

I visited the Earth in 2112:
20. ročník Literární soutěže SPUSA



The 20th annual SPUSA Writing Contest

I VISITED THE EARTH IN 2112

Awards Ceremony
At the Information Center of the U.S. Embassy

June 22nd, 2012

On behalf of SPUSA, We would like to thank all the contestants and sponsors for making our 20th Annual Writing Contest another success.

We would like to express our thanks to the judges, both the Education Center staff and the outside members of the SPUSA family. Their work guarantees the quality of this event.

Further, we would like to express our gratitude and thanks to the Embassy of the United States for its dedicated support and coordination of this event, which makes this all happen.

Thank you all so much,

Štěpánka Maňhalová

Head Director

&

SPUSA Education Center

2nd round judges:

Jiří Stránský, former President of the Czech PEN Club

Mgr. Michal Horáček, PhD, Czech Poet and Writer

Mgr. Barbora Klárová, Teacher and Singer

PhDr. Eva Škarková, Czech Academy of Science

PhDr. Karel Vala, English Teacher, Telč

Vincent Verdier, independent

Jan Vodňanský, Czech Writer

(All the essays are intact as submitted by the authors.)

SPUSA Writing Contest 2012

Senior Category

1st place

Franziska Nagelová

Biskupské gymnázium Brno

I visited the Earth in 2112

The Earth looked quite normal in 2012. It had of course some imperfections but I think it's not a big deal when you look at the Earth now, 100 years later. How I know that? I could find it in some historical books right? But nowadays we don't have books we even don't know what a book is. All the people around the world don't know anything about their history since 2012. I'm the only one who remembers everything. I was the "lucky" guy who could for the first and last time ever try to travel into the future. Yes I am from the past. 100 years ago there happened a big disaster that's why we don't remember anything and can't find about our past nothing now and I want to tell the people how it happened.

I was a normal boy, studied on the college for the first year in Oxford. I liked it very well. My favourite subject was technology and chemistry. It was also favourite subjects of Michael. He was my best friend in that time. We knew each other since the kindergarden. He was always the cleverer. I think he was the one of us who never makes mistakes because I was always the one who made a mistake every time. He was a perfect friend for me.

We both were preoccupation with science, intertemporal spaces and also with time travelling because of Herbert George Wells's book: The Time Machine. We both loved his writing about the sci-fi ideas he had and we decided to fulfill an idea he had. Actually we tried to do a time machine too. We had spent a lot of time of creating that machine.

"Are you doing well?" asked me Michael after a long day in the workshop. "Yes, I think the work is near completion." I replied. "What do you think we need to complete in our machine?" Michael asked. I noted that he looked at me like a little boy waiting for a toy I am playing with so I told him: "If you can, try to find that chemical what miss and I'll try it to end this part of machine, okay?" "Okay." he replied with less enthusiasm. After few hours later he came to me and told me he finally discovered the chemical what we've missed all the long time of calculating chemical equations. "You really found it?" I asked with suprise. "Yes, it makes everything sense and it is sure about ninety-nine percent that this is the chemical we're looking for!", "I see, it should be right, you are genius Michael! You finally calculate it!" I told him; full of new hope; it can be a real time machine that we bring into existence all the hard-working years. "But, it has a one little hook." suddenly he turned the mood around. "We need that chemical but it doesn't exist on our planet." "That's a big hook, Michael! So we can't complete it because the one thing we need is not from our planet right? And what we will do now? We can throw it into the trash! Many of years that I've spent with this machine were for nothing because we don't have a chemical that doesn't even exist on our planet!" I was so angry that I didn't realize that Michael wanted to say something more. "Maybe there is a possibility we can find it." "How? We call the aliens?!" I sarcastic suggested. "Actually you are not so far away of the idea. You know, you heard about that 'telephone' which was found in the desert by the English archeologists? They call it 'the telephone to the aliens'. They are sure it's not from our planet" "Really?" I asked with new enthusiasm. "Yes, that 'telephone' should have that consistent with our chemical we need I mean, it's not from our planet so it's a possibility it has it, or not? And I believe it exists because everything is possible, look at our work!" Michael surprised me with his reaction but I thought it's just nonsense what he was talking about. A 'telephone' from the aliens? How ridiculous. When Michael saw my doubtful expression he change his

persuasion: “ Oh come on! I mean It’s not worth testing?!” “ Okay let’s take the ‘alien’s telephone’” I replied with doubt.

The next day we went to the archeological museum where should be the alien’s telephone. “Look, it’s not guarded only the security guard is looking at us!” whispered Michael to me. “So you want it steal, Michael?” I asked. Michael looked at that security guy and turned over to obscure guards view “ Why not? It’s only a ‘telephone’ as well they don’t know how to use it.” Okay, try to steal it, I'm going back to cover.” I replied him but with a black conscience that we were going to steal something! Without a blink the ‘alien’s telephone’ and Michael was gone too. Oh, he just left.

When we arrived to home Michael started to work. He fused this strange thing with all ways he could. “Feel free to watch on TV or do other thing this is going to persist for a while.” ordered Michael so I went away to leave him alone.

