



# SPILL THE INK

Desafío de microcuentos en inglés

**The future, your choices: Make 'em count!**

Selección de ganadores 2024 / Programa Inglés Abre Puertas





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# ***Spill the Ink***

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## Introducción

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El desafío de microcuentos en inglés “Spill the Ink”, organizado por el Programa Inglés Abre Puertas de la División de Educación General en colaboración con la Fundación Instituto Chileno Norteamericano de Cultura de Santiago, tiene como objetivo fomentar el pensamiento crítico a través de la escritura creativa. En este desafío, los estudiantes emplean el idioma inglés para expresar sus ideas, desarrollar su creatividad y conectar con sus emociones.

Durante la edición del 2024, se invitó a estudiantes de educación media de establecimientos públicos a reflexionar en torno al lema: *“The future, your choices: Make ‘em count!”*. Este mensaje, inspirador y empoderador, les animó a considerar cómo cada decisión influye en el desarrollo personal, las expectativas y los sueños.

En esta selección de microcuentos, descubrirás relatos que exploran el poder de las elecciones y su impacto en el futuro. Asimismo, podrás sumergirte en la imaginación y en las experiencias de 16 estudiantes autores, cuyo talento y perspectiva nos recuerdan la importancia de soñar en grande, reflexionar sobre el camino que tomamos y asumir un rol activo en la construcción de nuestro porvenir y bienestar.

Esperamos que, como lector, estas historias también te inviten a profundizar en tus propias metas y visiones de futuro.



## ***Introduction***

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The “Spill the Ink” short story challenge in English, organized by the English Opens Doors Program of the General Education Division in collaboration with the Fundación Instituto Chileno Norteamericano de Cultura de Santiago, aims to foster critical thinking through creative writing. In this challenge, students use the English language to express their ideas, develop their creativity, and connect with their emotions.

During the 2024 edition, public high school students were invited to reflect on the theme: *“The future, your choices: Make ‘em count!”* This inspiring and empowering message encouraged them to consider how each decision impacts personal growth, expectations, and dreams.

In this selection of short stories, you will discover narratives that explore the power of choice and its impact on the future. You will also dig into the imagination and experiences of 16 student authors, whose talent and perspective remind us of the importance of dreaming big, reflecting on the paths we take, and taking an active role in shaping our future and well-being.

We hope that, as a reader, these stories will also invite you to explore your own goals and visions for the future.





**Josefa Ignacia Durán Ulloa**

Tercer año medio, Colegio Alicante de La Florida  
Región Metropolitana

***Two Paths, One Choice***

Emily was sitting in a park, doubtful. She was accepted to the art academy, but also to the university. Her parents wanted her to be a doctor, but her heart belonged to art.

Suddenly, two portals opened in front of her. In one she saw her life as a doctor, full of success but surrounded by sadness. In the other she saw her future as an artist, a simple life but surrounded by happiness.

A decision can completely change the future.

In the end, she decided to choose what she wanted and not what others wanted.













**Trinidad Valentina Medina Neira**

Cuarto año medio, Liceo Polivalente Mariano Latorre  
Región del Biobío

## *Choices that Shape the Future*

In a world where every choice shaped reality, Mia held a small silver device, the Life Selector. She knew that a single press of a button would determine her future. She saw flashes: one path showed her in a bustling city, thriving in her career; another led her to quiet mountains where she painted every sunrise. A final glimpse showed her starting a small school, inspiring young lives. “Your choices: Make ’em count,” the device whispered. Mia took a deep breath and, smiling, made her decision. The screen blinked as she knew that those kids would be grateful.





## **Cristóbal Ignacio Alfaro Vásquez**

Tercer año medio, Liceo Lucila Godoy Alcayaga  
Región de La Araucanía

### ***The Mysterious Apocalypse***

Year 2240; the Earth has been invaded by a group of unidentified beings, and humanity is threatened. My group is still safe, we stay as refugees in the mountains. Ana is terrified by what is going to happen, and Miguel only wants to defeat the invader. With the work of these last few years, we have been able to design a super powerful weapon capable of annihilating the enemies.

