

# **A New Perspective on the World**

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**“Christmas is a season not only of  
rejoicing but of reflection”**

**Winston Churchill**



**”For it is in giving that we receive”**

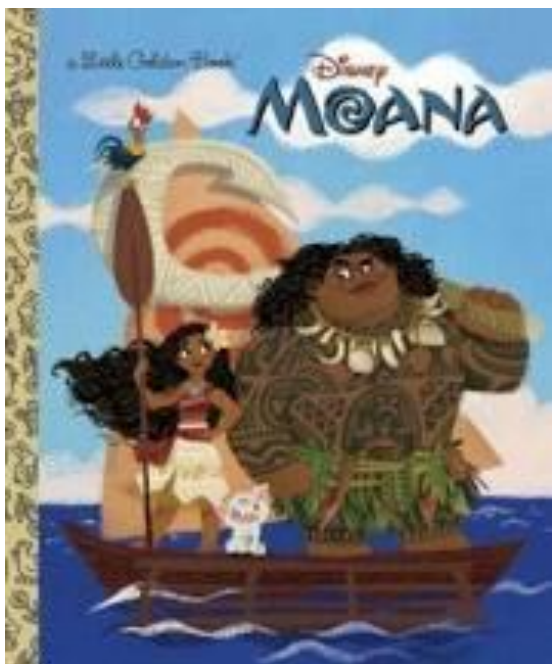
**Francis of Assisi**

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## VAIANA – BOOK REVIEW

It was not a usual practice for the film to precede the book, but the Walt Disney Company has brought many changes on the market. Vaiana, also known as Moana or Oceania came into the world in 2016 as the product of Taika Waititi's imagination, the woman who wrote the initial screenplay for the film.



Vaiana lives in the village of Motunui and is the daughter of the Chief Tui. She is expected to become the next leader of her tribe and to respect the traditions of her elders. She is brought up by her parents and grandma. Somehow their ideas contrast: while her father tells her that she should never leave the reef because nothing good awaits her out there, her grandma encourages her to listen to her heart and venture out of her comfort zone in order to accomplish what others fear of attempting.

Grandma Tala is the only one who keeps on retelling the story of Te Fiti, Te Ka and Maui. Te Fiti was the beautiful goddess who protected their village and brought wealth and happiness upon its inhabitants. Maui, an infatuated demi-god, stole the heart of Te Fiti and tried to run away with it hoping to bring immortality upon the humans. He had to confront Te Ka, a demon of fire and earth, who defeated him and sent him into exile. Vaiana's mission is to find Maui and convince him to join her into her quest: they need to find Te Fiti's heart and bring it back to her.

Vaiana proves to be courageous and persuasive. Her efforts are successful and she becomes a great leader for her people who have nothing to be afraid of anymore. Te Fiti blesses the lands again for the crops to grow, while Maui's place is re-established in the hero-arena. Vaiana's father admits to his error of judgement and the people go out to explore the ocean.

By Prof. dr. Olaru Lăcrămioara

## VAIANA – FILM REVIEW

Apparently, Vaiana's initial story suffered a lot of alterations during the filming process, which is not something new for the Walt Disney Company where the magic happens. You cannot possibly have so many well-engrossing animations if you do not try to come up with something different every time. This time, the directors shifted the focus so that Moana might no longer be preoccupied with proving her worth in a men's world, but rather go on a quest of her true self.

Many of the modern films have renounced their pretensions to put on screen fantasist love stories of princes and princesses. These days, the tendency is to adopt a psychological approach of old myths, legends or fairy-tales and analyse the struggles of the heroes who go in search of the meaning of their existence.

Maui is certainly not a prince or hero in the traditional fashion and, although he has a flirty way of talking, he does not seem particularly interested in conquering or saving the princess. On the other hand, Vaiana is by far a modern version of a princess who does not wine like a damsel in distress but prefers to take the matters in her own hands and move on even when her partner, Maui, gives up. When their journey ends, Vaiana goes back to her people to rule them wisely and bravely, while Maui chooses to fly away freely, enjoying his fame as a hero of humanity.