Next day morning I went to Michael in the workshop who was filling the chemical into the machine in the moment. ” Do you have it yet, Michael?” I supremely asked. “Yes! And it should work! “Michael poured out everything into the machine and nothing left. “I heard in the radio that people saw something on the sky in the East coast of England. Dou you think it could be the aliens, ha-ha?” asked sarcastic Michael. “I don’t know, maybe. I didn’t hear that ridiculous news but I don’t mind. “ I replied. “Hey Michael, don’t you think we should give us a free day today and celebrate your insolence to steal things?” I asked with sarcasm. “Oh yes! Let’s go! I really need a break! “replied Michael. The hole day we spent somewhere in the park and watched the sky and thought about living in a other time than in ours. It was so extremely fine to talk about impossible things. Later we decided don’t return to home but go somewhere to a pub. It was a great day and evening. I even didn’t take notice that many people in our town were packing their things like for a vacation. In the streets was a lot of traffic even we haven’t holidays. We drunk and celebrated till the morning. We also didn’t notice that this Friday night weren’t so much people in a

pub than other Fridays. Around of us begun a film in which we didn't want to be in.

The next day we switched on the TV. There was a lot of news about the hole destroyed East cost of England. There left only dust. I and Michael saw horrible pictures. Nobody survived. "Do you see it too or is it just an imagination?" asked me skeptically Michael and he knew it. Something has in common what we've done. "Do you think it's because of what we have stolen? That WE had started this apocalypse?" "I don't know Michael. It's possible." I wasn't sure what this all means. Did we destroy the 'telephone' so the aliens got angry? That's not possible.

Unfortunately it was. Few days later we could hear in the radio and TV more and more assassinations around the World and this catastrophically destroying was continuing. "Look, I think you should be the one who try the time machine." said one day Michael. "Eh what? Are you serious? We don't even know if it's safe and I won't leave you here alone Michael!" I started to be angry and confused. But Michael was calm and replied me with a sure decide he did: "It was my fault that the aliens came. Look they even don't try to communicate with us. The just kill innocent people just because I destroyed theirs 'telephone'. But I won't let them kill more people. I will go to them and stop them and you; my best friend; you will travel in this time I decided to steal the 'telephone' and stop me! Do you understand me?" "I was shocked but in the other side he had a good idea. There was a possibility to return all our mistakes we did and stop the aliens to destroy our planet. I trusted Michael and I agreed to do that.

And here it was. For the first time I sat in the machine and Michael was typing the datum into the time machine. "So, good luck and I hope that everything is going to be okay, you are our only hope." told me Michael with hope in his eyes. "Michael, you're my best friend, you was always the best one of us two! I will try my best to stop this catastrophe!" Michael smiled at me and switched on the time machine. Suddenly something begun, I sat in the machine and watched how everything around me just

moved so fast that I saw only million smears of colors. It was incredible! Like a firework! Then everything was going to be slower and I arrived at that time Michael sent me.

I was looking around but something was strange. It doesn't look like few days ago. It looked here absolutely else. It was like a deserted place with some really high buildings far away from each other. I got out off the machine and went to the green plants around me. They didn't look like I would saw them before. They were moving! With a shock I dodged and went back to the machine to check the datum which Michael sent me in. The day was written well but the year not. I was in the year 2112! I didn't understand it and became panic. Why would Michael do it? Was it a mistake of him or not? I couldn't understand it and decided to travel back in the right time.

When I sat in the machine and typed the right datum nothing happened. Just why? I asked myself and was more confused than before. I controlled every little corners of the machine but anywhere wasn't a problem. When I controlled the place where Michael filled it with the spelled chemical, there wasn't any. Everything was used up! I was totally disappointed. That was a shock for my eternal life. Where will I find something what I even don't know of which material is the chemical made from? I was such an idiot that I didn't look at Michael's papers. Why did Michael such so an error mistake and sent me to in an other time? Was it a mistake or an intention?

From my long profound coma woke me up a human being. It was a little boy that looked at me and tried to speak with me. For first I couldn't understand but then when I tried to understand him there was something basic from our language. I felt better. He took me to one of the high buildings where I couldn't find the top in the sky. I couldn't more explain how the building looked like but inside it was more incredible than outside. There were a lot of people and they lived there all together. When I watched the people around me I noted the people wore white overalls with something metal which dazzled my eyes. The people looked at me also with a little wonder. After

the little boys speech the people started to talk with me. I felt calmly because they took me like a friend. They didn't really search who I am or why I don't speak well their language they just took me how I am. After a while I learnt they don't anything about their history and the think they are the first people on the Earth. It was strange to me. This people are possibly the descendants of people who survived the catastrophe which I and Michael started. Everything left in the dust because of the Aliens. In the desert. And they even don't know that's because of me! I realized I will torture myself here with the conscience the whole life. And to explain the history to this kind of people was impossible. They wouldn't understand me or even trust. On the Earth didn't exist any evidence that 100 years ago were life.

So now this is my new home and I, I just write the first book in this new era of humanity.

2nd place

KláraČáková

Biskupské gymnázium Brno

I visited the Earth in 2112

Balmy evening. This collocation crossed my mind when I drew in air coming from the ventilating system. The scent, fresh in such intensive way I could almost taste it, was incredibly similar to that one I remembered from expedition in which I had taken part during 2112th orbit. I sighed inwardly. Because our kind wasn't physiologically configured to produce a sigh.

Voice of my electronic housekeeper interrupted my iracional thoughts. „Officers LJ21 and LJ22 are demanding admittance. Shall I switch off the security system?“

„Yes,“ I said aloud but to myself I was saying that it's very strange. My brain started to analize automaticly the probability of their coming at this hour. The value was very low. We didn't go out in the time of regeneration.

