

March
2021

Tobiasz Zalewski
A Perfect Way To A Healthy Lifestyle

Paulina Pietrzykowska
Gen Z

Michał Jędrzejowski
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hero?

Milena Czajka
Dni śmierci i nadziei...

IB REVIEW

GLIWICE



I LICEUM OGÓLNOKSZTAŁCĄCE
DWUJĘZYZCZNE IN GLIWICE
IB SCHOOL NO. 006264 SINCE 2010
ISSN 2353-0642



Gliwice

2021

IB REVIEW

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CONTENTS

A Perfect Way To A Healthy Lifestyle	4
Gen Z	10
What is it like to be an unfortunate hero?	11
Looking At a Lake	17
We Have No Idea	18
Poems by Adam Drewko	20
Dni śmierci i nadziei...	21
Zygmunt Frankiewicz	23
Gilmore Girls – a Review	28

Editorial

Welcome to the second 'pandemic' edition of *The IB Review Magazine*. On one hand, it has been an unusually tough period for all of us, students and teachers equally, yet, on the other hand, the time, so vividly marked by restriction and confinement, turned out to have triggered unprecedented levels of students' creativity.

Many students started writing or experimenting with poetry and our regular *IB Review* poetry corner has almost doubled in size. Some of the poems are directly devoted to the time of pandemic, other authors chose diverse sources of inspiration to drift away from the virus' pervasive influence.

Another significant initiative was undertaken by one of the teachers of English – Ms. Małgorzata Piekarz; she encouraged our school community to take part in the monthly running event 'Gliwicka Parkowa Prowokacja Biegowa'. You will find the vibrant and spirited article on the initiative illustrated with the school team photos.

Of course we cannot pretend that the pandemic has not taken its toll on all of us; you will find a student's engaging and personal account of their own individual experience of the challenges imposed by online learning.

Plus a lot, lot more

I do hope that you will find this edition truly enjoyable, inspirational and it will provide you with a desirable respite from the pandemic.

On behalf of the editorial board,

Beata Krupiczka

Drużyna Jedynki: A Perfect Way To A Healthy Lifestyle

Tobiasz Zalewski

Drużyna Jedynki is a group of amateur athletes from **Edward Dembowski Secondary School no 1 in Gliwice** sharing the same ardent passion for different kinds of sports, but at present we are mostly engaged in running and Nordic Walking. In our team there are both students and teachers and we are always open to new people. We all have a lot of fun running and there is always an amazing atmosphere in our small community. Everyone is friendly and empathetic. We all show courage to support one another, but also know how to compete. Our goal is to spread positive energy, foster physical activity in our local community and encourage people to care about their well-being, especially in the times of the pandemic.

At present we are involved in two main projects:

→ since January 2021 we have been taking an active part in a set of monthly local races called **Gliwicka Parkowa Prowokacja Biegowa (GPPB)**



→ at the beginning of March we decided to organise **our own school runs** connected with different calendar holidays. We have already planned the schedule for the whole school year until the end of June 2021. Not only do we enjoy ourselves while participating in such events, but

we also want to encourage all the people from our neighbourhood to take part in them and share their results online.



The team was established in **October 2020** by one of the teachers in our school. *"I haven't expected such a positive response and so much attention"*, says **Małgorzata Piekarz**, the team's founder, captain and main director. The team already consists of **34** active members, 17 of which are teachers, even though it was created just a while ago. *"It was an idea that popped up in my mind during one of my and my husband's runs in GPPB. I saw a group of people running in their company t-shirts, and I thought - why don't we create*

such a team at our school?", she explains.

Mrs. Piekarz is an English teacher at our secondary school and so far has

done a lot of work for the team. She gathered and encouraged the first few people to form a core group in order to facilitate the arrival of new members. The team has been registered and no one ever had to worry about formal matters. Every team's participation is suggested and

organised by her and she always welcomes and offers help to the new members. Moreover, she has provided the team with 7 sponsors so far, thanks to whom we were able to supply ourselves with the equipment with the team logo.

Our team is created by many wonderful runners: one of them is the **school's headmaster Adam Sarkowicz** - a holder of the Polish Marathon Crown (Korona Maratonów Polskich), which belongs to the most prestigious titles among Polish runners. As if it were not enough, he

is not the only runner in our team with such an achievement. The other teachers - **Agnieszka Konopka** and **Tomasz Pyzik** - have also gained that broadly recognized title. All of them can also boast with other outstanding results - they have broken their personal records of 4

the school community" – highlights the school's principal.

Tomasz Pyzik PhD, a Polish teacher, is not an ordinary runner. In fact, for him running is a life-long passion and he has completed some important and really challenging distances during his career. Among



hours on that distance. "Physical culture is very important in our life. Perfection is a mix of miscellaneous development and kalokagathia, which aggregates spiritual and corporeal excellence. Sport and recreation also teach how to cooperate and it additionally unites

earlier mentioned achievements, he has completed an ultramarathon and often participates in local running events and races. Last year, he finished a dreadful and extremely exhausting Iron Run 2020, which remains one of his most respectable achievements. *"Running is wonderful. It's a perfect way to*

prevent diabetes", he comments. Besides fostering our schools Polish Olympiad laureates, Mr. Pyzik is also an ambassador of Children and Teen Diabetes Committee (Stowarzyszenie Pomocy Dzieciom i Młodzieży z Cukrzycą). Students are also satisfied with the fact that the school gives them an opportunity to practise more sport. *"It's great that such an initiative has emerged. I like running, but so far I've been always coming up with some excuses. Now I have an opportunity to move more"*, one of the students says.

The team runs different social media - you can find us on **Facebook** and **Instagram**, where we post information about ourselves and share the photos from the events we take part in, as well as on **Strava**, where you can have a profound insight into our activities. There, not only do we record all our team's running activities, but also our private ones. Everything is posted on our main page, which motivates other members not to skip their routine and allows each of them to track their progress.