Of course, the film was a great success and it brought a lot of money to its producers. It bears three different names, according to the countries it has spread. Lately, most of the Disney animations end up being put on paper and sold as story books. It happened to *Moana*, too. So you may now find it in its both forms. Whichever of the two you manage to get, enjoy it!



By Prof. dr. Olaru Lăcrămioara

## ***VAIANA* – EXCERPT**

In the village of Motunui, a group of small children gathered around Gramma Tala, listening to her tale.

“Without her heart, Te Fiti began to crumble, giving birth to a terrible darkness. Maui tried to escape but was confronted by another who sought the heart: Te Ka, a demon of earth and fire! Maui was struck from the sky, never to be seen again. And his magical fishhook and the heart of Te Fiti were lost to the sea.”

Gramma Tala spoke of a terrible darkness spreading through the land. Her words frightened the children, and they burst into tears. But Moana, the chief’s daughter, was not scared.

Gramma went on. “But one day, the heart will be found by someone who will journey beyond our reef, find Maui, deliver him across the great ocean to restore Te Fiti’s heart, and save us all.

Just then, Chief Tui appeared. Hearing the children’s cries, he tried to comfort them. “No one ever needs to go outside our reef. We are safe. There is no darkness, there are no monsters.”

While Chief Tui soothed the other children, young Moana slipped down to the beach. She was reaching for a beautiful shell at the edge of the water when she spied some large seabirds attacking a baby turtle. Moana hurried to help the turtle reach the water’s edge.

Suddenly, the ocean wave beckoned Moana. Giggling, she stepped forward as the ocean played with her hair. Following the water away from the shore, Moana noticed a small stone with a strange spiral pattern on it. She had just grasped the object when her father called her name. “Moana!”

The ocean quickly whisked Moana back to the sandy shore. As she landed, the stone fell from her hand.

Tui picked up Moana. “Oh, yes, you are the next great chief of our people. And you will do wondrous things.”

Moana took her father’s hand and they turned toward the village. Behind them, unseen, Gramma Tala quietly plucked the half-buried stone from the sand.

**Source:** <https://www.overdrive.com/media/3007775/moana-read-along-storybook>

## VAIANA – READING COMPREHENSION ACTIVITIES

1. Answer the questions:
  - a) Where are Maui's magical fishhook and Te Fiti's heart?
  - b) Why were the children frightened?
  - c) Where was the Chief's daughter while he soothed other children?
  - d) What did Moana find in the water?
  - e) Who took from the sand what Moana dropped?
2. Which of the sentences are true and which are false?
  - a) Te Ka is a handsome prince who loves Moana.
  - b) Vaiana's father is the mayor of the city.
  - c) Gramma Tala believes that someone can give Te Fiti's heart back.
  - d) The children who were listening to the story got really scared.
  - e) Moana got lost on the beach and her parents couldn't find her.
3. Match the words to the images:

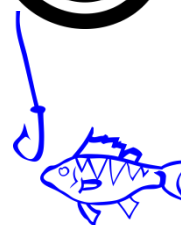
a) shell

1.



b) turtle

2.



c) spiral

3.



d) fishhook

4.



e) shore

5.



4. Unscramble the words:

- a) KENSASR → .....
- b) BIRTELER → .....
- c) AGHDURET → .....
- d) DRONWUOS → .....
- e) TAPETNR → .....
- f) DRELVIE → .....
- g) SEROTER → .....

