroy books they don't agree with. During one of these events, she secretly takes a book from the fire. This shows how much she values books and knowledge.

Another important character is Max Vandenburg, a Jewish man who hides in Liesel's house. Hans risks his life to protect him, which shows how brave and kind he is. Liesel and Max become very close friends. They share stories and support each other during difficult times. Max even writes a story for Liesel, which shows again how important words are in the movie.

As the war continues, things become harder for everyone. There is not enough food, and people are always afraid of bombings. During air raids, Liesel reads to people in shelters to calm them down. This shows how reading becomes her way of helping others. Unfortunately, the war also brings tragedy. In one bombing, many people in her neighborhood, including her foster parents, die. Liesel survives because she is in the basement, writing her own story.

Overall, the movie talks about important themes like the power of words, friendship, and kindness during difficult times. It shows how even in a terrible period like World War II, people can still care for each other and do the right thing.

There are also some differences between the book and the movie. In the book, the narration by Death is more detailed and explains things in a deeper way, while in the movie it is more simple. The book also gives more information about Max's past and other characters, while the movie focuses more on the main story. Also, in the book we understand Liesel's thoughts and feelings better, because it describes them more. Some parts of the book are missing or shorter in the movie because of time limits. In general, the movie tells the story well, but the book has more details.

In conclusion, *The Book Thief* is a touching story about a girl growing up in a very difficult time. It shows how important words, books, and human relationships are, especially during war.

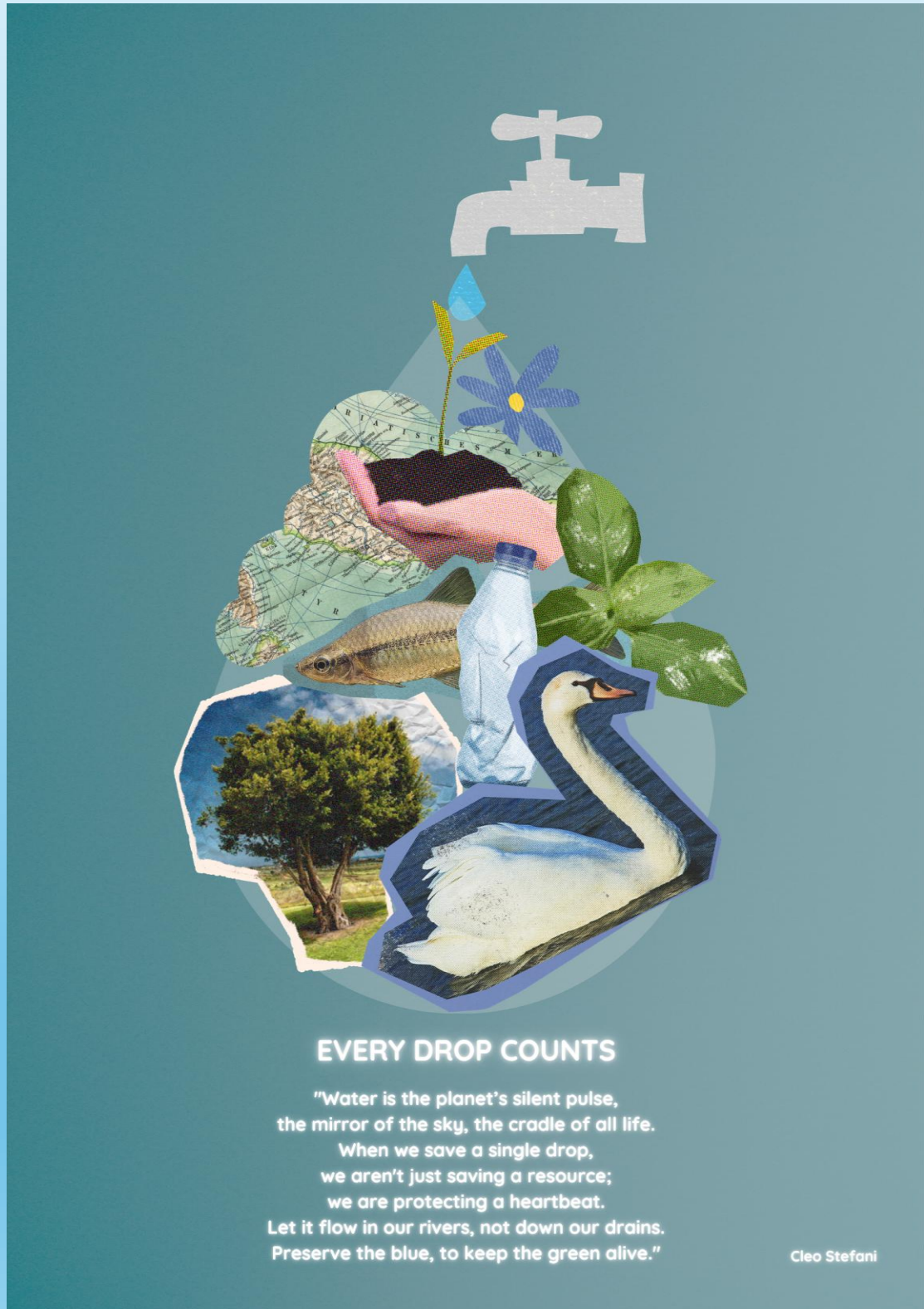
# Film review for the short film W by Stelios Koupetoris