Drużyna Jedyński is a great way to keep yourself physically active and healthy. It helps you create a beautiful habit of running and doing sports overall, which is extremely important for your well-being, especially in the times of the Covid-19 pandemic. The amazing community always keeps you motivated and creates a friendly atmosphere, which favours your running journey. Each of us - members - contributes to forming our team and has a significant influence on it. We are eager to compete in order to boost each other's progress. It is important for us to develop as much as we can, but at the same time we do not feel pressured at all. As mentioned before, we are always open to new members, but people willing to help with organisation are also very welcome.

We are full of different ideas for our next projects and we hope that we will be able to introduce them successfully. One of them has just started this month, and we are once again inviting everyone to participate in it. We hope that we will manage to turn our hitherto small group of

hobby runners into an extensive community of people promoting a healthy lifestyle and self-development.

At the end, as a team's member and the author of this article, I would like to briefly share my story with the team. One January morning I was doing voluntary work at one of the GPPB events, when I saw a group of people from my school gathering at the starting line and wearing the same T-shirts of some team - unknown for me back then. I saw the teachers and students from my school talking and laughing in a relaxed and informal way, just like a normal group of friends. It felt completely out of ordinary for me to see that, because a teacher is a master for a student and one should attend them formally and with respect. But at the same time I realized how beautiful it was, that a student and a teacher can leave all the academic matters aside and get on well with each other, share a passion, and genuinely just have a

great time in each other's company. They were open-minded and the atmosphere seemed really friendly. I

like to run on my own, which was for me just another pull factor to the team. I decided to join them in a run, since there were more than enough volunteers to handle the work properly. The team did not have any problem with my joining them and welcomed me with smiles on their faces. Just a few days later I was already an official member of the team.

Now, I am extremely happy to have entered such a wonderful community, which will motivate me to take care of my physical activity and where for sure I will gain a lot of life experience and knowledge.



"Drużyna Jedyunki is the most effective running project, which connects passion and determination shared by both students and teachers. Last week I thought I would be doomed to an unhealthy, slow and unhappy lifestyle - but thanks to Drużyna Jedyunki I already know what a mistake it was. Now I feel the sky is the limit!"

-Filip Buława, 3e

"Drużyna Jedyunki is an unusual group of positively crazy people who love sports and an active lifestyle. Participating in our group gives me the opportunity of development and enormous motivation. I am glad to be a part of this community and I hope we will move on."

-Julia Nyga, 3c

"Being a member of our school running team gives me a lot of happiness and motivation. We run together, we inspire each other, we are a team."

-Kajetan Skitał, 1a

"I'm an eighth-grader that helps voluntarily during GPPB. I have seen the team of Secondary School no 1 and I think it is a marvellous idea. It unites the students and teachers, brings fame to the school and most

importantly encourages other people to keep fit. Now I'm a primary school student, but I would really like to join the Secondary School no 1 community next year."

**-Bartosz Wojciechowski,
FILOMATA Primary School**

"Taking part in (E-)Gliwicka Parkowa Prowokacja Biegowa is a marvelous initiative that facilitates unification of student and teacher groups in our school and improves bond-creation process! It gives us the chance of getting to know each other from a totally different perspective. The one that we haven't seen before..."

**-Sonia Świtońska,
an English teacher**

"Drużyna Jedyunki" is a place for everyone - fierce sport fans, those who can practise some sport only at weekends and those who have just decided to set off on their running or Nordic Walking journey. Here everyone can find something for themselves. If you are a team animal - you can start racing with others. If you prefer achieving goals on your own - you can do it and still influence and improve the results of the whole team. It's worth trying - you can do something special not only for yourself, but also for other people!"
Tatiana Machi, a Polish teacher

Gen Z

Paulina Pietrzykowska

When i was a child
My parents always said
I can be anyone
If i work hard enough

How wonderful it was
Not having to worry
About the future
If there even is one

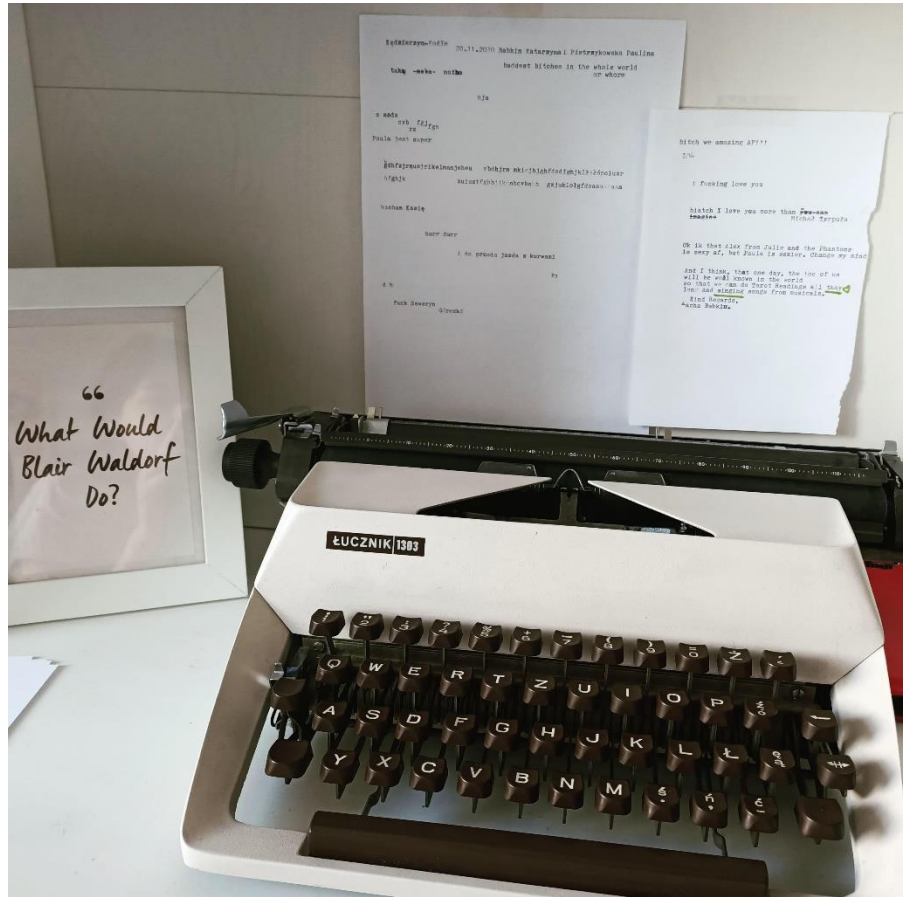
They all act so surprised
When we tell them
Our minds are messed up
If only they realised