5. Fill in the missing letters:

- a) FO\_WAR\_
- b) S\_A\_IR\_
- c) C\_N\_RO\_T
- d) M\_N\_T\_RS
- e) A\_R\_SS
- f) J\_UR\_E\_
- g) G\_A\_P

6. Identify and underline at least five linking words in the text. Use them to make up sentences on your own.

7. Join the half of the sentences. Use the word “but” to link them.

- |   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| a) I told him that I like blueberries     | 1. the cat caught it.             |
| b) The mouse tried to run away            | 2. he needed some sleep.          |
| c) She said she forgot to do her homework | 3. I’m actually allergic to them. |
| d) The nurse offered him a glass of water | 4. his wife remained at home.     |
| e) The farmer went on the field           | 5. she lied.                      |

By Prof. dr. Olaru Lăcrămioara



## 1<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER

Our beautiful beloved country is celebrated with joy every year. We remind our children of that day, 1<sup>st</sup> December 1918, when Transylvania, Bessarabia and Bukovina united with the Romanian Kingdom forming thus our country. The National Assembly of Romanians of Transylvania and Hungary consisting of 1228 representatives agreed on the unification of all those territories inhabited by Romanians.

The love for our country is something that needs to be transmitted to our future generations and such events deserve to be marked by specific activities which give the students the liberty of expressing their feelings and creativity in such a way that they might bring



happiness in the souls of their compatriots.

The smiling faces of our pupils prove the fact that they have enjoyed singing our national anthem and other historical songs, drawing flags, wearing the national dresses, reciting poems with historical flavour and dancing on the rhythms of our traditional songs. They were highly appreciated for their performance by the members of the community who came to watch their show and join their merriment. Congratulations, dear pupils, for bringing honour to our country!

By Prof. dr. Olaru Lăcrămioara

## CAROLLING



Christmas is one of the best occasions each year to learn a bit more about culture and traditions, to offer and receive, to mix knowledge with abilities and talent. That is why our school organizes a special event during which children are encouraged to display their artistic creativity and inclinations. They go carolling, dance, play theatre, present old traditions, make beautiful special adornments for the fir tree, offer small presents to one another and enjoy the spirit of this blessed holiday with their mates and



teachers before spending time with their families.

Every year we strive to come up with different activities which will offer a good show to the public and nice memories to our students. The children's parents and other members of the community support us in our preparations and we are grateful for that. Fortunately, we have always found kind people willing to help us by sponsoring the school with Christmas gifts for our beloved talented pupils. In return, we offer them our gratitude and invite them to our display. The mayor and the other high representatives of our community come to assist and they are happy to see that our





village is still blessed with smart, talented and resourceful children who bring honour to the entire community.

This year, the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade pupils have sung carols in English to the delight of their parents and older mates. They were so enthusiastic and merry that their performance was one of the best so far. Also, our 7<sup>th</sup> grade student, Căciulescu Denisa, has interpreted *Silent Night* in an original manner which brought to our attention her amazing talent and her warm voice.

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade students have recited wonderful poems near the fir tree. They have also dedicated a part of their time to manufacturing nice adornments for the Christmas tree. They were made out of waste materials, an activity which is also part of the schedule of the eTwinning project *Give Life to Waste*.

Mihalache Ștefania, one of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who recited rhymes by the tree, also wrote a nice Christmas story. She is quite good at English and this is not her first literary attempt. She has also helped a lot in writing a common story



for the eTwinning project *No water, no life*, another one for Halloween and some short poems.

All in all, we encourage our students to work on their talents, to come up with their own ideas about how such events should be organized and to share their hobbies with us.



