

SOME AMERICAN SCHOOL TRADITIONS

Read and comment on each stanza (paragraph)

Some American school traditions. Read. Then listen and answer.

1 Americans are very patriotic and every day in all American schools the flag is raised and lowered. In all US primary schools, the students recite the Pledge of Allegiance every morning. *I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible,*
5 *with liberty and justice for all.*

In high schools, the students are usually encouraged to feel they belong to a group. There is a school song, a school mascot, and also a band and sports teams supported by pom-pom girls (cheerleaders). A yearbook is published every year with the photos of all the students.

10 Like most American schools and students, Chatham Hall is very proud of its traditions, some of which are over a hundred years old.


The very first ritual of the year is the New Girls' Picnic, during which new girls and new faculty members find out if they belong to the Purple Team or to the Gold Team. These teams will compete all year round. The competition starts with a Purple and
15 Gold Tug of War (*lutte à la corde*).

As the students get older, they gain more and more privileges. For example, the seniors usually have a single room. They can turn their lights off when they like and they are the only ones who can use the main staircase in the school hall. No other student is allowed to use
20 this staircase without permission from a senior.

Graduation is always an emotional event, when the seniors receive their diploma and leave the school. At Chatham Hall, the night before Graduation, during the Lantern Ceremony, the seniors pass their lanterns to the juniors, a symbol of the light of knowledge being
25 passed on.

Stratégies

- L. 1-9 : soulignez le(s) mot(s) qui résume(nt) chaque paragraphe et trouvez un titre pour chacun.
- L. 10-11 : qu'introduit-on : une idée générale ou un exemple ?
- L. 12-25 : trouvez un titre à chaque paragraphe. Expliquez l'ordre de ces paragraphes.



"The Lantern Ceremony".
Which students are the seniors?

America is a patriotic nation, in the first stanza they speak about the Pledge of Allegiance a "phrase or a motto" that all the Primary school pupils say every day when they raise the flag of the United States.

In high schools students are encouraged to feel they **belong to** (appartiennent) a group (there are different ways to give them this feeling: a school song ,a school mascot, a band or also cheerleaders who support sports teams, they publish a yearbook with the photos of all the students.)

Chatham Hall is very proud of these old traditions.

The first ritual of the year is the New Girls' Picnic, where each girl learns which group she will belong to for the next four years: there are two teams the Purple Team and the Gold Team which compete all year round. The competition starts this very special day with a Purple and Gold **Tug of War**.

In the next paragraph we learn that unlike the freshman (1 year students), the seniors have privileges. They can turn off their lights when they want to and they are the only ones who can use the main staircase.

The last paragraph (stanza) deals with ceremonies: Graduation where seniors get their diploma and a big ceremony in Chatham Hall, which is called "the Lantern Ceremony". During the ceremony the senior pass the lantern to the juniors (the lantern is the symbol of **Knowledge** (Savoir) they give to the youngest).