
Concursul Interjudețean „BILINGUAL=BEST”
Ediția a IV-a, 31 ianuarie 2020

SUBIECTE
CLASA a X-a

Starting from the excerpt, write a narrative-descriptive essay of 180-220 words about Squanto’s impressions of America and Europe in the early 1600s. Describe what happened to him, what he left in his native country and what he found in Europe.

“Sometimes the early explorers took Indians back to Europe with them. Such had been the fate of the heroic Squanto, whose life story reads like an implausible picaresque novel. He had been picked up by a seafarer named George Weymouth in 1605 and carried off – whether voluntarily or not is unknown – to England. There he had spent nine years working at various jobs before returning to the New World as interpreter for John Smith on his voyage of 1613. As reward for his help, Smith gave Squanto his liberty. But no sooner had Squanto been reunited with his tribe than he and nineteen of his fellows were kidnapped by another Englishman, who carried them off to Malaga, and sold them as slaves. Squanto worked as a house servant in Spain before somehow managing to escape to England, where he worked for a time for a merchant in the City of London before finally, in 1619, returning to the New World on yet another exploratory expedition of the New England coast. Altogether he had been away for nearly fifteen years, and he returned to find that only a short while before his tribe had been wiped out by a plague –almost certainly smallpox introduced by visiting sailors.

Thus Squanto had certain grounds to be disgruntled. Not only had Europeans inadvertently exterminated his tribe, but twice had carried him off and once sold him into slavery. Fortunately for the Pilgrims, Squanto was of a forgiving nature. Having spent the greater part of his adult life among the English, he may well have felt more comfortable among Britons than among his own people. In any case, he settled with them and for the next year, until he died of a sudden fever, served as their faithful teacher, interpreter, ambassador and friend. Thanks to him, the future of English in the New World was assured.”

(Bill Bryson – *Made in America* – Black Swan, 1998, pp. 18-19)