They entered room and didn't lose time with greetings. Why would have they. We didn't waste time with such purposelessness. I only recalled a custom from...

„We need certain answers,“ one of them said.

„It's conected with your visit to...Earth,“ the second one added.

Something very similar to a shock numbed my body. Arrhythmia, my brain assessed cause of my heart staggering.

„I thought it is forbidden to say...“ I started carefully.

„It is. Nevertheless, for purposes of this talk we were granted an exemption.“

„So to the point, the crue of Dominance was deputed to investigate the situation on Earth, to take samples, right?“ a taller officer began to inquire.

„Exactly. We were told that it's prerequisite to take control over Earth as soon as possible for humans seemed to be the most equipollent kind we had ever found – their planet appeared to be perfect for us to settle.“

„What else did you know about their life zone?“

„It was said that mankind was middle developed race with relatively extensive knowledge in natural laws of their planet, but in other respects unbelievably woodenheaded, unable to take into consideration anything that's not closely conected with them, anything that surpass their grasp of universe.“ At that point I had to stop to pre-empt logically unexplicable rasping, as I felt like I was choking on these words, generally believed facts that had allegedly entitled us to subjugate them. They weren't just selfish and ignorant race, not in general! Why those clenched fists – my analytic brain didn't understand.

„You thought, it would be anything but difficult to conquer a world ruled by so spineless creatures, right?“ asked a shorter officer dispassionately.

„Yes, everyone thought in that way.“

„When did you first come into contact with the...contagion?“

„Do you mean love?“ I asked in conscientiously neutral tone in spite of an compulsion to utter *love* as tenderly as my speech organs would be able.

„Yes, we mean the human infection, that initiate insanity of attacked individual. Top secret dossiers says that people lost completely their self-preservation, there was no logic in their movements, they were furious, cruel...“

„No!“ I interrupted him. They both looked at me, shocked by my emotionally coloured tone, well if you can call coolly raised eyebrow a shock.

„I...I mean no...I didn't experienced...love...others...not me...“ I stuttered out. Then I closed my eyes.

„If you're tired, we can continue tomorrow.“

„Yes, please,“ I said eyes still closed. I just wanted them to leave me alone or they would realize that...I love. And they would try to cure me without asking. Why should I long for these crazy emotions, for the pain, anyway? Yes, love hurts. I felt it right now. But I would never permit anyone to wipe off my memories of those, who cared for me, to make me feel nothing. I was affected.

3rd place

Tereza Pospíšilová

Charles University

One. Two. Three.

Most of the men were tending the fire, some of them squatting down to blow into in and others running around collecting twigs and getting the place ready. No one dared to speak a word only the cracking of the fire and the occasional flying spark were courageous enough to interrupt the silence, on the night when the cold round moon courts the lustful hands of fire and sends him love notes through the translucent smoke. The

darkness finally gave birth to one more figure upon which everyone stopped what they were doing and bowed. The Chief beckoned to them and assumed his place at the fire. Everyone followed his lead and a while later a young boy was handing him a long pipe filled with reddish leaves. The chief with his head slightly tilted to one side mumbled some words and took three long drags on the pipe.

One.

Two.

Three.

And the blackness swallowed everything.

It took a while before he managed to open his eyes. It felt as though something heavy was pushing down on his eyelids and most of his body. His mouth was dry and his ears rang with incomprehensible distant shouts. He wanted to scream and touch his mouth but it all seemed so hard like the kind of dreams where one wants to run but his body is too stiff and heavy to produce a movement. It was as though all he felt was coming to him from a land or dimension far far away. Few minutes (or was it hours?) passed and he finally managed to stand up and look around. He found himself in a spacious white hall with a reception desk in the middle and a woman all dressed in white behind it. She seemed to be reading something. He slowly and instinctively walked towards the woman. When he reached her desk she looked up from the book, right into his eyes and in an unnaturally calm and monotone voice said: "Can you hear me? Are you alive?" Confused and still unable to speak he nodded. She glanced into her book and then looked back at him. Suddenly, he was filled with a frisson of fear and disgust and got sick. Her face remained calm and unchanged, almost cold when she said: "Room 2112 will do." and she handed him a small key. The moment their hands touched, every nerve in his body started twitching, he looked at her and all of a sudden her face was the moon and her body the fire and the cold sweat on his forehead kept dripping down his face. He threw up again.

Upon opening his eyes, the chief felt relaxed and strangely light, as though his body carried almost no weight and staring at a large door marked '2112' he put the key in the lock and pushed it open. Inside he found three people all dressed in the same overalls. One was sitting on a bed that appeared as though flying at least twenty inches above the ground, the other two sitting on stools that kept changing colours every now and then. They seemed to be discussing something and did not pay any attention to the man who had just walked in.

"I'm telling you" said the man on the bed "It's only lucky they haven't achieved bringing good old Shakes back, right Eric? Or shall I call you George now?"

"Oh please Samuel." answered the other man "These people don't even know my real name. Nothing is real here anyways. I mean I've always known the world was headed for a disaster, blamed the communists for it mostly. But bringing the dead back is just a different level. What do they expect us to do now?...Why so silent, Williams? Blanche and Stanley through your thoughts again?" The two men laughed shortly and looked at the third one who seemed pensive.

"Assholes." he uttered in exchange and fished for something in his pocket.

