

School Life

Second Place in a Plovdiv Chess Tournament

On 9 January 2016, the municipal chess tournament part of the 2015-2016 Plovdiv School Games took place. Our school was represented by Georgi Kolev - 4th grade, Yaroslav Dokuzov - 6th grade, Angel Daskalov - 7th grade and Krasimira Sapunova - 5th grade. The competition was fierce but in the end the Aleko Konstantinov won the second place. Georgi Kolev had the best performance of all, he won the maximum amount of points possible.

I Read Because...

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Books in many languages are written and translated in my homeland. Every book belongs to a certain genre - adventure, science fiction, crime and mystery, popular science and so on. I like most genres but I am particularly fond of adventure books. Last year I enrolled in the children's department of the Ivan Vazov Library and for the first time I got a glimpse of the magical world of fairy tales and adventure novels. The first book that I took from the library and read with great interest was *Bulgarian Folktales*, which made me think about how important it is for us to tell the truth and how lies always get exposed.

The books which impressed me the most last year were: *Sans Famille*, *Emil of Lönneberga*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *The Witches*, *Pippi Longstocking*, *Yan Bibiyan*, *Robinson Crusoe*, *Ancient Greek Myths and Legends*. What I really liked was that the authors of these books managed to narrate engrossing stories, full of adventures, interesting characters and events.

I love going to the library and visiting bookshops because in them I discover a new world that is colourful, diverse and fun, I love opening the covers of big, brightly-coloured books, from the pages of which animals, dinosaurs, space aliens or people belonging to ancient civilisations stare at me. And then, without realizing it, I embark with them on a long journey, through boundless universes and faraway planets, in deserts and in seas, in mountains and in plains.

Every evening before I fall asleep, I take a book in my hands and start reading. This is my time - the time when I forget about school and I immerse myself in the marvellous world of adventures. I often fall asleep with a book in my hands and I dream about the characters and their stories as if I am a part of the book.

After I finish a book, I always write down in my reading journal the things that have impressed me the most, so that I would be able to remember these emotions for longer.

I love reading because in books I find wisdom and knowledge, I learn from the characters' experiences and I become smarter, nicer and more diligent.

Ivelina Lozanova, Class 5b

I read because I find reading interesting and fun. My favourite genre is adventure and my favourite book is *Lassie*. Its author is the English writer Eric Knight.

The novel tells the story of the incredible friendship between a child and a dog. Despite finding herself more than a thousand kilometres away from the boy, Lassie, carried by her brave spirit, heads towards home. The rough collie travels that huge distance to get home to her owner. The brave dog even risks her life during the journey home. To me the story of Lassie's adventures shows the strength that friendship and love give us.

That's why I've read the book twice and would do it again with pleasure. I love reading because it is fun to grab a book and enter the world that its character inhabit. When you do that you can have fun together with the characters and at the same time learn valuable life lessons. Through books you can see the entire world and experience an endless amount of terrific adventures while sitting comfortably in your cosy room.

Zlatomir Angelov, Class 5b

The topic "I read because..." brings me back to my early childhood when I was too young and I couldn't read yet. Back then Mum would read my fairy tales and would tell me that one day I would realise what a treasure books are. And that's exactly what happened. I grew up and started reading. I love reading because books open to me a boundless world of knowledge that fills my heart and soul. I love reading because books give me knowledge and knowledge helps me be strong and free, it helps me dream and believe in goodness. The books are my friends. They don't talk to me but they help me without giving me orders. They let me make my own judgements. Dad says that to see far you need to have read a lot. I want to see not just with my eyes but with my soul too. Books give that opportunity. They also help me discover myself. To find my good and a bad qualities. They inspire me to think, to contemplate, because that is the only way I would be able to go forward and upwards. The fastest way to fulfil a dream of mine, if only in my imagination, is by reading. Books are like magic boxes full of secrets. When you open a book, you learn something new. You just need to be curious enough to open it and once opened, the book will reveal to you each and every one of its secrets. I am once again reminded of something Dad said - that smart people know how much they don't know. And also of something Winnie the Pooh said: "The more, the better". Therefore, the more we read, the better knowledge we will have.