

# FORWARD

**AUTUMN EDITION***Warsaw Montessori High School*

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## Group 4 Project at WMHS

*By Maja Goral*

On the 25th of November an outstanding and certainly memorable event took place at Warsaw Montessori High School, the first “Group 4 Project” (G4P) in the short history of our high school. For those who do not have a clue what G4P is about, even though you probably attended ours on the 25th and were supposed to pay attention to what was happening, it is just another absolutely brilliant invention of the IB, which, apparently, is supposed to show connections between the three natural sciences of chemistry, biology, and physics. Oh, and you have to do it in groups with at least one person from each branch of science. Teamwork rocks.

SOURCE: NETWORKMETEOROLOGY



Unfortunately, due to the fact that only four people in this year's IB1 chose chemistry, the only possibility was to create four, random groups which consisted of 7 to 9 students each. The topic was as follows: 'Sources of energy' and it gave the IB1 pupils an opportunity to shine with ingenuity. After weeks of effort, both physical and mental,

and episodes of enormous sacrifice the big day of the final presentation eventually came. All WMHS students gathered in the upstairs common room after lunch, and some amazing Thanksgiving turkey, in order to either be one of the presenters or just watch the final demonstration of each of the G4P groups' work. The whole event took longer than expected, but it was definitely worth the time, because all of the groups presented us with some unpredictable attractions. For instance, the experiments certainly were extraordinary with innovative reactions of electrolysis, light energy performances, analysis of a simple walk, and even some fermented cow dung! Luckily, in spite of some negative predictions of certain students, all groups passed and the event was announced a huge success. Let's hope that all future Group 4 Projects will turn out just as favourably!

## Dlaczego 11 listopada jest taki wyjątkowy i jak go obchodzimy?

by Amelka Przeplasko

11 listopada, czyli Święto Niepodległości, jest to dzień upamiętniający odzyskanie suwerenności przez Polskę i jej powrót na mapę Europy po 123 latach zaborów. Święto to oficjalnie zostało uchwalone 23 kwietnia 1937 roku i miało łączyć ze sobą odzyskanie niepodległości, zakończenie I wojny światowej oraz upamiętnić Józefa Piłsudskiego, jako ojca odzyskanej niepodległości. Przed 1989 rokiem państwowe obchody tego święta odbyły się tylko dwa razy, ponieważ w 1939 wybuchła II wojna światowa i wstrzymała jego obchód.

Święto Niepodległości wiąże się z wieloma symbolami narodowymi, których obecność jest jego nieodłącznym elementem. Należą do nich flaga Polski, godło państwowe oraz hymn. W związku z tym 11 listopada Polacy wywieszają przed swoimi domami, na balkonach lub w oknach biało-czerwoną flagę. Ponadto w samo południe w stacjach telewizyjnych lub radiowych możemy usłyszeć „Mazurka Dąbrowskiego”, a w większości miast odbywają się huczne parady, defilady, biegi niepodległościowe oraz koncerty patriotyczne. Natomiast w samej stolicy jest organizowany wielki Marsz Niepodległości przechodzący przez główne ulice Warszawy. Również w Poznaniu możemy przejść się kolorową ulicą Św. Marcina, zając się tradycyjnym Marcińskim Rogalem. To wszystko ma sprawiać by wszyscy Polacy tłumnie wychodzili z domów i cieszyli się niepodległością oraz przekazali naszą historię następnym pokoleniom.

# Łajka — historia ofiary eksploracji kosmosu

by Antoni Bańkowski

Opowiadając o historii eksploracji kosmosu, mówi się o heroicznych astronautach, genialnych inżynierach i ogromnych rakietach. Rzadko jednak wspomina się o ciemniejszej stronie procesu odkrywania wszechświata. Nie wszystkie istoty biorące udział w tych wyprawach robiły to z własnej woli i nie dla wszystkich dobrze się te wyprawy skończyły. Historie zwierząt wysyłanych w kosmos w zbudowanych na szybko kapsułach opierających się na nieprzetestowanych technologiach często maskowane były propagandą lub pięknymi przemówieniami. Ofiarą eksploracji kosmosu, którą wszyscy znają najlepiej, jest Łajka - pies który samotnie zginął 4 listopada 1957.