This short film W, directed by Stelios Koupetoris, takes place in a classroom where the camera shows a teacher talking passionately about the evolution of humanity. At first, it seems like a simple educational film about the history of human development over the years. However, while the teacher continues explaining the subject, the camera slowly reveals that the classroom is empty and destroyed due to war. This action creates a heartbreaking feeling for the viewers, as it leads to a serious atmosphere at the end.

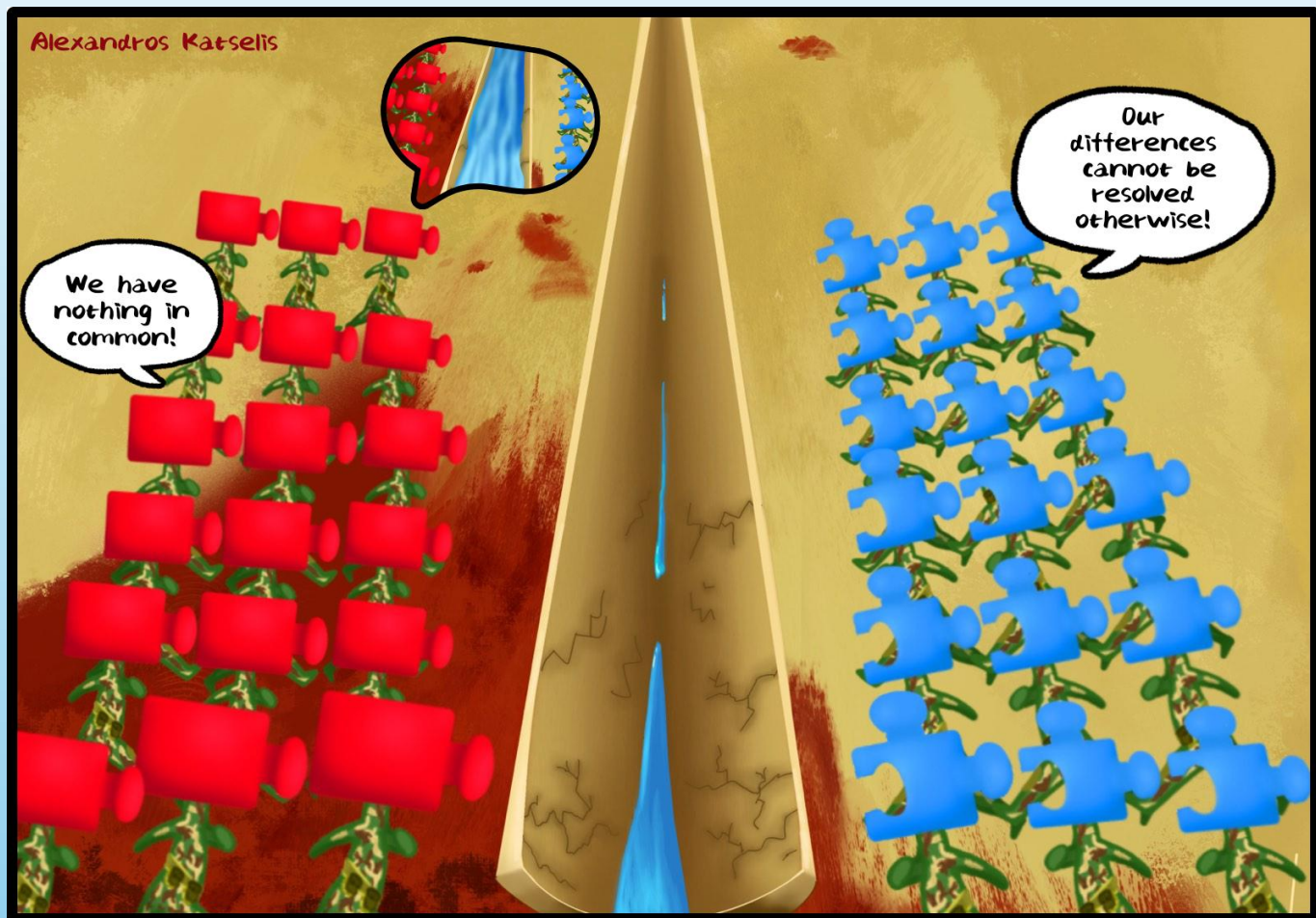
I found W very moving. The teacher talks about humans, the most developed species, the people of today. Unfortunately, the film takes place in a classroom destroyed by war, where the children were victims. The teacher cannot accept the loss of his students and acts as if everything is normal, even commenting on the behavior of some of the kids as if they were still present. From my perspective, the film is a reminder of the harsh reality of war. It shows how innocent lives can be destroyed, and how much suffering it brings, no matter how advanced humanity may be.

# Media & Digital Literacy

## Digital Posters



# The Puzzle Pieces



This picture is a metaphorical representation of the current state of our world.