"Aaah, such is life." sighed the one on the bed. "Nothing to be done. And I would never think I would find myself in a situation to quote my own play." This time everyone laughed and the third man produced cigarettes from his pocket.

"Want one?" he asked his two companions. Both of them nodded and the third one counted:

"Un.

Deux.

Trois."

And the light went out.

"Chief?! Chief?! Wake up!"

"Is he dead?" cried one of the younger boys.

"I think so." answered another one.

An older and wiser man pushed them both aside to say his last words of goodbye:

“And thus dies the great prophet, let his last journey be a peaceful one.”

4th place

Martina Šimová

Charles University, Faculty of Arts

Once I visited the Earth...

At this thought my feelings throng,
since has passed years grey and long:

of this journey is my song.

My mind's joy is without cease
when I these words softly utter,
yet my mind's pains do increase,

As if fevered by disease;

All I hear is wind's soft mutter.

I.

I was a child of heaven's King,

Maiden of whom harpers sing,

bathed in a sacred spring

that spewed forth and sprayed my hair -

it glittered through the divine night,

my skin was pale, my face was fair,

all of men I could ensnare,

if only I knew how one might.

II.

Through my father's realm entralling
restless I was often strolling,
from the heights I watched stars falling,
following their waning glow.
Deep beneath I saw shades swirling,
hovering there, twisting, twirling,
and my mind with thoughts went whirling:
What's the world like down below?

III.

Caring spirits of the dark
often watched me with eyes stark
on my night trips to embark;
They sped to King this tale to vow:
he for long in silence stood,
but finally with troubled brow
consented this to allow,
although pensive stayed his mood.

IV.

"Daughter," said the heaven's sire,
"fulfilled let be your desire,
against it I won't conspire.
But one promise you must make:
That of islands' thirteen doors
which lie behind t'silver lake
the last your concern won't awake,
or else you'll come to great remorse."

V.

This I wicked vowed and swore,
Not to walk to t'lake's far shore,
to break my word I would abhor;
but by gnawing I was ridden,
my weakness deserves to be mocked!
It's the truth, however hidden,
that every one of doors forbidden
is there to be unlocked.

VI.

My days were thus in great doubts spent
till at last I, tempted, went;
on the door I laid my hand
thinking: "Since this none can learn
little harm thus can be done."
Father's will I chose to spurn,
To this day I with shame I burn!
But chance for sorrow is now gone.

VII.

Little I saw at first glance,
but turned once more the wheel of chance!
Something urged me to advance:
With strange feeling I was taken
once I at the threshold stood;
and deeply indeed I was shaken,
with great yearning all awaken,
I couldn't turn back, nor I would!

VIII.

I walked' through the tunnel bleak,
hardly I could breathe or speak,
gentle breeze then touched my cheek;
I entered into fresh bright morn,
new and brisk it truly seemed:
Like to infant newly born!
Colours whirled, shapes took form,
real became all I'd dreamed.

IX.

What happened then I cannot tell,
overwhelmed my bosom swelled,
I remember I tripped and fell.
My heart did lose its hurried pace,
I wandered through some distant land,
til I, waking, met with gaze-
I saw a young man's benign face-
and warm and firm I thought his hand.

X.

"Tis' the Earth," he said all kind,
"you look - I hope you won't mind -
as if out of thin webs twined.
Surely you're not from here;
your arms do shine like silver frail.
But you tremble -do not fear!"
So I took heart and came near,
And he touched my forehead pale.

XI.

He led me down along the stream,
I walked still faint as in some dream,
dazed by sunlight's scorching beam,
pale like feathers of a dove.
And when the night her dark reign brought
and the bright stars shone above,
in the soft shade we made love,
and of love I knew naught.

XII.

At dawn my heart with great joy swayed,
I knew yet not I was betrayed,
all the morning I did wait!
Then I frightened cried in tears,
there was no hope – he was gone!
And my cry the air did pierce,
for it bore my greatest fears,
from my grieved soul it was drawn.

XIII.

“Father! Answer to your kin!
Oh, I know how wrong I've been!
Awful indeed is my sin.
You may scorn me and despise
but my heart is bruised and sore.
Father, dear, I paid my prize,
up to your side let me rise!
Or I wish to live no more.

XIV.

Answered me the heaven's Sire,
my pleas set his heart afire
and much less indeed require
to reply to one's child call;
To show mercy he's seldom failed,
and me he loved' above all.
To prevent my dreadful fall,
he would have taken every ail.

XV.

"This doom still you may evade,
take from me this sharpened blade -
by smiths ancient it was made -
go to him when he's asleep,
you'll find him there where you first met.
Into his heart plunge it deep,
and when you do so, do not weep:
about you he did not fret.

XVI.

First angered with great despair
I took the knife and thought I'd dare
to kill him sleeping, unaware;
I walked to where he laid in peace:
Suddenly my pained heart blenched
and my fury seemed to cease,
my fingers' grasp I did release
and dropped the sharp blade that I clenched.

XVII.

“I cannot!” I cried distressed.
“Such vile deed for one excess,
For one sin - I sinned no less!
How could I this poor man kill?
However I feel depraved,
unfulfilled must stay thy will,
oh, I love him, love him still!
And thus can’t hope to be saved.”

XVII.

“So be it!” said he stern-eyed
although he was torn inside,
tears he shed for his lost child;
“You alone chose this great woe,
nothing can it now forestall,
you’ll be doomed for e’er to go
in the world you do not know,
you chose your fate and your fall!”

