

The Reader

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Home Alone – Christmas tradition

When you can watch *Home Alone* on TV, it is the best sign that Christmas has arrived. *Home Alone* (1990), directed by Chris Columbus, is not a film - it is tra-



dition.

In fact, it is a great family story about a child, Kevin (Macaulay Culkin), who stays home alone.

The plot is set in winter at Christmas Eve. The film

starts when the whole McCallister family is going to Paris for holiday. Kevin (8 years old) cannot find himself in the preparation for the journey. It is the

evening before the flight and he cries, complains and disturbs. His mother sends him to the attic. Then the whole family oversleeps! McCallister's family has only 5 minutes to get to the airport. They take everything apart from... Kevin. He must do all the

things which his parents usually do and, most importantly, he must take care about himself and the house. Then the story starts.

I'm 18 years old and I have

seen this film 16 times. I hate Christmas but I cannot imagine it without Kevin. Christmas Eve without *Home Alone* is stupid and hopeless. I love Macaulay Culkin in this role. I think he is the best. I think that among my peers there isn't anyone who has never watched this film before. If there is - now it is time to change it. *Home Alone* is a great film, even in summer ;).

Maja Kędra II d

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The new school

On the first day of secondary school I got up early in the morning. It was such a big day. I was so

excited. I went to school by bus. I was afraid. I was wearing a white blouse and a black skirt. My teacher was friendly and talkative. I quickly got to know the people from my class. They were

confident and funny. I'd already known a few girls from my old school. The atmosphere in the class was good. I

think that my first day at secondary school was really great.

Now I'm in my second year at this school. I think that I've made the right choice. This school's taught me a

lot and it will give me the opportunity to continue my education at prestigious universities.

Paulina Rus II a

Now, it's time to relax.



To have time for our hobbies, for our family, even for our pets Because... Polish „ekstraklasa” is off till the end of February! Everybody who is a great football supporter, loves watching challenges of our not-exactly-great teams and can't live without wasted opportunities for goals

has to begin a rehab. Yes. It's the right time. The last chance. Fasten your seat belt and don't watch previous

matches. It's time for you, for your powers and might – if they're strong enough and because of them you

can stand a few weeks without crying in front of the telly. With the first whistle – there will be no way for changing something in our lives. Our rehab will be ended.

We have to use this period for something new. Pay a visit to your grandparents – they will be for sure

surprised, they will be asking if you are healthy. Then, after a few hours, they will notice that you are completely fine and nothing is wrong, apart from the lack of your psyche destroyed by football, but they had already got to know about it. We will change the scenery (just please, don't go to the city, where your favourite team plays. It's a rehab, not the opportunity to go to the stadium!). Go for a walk, just to feel fresh air and not to hear chants appropriate for Polish teams. Find a hobby, which is not connected with football. Begin to take photos, to draw, to sing, to dance. Be open to the world. Even reading books will be good for you (not about Ryan Giggs, I know that is a new best-seller but do not dare touch it!) There are many different things, which you can do! It is really important for people, who are addicted to...actually, what?

Ok, I have to admit, that in other countries football is placed at the highest position, grows to something sacred. People organise pilgrimages to stadiums, they're possessed by commentators. But, in Poland, the level of games is not quite high. If I want to be honest, I have to admit that even the Azeris, who are near the Chinese border, play better, than we do (elimination for UEFA Europe League: Chazar Lenkoran – Lech Poznań, which ended with draw). I don't have to look for examples in Azerbaijan. Just have a look at our Polish pitches. Come on. In my life I have

never seen a league, where wasted chances are present as often as coaching changes in Wisła Kraków in the last few years and people still spend money on tickets. It is the phenomenon of Poland! We call our footballers no-talents without any perspectives, we say that they've got problems with viewfinders and we still support them. It isn't normal, especially, when I add, that everybody is conscious what the level of our league is. So why?