W roku 1957 marzenia o locie człowieka w kosmos były coraz bliżej realizacji. Pozostawało jedno bardzo ważne pytanie – czy ludzkie ciało to przeżyje? Tymczasem po ogromnym sukcesie Sputnika, Nikita Chruszczow, pierwszy sekretarz komunistycznej partii Związku Radzieckiego, zapragnął kolejnego lotu. Misja miała się odbyć w ramach obchodów rocznicy rewolucji październikowej, przez co naukowcy mieli mniej niż miesiąc czasu. Nowy Sputnik nie mógł być jedynie metalową kulą z antenami. Chruszczow chciał czegoś nowego i przełomowego, stąd pomysł, by po raz pierwszy wysłać na orbitę żywą istotę. W ten okrutny sposób, ludzkość mogłaby się dowiedzieć, czy ludzie mogą



przeżyć w kosmosie. Plan ten nie był zaskakujący, jako że psy wystrzeliwane były w rakietach od dłuższego czasu. Nie były to jednak loty orbitalne i trwały maksymalnie parę godzin. Łajka miała spędzić w kosmosie siedem dni. Od początku było wiadomo, że nigdy nie wróci na Ziemię. Sputnik nie był przeznaczony do lądowania, przy wyjściu z orbity miał się spalić w atmosferze. Naukowcy planowali utrzymanie Łajki przy życiu przez siedem dni, a następnie podanie jej trucizny, która doprowadziłaby do łagodnej śmierci. Tak jednak się nie stało.

Inżynierowie pracujący nad projektem, wspominali lata później, że zaprojektowanie funkcjonalnego systemu umożliwiającego przetrwanie przez 7 dni, było wyjątkowo skomplikowane. Dokonanie tego w trzy tygodnie było praktycznie niemożliwe. To właśnie dlatego Łajka zginęła około siedem godzin po starcie w wyniku ogromnego stresu i przegrzania, które spowodowane było awarią wentylacji. Władze Związku Radzieckiego nie mogły sobie pozwolić na opublikowanie informacji o tej porażce, dlatego nie została ona ujawniona w mediach, a cały świat przez kolejny tydzień żył w przekonaniu, że gdzieś wysoko nad Ziemią leci Łajka.



# Poem Analysis: I'm Nobody! Who are you?

by Natalia Kruk

## **I'm Nobody! Who are you?**

**Emily Dickinson (1830-1886)**

Are you – Nobody – too?  
Then there's a pair of us!  
Don't tell! they'd advertise – you know!  
How dreary – to be – Somebody!  
How public – like a Frog –  
To tell one's name – the livelong June –  
To an admiring Bog!

The little-known in her lifetime poetess, Emily Dickinson, greeted this world in 1830 in Amherst, Massachusetts. Her eccentricity, the unconventional style of writing, and approach to life were seen as brilliant only after her death in 1883. Out of the one-thousand-eighty-hundred poems she wrote altogether, the short lyrical one published in 1891 in *Poems, Series 2*, *I'm Nobody! Who are you?*, holds a special place in my heart and for that reason I've decided to analyse it more deeply.

The straightforward introduction to the speaker, who is a “Nobody,” is established in the very first line of the very first stanza. Gradually, the addressee is getting engaged in developing a relationship with the speaker, who discovers they are a “Nobody” too. Both of them know it is more desirable to keep it a secret, since they prefer to have a private life, unlike “Somebodies”.

In the short but powerful poem composed of two quatrains, a type of stanza consisting of four lines, the reader is set forth the theme of anonymity and solitude. Dickinson herself represented the approach of an individual and peaceful contemplation, also portrayed in this particular poem. The poetess seems to be inquired by the reason behind “Somebody’s” need for attention, which she doesn’t understand. Isolation and seclusion are much more appealing to her. With this statement Dickinson wished to impart that being introverted is perfectly fine, as well as that people are not alone in this feeling, as there are many “Nobodies” sharing this understanding.