XIX.

The skies closed and silence fell
when up there as by some spell
shone my homeland’s last farewell!
With great terror I was seized
but my body grew all light,
and my fear was then appeased;
whiff of well-known gentle breeze
hoisted me up t’wards the sky.

XX.

Because my heart remained pure
I got a fate one can endure -
to drift in spheres of mild azure
between Earth and heaven's Dome:
Hence you hear me sing my tale.
Always I can watch my home
and the man to sadly roam –
- him I loved to no avail.

5th place

Tomáš Janeček

Mendel University in Brno, Faculty of Regional Development
and International Studies

I visited the Earth in 2112

I visited the Earth in 2112 and it was silent. Not silent in the way of a vacuum space nor in the way of a graveyard being silent during the midnight. It was silent in a way streets in the night are silent. You can hear fading sounds of night life, you can hear voices of distant conversations taking place, but overly it is silent. And this kind of silence dwelled in every corner of all the places I visited. In every room, in every building, in every city, in every state – just silence, nothing more, nothing less. This place looked calm, but dead. There was no struggle anywhere, yet signs of dynamic movements still lingered in the air. But the air also carried unspoken words – words of warning maybe, words demanding attention. I had to focus very hard to hear what they want me to know. I had to feel the vibe, the groove, the beat of this whole place. Place that was once the planet we all lived on. And where we don't live no more.

And there I found it: In the deserted hallways of sky scraping structures, with their phallic shapes being the only reminder of humanity's faded pride. And there I found it: In the abandoned corners of giant middle fingers we constructed to point at the polluted skies. And there I found: The wind.

This is not a blues song. This wind didn't whisper. This wind didn't blow in any answer. This wind wanted to *show* me. Through his ethereal presence, I could see what he saw, I could hear what he heard, I could experience his sheer everlasting existence. He wanted to show me something, and I let myself drift out of my body and follow his past as a path to the very beginning of his own story.

Through his invisible eyes I watched small children growing up, being taught the same things over and over again, I watched them graduate, I watched them become perfect citizens, I watched them visit a church every Sunday, shop at a supermarket every Thursday, mow their lawn every week, collect their paychecks every fourteen days, pay their bills every other day. I watched them obey. I watched them do not mind. I watched them fall apart. I watched them become a machine, I watched them become a number in a very large statistic. I watched them fade to grey.

And many of these numbers were shipped overseas like in some kind of a sick equation. They became basis for much larger numbers being created and then these numbers just fought, fought till one side of the equation turned into zero. From wind's perspective, from the perspective of an eye in the sky, these people looked like sheep. And while sheepdogs were barking orders, herds were changing their directions, their ideals and their souls.

I saw us, people, burn books and in flames of these fires I saw die something bigger. I saw faces of people surrounding these fires, their dead eyes locked on the sparks and burning paper, showing no remorse, no emotion, maybe a little fear. I watched humanity burn down itself. Stripping down the last enchantments of our lives, not minding and not seeing the magic

surrounding our uniqueness, forgetting about the mother Nature, listening to people telling us what we should do, feel, who to trust and who to blame, who to obey and when to pull a trigger. Through wind's breezy memory, I saw something that we have started to become, and part of us already became, *one hundred years* ago.

Intermediate Category

1st place

Tereza Löffelmannová

Gymnázium Rokycany

I visited the Earth in 2112

Helen opened her eyes and gave a long look on the ceiling. After long months she didn't woke up with an oppressive feeling in her mind. She knew something was going to change today, it was a relief.

She got up, put on her dress and drank a cup of coffee as every morning. She sat on an armchair, switched on a monitor and again turned on a news. The news, which she had already watched a week ago. The news, thanks to she found out, thanks to she made a decision. Helen watched the screen with an interest but with no emotion, she knew what was going to come. A handsome man in a black suit with a blue tie started talking: „Good evening. Today is March thirteen 2112, my name is Josh Lewis and I'm going to show you what is new in the world. Yesterday government approved another law about euthanasia. After passing a law from last January, when a process of schooling special workers for assisted suicide who can help

people to end their lives directly in their homes was approved, the government approached to another simplification. From today, people can officially buy a special set to help end their life without assistance of any other person. These sets are available in e-shops of every pharmacy. All of the members of parliament have participated in on-line voting. Prime minister confirmed, that the law was approved with real enthusiasm, mainly because of it means a simplification and suppressing a human factor in practising this hole thing“ Helen nervously moved up in the armchair. She rewound next reports about earthquake in Chile and selling the last estates on the Moon to the end of the news. „ And now it’s time for the OSN aka Overview of Social Networks. Avenue55.com. Number of members - 532 millions, number of new members in last two hours - 32 thousands. A novice in a group of social networks Cadoo.org. Number of members - 192 thousands. Number of new members in last two hours – 11 thousands. Facebook.com...”

Helen switched off the monitor, sat back against the armchair and closed her eyes. She was one of the people, who found out, who understood. Virtual friendships, virtual loves, virtual vacations, virtual houses, virtual experiences. People live in a world, which is under control of the social networks. People are just figurine involved in one big social game and don’t know how to get away. People lost the character, people lost the personality, people lost the essence of humanity. Helen found out. But she couldn’t do anything. She couldn’t go against the crowd, one person can’t go against one big same-thinking herd . The only thing she could do was give up, set herself free. Helen opened her eyes and a tear flew down her face. Just one. The last one. There was no reason for crying for this world. She turned around and took a pack, which lied on a table. On the top of the pack was a sign: ‘Do it by yourself.’ Helen just smiled, unpacked the set but than realized she had to do one more thing. She switched on the screen again, logged in Facebook and changed her status: Goodbye my virtual friends!