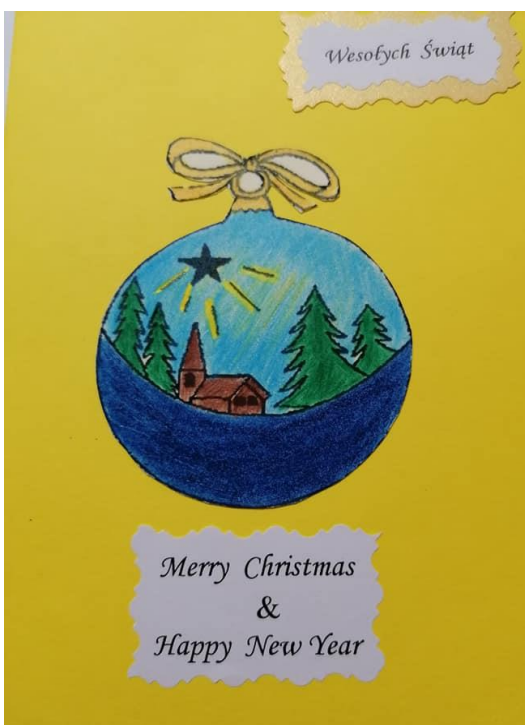
By Prof. dr. Olaru Lăcrămioara



## NEW YEAR POSTCARDS FOR OUR ETWINNING PARTNERS

Our eTwinning project called *I'm in Love with Poetry* represents a propitious occasion for our students to meet children of their age with whom to communicate in English. Part of our activities consists of exchanging postcards on Christmas, Valentine's Day and Easter.

We encourage creativity and originality, but most of all, we hope to foster friendship. More than that, we want to remind children that the internet and smart phones are not the sole ways of communication there are. Writing by hand is by far more personal than sending a phone message or chatting online. While scribbling your thoughts on the paper you also pour a part of your soul into it and dedicate some time to thinking about the person



you are writing to, which means a lot more than simply sending a common message to all your list of friends.

Handmade postcards are even better than other types of letters because they imply a thorough effort from the part of the sender who does not only write some Christmas wishing but works on the entire product putting in his creativity and originality.

Our students worked with pleasure on the postcards meant to be sent to the seven countries which are involved in the project. Some of them are talented at quilling as you



can see from the photos, while others preferred drawing, making collages or using stickers and stampers.

Pupils were really impressed by the sincere replies they have received from our partners. They are now really eager for the next holiday to come so they came make other postcards for their new friends. We have even organized a nice display with all postcards for the entire school and community to see them because we are really proud of our achievements.

In the end, we have also joined our efforts to create a virtual postcard which we sent via e-mail to the teachers who have organized and facilitated this eTwinning project which has brought us so much joy. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year everyone!



By Prof. dr. Olaru Lăcrămioara

## QUESTIONNAIRE

1. How much time do you spend doing your homework every day?
  - a) I don't do my homework every day. Just sometimes, when I feel up to it.
  - b) Aaa...I have better things to do
  - c) It depends on the amount. Sometimes half an hour, other times 1 or 2 hours.
2. When do you usually study?
  - a) When I find out that I'm about to fail a course.
  - b) Every day, for every school subject.
  - c) When I feel like it.
3. What kinds of books do you like reading?
  - a) Fiction. Appropriate for my age.
  - b) I don't read. It's boring.
  - c) What I need to for my classes.
4. What are your favourite school subjects?
  - a) I don't have any.
  - b) I like most of them, I can't say I have a favourite one.
  - c) The ones I am good at.
5. How would you describe your school performance so far?
  - a) Ok. I'm not a straight A, but I've never failed a course.
  - b) I can proudly state that I am one of the best.
  - c) Well, not so good. I could do better.
6. What do you usually do during classes?
  - a) Pay attention to the teacher and ask questions when you do not fully grasp the new concepts.
  - b) Play tic-tac-toe with my desk mate
  - c) Write from the blackboard, draw and sometimes pay attention.
7. What's your relationship with the teachers?
  - a) I like most of them and they like me.
  - b) I don't mind them. I'm just minding my own business.
  - c) I leave them alone, if they leave me.

8. Have you ever been involved in other school activities besides the ones during classes?
- a) No. Why would I do that?
  - b) Yes, sometimes. I choose one or two activities a year. It makes my parents happy.
  - c) As many as I can. I always have a lot of things to learn from such activities and it's such a good occasion to meet new people.
9. Are you familiar with the school and classroom rules? Do you usually obey them?
- a) I know about the rules and I try not to break them but I am not a role-model.
  - b) Who cares about the rules? They're boring.
  - c) Of course. I remind the rules to my mates every day and I always watch them to see if they are obeying them. If not, I tell the headmaster.
10. Are you an active student in class?
- a) Yes, most of the time.
  - b) No, not really.
  - c) It depends on the class.

