



# Alma Mater

A bulletin of the Foreign Languages Department



Autumn. It is the image of maturity, mystery, haughtiness. Autumn is the time for nostalgia and delight, recollections and dreams. Only with one touch of its hand it changes everything from green into bright and this process causes a lot of emotions and admiration. Autumn presents us with last bright flowers and rich fruit. As a wise mother, autumn prepares nature for winter dream. It is she,

Lady Autumn, who inspired many poets to write their beautiful poems.

The beginning of autumn is always connected with a great holiday, the First of September – the start of a new academic year. Our staff wants to congratulate all students and tutors with this great holiday. For some students it is the last year of their studying, for others it is the first one. We asked some freshmen about their first impressions and shared them with us.

*An education isn't how much you have committed to memory, or even how much you know. It's being able to differentiate between what you do know and what you don't.*

Anatole France

## I'm a first year Student...

I became a student almost some weeks ago. The way to this event was hard, but nevertheless it was very interesting and unforgettable. I got a lot of experience. And now it's a new stage in my life. I don't know, how it will be, but I'm interested in studying new subjects and meeting new people and friends. I have been studying for some weeks and I have already met new friends. I'm very happy to have such group as I have. There are a lot of interesting, clever and pleasant people. I was so shy and not communicative person some years ago, but now this problem is solved and I enjoy every day at University. Although it's very difficult to get up so early, because I must go to University by trolley bus or minibus. It takes a lot of time. I think, University will make me more collected and independent, because I understand it's only for me and nobody else won't do my work instead of me. I want to lead an active University's lifestyle to remember these five years for all my life. I hope, it will be even more amazing than it's now.

In the end I want to say: you mustn't worry a lot before entering University, because in any case everything will be fine and you will understand that you worry in vain, of course if you pass your exams well. Don't worry, be yourself and believe in yourself and everything, in my opinion, will be as you want. You will be master of your life!

Julia Petrenko, gr.611

## I'm a first year student

My name is Arina. I am a first-year student of University of Railway Transport named after Academician Lazaryan. I want to tell you about my impressions of the first weeks of my study.

University. Probably everyone understands the meaning of this word in his/her own way. Someone imagines it as a Temple of Knowledge, for me the university is associated with innovations in all spheres of life.

The first weeks of study have already passed. I can not believe that for such a short period of time I was able to get so many impressions, new material, additional information and acquaintance. Every day at the university is a kind of discovery and a kind of surprise.

First there was a meeting of our faculty. Then I was worried about point of trembling in my hands, and my mind was visited by different thoughts: "What will be there? How will it go? Who are my new group?" My experiences lasted until I entered the classroom and sat down at my desk. From the first moment we were told that the adult life began and we are responsible for ourselves.

I thought a lot about my school, about life in it, and I want to note that all my expectations were fully justified.

My group are wonderful guys! For a week, I did not manage to get to know my group well, but I think that soon we will be a close-knit collective, like a single whole.

Life in a student hostel is sometimes difficult, but still no less interesting when you begin to feel adult and independent. Although sometimes you miss your hometown too much and wait for the weekend to go home.

I think if the first week was so intense and exciting, then all the following weeks will be no worse than this one. And I'm glad that I entered this university!

Arina Kobzistova, gr. 412

**Today we face an unprecedented set of problems relating to the environment, the coming one world order and the coming process of spiritual decline. We stand at the abyss, at the steadily approaching threshold of unimaginable chaos, calamity, death and destruction. But there exists a lasting solution to these issues facing humankind. It derives from the notion of the power of ideas and an idea so powerful that its effect upon the World will be most profound. It was the French Existentialist philosopher Sartre who coined the term 'The God shaped hole'. It describes an essential aspect of our being that demands some sort of relationship and understanding of the eternal and transcendent. It cannot be satisfied with worldly success, material possessions or Scientific Rationalism. When this need isn't met then we are left with a feeling of incompleteness, unease and lack of fulfillment.**



### How to make the world better

\*\*\*

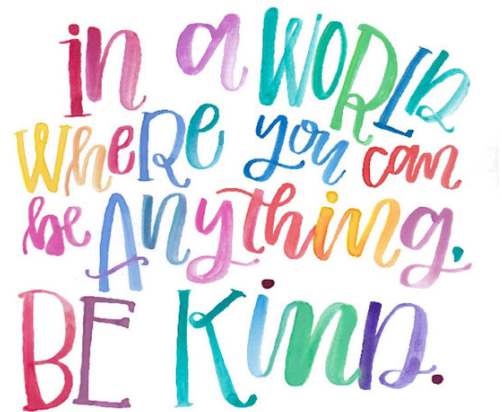
To make the world a better place is not an easy goal to achieve. It is also a gradual process which can not possibly be completed in a short period of time. But we should not let it discourage us. If everyone thinks that their actions are not important or have no influence on their surroundings the ways of our existing won't have an upswing anytime soon. In my opinion a path to a better world lies in our own attitudes towards it. What I mean to say is that it is easy to stay indifferent to things that might not concern us at the present moment but it is much harder to change something or be brave and compassionate. If everyone starts with themselves, I am sure, that a lot of positive changes will take place. But unfortunately, I understand, that for a variety of reasons humanity is still very far from being perfect and we can not solve global problems easily.

