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**CONOCO: “COping with NO mobility during COrona Virus times: Learning from each other”**  
**Project Number: 2020-1-CY01-KA204-066035**

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**Title of Presentation: LEARNING TO COPE WITH THE UNEXPECTED**  
**Name of presenters: DANIELA FLORESCU, CRISTINA RADU**

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*“Since Covid-19 emerged to a pandemic in 2020, it has compelled many governments around Europe to take extreme measures of lockdown to a degree unimaginable up to then. As a result millions of Europeans were forced to stay home for an extended period of time. This new reality found most, unprepared to adapt their working, leaving, producing, creating, learning, teaching and living habits and be as productive and effective while staying at home.”* (CONOCO project proposal)



## EUROSTAT – THE STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

According to it, Romania was reported of having the second lowest rate of home-workers (0.8%) followed by Bulgaria (0.5%), on the list of the European Member States for remote-working in 2019.

With a working population of about 7 million people, out of whom about 234 000 were teachers, 0.8 % (if any) was quite discouraging – to say the least! - for anyone who could have foreseen that ALL the teachers would suddenly be forced to start working from home, due to the measures taken by the authorities, in order to prevent the coronavirus spreading.



Teachers in Romania had no choice but to struggle with their own **LOW-TECH PROFILE**.

The main issue was **the lack** of both **DIGITAL SKILLS** and **PROPER EQUIPMENT**, which made their attempts to cope with such an unexpected twist of life even more difficult (see *photos on slide 4* – improvising was the key).

A lot of teachers in our school and in Romania, in general, only used **WHATSAPP** and **GMAIL** as ways of communication before the pandemic, and were not active on any other social media, so no Facebook, no Twitter, no Messenger, no Instagram, no digital platform at all. (*present Annex – LTTA School Study Case*)

