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Name ROSA VELLA - BRIFFA
Date of Birth [REDACTED]
School SACRED HEART CONVENT
School Address SACRED HEART AVENUE, ST JULIANS, MALTA.
Essay Class C
Essay Number 3
Length of Essay 110 words.

Certified by Headmistress.

I certify that this is Rosa's own composition. Rosa is completely bilingual. Although her relatives speak to her in Maltese-English (a style of language with a certain degree of interference from the Maltese language. It uses mainly Maltese prepositions.) She is exposed to the Maltese language most of the time. Parents and relatives communicate with each other in Maltese even in Rosa's presence. Rosa is a very mature student who has been exposed to a variety of experiences in Malta and abroad.

M. Agius RSCJ

AGIUS RSCJ
 HEADMISTRESS.

CONVENT OF THE SACRED HEART, MARITANA
 ST. JULIAN'S,
 MALTA.

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Villa Calrose,

Marina Street,

Pietà.

Malta G.C.

18th December 1982. 10

Dear Barry,

As Christmas approaches and the weather gets colder, the number of windsurfing enthusiasts here seems, paradoxically, to increase every day. Every Sunday an ever-increasing number of people ranging from five year-olds to middle-aged businessmen come down to the many beaches along our coastline to spend an exhilarating but exhausting day battling with the wind and waves. I know this must seem rather strange to you, living as you do in the huge Canadian prairies, but for us, in Malta, our entire country consists of a little island surrounded by the sea and it seems natural to us to seek enjoyment in the stretch of water separating us, as it were, from the rest of the civilised world. 117

Windsurfing is, today, one of the most popular sports on the island; with the proper equipment and know-how, one may travel at astonishingly high speeds whilst enjoying the feeling of the spray on one's back, the planing motion of the board under one's feet and above all the feeling of control over the elements, mastery of the sea. 58

Although windsurfing is undoubtedly more fun in the winter months when strong winds blow and the sea is rough, somehow the word 'windsurfing' conjures up a mental picture of summer-time Malta, at peace under a blazing sun, surrounded by the wonderfully blue Mediterranean Sea, an undulating sheet gently wrapped round our islands, only wrinkled and creased at the very edges where it laps our shores. Summer in Malta means two things for us Maltese - the sea and the village 'festa'. 80

If you come to Malta during the summer months, as I hope you someday will, you would only see the 'finished product' - that is, a beautiful and colourful pageant of processions, Masses, sports and fireworks. However, for many children in the parishes of the Maltese Islands, a 'festa' means a whole summer of attending committee meetings and choir practices, a summer of helping to prepare for the procession, decorations, sports and music.... in other words, for many people a 'festa' is a type of annual hobby and a very constructive way of spending one's spare time. There is a fair amount of rivalry between parishes, and each strives to make its own 'festa' better than its neighbour's. A festa involves such a lot of preparation that it would be impossible to tell you about it all in detail, but I would like to mention two of the most traditional aspects of the village 'festa' - the 'greasy pole' and the fireworks. 160

The 'greasy pole' is a very popular sport consisting of a slippery pole suspended above the sea. The object of the competition is to walk as far as possible along the pole before slipping into the sea! It requires a great deal of concentration, agility and good balance and provides endless amusement for spectators! The 'greasy pole' is obviously a daytime sport; however, the other main characteristic of the 'festa', the fireworks display, takes place during the night. When the sun has finally set behind the distant hills, the night becomes ablaze with colour and sound. Fireworks of every description illuminate the night-sky, a sight which attracts many tourists. Finally, late at night, when the last firework has gone off, when the last song has been sung and when the tourists have dispersed, the tired children of the parish crawl into their beds to dream about next year's 'festa'! It is a really rewarding way of spending one's free time and it gives one great satisfaction to feel that the credit for this beautiful 'festa' is at least partly due to oneself! 183

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Before I finish off this letter, I would like to suggest another interesting way of spending your spare time if ever you should come to visit our Islands. knowing your love for ornithology, I think you will be interested to hear that a new Nature Reserve will open shortly at Ghadira, in the North of Malta, where visitors will be able to observe the many birds which rest in Malta on their migratory flights to and from colder countries. It is due to open soon and should be very interesting. 9.

I hope you enjoyed my letter, 6

Write soon, 2

Rosa. 1

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