Furthermore, the oxymoron opening the poem is also significant to the overall meaning of it: the speaker introduces themselves, just like every other person we meet on a daily basis would, except the speaker does not use a particular name, but a general term – “Nobody,” which represents a wide community of introverts. Capitalizing the word creates an allusion to a person’s name, but it emphasises the contrast to a social interaction, too. The authoresses’ aim was to encourage others to enthusiastically embrace they are “Nobodies – too,” just like the speaker.

Additionally, not only is there nothing wrong or peculiar with being a “Nobody,” but it actually adds to the uniqueness of an individual, making them remarkable. Many a person reading the poem will characterize and relate to being a “Nobody,” simultaneously forming a unity with the speaker. Despite “Nobody’s” undesirable draw of attention, they will still manifest to this underground community of “Nobodies,” which according to the speaker should be welcoming and supporting.

For the reason that the speaker values being a “Nobody” so much, their last intent would be to turn into a “Somebody”, the complete contrary of a “Nobody”. The speaker doesn’t want the other “Nobodies” to reveal their identity, because “Somebodies” would “advertise” their existence, making their lives public and miserable.

The beginning of the second stanza gives a description of a “Somebody” in just one word: “dreary”. Therefore, those would be depressingly dull people, who will constantly seek attention in order to disassemble their lack of character. Of course, it is human nature to crave being regarded as important or interesting; however, it is equally essential to understand and learn how to be alone and realize our self-worth should never be contingent on external approval.

The humour and concision used by Dickinson strengthens the point of the poem: it is always perfectly fine, even remarkable, to be alone, introverted, or anonymous. In my opinion, we should incorporate this way of thinking into our everyday lives, especially nowadays, when the need for the approval of others is affecting us (rather negatively) much more than back in the nineteenth century.

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## WawMUN 2021: Here we come!

*by Rosie Chatfield*

For the first time ever, our school, Warsaw Montessori High School, participated in a Model United Nations conference, held in Warsaw by Batory High School. The event transpired between the 22nd to the 26th of October; a demanding four days for our dedicated students. Approximately two weeks prior to the conference, our IB and PreIB students had received their roles as delegates representing certain countries in respective committees. These roles ranged from Ukraine in the Environmental committee to the Russian Federation in UNESCO to Afghanistan in the Economic Council. The students received instructions on how to conduct research, prepare for their speeches, as well as submit their position papers. With the assistance of Ms. Agnieszka Gajewska, the faculty advisor, the delegates spent extensive hours performing these tasks. Although it was an arduous couple of days, it resulted in the pupils' excellent preparedness.

**Day 1: Opening Ceremony**

Upon arriving at the scene of the event, an overwhelming number of students were gathered in the hallways, all partaking in the debates. After registering, all headed to the assembly hall where each country had been assigned their seats. The Opening Ceremony consisted of discussions, predominantly, by the Security Council. As no WMHS students had been assigned a role in the committee, it acted as an introduction, for them to experience what they would be doing the following day.

**Day 2 & 3: Discussions in committees**

The next two days were spent in distinct committees, where the opening speeches, further debates, and drafting of resolutions occurred. The students relayed a sense of relief as they were surrounded by like-minded people who encouraged each other to do their best. Thus, they described feeling comfortable sharing their ideas (in accordance with their country's beliefs) and fully cooperative throughout the debates.

**Day 4: General Assembly**

The last day of the debates was dedicated to the reading of the final resolutions proposed by each committee. These were then voted on to either pass or not pass. At the end, the students received their certificates.

WawMUN 2021 was an ideal opportunity for our students to develop public speaking skills, critical thinking, collaboration, and diplomacy skills, as well as an excellent debut for our school. We encourage all students interested in debating to join our club!



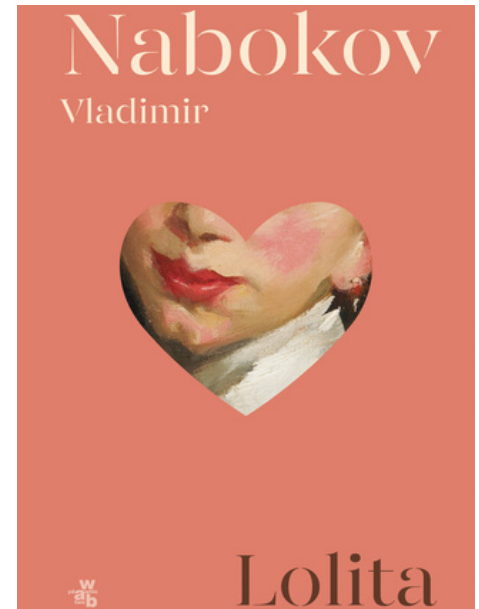
# Forward recommends

## **‘Lolita’ by Vladimir Nabokov**

Intriguing and frightening at once. Amazes with its writing artistry, terrifies with its content.