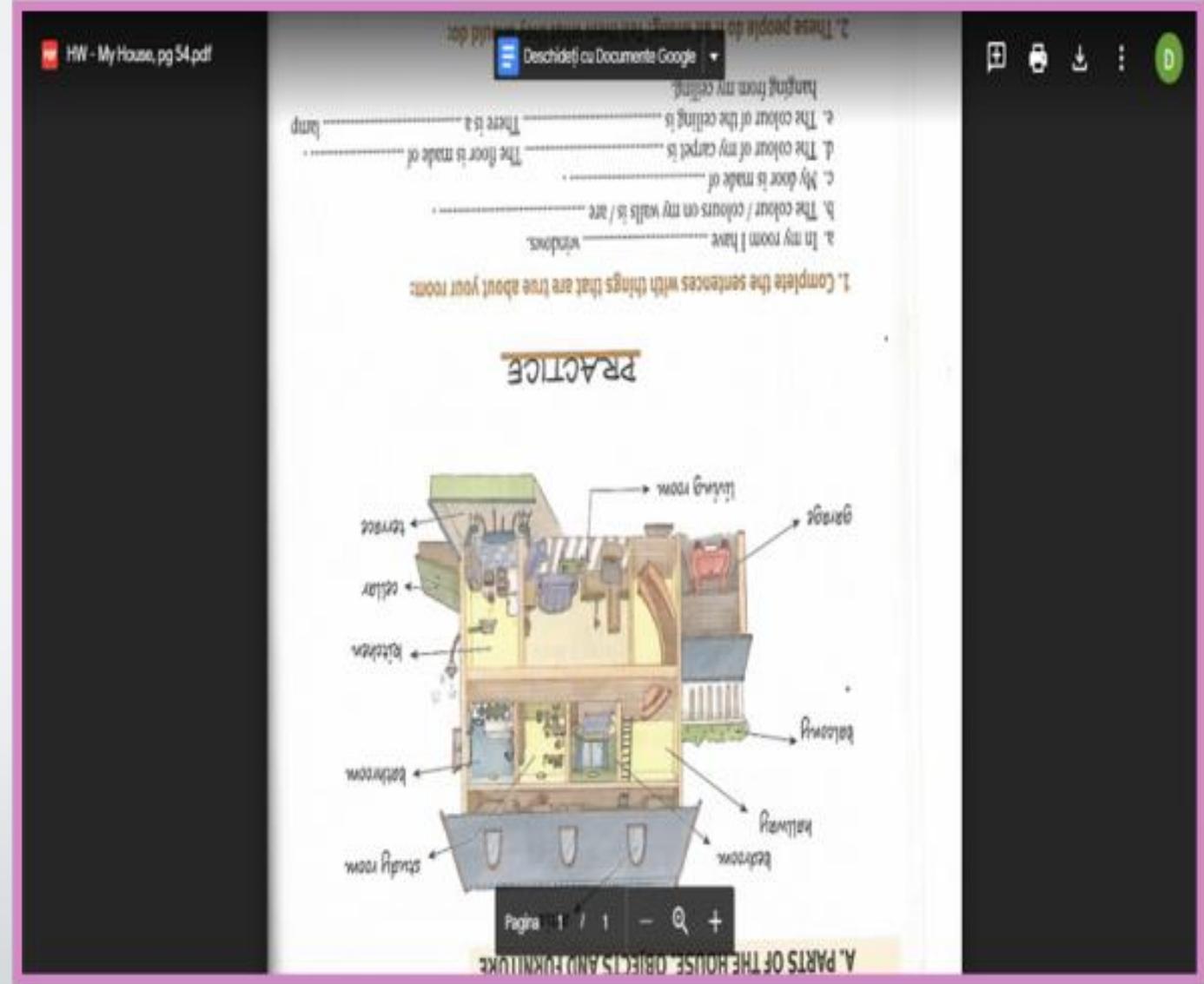




# GOOGLE CLASSROOM

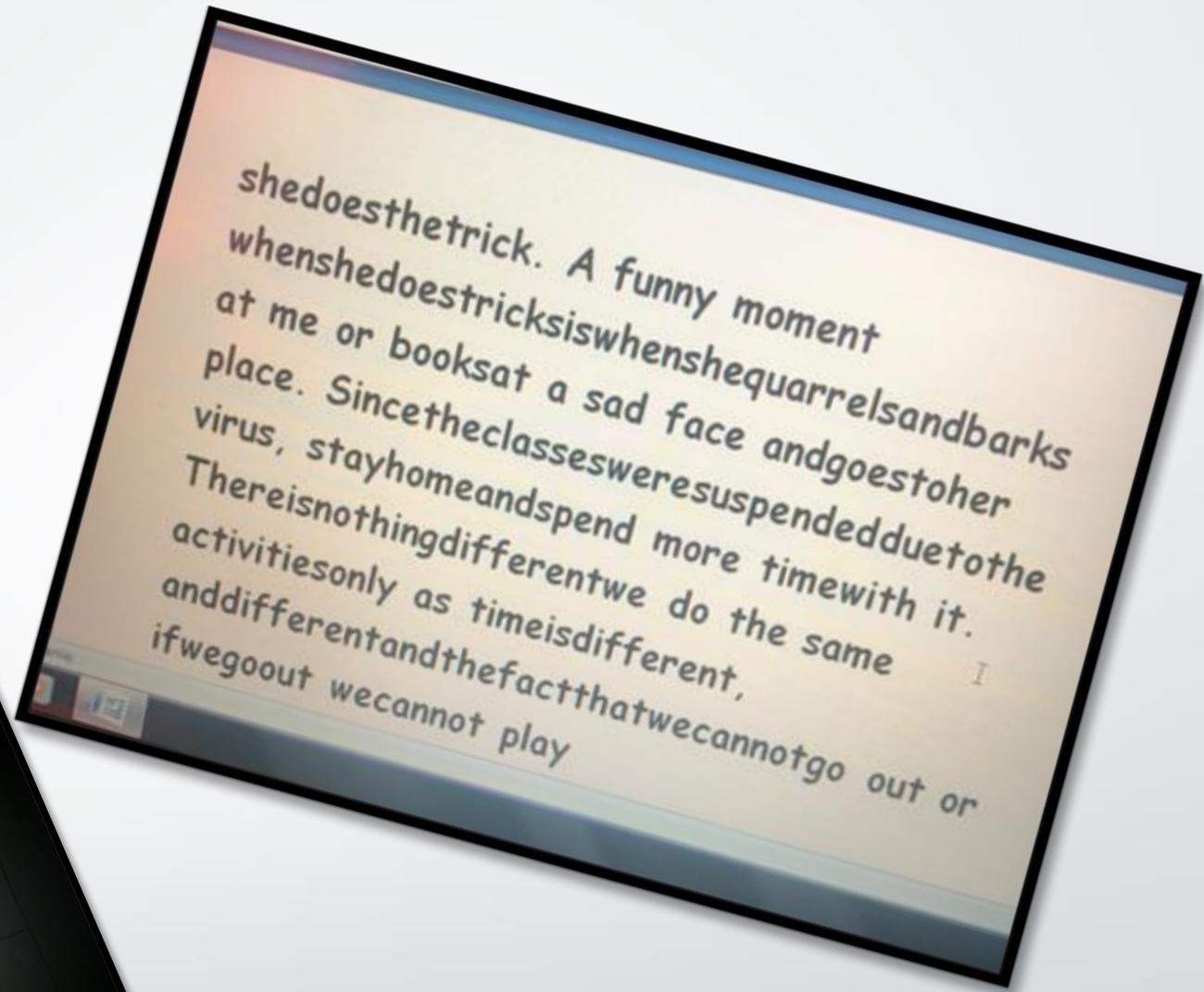
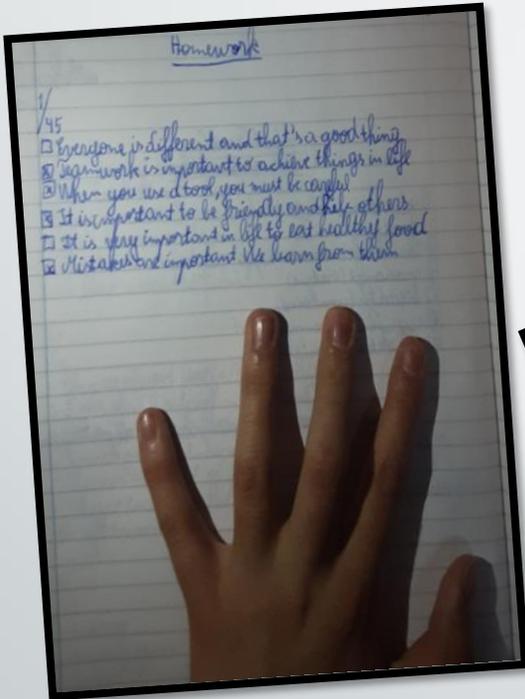
When our school decided to use Google Classroom for the online learning-teaching process during the lockdown period and succeeded in implementing this platform, there were some hilarious moments both for teachers and their students.