The problem?

It needs a pilot.

I've spent several nights thinking. Tomorrow will be the beginning of a new era for humanity and today will be my last day on Earth.







**Carlie Briana Fedje Luneche Alcius**

Segundo año medio, Instituto Inglés  
Región del Maule

## ***When Tomorrow Fades***

Again, I left things for tomorrow.  
That night I chose to go out with  
my friends instead of staying  
for my grandmother's birthday  
and studying for tomorrow's test.  
"It's not a big deal!" I thought.

When I got to school everyone  
stared at me; I felt something.  
I felt dizzy. I checked my phone.  
"We're sorry for your loss. We're with you,"  
I could read from the screen.  
My heart stopped. I called home.  
My mother started sobbing.  
My grandmother had died while I was out.  
Nothing else mattered anymore.















**Antonella Andrea Soto Aranda**

Segundo año medio, Centro Educacional Menesiano  
Región Metropolitana

## ***Pages of Her Own***

It seemed her fondness for books had accompanied her from day one; a constant companion through the years. As she grew, she longed to be like the authors she admired, so she began to write her own stories, inspired by moments of creativity and motivation.

Now, gazing at the books bearing her name, with sections reflecting her inner world, she feels moved to tears. After joining several writing contests, her once-private hobby became something shared. It was hard to grasp at first, but nothing was more rewarding than feeling understood and heard. Today, you're reading one of her stories.





## **Alisson Andrea Blatter Quijada**

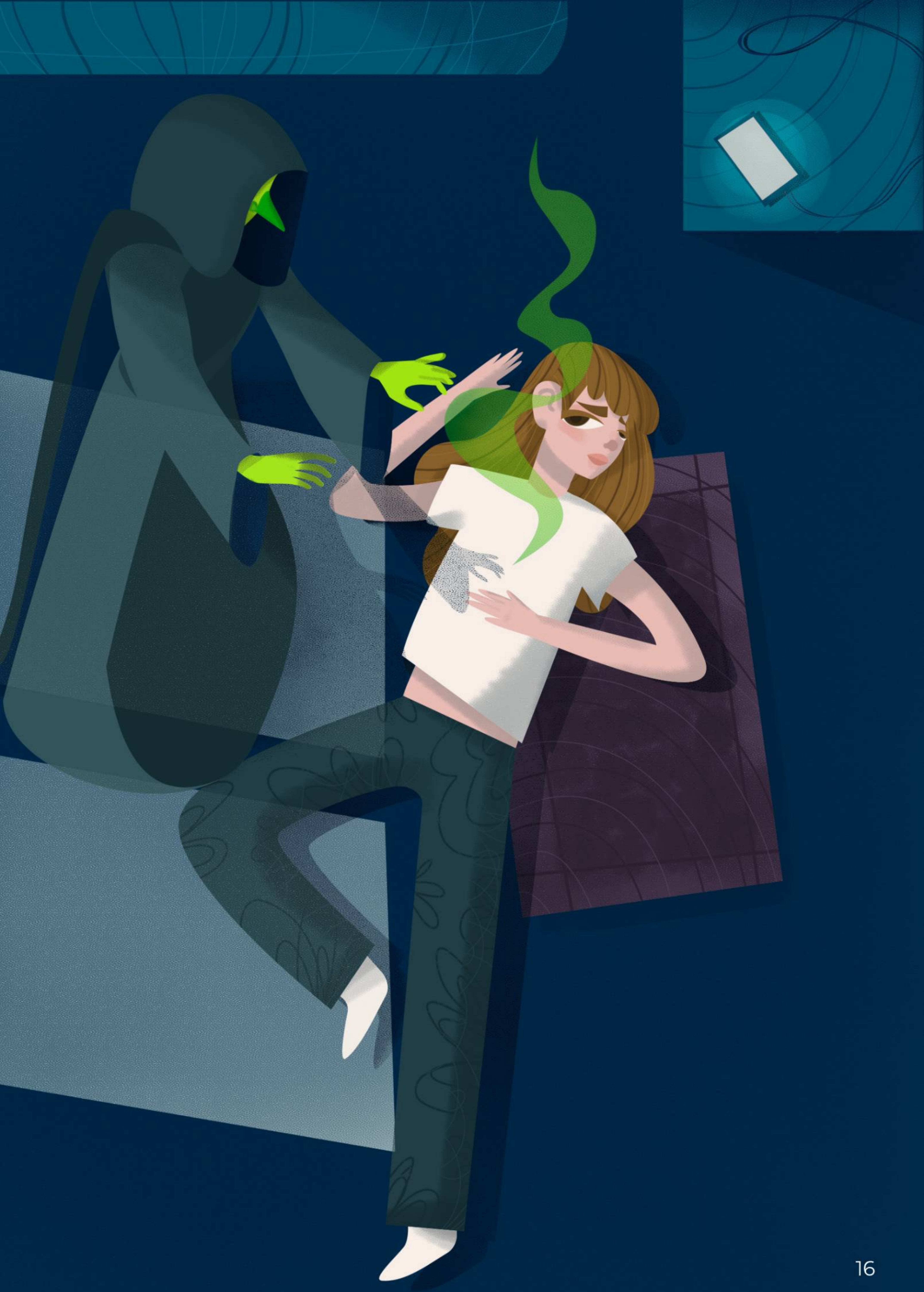
Tercer año medio, Colegio Providencia de Temuco  
Región de La Araucanía

