



52nd INTERNATIONAL LETTER WRITING COMPETITION



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

RSF

UN ROAD SAFETY FUND



WINNING LETTERS

52nd INTERNATIONAL
LETTER WRITING
COMPETITION



**IMAGINE YOU ARE A SUPER HERO
AND YOUR MISSION IS TO MAKE
ALL ROADS AROUND THE WORLD
SAFER FOR CHILDREN.**



Second place

MATILDE MAGALHÃES
DA SILVA

PORTUGAL



MATILDE MAGALHÃES DA SILVA

Portugal

Date of birth: 10 January 2012

Hello, dear Grandma,

I miss you very much, and that is why I am writing you this letter.

A few days ago, I was playing with my sister Marta (you didn't get to meet her) and Vicente, when Mom called me. When I got to the living room, Mom told me to sit down, because the conversation would take a while. I waited patiently for her to do or say something. As I waited, I stared at a box on the fireplace. Mom asked me if I was curious to know what the box contained and I said yes, as I had always wondered what was in it. Mom took it, put it on her lap and started talking: "Matilde, do you remember on Professions Day, that I didn't go to school? And that I could never tell you what my profession was?" I interrupted and said, "Mom, you always said that I wasn't ready to know and that I had to grow up a little more." Mom continued talking: "Today is that day." Quiet and amazed, I kept on listening. "Matilde, my job is to be a SUPER-HEROINE. This mission has always been passed on to the eldest child and now it's your turn, because I'm having trouble with my knees."

Grandma, Mom also told me that this whole adventure started with you. She explained to me that, a long time ago, you took a necklace with a perfect shell and several sea pearls, and created a multi-power necklace to help you in your heroic missions. She also told me that your last mission was to save a little girl from being run over. And that you appeared on newspaper covers, so you had to pass on the legacy to the next super-heroine in the family, my mother, and that, in order not to harm her and her mission,

you disappeared. And that's how I realized that now it's my turn to continue your legacy.

Mom handed me the box and the different pearls started dancing in the air. Six of them, to my amazement, did not enter the box. Mom explained to me that these would be the powers I would have to use. I took the string and the pearls and put them, on one by one, until I finished the necklace. Once I was finished, Mom then put the necklace on me and told me that I had gained the powers of light, spark, speed, intelligence, super strength and fusion. Then she explained to me the three fundamental rules: first – never use the power for evil; second – be very responsible when using the powers; third, and most important – never allow anyone to discover my identity. I was so excited that as soon as Mom finished, I wanted to tell my brothers and sisters, but Mom stopped me and told me that no-one could know, except us, and that my first mission would start that night. I was super excited and counting the hours left.

I went to my room and planned step by step everything I was going to do that night.

Finally, the night came. When everyone was asleep, I put on my necklace and the transformation happened. When I looked in the mirror, I didn't recognize myself, as my pyjamas transformed into a SUPER-HEROINE costume. Suddenly, without my realizing how, my bedroom window opened and I flew out. My mission began... I pressed the power of intelligence and managed to go to all the schools in the world and include the rules of safety and road traffic in citizenship textbooks. It took me a long time, but it was worth it. Next, I pressed the power of super-strength and went



from car to car placing magnets. These magnets prevented the cars from crashing into each other; since they were opposite magnets, they kept the cars at a safe distance from each other. Continuing my adventure, I pressed the power of light and illuminated all the crosswalks with solar panels. Now, it is always daylight at every crosswalk. The next power I used was the power of speed, which made the roads shake like jelly whenever the cars exceeded the speed limit. Next, I pressed the pearl of the power of sparkle and installed between every road and sidewalk a computer application that produced a spark whenever any car came too close to a sidewalk on which a person was walking.

On my way home, I noticed a child crossing the road and a car speeding towards him. I didn't know what to do, so I decided to press hard on the power of fusion, which made the child and myself become one person, and I managed to save the child from being run over.

I was exhausted but happy, because I knew that the next day all those changes would begin to show results.

Grandma, I will never give up. Now it's my turn.

Kisses from your SUPER-HEROINE
granddaughter.

Matilde Silva





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Write a letter to someone explaining which super powers you would need to achieve your mission.