For example, the first worksheets uploaded on the platform by some teachers were upside down:



# GOOGLE CLASSROOM

Even the students' homework posts were far from being perfect



During that pure chaos full of obsessive urges, restrictive orders and alarming news that put psychological pressure on us, despite all the issues that teachers had to deal with every single day, they had to move on with their profession and try to be successful in their teaching approach, by finding solutions to keep up with their students' constant desire - or at least need - to be motivated to continue studying and remaining active online and not being affected by the dramatic reality around them





# TEACHING ENGLISH WHILE FIGHTING THE UNEXPECTED



## EXAMPLES OF GOOD PRACTICES

TRYING TO SET CREATIVE, ENGAGING TASKS MEANT  
TO OFFER STUDENTS A POSITIVE eLEARNING EXPERIENCE DURING LOCKDOWN

**Activity 1: QUARANTINE QUATRAINS** (7th & 9th graders)

**Vocabulary:** related to the coronavirus crisis (Covid-19, pandemic, quarantine , masks etc)

**Description:** Quatrains are poems made of one or more stanzas of 4 lines each.

E.g. “Roses are red/ April is grey/ I hope we can leave/ Our houses in May!”

**Procedure:** Ss are supposed to make up quatrains on the topic of the pandemic, using specific vocabulary and expressing their own thoughts about the situation we have to cope with. Ss’ literary and digital skills alike are obvious in the examples below

Student: Robert Călinoiu, 9th Grade  
School: "Tudor Arghezi" High School  
Coord. Teacher: Daniela Florescu

Let's help people from first lane,  
'Cause this virus gets insane!  
Please, don't take it as a game,  
Things will never be the same.

I know you want them as before the quarantine,  
But for now, we are in front of a screen,  
Thinking of what it all became  
And when our freedom will we reclaim.

STUDENT: ALEXANDRU DANIEL AVRAM, 9TH GRADE  
SCHOOL: "TUDOR ARGHEZI" HIGH SCHOOL  
COORD. TEACHER: DANIELA FLORESCU

## CORONAVIRUS

THIS VIRUS HAS INSTANTLY  
SPREAD  
AND MADE THE WORLD MAP SO  
AWFULLY RED.  
FROM FAR AWAY CHINA IT CAME  
RIGHT TO US,  
BUT SPENDING MORE TIME WITH  
FAMILIES IS A PLUS!

Student: Claudia Geampalia, 9th Grade  
School: "Tudor Arghezi" High School  
Coord. Teacher: Daniela Florescu

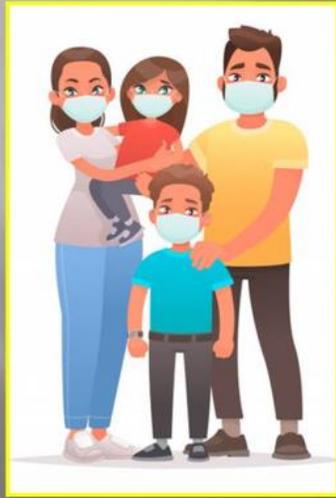


We stay home in  
self-isolation  
Watching Tv for some  
inspiration  
But nothing is  
interesting anymore  
'Cause we have no idea  
what future has in store.