### ***Don't Take Things from a Stranger***

The city was quiet, but I could hear his gasp as my body fell down on the floor, convulsing. I couldn't see, and as the last breath was about to leave my body, a strange woman with a large green nose asked me, "Do you wish to go back before everything turns sour?"

With a nod, my eyes opened. It was night, and a creepy man was in front of me offering me a bag of pills. This time I decided to say "no," because I don't want to become addicted once again.









## Catalina Sofía Belén Saldías Goeppinger

Segundo año medio, Liceo Bicentenario Hotelería y Turismo  
Región de La Araucanía

### *My Choice Between Tulips*

While walking in the woods, I stumbled upon a quaint cottage surrounded by wildflowers to which I felt a deep connection. An old lady was watching me, and I could feel her kindness. She smiled warmly and asked me, “Why are you sad?” “I am terrified of making decisions,” I confessed. “My parents don’t understand me.”

She guided me to a field of tulips and said, “Each tulip is a decision.”

Inspired, I went home and planted a white tulip in the front yard, a symbol of the doctor's coat I hope to wear in the future.







## **Daniel Evan Sancho Day**

Primer año medio, Liceo de Música de Copiapó Hugo Garrido Gaete  
Región de Atacama

### ***Second Chance***

Luke, an ambitious young man, was carried away by greed after winning the lottery.

One day, he discovered that it was a mistake and lost everything.

Desperate, he turned to his friend Andrew.

"I don't know what to do," he confessed.

"What's wrong?" Andrew asked.

"The lottery... was a mistake. They took everything from me."

"You are more than money. Remember how we lived with little and were happy?" Andrew comforted him.

Luke remembered and vowed to learn from his mistakes.

"We'll start from scratch... together," Andrew offered.

"Thank you, Andrew," Luke said gratefully.
















Disappointments  
and bad decisions

**Myriam Agustina Pailamilla Bustamante**

Primer año medio, Colegio Mistral  
Región de O'Higgins

## ***Future-Telling Machine***

There is a machine that predicts your future. I always wanted to try it. For my birthday, my mother took me to the machine; I was so happy.

“Disappointments and bad decisions.”  
I was stunned.

As a result, I decided to challenge destiny; I would be smarter. I started overthinking my decisions. To my surprise, the prediction was right. My businesses were scams, and my partner broke up with me. Every decision I made brought me to this path; I believe no one can escape destiny. I decided to live. I had nothing left to lose, but everything to gain.