The planet is dying
The pandemic is thriving
Racists get elected to office
If only we were willing to change

Don't tell me it's not my concern
When i speak up against intolerance
Don't tell me to focus on my education
When i say our world is falling apart
Don't tell me i make things up
When i become anxious because of this mess

It's our planet
It's our countries
It's our future
That you're destroying

So don't blame us for fighting
For taking action when you won't
You need to understand
This is the world we'll have to live in



What is it like to be an unfortunate hero?

Michał Jędrzejowski

The clock strikes five as I finally turn off my last electronic device for the day. Before plugging in chargers, tangled somewhere underneath my desk, I straighten my aching back and, squinting, glance outside the window. The winter gloom covered mercilessly the so familiar domestic landscape almost entirely. I close my sore eyes for a while and just as anyone with screen time equalling ten hours I consider not opening them again. Either way, the most captivating things in the past few months have been happening in my imagination. Feasibly, my entire existence has been dominated by online learning. What do I suppose about it? How accurately can it be described?

Once upon a time, in a not so far away land the root of all the present disorder came into being. Piercing, heart-wrenching and weirdly prolonged cheer could be heard during the morning break in our high school on March 11th as our prime minister announced in his speech an immediate and absolute closure of all schools. The speech, we

had been following impatiently on our cell phones, usually in groups of three or more people. Back then, none of the viruses was of any particular threat to us, students, and the only thing we cared about was extra holiday. I think it is perfectly understandable, two weeks of holiday is something that does not come about very often, even though it was not the first time in recent years. However, the spare time flies by quickly and in a blink of an eye we were sitting in front of our phones, tablets and computers trying to figure out how all of the peculiar programmes and applications worked. If I were to use one word to describe this period, I would choose "chaos" undoubtedly. I had to juggle between three different email accounts (one which I was asked to create at the beginning of the school year, one created by our school for me and one meant to be used by the whole class) only to find very laconic and unclear information about classes that were about to begin in a matter of minutes. Attending those classes was not easy whatsoever. I had to figure out whether I should use Skype, Hangouts, Meet, Zoom, Discord, Jamboard, IDroo, group call on Messenger or something else. Perhaps a

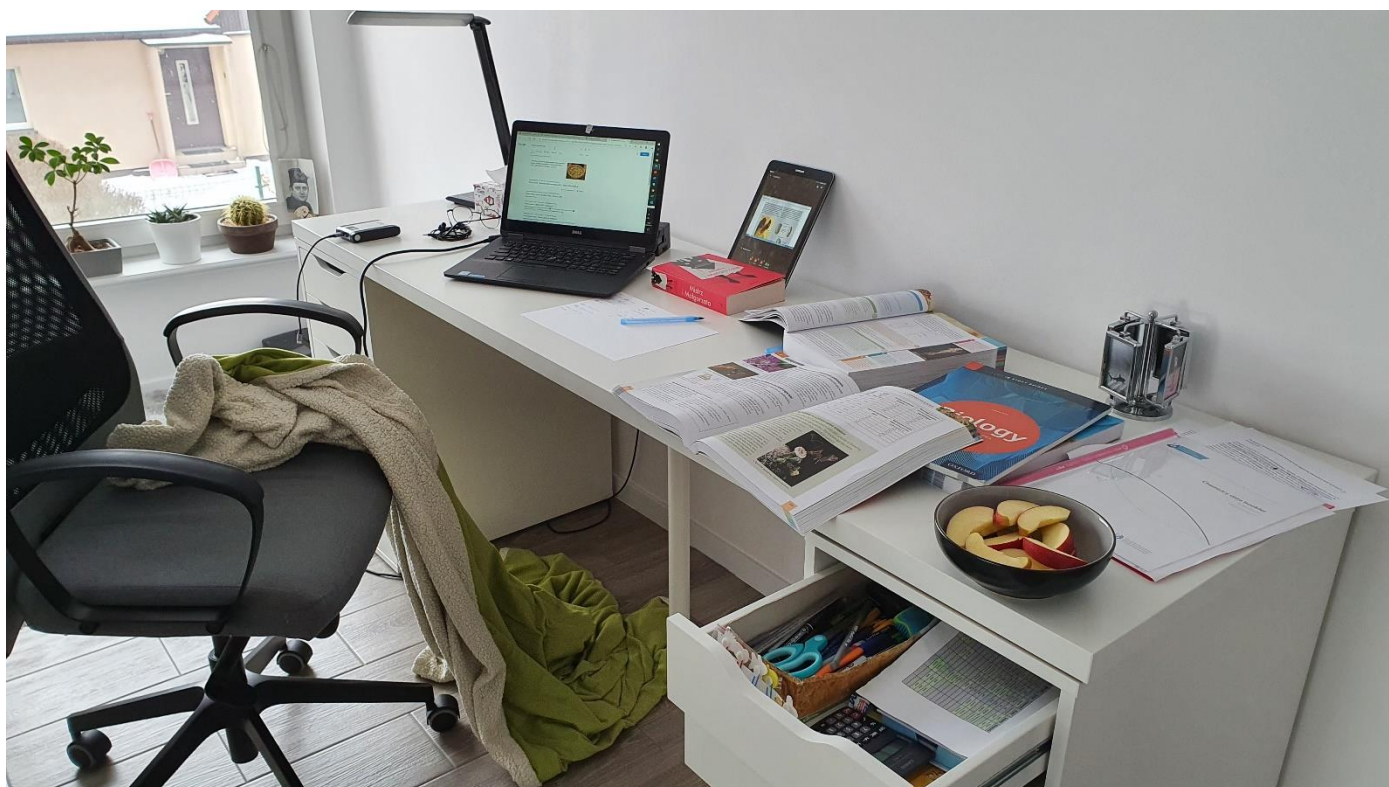
combination. Sometimes we would have to be accepted by the teacher, and as I have more than 30 classmates it meant hitting the 'connect' button for at least a couple of minutes. I had to copy codes for meeting so many times that after two months I learnt most of them by heart. Somehow, we managed to survive (maybe with injured eardrums due to poor connection and the lack of the right equipment, but I believe it was assumed that exitus acta probat and it was just a side effect) and we collected our report cards singly. The vacation officially began. But the emotions accompanying it were numb and unclear. We spent so much time in our homes that the sole idea of staying there more was ridiculous. All attractions: cinemas, museums or swimming pools were not encouraging due to virus scare. Nonetheless, most of us figured out a way how to meet with at least a clique of our best friends. Then the schoolyear commenced. We went back to school, everything felt... rather usual. We got used to masks, face shields, disinfecting hands and desks rather quickly. Teachers did their bests with the resources accessible, spreading students all around classrooms,