Corona virus has spoilt  
our spring  
We are not in the mood to  
happily sing  
For almost a month now,  
everybody's been in panic  
Because the infection and  
death rate are getting  
titanic.



## Iraida Stepan



If we home stay  
We can go out in May,  
If we wear masks on faces,  
We can go to different places.

It all depends on us  
To finally see each other in class,  
We will protect ourselves more,  
So we can soon meet at store.

## Daria Ciulcu

People live the time of  
coronavirus disease  
And it seems like a  
period of crisis  
But, even if they are deprived  
of liberty,  
They should be happy to  
spend time with their

FAMILY



All we have to do is follow the rules  
Our future depends on what we do  
You can save lives by staying at home  
You can be our hero, so help us once more !



Student: Cristian Zaharia, 9th Grade  
School: "Tudor Arghezi" High School  
Coord. Teacher: Daniela Florescu

## Activity 2: PANDEMIC LETTERS (12th graders)

**Writing skill:** informal letters

**Description:** revising the style, the layout, the language and the specific greetings and endings used in informal letters

**Procedure:** Ss are supposed to write a letter to a real or imaginary friend or relative from abroad, sending him/her a message of encouragement and advising him/her how to spend time in self-isolation, during this challenging period of facing the pandemic.

!!! The letters were actually sent to students in 5 Erasmus+ project partner organisations from Italy, Spain, Poland, North Macedonia and Greece, in order to express our empathy with all the Covid-19 victims around Europe. The feedback received was really impressive. The students in the countries mentioned above were really happy to receive these letters and sent “thank you” replies to my students.

Orsova, Romania  
29th March, 2020

Dear friend,

It's been quite a while since I last heard from you. Hopefully this letter finds you well, even if the times we are living in are not the best.

I'm sure you are flooded with news about the Coronavirus pandemic every day, as it is everywhere on the internet and on TV. Everyone is talking about it. Honestly, it is a very serious situation, one the world hasn't had to cope with in the last century I guess. But now we should all calm down and follow safety measures. Anxiety does nobody good, it just makes things worse and that's why I'm telling you to keep your calm and take care of you.

As long as we respect sanitary precautions, so washing our hands properly, use gloves, mask and by all means, avoid going outside, then the pandemic is going to be stopped in a few months. Then even if we don't see each other face to face, we still have our phones at hand to communicate, or letters, even video calls.

Now let's just be optimistic. We have a lot of time on our hands, so it is the right moment to do what we love, practice our hobbies, or keep up with the schoolwork. There is plenty to do.

Overall, I hope you are doing well and willing to at least take advantage of some free time. I'm awaiting your reply and can't wait to see each other when all this madness ends.

Best wishes,  
Cosmin



Orsova, Romania  
29th March, 2020

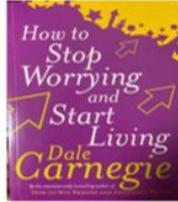
Dear Olive,

I am writing this letter to you because I am extremely worried about this hard situation all around the world. I want to know if you feel well and safe in Spain, as I have seen on TV that there are many cases of coronavirus in your country.

I strongly advise you to spend more time in the house, with your family, and not outside, where danger may be hidden anywhere. I recommend you to do as many things as possible, in order to make your home-stay be creative and pleasant.

For example, you can read an interesting book about success or a love story, maybe, because I know these are your favourite types of books.

After reading the book, you can cook something special and delicious for your family to surprise them. I, for instance, I surprised my family with some pancakes.



No matter how much you may want to go out, please don't do it! It's dangerous for your health! You can listen to music, dance, write in your diary every day, communicate online with your friends and so on. All these activities will make boredom go away.

In the end, I hope everything will be ok and I can't wait to see each other. Take care

Love,  
Andreea

Craiova, Romania  
28th March, 2020

Dear Zela,

The last weeks have been very hard for everybody all over the world. The new Coronavirus keeps causing many losses. I know that in your country, Italy, the virus created a disaster and I hope you and your family are safe by staying home.