## **Isidora Constanza Castillo Barrueto**

Cuarto año medio, Colegio Alcántara de los Altos de Peñalolén  
Región Metropolitana

### ***Ink Unspilled***

One day, my English teacher came to class excited, handing me a flyer for a contest called "Spill the Ink." She knew I loved writing, and I thought it was finally my chance to shine. I spent every day perfecting my story, convinced it could win first place. I didn't submit it until the last day because I wanted it to be flawless.

After hours of editing, I opened the contest page... only to see: "Submission closed 1 minute ago."  
I stared at the screen; my heart sinking.

Geez... next year I'll stop being such a perfectionist.





## Vicente Facundo Berríos Silva

Tercer año medio, Colegio Alicante de La Florida  
Región Metropolitana

### *The Three Tigers*

Three tigers were running away from a tornado, but suddenly they encountered human communities. One of the tigers didn't think a moment, and he just ran into one community. Bad decision. The humans got scared and they killed the tiger. The other tiger watched this and got scared, so he just ran away in the other direction, getting trapped by the tornado.

Just one tiger stayed, still thinking calmly about his decision. He noticed that one of the communities was living with some wolves, so he calmly approached them. They quickly accepted him, taking care of the tiger.









## Isaac Sebastián Pailla Cruz

Cuarto año medio, Liceo Técnico Profesional Alejandro Rojas Sierra  
Región del Maule

### ***Travel Consequences***

I always wanted to travel to the past. In my garage I created a time machine, and it was finally the night of my long-awaited trip. Before entering, I asked myself: “Do I really want to leave everything behind?” And I said, “sure,” I’ll be able to see all of my friends again. So, I got in the time machine.

I appeared in my old classroom, and I met up with my old friends. Everyone looked at me strangely. A boy who looked like me told me, “Dad, what are you doing here?” So, I realized that the decisions we make have consequences.













**Darío Alonso Ávalos Vergara**

Cuarto año medio, Colegio Inglés de Quillota  
Región de Valparaíso

## *The Contract*

“Just this?” she asked, holding the contract in her hands.

“It all depends on you, you just need to sign, and everything will change,” he answered.

The black ink of the pen shone under the moon. The atmosphere was tense. The girl looked at the document; a promise of happiness and success, but it came with a price she wasn't sure she could pay.

“What if I don't sign?” she asked.

“Well, not signing is an option,” he replied.

She looked at him one last time and sighed, dropping the pen.

“Too late!” he said, and then disappeared instantly.