sterilising desks by themselves and limiting the number of copies handed out. Even though I do not think everybody prioritized their own health, everyone united in protecting the health of others. At certain moments we felt like movie stars – in a postapocalyptic world or at least in a school from the past where no physical contact was permitted. Aware of the ongoing situation we suspected another lockdown and prepared ourselves for it, at least mentally. After one week of highly ineffective hybrid learning, midst October, we switched to distance education. Since then, we have stayed home, speaking as for February. It has been incomparably more consistent and better in quality than in the previous term.

Throughout, and because of, online learning many engrossing phenomena have occurred in everyone's life. Any given concept has its strengths and weaknesses. Arguably, attending online lessons has more of those latter ones. Instead of constant speculation about long term effects of this type of education, we should address the pressing issue of the day, limiting potential ones fortuitously. Laziness or at least tendency towards it is a part of

human nature whereas studying is a far cry from indolence. We are prone to idleness especially at home, especially if there is no one to supervise us. Taking exams, with or without camera, is the time of trial. We are able to e-cheat. To quickly google a question, to peek at the book, to text a friend or to

reminds us that even if we cheat now, it will backfire in the future. As a student, I am sure that e-cheating is an issue that will not be rid of, but the same applies to regular school – if somebody wants to cheat, they are going to find a way. Cheating is an ignominious deed that in the end is



write for a bit longer and then blame it on bad connection. Some teachers try to circumscribe the spectrum of this freedom. They use timers for each question, sites that notify them when someone tries to open another search engine or change closed question to open ones so that it would be more challenging. Others do not care at all. And finally, the majority has faith in students and kindly, yet persistently,

only hurtful for the executor. It is better to seek help and advice, which is not hard since it is the basic principle of education to provide the opportunity and help one acquire knowledge. Despite being intriguing, steering clear of being honest is not all that common. Something that is more lugubrious is the privation of rapport established in the classroom. I was unpleasantly flummoxed as during my first lesson I

could only see the teacher's face. Woefully, it did not end after the first class, nor first week or month. Indeed, it did not change at all. To see three faces at once is rarity. I know people I have classes with personally and I can assure you that majority of them are extroverts.

Why, despite teachers' pleas, is it infeasible to click this tiny button with a camera sign? I do not know the answer, which is presumably a complex one. What I would like is for everyone to take a moment and think what causes you not to turn on your camera. Broken devices, hostile environments, horrible moods, body insecurities, idleness are just a few reasons I can think of. Regardless of the cause, the rapport, which is mostly based on communication, suffers. I would not be surprised if some days the only face that our educators are able to see consists of a colon and a bracket. Decline in the quality of distance education can also be caused by its incessancy. Breaks are rather short and since there is no fixed time when they should occur, we hesitate and leave our screens as rarely as necessary, which contributes to another issue – worsening of physical

condition. Having spent much time sitting at our desks (doing PE assignment for instance), we did not move much. Sport clubs, gyms and swimming pools have been opening and closing alternately. We have to be courageous to force ourselves to exercise instead of lying down with a cosy blanket for a nap. The supplement to this situation that I can think of is rather simple, time. No matter how good, online classes will not be the same as stationary ones therefore the time that is necessary for students to learn has increased while the amount of material is the same. As days go by, we will be getting more and more used to the new reality. We have already changed our behaviour drastically, we have evolved in order to adapt. Learn from this performance and do not forget of what you are capable of. Every cloud has a silver lining and so does this type of school. There is no need for commuting (which saves goodly amount of time), eating habits changed for the better and dress code became somewhat non-existent. Nevertheless, little propitiousness does not merely compensate the irreversible loss of numerous once- in-a-lifetime opportunities, celebrating one's 18th

birthday for instance or going to prom. Various types of parties and gatherings do not seem all that important when life and health are on the other side of the scale, still they are not entirely negligible. Coming of age is extremely abundant with strong emotions and mood swings. Those are conventionally connected with people, awkward social situations, misunderstandings - lots of communication in various forms in general. Nowadays it has been restricted to virtual connection, be it a text message or video-conference. On its account the development of social skills has been suppressed. Communicating thoughts and ideas, working in groups and being tactful does not come as naturally as it used to. The sense of isolation has grown strong, solitude has become loneliness. The boundary between our school and private life vanished, by definition, everything became 'homework'. Since every class and project is done on the same device there is a fraction of confusion creating omnipresent, suffocating feeling that something is due but you do not know what exactly. There is a substantial possibility that the mental health of youth has declined and that one will not seek

