## CONCURSUL "SOLOMON MARCUS"

1. Citeşte cu atenție fragmentul de mai jos, scris în limba engleză, apoi realizează traducerea în limba română a unei secvențe de 5-10 versuri consecutive, care să aibă înțeles unitar.

\*Dacă nu știi limba engleză, te rog să faci "traducerea" ca lingvist. În fragment, sunt cuvinte care se aseamănă cu cele din limba română și cifre, care te vor ajuta să înțelegi mesajul.

2. Prezintă, pe scurt, mesajul textului *Counting* de Solomon Marcus, așa cum l-ai înțeles tu.

## **Counting**

## de Solomon Marcus

Counting seems to be innate
Rather than acquired.
Very early the child
Contemplates his body: One head, two
hands, two legs, two eyes
Many things come twice.
Looking around
He is stimulated to count
Trees, houses, dogs
Cats and frogs
And according to what I remember, it
seems
That very early I begun to count my
dreams.

Three is also very strong
We need "perhaps" besides "true" and

"wrong",

The geometry behind This wonderful fact Explains what makes honeycombs to

hold

The most amount of honey
While using the least amount of wax.
We count until seven
The musical notes
The colors of the rainbow
And the days of the week
We understand G.H. Miller
Claiming that seven is magic.
And now, after seven,
We have in front of us: eight, nine, ten,

eleven.

But this strategy
Does not seem to be

The best possible choice.

We already capture the voice
Of larger and larger numbers.
So far we counted mainly what we see
But many things are hidden
In the human body.
Scientists succeed
To penetrate in it
And so we learn
That there are in the body of almost all
humans

Twelve pairs of ribs.

We are born with 33 separate

vertebrae

But by adulthood, most have only 24. This seems to belong
To the field of humor.
Before going farther, we need

to point out

A very strange thing about Number names from eleven to

nineteen

Whose rule is no longer the same When counting from 21 to 29. Twenty one, twenty two,

twenty three,...

Follow a rule that can no longer be Valid from 11 to 19: Eleven, twelve, thirteen, ... And what makes this thing more

interesting

Is its validity in most European

languages:

French, German, Italian, Russian,
Romanian are some of them
Neither mathematics, nor linguistics
can explain this phenomen

We should ask
The field of anthropology of numbers
But who could realize this task?
The adult human body has 206 bones
And about 642 skeleton
Muscles; a novelty here is the use
Of words such as *almost* and

about

Exactness is replaced by approximation;

While certainty is

replaced by *estimation*.

Counting is faced with its first traps.

But we are only at the beginning

of perhaps.

Going back to the human body

Let us ask

A more difficult question: How many biological cells does it include? Answering it is a more difficult task Because several parameters are involved. For instance, an adult weighing 70 kilograms

Has around 70 trillion, i.e.,

more than 10 power 14 cells. Going further, by trying to count The number of atoms

in my body of 70 kilograms,

The answer is expressed

by an estimation in total divorce With what our

sensorial-intuitive capacity
Could capture: 7 followed

by 27 occurrences of zero.

So we realize how step by step Mathematical notation takes

its distance with respect

To what could be considered An acceptable word or expression

in English.