2nd place
Filip Findura
Gymnázium Tišnov

Skivers

*Well do I remember the day,
When all the world had come to pain,
When all the sky was glowing red,
And who survived was only rat.*

„We should not be here,“ the seniors knew why they had banned it here,“ Radha said and her whiskers were moving quickly and nervously.

They were standing on a rusted metal beam, just above the water surface. The great statue of lion, guarding the only overland entrance to the Iron Mountain where they were living, was casting a long shadow, which was permanently growing with the upcoming daybreak. There was a deadly silence, covering the land while the night predators were slowly falling asleep in their lairs and those who hunt in the daylight weren't still awake. The sea surrounding them was in low tide, so there was a narrow sand isthmus with seaweed isles of greenness.

Rajesh stood on his hind feet and sniffed in a morning air full of salt. „Come on! We got here without any problem. But if we're here any longer, the guards would definitely find us. We can't go back now. Nothing could happen, we'll be here again till midday. Let's go, we must stir ourselves!“ And he jumped down from the steel girder, fell on all fours and turned his head to her, waiting.

Her hair was bristled, but she didn't stay right before the last step of their adventurous way out of the Iron Mountain. She got to the sand and ran along Rajesh, on a slender path between loads of water. They were nearly on a beach, when her right front

paw sank into one of those slimy weed piles and she fell down with a snout digging in the sand.

Rajesh looked too amused for her.

„I do need no thrill, if I do have my tender nest!“ Radha was getting angry, „I won't do even one more step, if you don't tell me, why I should.“

„Were you ever curious,“ Rajesh started in a mysterious voice, „what was before us?“

„Our parents, our grandparent and other past generations,“ Radha chilled his excitement.

„Well, yes. But I meant longer ago. Before any rat in the Iron Mountain. I know where to look for that.“

She didn't look anyhow interested.

„I've heard couple of seniors talking about the place they've called the Shadow Wall. It should be only over that hill, any we'll see what was it like before. Are you still sulky?“

„If there is nothing...“ Radha threatend him, but she followed him on the way across a beach and uphill between some tussocks.

Several minutes later, they reached their goal, while they were standing in front of a last part of a concrete wall, rising from the middle of a barren tableland made by strange kind of glass. On the wall, there was a burnt-out shape, a shadow or silhouette of giant, greater than any rat ever, with too long limbs and too round head.

„What on earth does that mean?“

3rd place

Veronika Navrátilová

Gymnázium Zlín - Lesní čtvrť

I visited the Earth in 2112

The human race is the same as a young of any animal kind – it seeks and tries the reach of its possibilities. It has always striven

to overcome them, to discover new nooks and crannies of this vast and mysterious world and to bring a little brightness into the dark corners of knowing.

Or rather...

It did.

Soon, the curious, however never-learning human race said that it was the right moment to overcome time and become its ruler. It said that it would invent a time machine. And the way it is in history, the impossible became the real.

And also the way it is, this idea initially had splendid faith in the fact that it would only serve to everyone's good.

Have I already mentioned that the human race never learns?

Soon after launching this machine, the fairly expected happened – it started to be experimented with, interfering in the past and allowing the access to those who were more equal than others to the owners.

Hardly anyone realised that even the survival or the death of a mere farmer far in medieval times could have profound impact on distant future.

And people began to disappear. As there was no one to breed them.

And things began to disappear. As there was nobody to make them.

And buildings began to disappear. As there was nobody to build them.

Earth was suddenly full of orphans.

Only the machine, the cursed invention, still remained among us, as if due to its principle already, no changes could affect it.

Needless to say, the society opposed – and how it did! Even today I can vividly recall those mass protests, those bloodied flags, the Vs in reflections of eyes full of hope. And those people always found their human hero, a hero who was supposed to return everything back to the old. But even the good guy lacked the power to change the already changed.

And so it happened that the planet went on becoming quieter and quieter.

It's the year of 2112 and I'm standing at a place at which there used to be a human residence. At this place, a lively city is no longer standing, only a peaceful meadow. Tiny insects are circling around me, wind is gently blowing and grass is silently rustling. It's beautiful here, one would say.

But my heart is crying.

I'm standing at a place where I, no more than hundred years ago, laid my head down to sleep, where I met, fought and made up with my closest ones. Where I felt safe and loved. Where I knew that I was not alone in this world.

My home.

It disappeared.

And along with it disappeared my loved ones.

But for me, they are still here with me.

I'm turning back to the time machine and setting the year of 2012. I'm going back to the past to prevent what was going to happen a hundred years later.

Hopefully I won't be one of unsuccessful human heroes...

4th place

Petra Šnoblová

Gymnázium Kladno

I visited the Earth in 2112

I am not going to make any prophecy, because I don't dare to have any vision of such far future. I would like to write here a bit about how I feel about present. Because our present seems to be filled with worries about our future and it makes me feel like Alice in Wonderland.