I don't know. I don't even know, how I started watching matches. But there is one thing I know for sure – there is no escape. If you fall into this trap just once, you will never find a way back home. Maybe the answer is connected with patriotism, with desire of being proud and hope for better times. Maybe now it's time for a goal? No? Bar! And what a wonderful shot! It is of course the fault of the referee, we outplayed them! Over 90 minutes of crying, shouting and euphoria. Even a pregnant woman hasn't got such a wide range of moods in such a little period of time! Then – as usual – parents will be sending us to a psychiatrist, but as usual – all will end up with threats. Please – just try. With the day of Friday, 22.02.2013 our life returns to normal. Hello! I'm Ola and I'm addicted to Polish „ekstraklasa”. Yes, I hope that now it's time for a goal!

Aleksandra Sieczka, IIC



Volleyball Amateur League

There has been one interesting event taking place in Radomsko for some time. Since about 15th November every Thursday and Friday amateurs of volleyball have had an unusual opportunity to try their best in a real competition. It is called "Volleyball Amateur League" and is organized by MOSIR of Radomsko.

There are 8 teams taking part in this contest: II LO, I LO, Elektryk, Drzewniak, Mechanik, PG5, Blok Dobryczyce and Kamieński. All of them have already shown incredible skills in recently played matches. Even if abilities of each

group are very different, each game is absorbing.

In the first part of this tournament all teams play with each other and then once again in return matches. Finally the best of them meet in semi-finals. At the end of the competition two best teams fight in the final for the cup or medals.

Our team has a great chance to win the cup. Students from our school have shown their amazing performance in all their matches winning almost all of them. They have lost



only 1 match so far.

So if you are interested in volleyball and you have some spare time come and join us!

Agata Zienkiewicz II B

'Dźwięk 44 ulic'

On 10th November 2012 there was the first festival of hip-hop music in Radomsko. The name of this festival is 'Dźwięk 44 ulic' (The Sound of 44 Streets). The city council and young people organised a freestyle contest, few concerts and graffiti & beatbox lessons. People in different ages could listen to music from our city and more. Different bands played at the

festival: Emżet, Ace, The GrubyMC, Szopen, Człowieczek and Typowy Maro who are from Radomsko and BCZ from Łódź. I interviewed one of the listeners who was at the festival. I hope that festival was a good option for young artists of our city. They could show us their hobbies and skills. I remember the best concerts because artists gave listeners a lot of

fun, good music and energy. I think that festival was a good occasion for people who know nothing about hip-hop culture. I and my friends had a very good time at the festival and we will come there one more time.

Błażej Gołębiowski I e

*'People in different ages
could listen to music
from our city'*

2013 Graduation Ball

A graduation ball is a traditional party organized by high school students a hundred days before final exams. This is a very special treat and it leaves wonderful memories. It is a very important day for all the students of the third class.

Our party was held on 1st February 2013 in the sports hall (in the gym of a school) in Stobiecko Szlacheckie. At the prom there were about

400 guests including students, invited guests and the teaching staff. The ball was opened at 8 p.m. by the polonaise, a traditional Polish dance. 40 pairs of all third classes danced polonaise. Dancing a waltz is also the tradition of our school. Students danced this dance with form teachers. It was very spectacular and beautiful. Later feasting and dancing began and lasted till dawn.

The prom ended at 7 a.m. the next day. I am sure I will always remember my graduation ball as the most successful party in my life.

Monika Dygudaj III e

The 21st Final of "Wielka Orkiestra Świątecznej Pomocy"



This year there was the 21st WOŚP Final. During this event money was collected to save the lives of children and to provide medical care for seniors. On 14th January on the account of the foundation there had already been 14 million.

WOŚP is a charity run by

Jerzy Owsiak, whose main objective, according to the statute, is activity related to protection of health by saving lives

of sick people, especially children, and working to improve their health. The best known form of this foundation's activities is an annual nationwide event called "The Final of WOŚP".