help, because why would such a rager-teenager do so? We somehow fall into the vicious circle of thinking that somebody else should reach out to us and sustain our denial till we finally allow them to help us. Unlikely, it could have happened in stationary school but now it is almost impossible. Reports has shown that the suicide rates among adolescents have increased during the course of distance learning. Even though the direct cause has not been stated, it is not of great importance. Irrespectively, there are people that will help you apart from the scale and type of your issue. It is worth remembering that it is better to prevent than treat. In the worst case scenario, if they are not able to help you, they will definitely refer you to somebody who can or at least share their advice. And 'they' can be anyone from your family and friends to your favourite teacher or school counsellor. Predictably, relationships with peers and teachers are not the only ones that sustained damage because of lockdown.

Families, in my and some of my classmates' opinions, had been experiencing fluidity of ambience at home that has much wider range than

any. Tormenting, accusing and fighting are supplementary to sympathizing, forgiving and helping. It is hard to tell whether overall our bond have become stronger or nearly disappeared. In order to keep the body and soul together, I conjecture that teenagers had to control their emotions, skip a part of growing up. Notwithstanding our rough experiences, we survived these harsh, historic times. Maybe we have not experienced or overcome certain things but we have been provided with unique lesson that hopefully many people will not get a chance to learn. We had plenty of time to contemplate and draw conclusion.

For instance, that we should not worry about things we cannot control or that each emotion is valuable and worth feeling. Or that we are overall the most important influencers of our future. I believe that now we can start preparing so as not to let this period define us and to get over it already. We are the unfortunate heroes of 2020. It does not mean we deserve to rest on our laurels. It means now we should understand better the unfortunate heroes of 2008, 2001 and any other year. Together we can live through the rest of our lives, we will survive, when faced with an obstacle we will unite rather than be selfish.

Jakub Kalka, DP1

Looking At a Lake

The glass Charlie,
Standing at a waypoint.
Grinding his teeth in silence.

The mountains of his face are harsh,
Their peaks covered with frozen tears,
Be careful, for many have slipped.

Behind him, a bedazzling forest,
Full of humans with animal heads,
Exploding with colourful flowers,
Dripping with sweet fruits of Dephi.

A single tear, rolling down your cheek,
Freezing as it drips off Charlie's chin.
A single tear, before you walk off;
Him, as always, stepping instead of you.

Paulina Pietrzykowska

The Pandemic of 2020

Locked up
in our own houses
afraid of the people
with their faces unmasked
the news on tv
our new bible

tomorrow
we're planning a big trip
to buy groceries
for the next two months

every day
we continue to learn
with our eyes glued
to the computer screen
god it's exhausting

stuck at home
with our families
last time we were together so intensely
was on christmas

each government's conference
next shops are closing
new restrictions are enforced
isn't that a breach of freedom?

slowly
or rather quickly
we begin to lose
our sanity

asking ourselves
every now and then
when will this nightmare end
or rather
if it ever will

We Have No Idea

Andrzej Baranek

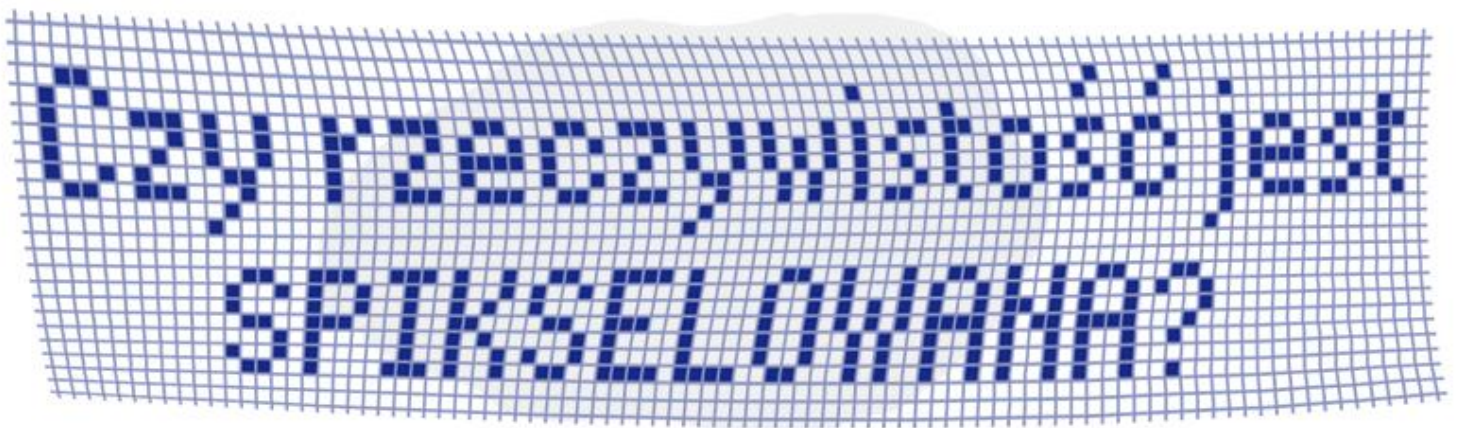
If you are interested in physics, if you want to know what secrets the universe is hiding from you, if you want to discover them and know more than you can ever learn in highschool or you want to have some fun, laugh and by the way learn something, this book is perfect for you.

We Have No Idea by Jorge Cham, the author of PHD Comics (internet comics for students and scientists), a professional drawer who has a PhD in mechanical engineering from Stanford University. In writing the book he created graphics and most importantly - probably all dad jokes. The second author is Daniel O. Whiteson, PhD in Physics, now he is working in the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) using Large Hadron Collider. He conducted the largest particle experiment ever conducted. In 2017 both of them and the publisher of Insignis published this book, which received a nomination to *Goodreads Choice Awards Best Science & Technology*. Why? Because this title can be read by a 11 years old kid and does not make him confused, explaining mysteries that sharpest minds of our kind could not solve.