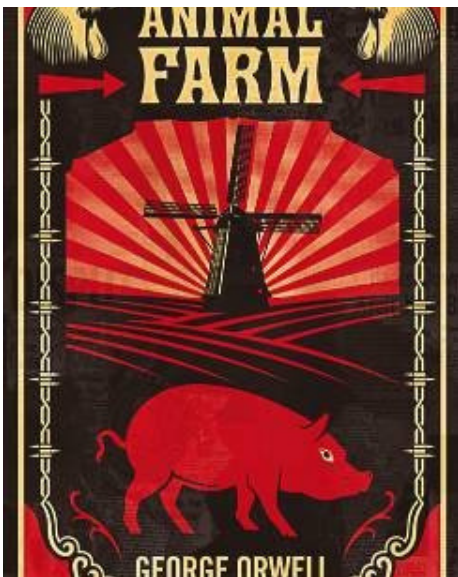
### **Official description:**

‘Awe and exhilaration--along with heartbreak and mordant wit--abound in *Lolita*, Nabokov’s most famous and controversial novel, which tells the story of the aging Humbert Humbert’s obsessive, devouring, and doomed passion for the nymphet Dolores Haze. *Lolita* is also the story of a hypercivilized European colliding with the cheerful barbarism of postwar America. Most of all, it is a meditation on love--love as outrage and hallucination, madness and transformation.’



## **‘Animal Farm’ by George Orwell**

An outstanding allegory of a capitalist, treacherous and ungrateful model of society where greed takes over common sense and morality.



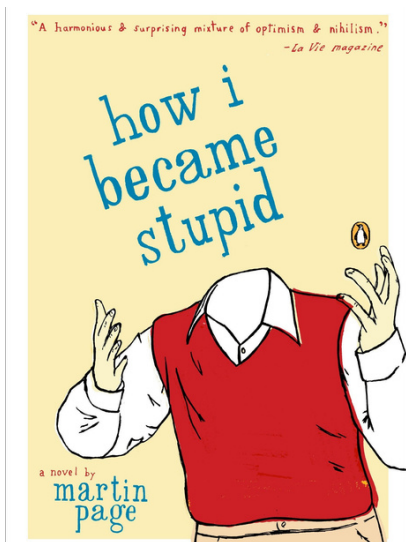
### **Official description:**

‘When the downtrodden animals of Manor Farm overthrow their master, Mr Jones, and take over the farm themselves, they imagine it is the beginning of a life of freedom and equality. But gradually a cunning, ruthless elite among them, masterminded by the pigs Napoleon and Snowball, starts to take control. Soon the other animals discover that they are not all as equal as they thought, and find themselves hopelessly ensnared as one form of tyranny is replaced with another. Orwell’s chilling ‘fairy story’ is a timeless and devastating satire of idealism betrayed by power and corruption.’



**‘How I became stupid’ by Martin Page**

Full of wit and humour, will certainly make you laugh. Nevertheless, the protagonist’s devastating struggle could equally make you cry.

**Official description:**

‘Ignorance is bliss, or so hopes Antoine, the lead character in Martin Page’s stinging satire, *How I Became Stupid*—a modern day *Candide* with a Darwin Award like sensibility. A twenty-five-year-old Aramaic scholar, Antoine has had it with being brilliant and deeply self-aware in today’s culture. So tortured is he by the depth of his perception and understanding of himself and the world around him that he vows to denounce his intelligence by any means necessary in order to become “stupid” enough to be a happy, functioning member of society. What follows is a dark and hilarious odyssey as Antoine tries everything from alcoholism to stock-trading in order to lighten the burden of his brain on his soul.’

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