The basic elements of this Final are music concerts. Incomes from these concerts are for the purposes of foundation. During the Finals many other forms of which takes place in the streets with a number of volunteers. We can support the foundation not only once a year, of course. We can transfer 1 percent of our tax to support children's

hospices throughout the year. The foundation received a statue of Children's Heart Award from the association "Serce" from Świdnica.

Activities like this one are becoming more and more popular in Poland. At first, Jerzy Owsiak had a lot of opponents and wasn't too famous. Now his foundation is the largest charity in Poland. Most people want to help others if they can. I think activity of foundations is necessary, it's great that the community is eager to help because we don't know when we may need help.

Joanna Kowalczyk, II b



"Never back down"

One day when I was at school, completely exhausted, and I had no power to act, I saw a strange CD in my bag. I was really surprised and curious how it had got there and what it contained so I decided to check. Inside there was a note, 'Remember not to give up'. As soon as I came back home, I turned it on. This was a film, not an ordinary one, but the best I've ever seen.

"Never back down" is a drama produced in 2008 in the USA directed by

Jeff Wadlow. The main roles are Sean Faris (as Jake Tyler), Cam Gigandet (as Ryan McCarthy- Jake's opponent) and Amber Heard (as Baja Miller). The plot is about love, friendship, willpower and fight- of course not only in the literal but also figurative sense. The main character has to deal with his weaknesses but thanks to his friends he succeeds. It teaches not to give up, ever, always overcome difficulties and fears, it shows how to win. This film isn't for everyone be-

cause it contains a lot of violence, suffering, tears, even blood.

I don't regret the time spent on this drama, I think I've learned something and want to recommend it to everyone who is interested in movies. I'm really grateful to the person who dropped me the CD.

Joanna Kowalczyk, II b

"Feel the magic of music"

Do you like rock, punk, metal, reggae or folk? If you listen to these kinds of music Przystanek Woodstock has been created for you!

Przystanek Woodstock is a huge summer festival in Poland. The organizer is WOŚP (The Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity (with Jurek Owsiak) - the biggest charity foundation in our country. The festival is organized to thank volunteers and people who help at WOŚP. Przystanek Woodstock is always organized at the end of July

or the beginning of August.

Admission is totally free!

The first Woodstock was in

1995 in Czymanowo. The

main slogan was - "Love,

Friendship, Music". It at-

tracted 30 000 people. The

groups who played were -

IRA, Myslovitz, Urszula, etc.

Now, Przystanek Woodstock

is attracting even 700 000 peo-

ple from all over the

world. Popular stars

from different coun-

tries participate in

the festival, for ex-

ample: Farben Lehre,

Indios Bravos, Haba-

kuk, Gentleman, Sabaton,

Damian Marley, The Prodigy, Zion Train, etc.

This year, 19th Przystanek Woodstock will be

held on 1st - 3rd of August in Kostrzyn on

Odra. The young artist, who sings reggae,

Kamil Bednarek, will start the festival. Gooral,

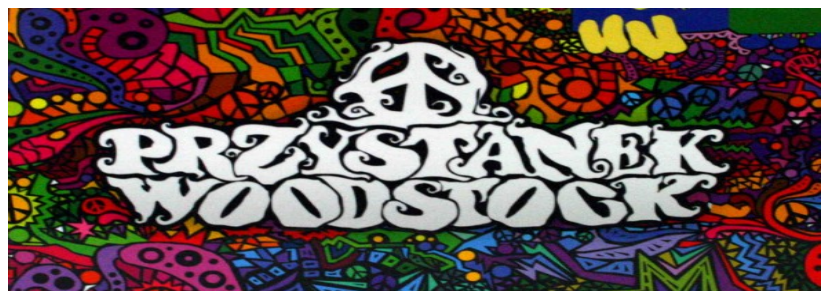
Anthrax, Ugly Kid Joe, Enter Shikari will also

perform. Przystanek Woodstock isn't only a

festival! It's a lifestyle, unforgettable experi-

ence and great fun. Are you going to partici-

pate?