I see it everywhere: Save the planet for our kids! We are running out of oil! There soon won't be any water in Africa! For me, the environmental fights for nature have lost trustworthiness. It turned into establishing new political parties, these which 'really care' about the environment and everything green and furry and started to claim that voting for them is the best thing you can possibly do for nature. As I see it, we really don't need to worry about living conditions in the future, because how can anyone even think about what the world will be like in hundred years? I mean, how can we know there won't be any asteroid destroying our planet in twenty years? Maybe we will end just like dinosaurs, who knows? It is quite possible that in hundred years there won't be any planet Earth, and I can't change it with saving water.

The water reminds me Africa – well, humankind formed there thousands years ago, so maybe the continent is just fed up with people and turning into a desert is a way of telling us „Get out of here finally!“ We really can't influent something so enormous, so powerfull and so ancient as our planet. That is for sure.

The only big problem which we can possibly solve is our character. People are too selfish and greedy. If something is going to destroy us, it will be ourselves. For example, the recent disturbances in the Middle East. It is not, and never has been, about democracy in these countries. It is all about oil and money only. We quite don't have to care a lot now, but I am sure it is going to be much worse. Now the islamist parties are definitely going to win elections there and then the oil is going to be controlled by these fanatic people. And as we know, they don't like the western civilization much. So maybe if I visited the Earth in 2112, there would be a war. Considering all the weapons of mass destruction, it would be the worst thing humankind have ever gone through. And maybe it would be the last thing we will go through, because, if we add the biological weapons hidden in laboratories somewhere in Siberia and Alaska, we could successfully exterminate ourselves in few months.

To summarize it somehow: As I see it, there are much more important issues we should pay attention to than worry about the icebergs. Because they are going to melt, as many times before (and no people did it!) and we can't possibly save every animal (millions of species extincted in the past and no people did it!). But there are men who would kill millions of people using nuclear weapons just with a wave of their hand and we don't seem to worry about that much. If we want to still live here in the 2112, we should realize nature is not our enemy, but people are.

5th place

Tereza Turzíkóv

ZŠ Tyršova, Brno- město

Like Jesus

The strongest pill. Holding a paradise. He closed his eyes and slowly swallowed.

Boom boom. His heart was beating so fast. He fell on his knees and took a deep breath. *Boom doom.* He looked around, but all he saw was darkness. He felt sand under his sweaty hands. *A desert.*

Whimper. He turned his head and he saw a thin silhouette of a person. It was coming closer and he recognized it was a girl in a white dress. She was... shining. *An angel.*

„Who are you? And where am I?“ he stood up so he could look into her eyes. But what he saw inside them scared him.

„The Earth.“

„What have you done to my world?“

„It's your fault. You deserve it. All I gave you I can take back.“

„What year is it?“

„2112. But the Time has no meaning anymore.“

Darkness.

He heard voices.

„He's sleeping, but we're expecting him to wake up soon. There is one thing that we are worried about. He talks nuts. He says that he visited the Earth in 2112 and that the human kind is doomed because of him. It makes no sense to me either...” Her voice disappeared into nowhere and he fell asleep again.

He woke up in the middle of the night. At least he thought it was night. But it was irrelevant. He knew what he must do. Like Jesus, he laughed madly. He took a glass that was laying on a little table next to his bed. He crushed it over a sharp corner of the table and took one of the pieces of the glass. The glass looked so innocent. But it had to be done. That's the only way to save his kind, he knew that. Oh, he knew that.

Junior Category

1st place

Štěpán Šmíd

ZŠ T. G. Masaryka Sušice

I visited the Earth in 2112

I went to school as usually. By the notice-board, that is situated in the main corridor a group of students was forming there. Something about volunteers for some kind of research was written there. I didn't hesitate and I signed in. I received a sheet of paper with information about the date and the place of that even and which things are needed. I also found out that I need to go for a medical check. Days were passing by and I was ready for following morning and finally I was ready for that morning. But

then I started to doubt and I was afraid too. I had to get over this I told myself. In the morning I had breakfast and after that I took my backpack and I went to a laboratory near the hospital. Some people wearing long overalls had already been waiting for me. According to what I heard I realized that I am the only volunteer that was taking part in this research and I started to panic. They took me to a big cold room with huge glass blocks lying in the middle. They put me into one of them and I was waiting what would happen. I got an injection and I was falling into a deep sleep. After some time I opened my eyes and felt that all my body is stiffed. That was the moment I realized they had frozen me. I didn't know for how long I had been sleeping. I left the block and I walked out of the room. On my way out I noticed a calendar on the wall. It said that it was the year 2112! I couldn't believe my eyes. I was like a dream – people and things were completely different from those I remembered. Streets were like if they were made from a construction set. Buildings of glass and metal were sparkling. It was possible to see what was inside apartments. After a while I noticed that everyone was living on his own. But a strange thing was that I didn't see any children. Those people didn't have families, everybody wanted to live alone. I became to feel sad and scared. I suddenly had a feeling that that was the way the world was going to die. It was like all the sci-fi movies I had seen before. They became reality. I wished I hadn't woken up.

2nd place

Nikola Rybová

ZŠ Šlapanice, Šlapanice

I visited the Earth in 2112

What I looked out the window, I saw only the high office. It was cold Tuesday morning and snow began to fall out. I went on escalators to the kitchen, which was on the ground floor.

Our domestic robot Benjamin handed me my Tuesday breakfast – chocolate balls with milk. After breakfast, I punched out clothes and all the things on my iRobot, I dressed and went out. I went to my new Ferrari and went to work.