It asks questions like *How big is our universe?*, *What is space?*, *Why are we made out of matter not out of antimatter?* The book contains a lot of silly graphics, dad jokes... and some funny ribs too. It's for everybody, no matter what age you are, no matter in what grade you are. Of course some of you can feel a little bit awkward when someone talks to you about higgs boson and at the same time talks to you he would be talking like to the kindergartner.

Have a look yourself and find out if it appeals to you too!



Adam Drewko

The Pull

Mother

who let you barefoot
into the thorns,

under this foreign star,
its fathering radiance
or someone other?

When you sat once
for too long, listening

to the cars on a distant road,
stirred in with winds, wordily breathless
heading on and for?

Or is it the picture you've seen of you:
a wax slate, baldest on your face,

which set your sails up
and set you going
after what lain on the horizon line

word-stripped, unfathomable.

25.01.2021

To leap so high,
as to touch the cold blue sprayed in the sky;
it is where the quiet residues.

To climb so far,
as to see where the hilltops are;
it is where the quiet residues.

To grasp so tight,
as to feel the fabric of night;
it is where the quiet residues.

To listen so close,
to the high cry arose,
and hear where the quiet residues.

24.10.2020

Sylvia

She was born of brute vision,
Of great sorrows heir.

She choked on the shards in her heart,
Couldn't breathe the thin, cold air.

Woven from the finest of german silk,
She feels more of a fine Jew linen,

And pill by pill, man by man,
She met with what meets such women.

Crucified by the things of the past,
Died like the Jew, not waiting for salvation to
come.

The world couldn't bear her ache, no, not
anymore.
And at last... She wasn't reborn.

Oh, the world is not a place for a smart girl.

07.11.2020

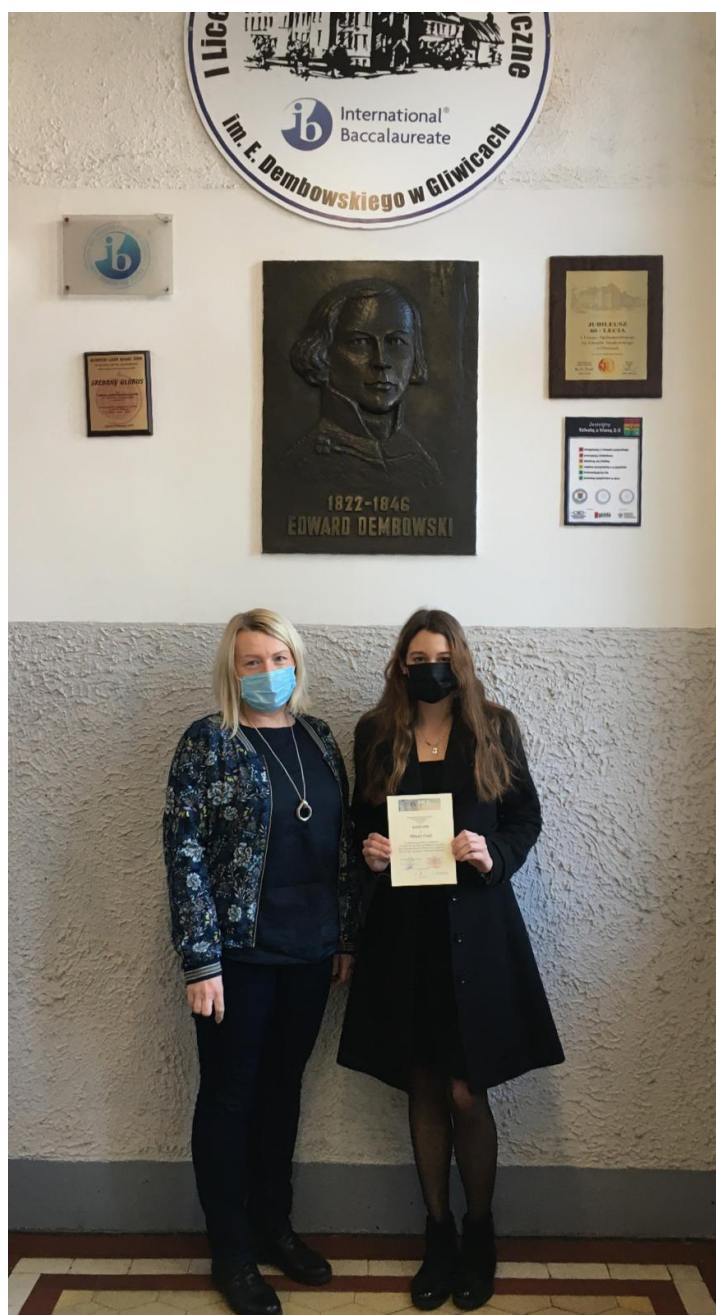
Dni śmierci i nadziei...

Milena Czajka

Wstaję... Jestem głodna. Zimno przenika me zamrożnięte ciało, skostniałe ręce nie są w stanie wykonać nawet najmniejszego ruchu. Nogi krok po kroku, monotonnie przesuwiają się po wydeptanej ścieżce... wydeptanej przez nieszczęśników takich jak ja, marzących o wolności lub śmierci..., śmierci, która wyzwoliła by nas ze szponów nazistów. Sama czekam... jednak trudno mi powiedzieć, na które z nich. Mój brzuch wydaje coraz głośniejsze prośby o jedzenie. Odmawiam, wiedząc, że wczoraj skończyły się zapasy. Skończyły się nawet okruchy z resztek suchego bochenka od czarnowłosej, wycieńczonej do granic możliwości Cyganki, których pozbawiłam ją w dzień jej śmierci. Zostało mi jedynie czekać, aż anioł śmierci zbierze kolejne żniwa, a ja wraz z nim, pożywienie, koce, odzież, wszystko co dam radę brutalnie wytargać żeby przetrwać choć parę dni dłużej.