As a society, we share more things in common with Puzzle Pieces than one would think. Just like humans, they are of the same category. Cut out forms of paper. It is insignificant if they are colored, made or grouped differently. They may be inconsistent, scattered, mismatched but always have same origin. Under any circumstance, with enough determination, they can fit together even if not harmoniously. They can piece together common ground, Still...

With the river of their mind raging . Water drowning their sight . Flow so aggressive it blurs the facts and mirrors the flawed selfish perspective.

They create conflict.

They call it necessary.

...even if the river is actually bone dry.

The main distinction between us and them is that Puzzle Pieces need someone to connect them.

Yet, who are we waiting for to do the same for us, than ourselves?

# *Together against bullying*



Your words  
matter, choose  
them wisely

Bullying  
hurts, kindness  
heals

Stand  
up, speak  
out, stop  
bullying

Kindness is  
stronger  
than  
bullying

Be the reason  
someone  
smiles today

STOP



GLOBAL  
WARMING

-Don't cut trees

-Do not burn

-Save energy

-Stop pollution

-Save water

-Go green

# School & Community Life

## Breaking the Silence: The Real Truth About Bullying.

Our 10th-grade (A' Lyceum) students recently attended an impactful anti-bullying speech at the Galaxias Cinema-Theatre. Led by a specialized psychologist from the prominent Greek NGO "To Hamogelo Tou Paidiou," the interactive event aimed to raise awareness and spark meaningful dialogue.