There are a lot of problems with the world, some of which are caused by nature but for the most part humans are to blame for making them. Such global issues like social, economic, political or environmental problems that affect the global community and our environment, possibly in a catastrophic way can not be solved by changing our outlook on life alone and their solution requires cooperation among all nations which nowadays is not possible for a lot of different political and social reasons. If we plan to change the world we should also pay more attention to such issues like poverty, diseases, malnutrition, waste disposal, loss of biodiversity, deforestation, overpopulation, discrimination, racism, lack of tolerance, violence, environment and natural resources degradation and many others issues that might have really bad outcomes if we do not start thinking about solutions for

them. And I think that nowadays humans value technical progress more than protecting the Earth from pollution. The amount of problems seems very intimidating to me but it is important for changes to take place if we want our future to be bright and good.

By solving even one problem we will make improvements in others. No single issue can be analyzed or treated separately from the others. For example, deforestation and pollution are direct consequences of overpopulation and both, in turn, affect biodiversity.

The change in the world starts with you!" - no matter how overused and trite this phrase may seem it still stays true. If each person becomes responsible enough and takes steps to bring a change, would it take long for the world to change? Probably much quicker than we can imagine. So my opinion on the topic of changing the world is that everyone should begin such changes with themselves. Being friendlier and more understanding to others, not wasting food and not buying too many unnecessary things, not littering where we should not, giving away stuff that you do not need anymore, helping animal shelters or, if possible, donating to charity, trying to live more nature friendly life, learning and becoming more educated on different topics – all of these things might not only make us happier but also change the world for the better, not in global way first, of course, but it just might be a start for much greater changes in the future.



Mariya Liakhova, gr. 921

\*\*\*

In my opinion people can't make the world perfect, but we should try. World is a complex system, which has many problems. And I am convinced that a most important problem is environmental pollution.

We always polluted our surroundings. But until now pollution was not such a huge problem. People lived in the countryside and couldn't produce such amount of pollution that would lead to a dangerous situation on a global scale.

Sometimes it seems that humanity doesn't think about future, about next generation and what will happen to ecology in further. Today, most countries don't even try to recycle garbage and it's terrible! Hundreds of garbage dumps, production waste, air pollution from factories and cars, all this affects the environment and even human health.

We must search for the solution of this problem immediately. Some countries already have system of recycling, containers for sorting garbage and heavy penalties for rid of waste in wrong place. We must follow their example to save our nature.

If everybody starts caring about the planet we live on, many environmental problems can be solved. If we start recycling paper and cardboard, we can save lots of trees. Using public transport more than private cars, we can have less air pollution. Local governments can also help prevent some problems, if they forbid companies to destroy the forests, or stop factories from polluting water and air.

Scientists and engineers can find the ways to reduce pollution from automobiles and factories. Individuals and groups of people can work together to persuade enterprises to stop polluting activities.

In conclusion, I want to say that if we want to live in a better and healthier world we should take great care of our nature and learn to protect it.



Alexander Lapshin, gr. 921

\*\*\*

Almost everyone was or is still confused with the choice of which work will be good for him or her. In which one they will be the best one. When your work is unloved, it's simple to assume, that you won't be the best one at it, because it's the matter of enthusiasm. It's hard to have the enthusiasm in



anything if you are not interested and it even worse – if you hate it. A lot of people I ask themselves, especially, in childhood: “What is my destiny?”, “What should be?”, “In which kind of business I will be the best one?”. That questions is the most difficult to answer for the whole humanity. If we give the answers to this questions in nearest future it will make world a better place with people who know what they should do to make themselves happy.