**Scoring:**

1. a) 1p	b) 0p	c) 2p
2. a) 0p	b) 2p	c) 1p
3. a) 2p	b) 0p	c) 1p
4. a) 0p	b) 2p	c) 1p
5. a) 1p	b) 2p	c) 0p
6. a) 2p	b) 0p	c) 1p
7. a) 2p	b) 1p	c) 0p
8. a) 0p	b) 1p	c) 2p
9. a) 2p	b) 0p	c) 1p
10. a) 2p	b) 0p	c) 1p

**\*You may find the results in the next number of the revue**

By Prof. dr. Olaru Lăcrămioara

## Solutions for the exercises proposed in the previous number of the revue (No. 12)

### Play with Words

1. a) – D  
b) – F  
c) – A  
d) – H  
e) – B  
f) – C  
g) – E  
h) – I  
i) – G  
j) – J
2. -----
3. a) ~~library~~ bookshop  
b) ~~too~~ two  
c) ~~play never~~ never play  
d) ~~who's~~ whose  
e) ~~my~~ me  
f) ~~table~~ blackboard  
g) ~~wood~~ would  
h) ~~camera~~ room  
i) ~~congratulations~~ congratulations  
j) ~~later~~ letter
- 4.

S	A	U	S	A	G	E	G	G	S	O	P	G	B	M	M	F
A	S	P	E	A	S	B	N		S	M	I	A	E	U	E	R
L	O	B	S	T	E	R	O	P	P	E	E	R	A	S	A	I
A	Y			L		E	O	R	I	L	S	B	N	H	T	E
M	A	R	M	E	L	A	D	E	N	E	H	A	S	R	L	S
I	H	A	M	N	A	D	L	T	A	T	R	N	C	O	O	P



P	O	R	K	T	M	B	E	Z	C	T	I	Z	H	O	A	I
S	O	U	P	I	B	U	S	E	H	E	M	O	I	M	F	Z
T	U	N	A	L		N		L			P		P	S		Z
Y	O	G	H	U	R	T	C	O	R	N	S		S			A

SAUSAGE; SALAMI; LOBSTER; MARMELADE; YOGHURT; SPINACH;  
 BREAD; EGGS; LENTIL; SOYA; NOODLES; PRETZEL; OMELETTE;  
 SHRIMPS; CORN; TUNA; GARBANZO; PORK; LAMB; BEANS; PEAS;  
 MUSHROOMS; CHIPS; SOUP; BUN; MEATLOAF; PIE; PIZZA; FRIES;  
 HAM

5. a) EYE; TEETH; LEGS  
 b) TEETH; TONGUE; FINGERS; TOES  
 c) HORNS; BODY; ARMS

6.

			L	A	D	Y	B	U	G		
		G	I	R	A	F	F	E			
		M	O	N	K	E	Y				
	K	A	N	G	A	R	O	O			
C	A	T	E	R	P	I	L	L	A	R	
			S	N	A	K	E				
			S	P	I	D	E	R			

### Peter Rabbit – activities

1. a) – 5  
 b) – 4  
 c) – 3  
 d) – 2  
 e) - 1
2. a) was  
 b) went  
 c) squeezed  
 d) took

- e) bought
  - f) ate
  - g) said
3. a) be
- b) eat
  - c) take
  - d) go
  - e) squeeze
  - f) buy
4. a) four
- b) because their father was killed there
  - c) to the baker's
  - d) to the lane; because they were good little bunnies
  - e) Peter; because he was naughty
  - f) Peter managed to eat lettuce, French beans and radishes.
  - g) Mr. McGregor was round the end of a cucumber frame.
5. a) F
- b) T
  - c) F
  - d) F
  - e) T

## COLECTIVUL REDACȚIONAL

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C H R I S T M A S

A N G E L



R E I N D E E R

O R N A M E N T S

L I G H T

L O V E



I C E

N A T I V I T Y

G R A C E