Here, in Romania, the situation is getting worse. The authorities have taken safety measures. People aren't allowed to go out anymore, except for those situations in which they have to go shopping, they have a medical emergency or they are going to work. I have been staying at home for two weeks now and it is not great. I miss my friends and my grandparents, but I am aware of the gravity of the situation and I know this is the best choice that all of us should make. I am aware that staying home every day for an unknown period of time could be really boring and frustrating, at the same time. I thought that myself at the beginning, but then I realized I could only benefit from it.

For example, since I could no longer go out of the house, I have been focusing more on studying. I am trying to take advantage of my free time to prepare more thoroughly for my school leaving examination.

Of course there are moments when I simply get bored or tired of staying in the house and learning, but I try to do things that make me happy. I enjoy cooking a lot, so now I not only watch cooking shows on TV but I also cook for my family, which is quite exciting. Also, you know how much I enjoy watching movies. I think I've seen every single film I wanted to, so it seems I'm out of options right now. Any suggestions?

This whole situation is very bad and all the countries and the people affected by it should stay strong and not disobey what authorities ask us to do.  
Stay home! Stay alive! I can't wait to see you when our Planet finally manages to cure itself!

Take care!  
Roberta



Craiova, Romania  
19th March, 2020

Dear Juan,

Thank you very much for your last letter. It was great to hear from you in these tough times. I know that the situation with this virus is very fragile in your country, Spain, so I decided to cheer you up with my letter.

Thank you for your kind words and encouragements. I love reading your letters, so this is why I decided to be a good friend and do the same for you because happiness is the best way of defeating sadness and bad mood this virus is inflicting amongst us.

Firstly, don't forget to wash your hands thoroughly and avoid touching your face as much as possible, avoid staying near people who show signs of infection, actually avoid all strangers, because you never know who is infected and who isn't.

Secondly, don't be fooled by the temptation of going outside, take care of yourself and leave your house only if needed, for buying food and supplies, and try to take a bunch of them to limit your exposure to the outside world. I know it's tough, but it's up to us to make it easier or tougher than it is now.

By the way, don't stack toilet paper, you won't need 1000 rolls :)))  
Take care of yourself and stay healthy, buddy. I hope to hear from you soon!

Take care,  
Alexandra



My dear friend,

Craiova, Romania  
28th March, 2020

I apologize this letter does not include a new cake recipe or any good news, but it is a letter that reflects my worries in this difficult time.

I am worried because many people do not realize the seriousness of the situation and do not treat it seriously, which makes me terribly anxious. I'm afraid things will get worse quickly, like in your country - Italy, and we won't be able to do anything else. It scares me how quickly people get sick there and I can't imagine what terrible times your family, friends, acquaintances are going through. Even if the news is not at all exciting, I look forward to the day we will receive the news that everything is over.

I hope you are well and, please, remain optimistic, even if it seems impossible now. Probably, the only good thing in all this mess is that you have more time to be with your family (I know you missed them so much), but you have even more time for yourself. Although you no longer have the freedom to go outside and spend quality time with your friends, you are free to rediscover yourself, to know your most sincere and faithful friend - yourself.

I know it's hard to have a limited space, even if it is about your own home, but I think you've already discovered so many things to do, things about what existence we had no idea, and the day goes by, unnoticed. It's the right time to start learning how to cook (sorry, but you know that the last pie had a very strange taste), or read the books that have gathered on your shelves, I think they are very interesting and I look forward to putting on Facebook other quotes that you have read.

Finally you have time to change your playlist, watch new movies released on Netflix, and try the make-up seen on the tutorials on youtube (I'm sure you will one day become like Nikkie, and I will be your maid), and try on the new clothes you forgot in the wardrobe (even if you have nowhere to wear them, you can wear them through the hall of the house).

What I think is that this pandemic is an unlearned lesson, which had to be taught. We have not learned how it is TO BE HUMAN so far and we are forced to do it now, in order not to vanish unfortunately, such a state of emergency was needed to stop the agitation and let nature breathe. Stay home for your own good and the others'.

Take a break. Breathe deeply. Be positive. I know you have never felt so alone. But hold on. head up, be calm, be strong. Take care and I can't wait to embrace you!