That’s my pure fantasy, but I think, that after finding an answer we will move in scientific way. We have to build some kind of machine, which will scan our brains and it will determine which hemisphere is the most powerful and developed, but that’s not all. The mechanism of this machine, somehow, must scan the brain deeply, more flexible and individually. After scanning it will show you several areas in which you will be good at, or, even, the best one. Just imagine people know what they are, they know in which direction they have to move, they see the purpose of their lives. That hypothesis, for sure, can guarantee the powerful push in science, art and medicine. Won’t it make the world better? In my opinion, it will, because it will influence on reducing the criminality, homelessness, unemployment and etc. all over the world. But, there, of course, must be a lot of minuses and pitfalls in this theory. For example, somehow, it will limit the world outlook of most people, they will think narrowly. They will develop themselves in one spheres and there will be no reason to do some steps to the left or to the right, to learn something new, because it is not connected with their occupation. To solve this problem, I think, we have to use this machine at some determined age, like at 25. It’s not the best solution, but it will help cope with half of the problem. And, of course, the machine may show you some not prestigious jobs or business, for some people it will be the problem, because they do not even know what they expect or sometimes their expectations are too high. I think, it will be a main problem of this machine and it’s difficult question to answer.

So, that’s the main questions of this tale: “Is it good to know your destiny which is determined by a machine?”, “Or is not it better to find it by yourself?”. Personally, I don’t know what is better, I can only assume that both theories have their pros and corns, because, usually, trying to build something you break other things and create new problems. The answer to this question is we have to give people freedom of choice to use the machine or not, if they want to know their destiny, it’s their right to decide. I can say, that the machine will make the world better, but only if a person wants to use it.

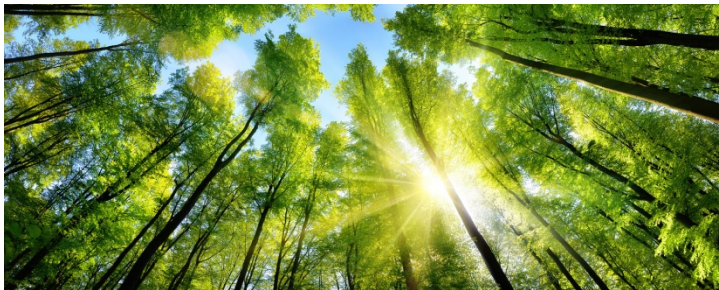
Nikita Diachenko, gr.930P

\*\*\*

If you want to make the world better you have to work hard! Start with yourself, then with people around you and with the environment. But the first thing you need to do is “make your bed in the morning”!

It means to organize yourself as much as possible. After all, the world can be changed if you begin to change yourself. In Ukrainian folk art there are such proverbs: “Tell me who your friends are and I’ll tell you who you are”, “The fisherman sees another fisherman from a distance”. You must be a kind person, and then good people will meet you. This is sociology.

The next step is changing people around you. Teach the younger generation good things. Do not be afraid to help, to be kind to people. Our task is to prepare a new generation. Generation of kind and tolerant people. Kindness is love. Love to nature, love to people and love to the Motherland. You can start with patriotism. Then explain that the Motherland is our planet Earth! Patriotism saves many aspects of nature. This is a problem of fresh water, the problem of global warming, the problem of pollution with oil products vegetation reduction, soil contamination, atmosphere pollution, disturbance of relief and geological structure.



Inspire! Give examples of saving the Earth now. For example: how the engineer saved the Himalayas. Sonam Vanchuk lived all his life in the mountains of India. In this region spring has always been very dry. Here, water is critically important for spring sowing. Sonam invented an ice stupa. He raised money for a small water pipe 4,000 meters high. In winter, the water comes from the mountains. Flies out of the pipes and freezes. Gigantic ice towers grow independently. In the middle of spring they begin to melt. And they give water to the trees. One such tower gives 10 million liters of water. Himalayan deserts change have changed into gardens. This project is a new breath for all mountain

regions. And Sonam collects money for construction of the Himalayan institute of alternatives. Such revolutionaries are needed by our planet!

How can I help make the world a better place?

1. I will invest in the development of alternative sciences. I'll install a solar battery on my house.
2. I will promote love to our planet. \Give the lessons of kindness to people, especially my children and their friends!
3. Buses and cars will be changed by bike. And I will dream of an electric car.
4. Every time I go to a picnic in the woods by family or friends, I'll take a sign with me "take care of nature! Take the garbage with you! "I will not leave it in the forest. And always follow this rule!

I hope that my words inspire you. Your life will change. Will come another life. Everything is in your hands. You will make this world better.

Olena Pedoruk, gr. 621

\*\*\*

STOP! Don't do it! Are you crazy? You want to change the world but you non-act. Do something!!!! All depends on you. The world will not be better without your help. Help it!!! You may ask how to do it? It's easier than you think.

The best way is to kill all people. Why?