Kinga Walczak I a

"Something different"

When I got to the door, I suddenly realised that something was wrong.

The door was open. That day I had lost my keys but I hadn't considered that someone could have broken into my apartment.

I noticed nervously that on the wall there was a piece of paper. Somebody had written on it using blood, 'Follow the arrows!!' Who could have done this to me?! I had started to wonder whose blood it was. There was sinister silence around here. Evil was sneaking in shadow so I wandered to my apartment. Was anyone still there? Or maybe someone had been waiting for me? It was terribly cold inside. I spot-

ted that all the windows were open. I closed them slowly and went to the kitchen where I found two pieces of papers - an arrow showing entrance to my living room and on the second one there was an inscription, 'Take a flashlight!!'

I thought that someone stupid was joking. All of a sudden, lights went out. I was scared. I started calling out 'You cannot kill me!! I have a little dog!.' In the darkness, I fell into a chair and probably I twisted a bone. Immediately, I picked up the flashlight and walked limping to the door of the living room. I made out a sign on it, 'Prepare for the worst!!'. A little below those words

there was another sign which said, 'Only for my dear victim ;) ' Was he trying to scare me?'

I opened the doors. I was momentarily blinded by the light. Just then I heard, 'Surprise! Happy birthday!'

Barbara Strączyńska kl. IIb

Why not so French?

It was the 5th time when my family was entertaining a member from a student exchange. But A. was the first boy and first person from France who was sleeping at my house. He was tall, 16- years old, but looking really younger. He was a new, interesting experience which helped me to eliminate stereotypes again. So, I will share them with you.

- When we think 'French', we mean a smart, elegant, stubborn, vain and arrogant person. Nothing like that! A. was a really cute and out-going person. Although we had problems to communicate (he cannot speak English too well), we spent nice evenings.
- The French eat only sea food, frogs and snails. False! Only rich people can afford to eat them, but not so often. Generally, the French do not like these specialties, they prefer more common meals.

- They do not like foreigners, consider themselves to be the best in the world. Next mistake. The best example of French tolerance is my new friend. His parents come from Algeria, his whole family lives there. Religion? Islam. Culture? Arabic. What was nice was that he totally respected us, Catholics, and our ceremonies.

What was completely strange for me was perfect tidiness in his wardrobe and suitcase! He drank only water! He did not step on the carpet in slippers! And he enjoyed watching the Polish soap opera 'M jak miłość'.

A. was really different than my other guests. But totally cute and I will never forget that short time which we spent together.

JB

Poem translated into Polish

*Original text used at the farewell party
ending the 3rd exchange with our French
friends from Lycée René Descartes in
Rennés on 1st February*



Translated into Polish by Sylwia Orlik I f

He poured the coffee
Into the cup
He put the milk
Into the cup of coffee
He put the sugar
Into the coffee with milk
With a small spoon
He stirred
He drank the coffee
And he put down the cup
Without speaking to me

He lighted
A cigarette
He made circles
With the smoke
He shook off the ash
Into the ashtray
Without speaking to me
Without looking at me

He got up
He put
A hat on his head
He put on
A raincoat
Because it was raining
And he left
In the rain
Without a word
Without looking at me
And I buried
My face in my hands
And I cried.

Nalał kawę
Do filiżanki
Umieścił mleko
W filiżance kawy
Umieścił cukier
W filiżance kawy z mlekiem
Małą łyżeczką
Zamieszał
Wypił kawę
Odłożył filiżankę
Nie mówiąc do mnie

Zapalił
Papierosa
Puścił kółka
Z dymu
Strząsnął popiół
Do popielniczki
Nie mówiąc do mnie
Nie patrząc na mnie
Wstał
Włożył
Kapelusz na głowę
Założył
Płaszcz przeciwdeszczowy
Ponieważ padał deszcz
I wyszedł
W deszczu
Bez słowa
Nie patrząc na mnie
A ja schowałam
Twarz w moich dłoniach
I płakałam