With love, Cristina



### Activity 3:

# DEFY THE LOCKDOWN REALITY!

(12th graders)

**Description:** Students are supposed to recreate a habitual action that they can no longer perform, because of the lockdown

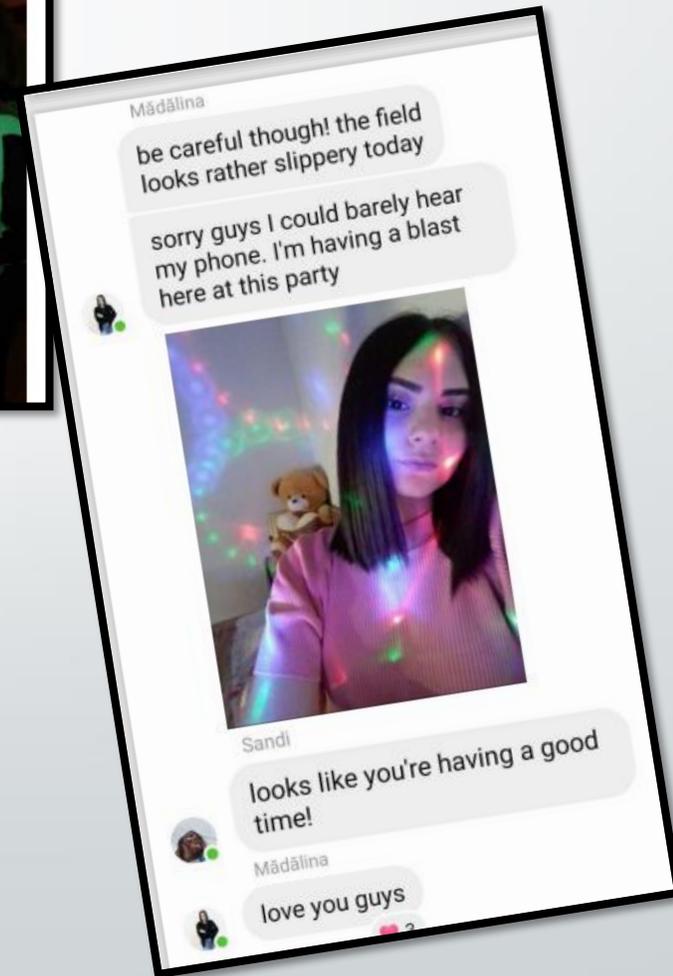
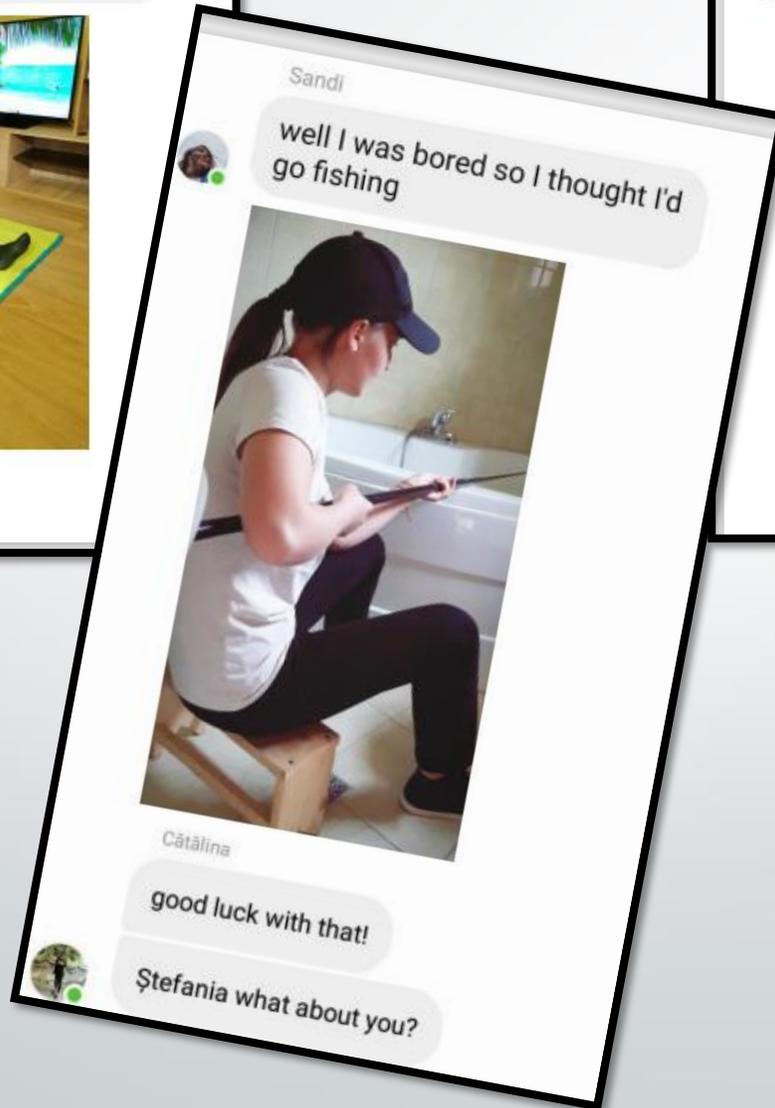
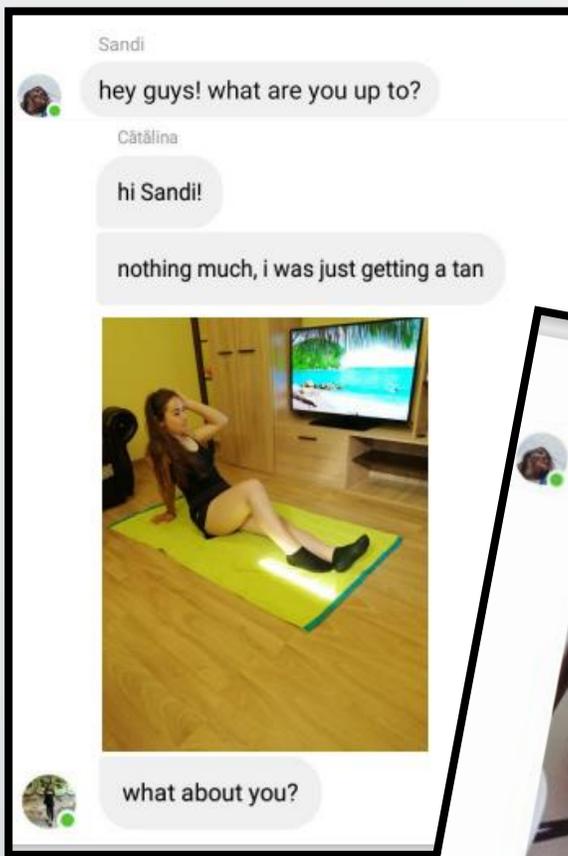
**Procedure:** Teacher shows the students a funny picture that is frequently forwarded on whatsapp groups.