Idziemy dalej. Moje stopy napotykają przeszkodę, potykam się i któryś już raz upadam, jednak nie czuję bólu, jestem zbyt zziębnięta. Nie chcę się podnieść, jeszcze chwilę chcę zostać w niezobowiązującym bezruchu...

Wiem że muszę wstać i kontynuować ten śmiertelny marsz. Moje serce napętnia nadzieją, kiedy na niebie widzę szare smugi dymu.



Zabudowania... może nam pomogą, uratują nas... Napełnia mnie to ciepłem, dzięki któremu idę dalej pomimo 20 stopniowego mrozu i śniegu sięgającego po kolana. Kiedy jesteśmy już zaledwie godzinę marszu od domostw, Niemiec krzyczy: "Stać! Zostajemy tu na noc!". Ciepło, które podtrzymywało mnie na nogach zgasło niemal tak szybko jak się pojawiło.

Już dawno straciłam nadzieję, że ktokolwiek pomoże Żydom w tym śmiertelnym marszu. To byłoby samobójstwo. Ale myśli o tym, że w nocy ktoś przemycy nam jedzenie i ciepłą zupę były już jak omamy... być może pozwoliły mi przeżyć kilka dni dłużej. Tak, jak co noc rozwijam koce, i skulona kładę się mocno przyciskając się do chudych ciał reszty moich towarzyszek niedoli. Tak jak każdego wieczoru, żegnam się tak, jakbym jutro miała się już nie obudzić.

Nad ranem Niemcy zostawili na drodze jakieś 30 ciał. Ludzie, a raczej to co z nich pozostało, którzy zasnęli wycieńczeni na zawsze. Bóg zakończył ich cierpienie. Bóg czy oni sami, czy jakaś siła wyższa albo samo zło... Boga przecież nie ma! Żaden bóg nie pozwoliłby na takie piekło.

Gnali nas jak bydło, nie zwracając już uwagi na pozostawiane ślady. Zachowanie naszych oprawców dawało nam nikły cień nadziei na wyzwolenie. Zaczęli działać chaotycznie, spieszyli się... Ruscy deptali im po piętach. Poczułam determinację i lekki, malutki, tłący się płomyk nadziei na wolność.

The author won the third prize in a contest called "Short Literary Forms", which took place in January 2021. Her tutor was Ms Dorota Majewska! Congratulations!

How to achieve success on the senator's level?

Conversation between Polish senator Zygmunt Frankiewicz, former president of Gliwice and Kinga Pietrusiak

I would like to talk with you, Sir about education reform, your former presidency and your present job as senator. At the end of my second year in high school I have to make an obligatory project called Personal Project and this is the main purpose of my meeting with you. The idea of Personal Project is to develop student's hobbies and passions in order to not only live a typical "school life" (studying only for good grades, doing homework, etc.) but in order to broaden our minds. My favourite hobby is writing. Since 4th grade in primary school I have been writing poems and short stories. I have decided that journalism would be a good plan for my future. So I wanted to examine my skills in that area and that's how my topic for Personal Project was born. Taking into consideration the original profile of my high school, I would like to ask you my first question:

Kinga Pietrusiak: What benefits does the city Gliwice have from the Diploma Programme in my high school?

Zygmunt Frankiewicz: I really cared about making the Diploma Programme possible in Gliwice. You, miss, are the great example that the Diploma Programme is tempting young ambitious and talented people to study in Gliwice. That's the case. Subsequent tasks of the Diploma Programme is to encourage people like you to stay here and live in Gliwice.



KP: What do you think about education reform that happened 3 years ago in Poland?

ZF: I am not an expert in education but I am surrounded by valuable people in that field. We can wonder if gymnasiums were a good idea. In my opinion, they were rather good and their liquidation was a huge mistake. It launched big confusion and some sort of abruptness at schools. The consequences of that decision will cause troubles in learning and teaching. I find this reform explicitly negative. The way of launching it was also bad. I think that the school's curriculum also needs to be fixed. Education is one of the most important areas that the government takes responsibility for. The future of our country depends on this main public service but organization and financing this area is in very bad condition. The same with health service. That is the example of an inept working country.

KP: Why did not you choose a degree course connected with politics but you choose to study Computer Science?

ZF: I have to admit that I was very far from choosing politics studies. If anyone had told me what I would do after the 90s, I would have thought of it as a joke. I am talented in the science field. I am an engineer, not only in the abbreviation before my last name, but because I really feel technology. I can do a lot in this area. I have been working scientifically for 15 years at the university. It gave me great satisfaction and some good results. There was no dilemma for me that I would study computer science. My family predispositions are related to mathematics, so I chose the degree course in which I will be able to use them. I guess it worked well for me. I was ambitious just like you. At one point I said to myself that despite the lack of great humanistic traditions in my family, I should be good at it. And I was. Especially at high school. I had five on the matura exam from Polish language. And that was a challenge.

KP: Why did you not want to continue developing your sciences skills, but took up politics?

ZF: I come from a very patriotic family. We were involved in something called the Democratic Opposition. Our function undercover in the underground obliges us to make a commitment for our country. After that we cannot be indifferent to what is happening around us. Back then, we were convinced that communism would never end. We were hopeless. I was very active politically and I was involved in various structures in opposition. There were no candidates for the first elections in the 1990s for the Gliwice City Council from the civic committees (called Solidarity). That's why I agreed to run. Gliwice was an extremely turbulent city. I agreed to become the president of Gliwice for a short period of time - 9 months. And I just stayed.

KP: You became president for much longer than 9 months. You held this office for 26 years and you set a record being the longest-serving city president in Poland.