## **Camilo Alfonso Arriaza Aedo**

Segundo año medio, Instituto Inglés  
Región del Maule

### ***The Future Within***

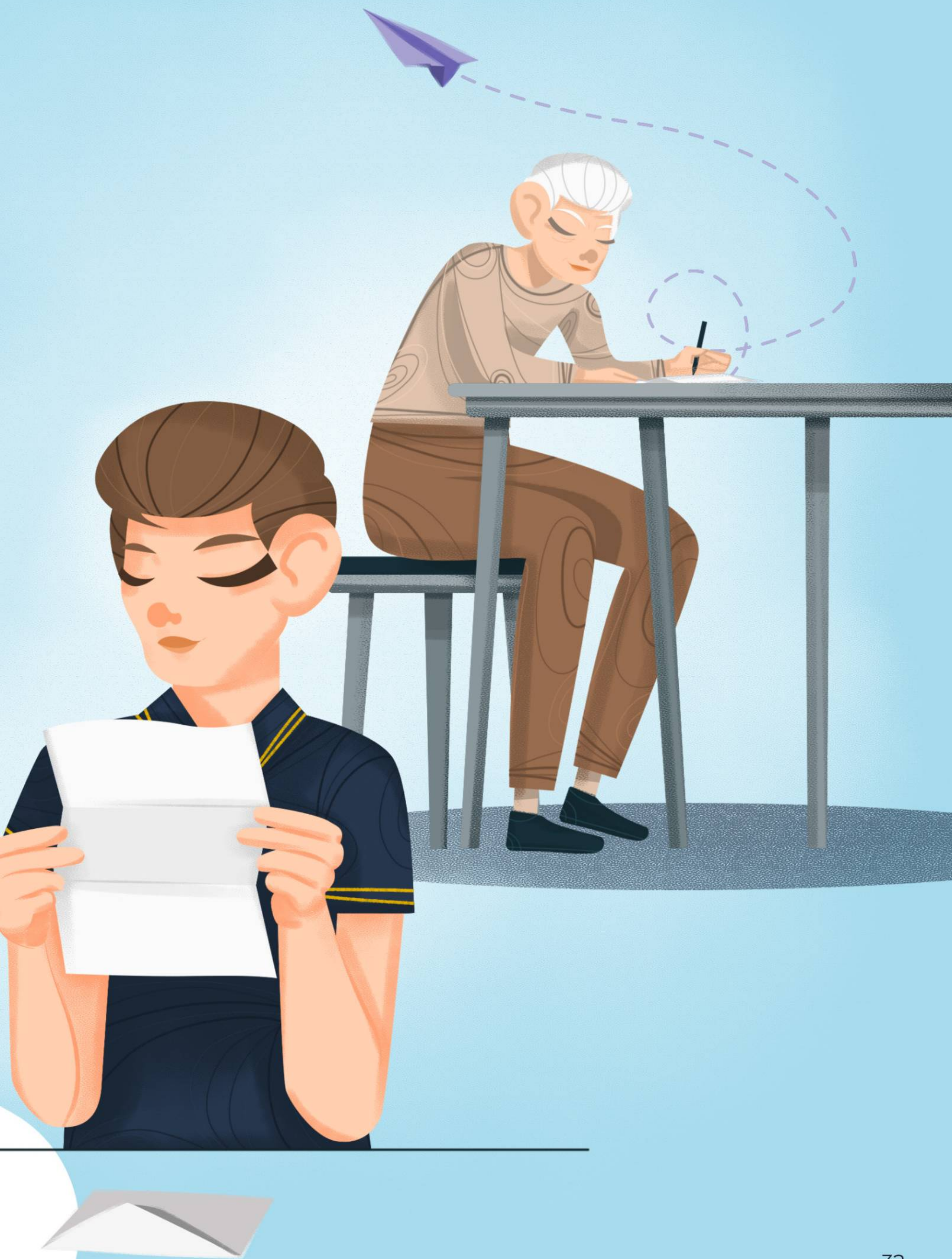
I used to live in a cold distant world, unable to connect with others, or even myself. My intolerance and lack of empathy isolated me. One day, I decided to take a small step and open up. That's when everything changed.

"You must recognize your mistakes, only then you will improve yourself," he said. I replied, "I don't know you, but I'll believe you."

Even though I was unsure, I followed his advice. Gradually, I faced my failures. A year later, I received a letter from that person, who was me, from the future.

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**Tomás Alejandro Castro Andrade**

Primer año medio, Colegio Irma Salas Silvas

Región de Coquimbo

## ***The Decision of My Best and Worst Day***

October 13, 2023. After an exhausting day, a young man came home and found the farewell letter from his wife, who was leaving, taking with her his reason for living. Between lamentations, he heard the sweet voice of his son, who decided to stay with him. A light in the middle of the darkness embraced him. That day, they both bet on the future and promised to get ahead together, with nothing more than their unconditional love.

Over the years they became the people they are, thanks to that decision made with love.









## **Yaxel Alejandro Sánchez Cona**

Primer año medio,  
Liceo Bicentenario De Excelencia Técnico Puente Ñuble  
Región de Ñuble

### ***The Good Advice***

I was playing soccer when a man approached me and asked, "Is your dream to become a soccer player?" I nodded, and then he offered me advice that I would never forget: "If you dream of something, work to achieve it—don't just wish for it." His words struck me, and I carried them with me as I pursued my passion.

From that day, I dedicated myself fully to my dream. Now, thanks to his wisdom and my determination, I stand among the best soccer players in the world.







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