Some time ago, a man had good relationships with Mother Earth. But since humans developed cities and industries, the modern lifestyle has changed. Man has been using and misusing natural resources up to the limit. So, I think that the absence of people will save the world. We must pay off our debts. However, I am not sure that it is in your power. But if you're a nuclear physicist or you know some good virus then the world is saved. I hope, you don't think about it. It is only a joke.

Of course it is not my last idea, but other will not be so brilliant.

I understand that you cant do something big and grandiose but you can change yourself. For example, you can not chop the Christmas trees for the New Year not cut love letters on trees, not leave rubbish after party... how do you think the world becomes better ? No? Why?

It is only our first step. You can do more than you think...

Change your unnatural lifestyle to the extent you can. Use a bicycle as much as possible. Don't misuse precious water and electricity. Don't use plastics when you can avoid it. It is possible, I am sure...

But I do not believe that you can do it without some help, as our world has such problems as global warming, air pollution etc.

But it is doesn't mean that you must put your hands down. You are not alone in this fight. I think we have more people such as you who want to help our Mammy.

So, believe in yourself and create better world for your future children. Remember: "Nobody can do everything, but everyone can do something."

I hope you can handle it....

PS: The world believes in you!



Iryna Leontieva, gr 621

\*\*\*



It is necessary to understand why there is so much cruelty and injustice in life, why people sometimes become so vindictive. I think the reason is a war. When one state attacks other state, an army of this state naturally takes up arms and stands up for its own defense. Right? It is rarely in such situations, someone surrenders at once. War will begin. With people it is the same. It is something like stereotypes. And this military practice has become a habit, a common thing. Buddha said: "Do not answer by evil for evil, otherwise there will not be the end of evil".

Until we respond by evil for evil, the world will be evil. Until we say how the world is bad, it will be bad. Until we will now do something, the world will remain as it is.

Do you know the principle of boomerang? When you throw boomerang, it flew round the circle, flies back to you. You did an evil in the beginning of the day and at the end of the day - it will return to

you again. Besides, this evil will cover a few more people. Like a domino: you can push one and others will fall next.

When you do evil, it flies around and comes back to you. Without end. Maybe it is worth to do something good?

For example. You leave from your home, and then you accidentally got wet by the water from a puddle because of bicyclist. What does an average citizen of the world usually do? He shout at the bicyclist. But you should try to smile and laugh at this situation! Say "Oh, I have always dreamed of coming to work with such a stain! Yes, it's okay, man! everything is fixable". This cyclist, as a response to such a positive, will be very confused. And then he will want to do something good too. He will go down the street and see, for example, a helpless granny and help her to bring the products home. And she thereafter will have a good mood for the whole day!

There is the only one way to make the world better and kinder - not to respond evil for evil. Learn to see the positive side in everything that would happen to you! Do this exercise every day. It is simple!

"If you want to change the world, start from the city, if you want to change the city, start from the street, if you want to change the street, start from home, if you want to change the home, change the family, if you want to change the family, start from yourself!" And then, if everyone will change himself, we will change the world for the better together. And this small action from everyone will grow into a huge ball and roll around the world.

Maxim More, gr 621

\*\*\*

How to make the world better? This is quite a topical issue today, but not everyone can give an answer to it.

The world is often compared to the sea, which is sometimes calm, then stormy. Life is a ship, and we are the captains of our life ship. And where we send it depends on us, on your personality. We used to look at someone and never look at ourselves. In order to change the world for the better we need to unite, unite with groups, states, and even entire countries. Then we can change it. While many people do not see this goal, nothing global will change in our world. After all, as people say: "One patch is easy to break, but here's a whole bunch - it's impossible." In my opinion, if a large part of the population of our planet is to change the world for the better and unite in one whole, then our world will really change.

In addition, in order to change the world around us, we must do our best to ensure the development of science develops as. The development of science will contribute to solving issues that are so urgent today for humanity. But with the solution of exclusively environmental problems for the better our life will not change, because as long as there are on the ground of war, begging, orphanhood, until our world will be inharmonious. It is clear that this requires a certain amount of time, but new discoveries of scientists and a new attitude of people to the surrounding world, one to another, can accelerate this process.



In my opinion, the world can become better when each person becomes kinder when people find a common language, will strive for a single goal and will work together to achieve this goal. The world can not, but we must begin to improve from ourselves. It's enough to become more affable, to strive to help others, and the world will become better at least for those we help. After all, from this everything should begin, because one smile, one kind look - and a person next to you will have a completely different thought about the surrounding world.

Anastasiya Karpenko, gr. 723

Editorial staff: A. Muntian, T. Kuptsova, M. Liakhova newspaper formed by