ZF: I don't appreciate such records. The duration of the function is not a measure. The important thing is what you accomplished during this time, no matter how long it takes. You have to keep on going forward all the time. These 26 years of being the president is like 125 years for such an average person. I mean there was so much going on in my life, so intensely that I have tons and tons of memories.

KP: Do you miss being the President of Gliwice?

-Well, yes and no. I mean in self-government you have the driving force and great responsibility. I am very happy with the results of this work. My job is less specific now. It is just different. Certainly it is less satisfying, but I took it into account. I treat this job as a higher necessity. Unless the local government

unions organised the resistance to destroy them, they would be very weak and ineffective. They are already weakened. I decided to run for the Senate (and serve as the chairman of the Local Government and State Administration Committee there) in order to protect local governments from the progressive destruction to the greatest extent possible. I have tried to slow it down, but I'm afraid that it will take some time.

KP: Do you cooperate with your successor Adam Neumann?

ZF: Yes, I think there has to be some permanence. Some of the people who are currently in the city authorities have a short internship. They willingly ask questions about the past. We talk quite often. I am very happy to help them. If only they want - I always do!

KP: How do you evaluate your work as a former president and how do you evaluate the development of Gliwice which you watched over the years?

ZF: The hardest thing is to judge your own case. You can try to objectify it and see how people evaluate it, how the city is compared to other cities and which place the city has in rankings progress. It all looks very good. It is difficult to count the prizes that the city got and awards I personally received. The city, which was almost the poorest city in the Katowice Province, is now one of the richest in Poland. According to the last assessment of cities with poviats law, Gliwice takes third place. After Sopot and Płock. We win with many other cities, so I am joyful with all years during my presidency.



KP: Do you have time to develop your passions due to your senator's ticket ?

ZF: I have a little more time now than I used to. Though my job as a senator is less coordinated and less things depend on me. I definitely have less daily stress and probably less work. My present job is completely different from my previous one. I found a good way to deal with stress. And that is an intense sport in which you are not able to think about anything else. That's how I rest. Team play works the best for me. For example in volleyball you cannot distract yourself even for a second, because you pay for your mistakes immediately.

KP: How do you see our city from a distance, from the perspective of Warsaw?

ZF: Warsaw has made great progress. It used to be a bit of a back-looking city. Especially for European capitals of cities. But at the moment we have nothing to be ashamed of. Warsaw is a really good showcase of Poland. Gliwice is recognizable in Warsaw. If I go to any office and they find out that I come from Gliwice, I immediately gain more respect. We have a very good reputation in Poland. Not only in Warsaw, but all over Poland. I am pleased with the fact that people have good associations with Gliwice.

KP: What is your advice for young people who want to achieve success in life?

ZF: It's not that hard to say. Maybe it is more difficult to implement, but you are a great example of what is needed to achieve success in life. It is not enough to go polite to school and to prepare just for the lessons. You should have your passions, hobbies and develop something additional. In my opinion this may even be the most important thing to do. You have to approach life thinking wider and farther about your future and not only thinking about things in present that happen here and now. Do not focus just on one topic but try to be interested in many things. So as not to be held hostage by one profession.

KP: Could you reveal your recipe for success?

ZF: I will gladly reveal my recipe for success to you. I came to hold the office of the president of Gliwice for 9 months and I kept that conviction about this temporality in mind for 26 years. I was not a hostage that works in the office. I could leave the office every day and not come back to it, if there was such a need. I was doing what I thought was right for Gliwice and for the majority of its inhabitants. This lack of attachment to function was my strength, so no difficulties stood in the way of my success. If I was unnecessary or unwanted, I would pack my things and leave the office without causing any problem.

Once again, thank you very much for the interview and invitation to your senatorial office.

Gilmore Girls - a Review

Hania Nepory

I believe that most TV viewers have their own 'comfort show'. It's a series that cheers us up when feeling bad. For me and many others that would be the "Gilmore Girls" - an American comedy-drama television series, created by Amy Sherman-Palladino, starring Lauren Graham and Alexis Bledel.



"Gilmore Girls" is about the small-town life of an energetic, playful single mum Lorelai and her clever bookworm daughter - Rory. In the show, we can see their everyday activities, like visiting 'The Luke's' diner, running an inn, and going to school. The last one is pretty important for Rory - her dream is to study at Harvard University. To do that,

she applies to an exclusive prep school, Chilton. Unfortunately, even though she got in, her mom doesn't have enough funds to pay for her education. Facing this problem, Lorelai had to reach out to her wealthy parents, that she cut off when she had her daughter. They agreed to pay for Chilton, but in return, they want the girls to visit every Friday for dinner.

Renewed contact with the wealthy grandparents gave Rory the chance to explore the privileged world. Sumptuous balls, lavish dinners, and luxurious banquets contrast with her everyday life in the small town of Stars Hollow. People she meets through her grandparents are very different from her best friend Lane that lives a few blocks away or Sookie - a great chef that works at her mom's inn. That's one of the things I like the most about "Gilmore Girls" - it shows two different worlds and a teenage girl in between. It's really fun to watch her experience: both of these environments.

Why do I think this show is comforting? First of all, Rory's enthusiasm for learning. This witty, well-read girl enjoys going to school and studying, she loves simply having the knowledge. Her attitude motivates me not only to go through my textbooks but also read books for fun. Secondly, Lorelai's resourcefulness. Even though she's got pregnant at 16 and had no financial support from her parents, she managed to move out of her childhood home, find a job and raise her daughter independently. Now, she has her own house and an inn. What a powerful woman! Finally, the snappy dialogues and many pop culture references. Rory and Lorelai always have the most entertaining conversations about their favorite movies, songs, etc. They create such a warm, friendly atmosphere that all you want is to watch the show and laugh along with the girls.

All in all, I personally love the "Gilmore Girls" series because it's easy to watch, yet still really interesting and didactic. It's perfect if you want to have a good laugh and comfort yourself after a stressful day. I would recommend it to every fan of a comedy and drama series.