In pairs or in groups of 3 or 4, they are supposed to simulate a funny action and create a dialogue, either in written format or in mp4 format, trying to use their imagination in order to figure it out how they can replace certain things/activities they used to do outside the house, before the lockdown, defying, thus, the bitter restrictive reality!

The aim of this project was to show students how important it is, psychologically speaking, to use **HUMOUR** as a

**COPING MECHANISM.**





Dina Dahche & Bianca Cana, 12 C

Hi,Dina! What's up? Where are you? What are you doing right now?

Hi!!I'm fine! The plane just took off! I'm going to Paris!

Really! I don't believe you! As far as I know , people are asked to shut down all their electronic devices during the flight.. Come on !Take a picture and send it to me!

Look..



Oh,you were not lying to me! How long does it take you to get there?

I have 2 hours left!

Ok. Enjoy your flight! Bye!

Thank you, Bianca! See you soon!

**Hi bogdi!**

**What's up bro?**

**The same. I can't wait to see the day when we all get rid of this stupid virus and all these restrictions. Any cool stuff you've done around the house?**

**I don't believe you, show me!**

**....Wow, cool!**

**Bogdi, what else, if not playing table tennis?**

**Let's hope I can film myself doing that...**

**Hi Laur!**

**Well, I'm at home, of course, because of this virus, you know. What about you, brother?**

**Not much. Only playing some bowling.**

**You, Laur, what have you been doing?**

**Really? It sounds impossible to me. Kind of hard to improvise. Show me!**



## Activity 4

### BE CREATIVE IN ISOLATION

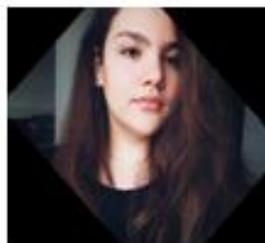
**Description:** Being creative and building things, by using ordinary objects you can find in the house

**Procedure:** Ss are supposed to build something by themselves or together with members of their family , using objects they can find in their own houses, then take a picture and send it to the teacher, together with a short description of the thing they created, mentioning the objects they used.



Student: Alexandra Jumara, 7th Grade  
"Tudor Arghezi" High School  
Coord. Teacher: Daniela Florescu

## *My Dream House*



*Hello! My name is Alexandra and I am going to show you what I have just built. As you can see in the picture, it is a house, but not an ordinary one. It is my dream house. What have I used to build it? Well, to begin with, I have used my school textbooks and notebooks for the walls and the roof. Instead of a real door, I've used a small pocketbook. Then I needed some coloured pencils for the fence and coloured paper for the flowers, the grass and the windows. I like it so much. I hope you like it, too!*

Student: Teodor Boangiu, 7th grade  
"Tudor Arghezi" High School  
Coord. Teacher: Daniela Florescu

## *A spring flower garden*



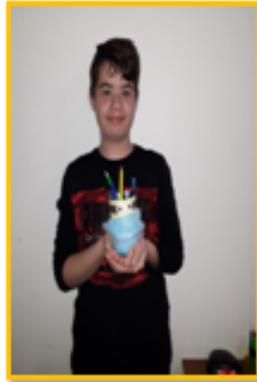
Hello, my name is Teo and I am going to show you what I have just built. As you can see in the pictures, it is a flower made of a plastic bottle. Of course, I have used a plastic bottle, paint and scissors to make the flower.