During the session, students actively exchanged views, learning to clearly distinguish between harmless teasing and actual bullying behavior. The core of the discussion centered around three moving videos, which presented the true story of a boy targeted by a school bully.

The videos offered a deep, balanced perspective. They revealed a heartbreaking reality: neither the victim nor the perpetrator ended up happy. Both suffered from deep family isolation and a complete lack of genuine friendships.

Our classmates showed great interest in the presentation. The event successfully equipped everyone with empathy and essential tools to foster a safer, more supportive school environment.



# The school trip at the Technical University of Athens

In the morning, all my classmates gathered at the school full of excitement. A little later, we got on the bus to visit the Technical University of Athens.

From the beginning, we were all very happy because we are interested in science and were looking forward to seeing the universities we would like to study at in the future. When we arrived, we were impressed by the size and organization of the university. It had many laboratories and classrooms where students study every day. The campus was full of students and professors. We spoke with some of them, which made our day even more special.

During the tour, we had the opportunity to closely observe the laboratories and some very important machines, especially those related to chemical engineering. Later, the students explained to us the courses they study as civil and chemical engineers, informing us that these are very important fields. After that, some other students guided us around the outdoor areas of the university.

At the end of the visit, we all went into a classroom where they offered us small gifts. Then, our school said goodbye to this wonderful experience, and we started our journey back to school.

It was a very special experience, and I would not change it for anything. I liked the university and the campus very much. I also appreciated the positive attitude of the students and teachers. They treated us with interest and respect.

Also, my wish came true. I had the opportunity to see laboratories and important machines up close. The students had built these machines themselves, which impressed me a lot. This made me want even more to study at this university in the future.



# Photos from the school trip of the educational programs' teams

## Plastira lake



## Meteora - Kalampaka



# Our student team

| Maria Tsaitouridou, A7    | Angeliki Grenda, A8              |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Sofia Theodoridou, A1     | Theodora Asimoglou-Antoniadi, A1 |
| Christina Manelidou, G4   | Alexandra Grouzoulidi, A1        |
| Katerina Tsakalidi, B4    | Natalia Athanasiadou, A1         |
| George D. Tsevas, B4      | Christina Sopiadou, B4           |
| Cleo Stefani, A10         | Kiriaki Kalaitzidou, B4          |
| Alexandros Katselis, A2   | Chrissa Telioridi, A6            |
| Raphaella Gialouri, A2    | Lia Sevastopoulou, A6            |
| Elpida Papadopoulou, A9   | Nick Petsalidis, A9              |
| Sofia Melidou, A8         | Marilena Beidai, A6              |
| Agapi Triantafillidou, A7 | Valeria Soilemezidou, A6         |
| Ioanna Pantelidou, A9     | Georgia Koukouvinou, A1          |
| Despina Kamenidou, A2     | Amelia Kotsiai, B2               |
| Anna Galanaki, A2         | Sofia Tsiatova, B7               |
| Maria Theodoridou, A2     | Katerina Tsomidi, A7             |
| Anastasia Erixidi, A2     | Victoria Sidiropoulou, A6        |
| Irene Efremidi, A8        | Katerina Antoniadou, A8          |
| Evi Tsigkou, B4           | Panagiotis Tsevas, B4            |
| Ioanna Sidiropoulou, B4   | Alexandra Siranidou, A6          |
| Stavroula Fouriki, G8     | Anastasia Bethani, G4            |
| Ekaterini Petsalidi, G6   | Eleni Karabekiou, B5             |
| Despina Helmi, A7         | Sophia Totikidi, A7              |
| Alexandros Daras, B3      | Jason Panourgias,, B3            |
| Maria Sidiropoulou, A6    | Irene Sidiropoulou, A6           |
| Isabella Hadai, A7        | Alex Andries, A8                 |