

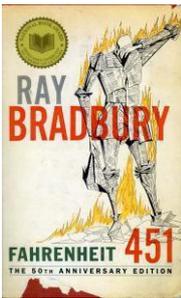
Hey there, my dear host family!

My name is Margherita and I live near one of the most beautiful cities in Italy. I don't know if you've been there, it's the one with the Duomo and a lot of art...

I am 16 years old, turning 17 soon, and I am very excited to start this new adventure with you. I've got a very busy life here in Italy, that's because I like a lot of things. I'll try to describe my life in a few pages, so you can get an idea of me.

Five days a week I go to school and every day is a journey because it takes almost an hour to get there and then my day begins!

I go to a linguistic High School, this means that I study principally foreign languages, more precisely I study English, French and Spanish. I really like my school, well... most of the time I do.



When it comes to free time, I can be both a very active person or a really relaxed one. In fact, I really enjoy going out with my friends, to a cinema or just hanging around.

Twice a week I practice modern dance. I used to dance a lot when I was little, even though I was more focused on the ballet, but when I got older I lost interest in it. This year I decided to try again and let's say I'm enjoying modern dance a lot.

When I was little I tried a lot of sports, such as swimming, basketball and tennis and I still like practicing when I have the chance (for example at school, during P.E. classes).

But I also like spending my time at home, watching a movie or reading a book, especially in English. Musicals are my favorite kind of films, in fact my favorite movie is "Across the Universe". The second one is instead a very classy one, I'm sure you've heard before about the "Dead Poets Society".

To talk about books, I've read a lot of sagas, such as Harry Potter, The Hunger Games...

Now I'm heading on different genres, but science fiction will always capture me. My favorite book is Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury, that I read in English like the majority of the other books, because I like reading novels in the way they have been written and not through translations.

I adore listening to music, I could do it all day long, and sometimes I do. I believe there's always something new to learn about it, so I'm always looking for new music. My favorite band is Green Day, I went to their concert this year here where I live and it was amazing!!! I mostly listen to rock music and I'm in love with the music from the '80s. To be honest, I'm in love with everything from the '80s, I always say that I was born too late...

Going to concerts is one of my passions, at the moment I have been to

4. One of my favorites was the Pierce the Veil's one in Milan. I went there with some friends of mine this winter and I had a good time.

I also used to play the piano and the guitar till some years ago. If I find some easy chords to play at the guitar there's a high possibility I'll start practicing again.

My family has recently bought a record player and I've discovered how magnificent LPs are. I like especially the originals, but it's very difficult to find them and they are very expensive..



I also like drawing, I am a self-taught but I would like to take some lessons in the future. I prefer sketching than using many colors and I usually draw when I feel like it, especially when I'm relaxed and in peace with my surroundings.

I think it's important to say that I own a lava-lamp that I'm very proud of. It's blue with green bubbles, I placed it in my room and I could stare at it for hours. I like this sort of things, shiny and pure. My room is full of little lights that I love to turn on before going to sleep, I turned it in a very comfy place, with Buddhist flags, photos and posters on the walls. I've spent a lot of time decorating it.

At the moment, I'm studying to get my driving license to ride a motorbike, because here in Italy we cannot drive cars until we are 18.

Let's talk a little about my family. My mom teaches English at the middle school in the town where I live while my dad works with computers for a company. I've got a little sister, who's got freckles and curly hair like me. In our family there are also two cats, a grey one and a ginger one. Their names are Grigia (Grey in Italian) and Ginger, because we don't have much imagination when it comes to decide names...

I'm totally a cat person, but this does not mean that I don't like other animals.

As an Italian teenage girl, I love food. Yes, I am loyal to my country and I adore both pasta and pizza (I can also cook them, that's a good point for me, now I know you love me, choose me, come on), but I love trying new dishes and my favorite food is sushi. I am also vegetarian, but I do eat fish (we can't be perfect... I can't say no to sushi).



Another thing that you should know about me is that I'm a scout. I've got some really good friends in my group, some of the best that I have, because we've known each other for a really long time by now. I take the opportunity to clarify that I don't secretly store pine cones and I do not talk with animals or spend my Sundays selling cookies to kind old ladies passing by. As a group, we prefer doing volunteer works (even though sometimes we do sell cookies).

In 2015, I was selected to go to the 23rd World Scout Jamboree in Japan. If you don't know what it is, just imagine an island completely covered by tents of scouts from all over the world. A sort of huge meeting and I had the chance to be there. It was a wonderful experience and the first time that I really felt as a citizen of the world. I think it's thanks to this experience that I decided that I wanted to feel like that again, but not only for two weeks, forever.

I love being a scout because of the ideas we share. I believe in equality and respect for the differences, I try to be a good human being by having an open mind and respecting nature.

Last year I went, for the first time, to the event Toscana Pride, with a friend of mine and I think that was a nice example of how people should be: gathered together just to be happy, to share a moment, each person unique and proud of their differences.

I don't know exactly what I'll do in the future, right now I just know that I want to go to University to study something that I really enjoy, then we'll see.

I want to thank you for the opportunity you are giving me and if you choose me I hope we will spend a great time together!

Love, Margherita