- Steps:
- I cut the bottle, using the spout end
  - I cut the petal all the way down the spout, trying different shapes and lengths for each flower,
  - I bent the petals
  - I started painting from the centre
  - I waited for them to dry
  - I repeated the process with the bottom of the bottle

Now, in self-isolation, I've managed to build my own spring flower garden! But I know that nothing compares to what real nature is capable of creating. I miss the real garden! I miss the smell of the real spring flowers!

Student: Ștefan Popescu, 7 th Grade  
„Tudor Arghezi” High School  
Coord. Teacher: Daniela Florescu

### *My special pencil holder*



Minion has been my favorite character for a long time. Small, active and determined to do things right. A real model for me and for thousands of other people all over the world.

Today , as you can see in the pictures, it has become a pencil holder. It's something practical and funny, at the same time. It's like having a friend on your desk all the time: while doing your homework, while playing on the computer a.s.o.

However, sadly enough, I can't see its smile these days. Do you know why? For a good reason, for sure: it behaves like the rest of the Earth during the pandemic, by wearing a mask, in order to prevent the Corona virus from spreading. It is a very responsible pencil holder, which makes it even more special. I feel protected when I have responsible friends around. I adore it!

Student:mario Stoica, 7 th Grade  
„Tudor Arghezi” High School  
Coord. Teacher: Daniela Florescu

### *My bottle friend*

Hi! My name is Mario and I'd like to introduce my friend, Robbie, to you. Robbie is a robot, but not any kind of robot. It is a sort of recycled one. I've made it out of things I found in the house, more precisely:

- Two cans instead of the wheels
- A plastic bottle for its body
- Cardboard for the eyes and mouth
- Two straws instead of its arms

Ever since I built it, we have become good friends and I find time to play with it every day.



Student: Iraida Stefan, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade  
"Tudor Arghezi" High School  
Coord. Teacher: Daniela Florescu

### *An original vase*

Hello!

My name is Iraida and I am going to show you what I have just built. As you can see in the picture, it is a vase made of newspapers. Yes, I know it sounds crazy, but it is true and I've built it by myself. I used glue, adhesive tape and newspapers.

I followed the next steps:

1. I cut the newspapers in half and then rolled them.
2. I arranged them in a certain shape and glued them.
3. To maintain its shape, I put the adhesive tape over it.

I really like it because it's colorful, I hope you like it, too.



Student: Daria Ciulcu, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade  
"Tudor Arghezi" High School  
Coord. Teacher: Daniela Florescu

### **FLOWERS**



Hello, my name is Daria and I am going to show you what I have just built. As you can see in the picture, it is a 3D painting. I have used coloured carton, coloured permanent marker, glue and some pasta: spaghetti, farfalle and rice, to build the painting.

First of all, we take the spaghetti sticks and the materials that we will put on the colored cardboard, and we place them as we would like them to look.

After doing the easiest part, we take the glue and place it on the coloured cardboard (this will take a little longer).

Fortunately, the glue I chose dries very quickly, so now all we need to do is colour what we glued with the permanent marker and the coloured crayons. The drawing, in my opinion, came out very well.

For me, art is something useful, that makes me happy and that can make others happy, as well. Now, even when it's spring time, flowers are the most beautiful ornaments. But unfortunately, they wither very quickly....

This 3D drawing has the opportunity to remain just as beautiful even after a year.

## Activity 10: **CINDERELLA** (2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> graders)

**Description:** The pupils play different roles from Cinderella story, by filming themselves at home

**Procedure:** Pupils are supposed to watch the famous Walt Disney cartoon and then read the version of the role-play adapted and posted on Google Classroom by their teacher. In order to listen to the correct pronunciation of the words, they are sent an audio recording of their teacher's voice. They are asked to choose one of the roles and learn it by heart. dress up and then make a video recording while they are playing the role. They are advised to be as natural as possible when playing the role and post the video on the platform. After viewing all of them, the teacher edits a final version of an online role-play, with Imovie phone app.(see videos 1&2)





# CONOCO Partners

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