I worked as a journalist. I stopped off on the way to my favourite bakery and bought a croissant for lunch. Near the bakery was lying on the ground a little robot and made horrible noises. I quickly ran to him and tried to find out what happened to him. I've checked the screws. They were all fine.

I noticed that his metal leggs got rusty. It really had to hurt. I took him in my arms, carried in the car and went quickly to the hospital. In the middle of our way, near the bank, I saw another robot, lying on the ground. I stopped the car, got out and went to see him. And just as I thought, he was also rusty.

I took him and put him in the car to the other robot, I went and what I saw: more and more robots lying on the ground. I drove quickly to the hospital and I told the doctors that I saw a lot of robots that looked like these two. The doctors called to the robot agency.

The agency sent their employees, who went to look for other robots in the streets. The next day I got a call from the hospital. The doctors recovered all the robots. They found that it caused the snow. I was happy, and went to get morning coffee for breakfast and read the paper. Right on the front page I saw my name. There was written: „Nikola Rybova, a savior of robots“. And then I woke up. It was an interesting dream.

3rd place

Veronika Boguschová

Gymnázium Kladno

I visited the Earth in 2112

We were waiting in front of the locked door. Then, some man opened the door and said:

„ Everything is ready. It’s your turn. ‘‘

Then, we entered that room. There was a time machine. We got in and that man turned it on. We were going for a concert in year 2112. Trips like this were usual in this time, but a little bit expensive. In our time, there are no musical instruments, because no one can make it or play it. Sometimes somebody tries to make something like a musical instrument, but it usually doesn’t work. The only way, how to perform music are the music panels. You stand in front of it and start to imagine the music. It’s effective, but the magic of the music is gone.

We landed in a forest. We got out of our machine and we started to go towards the city we saw in the distance.

When we arrived to the city, we started to ask, where the concert hall is. We found it quite fast – they were performing Mozart’s Requiem this night. There were probably two hours to the start of the concert, so we were walking around the city.

We were sitting in the concert hall. I was very excited. Suddenly, the lights turned off slowly, and the beautiful music started. Then, another lights turned on, so we could see the musicians on the stage. There were so many instruments, I couldn’t name a lot of them. Violinists were moving their fiddlesticks really fast. I couldn’t understand it, how do they do this. It was the biggest, the strongest and the most beautiful experience I ever had.

We were slowly going towards the time machine. We got in, and it took us back home.

4th place

Jan Kulhánek

ZŠ Cyrila Boudy, Kladno

I visited the Earth in 2112

I was driving in my new car through Sydney. I was on Elmes street near the docks. Suddenly a cat jumped in front of

my car. I turned the steering wheel and the car took the direction right towards the sea. I rode on the docks and at the end of the longest dock the car flew up and ended up in the water. I lost control of my car and the worst of all, I couldn't get out of it. When I thought I would die a powerful green light beamed into my eyes. I fell asleep at that moment...

When I woke up, I was in front of the docks in my car. I thought that somebody might have got me out by a special technology. But one thing grabbed my attention. There were the ships on the water. They weren't in the water but on the water. They had flat bottoms and looked like those from Star trek. In the middle of my thoughts a small boy came up to me and asked me where I got this old car from. I stared at him. I told him that was a new BMW model! He asked me some more questions and then told me it was the year 2112. When he understood that I had not understood, he stared in my eyes. In that moment I understood everything. I understood the world's biggest mysteries and amazingly the hidden purpose of life. It was a shock.

The worst of all was that I suddenly knew that I will die and my death will be a huge world mystery joined up with the unknown space. I was horrified. I wanted home. An unknown force took control of my body and rode into the sea. I died in MY time.

5th place

Aleš Beran

Gymnázium Kladno

I visited the Earth in 2112

As the title says, I visited year 2112. I've seen enough things to write whole books about it but unfortunately I'm limited by my skills and by maximal length of it.

The world has changed a lot. I visited cities burned to ashes and ruins of skyscrapers covered with dust and sand, I've seen skeletons and broken cars. Overall the technological difference from our age wasn't as big as I expected. All that broken things looked very similar to ones from our year. I was very surprised because of those skeletons on streets. Most of them were laying very near to some kind of weapon, so most of the citizens had to be soldiers. I finally met human, who was alive, but he wasn't able to speak. He was wearing rags and he showed me way underground, where I found about two hundred „people“ . However one of them (he looked very old, his face was covered in wrinkles) could talk and he told me what happened.

There were wars at Earth even in our age. Libya, Afghanistan... USA has grown to giant country covering whole America and thanks to it strikes at „terroristic“ states, they captured enough resources to start war with whole Europe. But most of European countries simply let Americans occupy their homeland. America was now covering three continents – America, Africa and Europe. Eastern states feared that Americans will strike on them too, so they decided to make alliance against USA. However Government in Washington didn't want to risk war with whole Asia at once, so they made bomb, that was able to blow up half of the continent itself and intoxicate air in giant radius. Government also feared of possible human's failure and they tried to launch that bomb using a specially programmed robot. But somehow the robot launched it on Sahara desert, blowing up not only most of Africa, but also big part of Europe. Intoxication of air was so bad that it destroyed life in big radius. Only few survived, and thanks to their help I am now back in 2012 and hoping that we will be able to prevent ourselves from that kind of future. We must not let governments lead us to the end...

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