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Produced by OMS Newspaper Club...

# The OMS Press

January 2019

## Feature Teacher

Jordan Novak, Brandon Polomsky and Elizabeth Woloszyn

### MRS. GRIMM



#### **JOBS**

Mrs. Grimm's parents and sister inspired her to teach. Before teaching Phys Ed, Mrs. Grimm was an 8th grade health teacher, and then a high school health teacher. Then, she decided to teach Phys Ed. Seeing kids improve and succeed has made her love of teaching grow even stronger. Because she loves to teach, she has been doing it for 24 years.

#### **Family**

Mrs. Grimm has 2 kids, Kailee Grimm who is a senior and Conner Grimm who is an eighth grader. She has a husband named Jeff, who is also a teacher in Solon, who teaches biology. She loves spending time with them.

#### **Growing Up**

Mrs. Grimm grew up in Wooster, Ohio. Wooster is not far away from Cleveland, so she grew up not too far away from us. Growing up, her family consisted of

### Mr. Fitz

#### **Growing Up**

Mr. Fitz was born in Scotland and was very poor. At school his favorite teacher was Mrs. Bricker. When he was 11, his family which includes his sister and parents moved to Canada. He came to the U.S. to play Soccer at nineteen and played Soccer at Cleveland State University. Before he was a Phys Ed teacher, he was a bouncer, groundskeeper, cook, mailman, and a coach. His hobbies besides teaching are coaching and spending time with family.



#### **Family**

He has a son that is in eighth grade and a daughter that is in eleventh grade and a wife that teaches in the high school. His son plays basketball, his daughter is a swim diver, and his wife is a volleyball coach. He enjoys going to the rec with his family.

#### **School life**

Mr. Fitz loves teaching, so he has been teaching for almost 30 years! Before teaching at Orchard, he was at the high school teaching soccer for boys.

her mom, dad, and her sister. She played the clarinet in school and always played sports.

### Likes not Wants

Mrs. Grimm would love to live in Hawaii, because the people are nice and kind. While she would be outside enjoying the sunshine every day, her pet to enjoy it with, who would be by her side the whole time. This favorite pet would be none other than the furry, cute, sleepy, and amazing animal.... THE KOALA! While her furry friend sleeps, she would be doing her hobbies, which include: Scrapbooking, and working out.

### Likes not Wants

Mr. Fitz would love to live in New Zealand. He would like to be hiking on the glorious mountains in New Zealand, tanning at the beautiful beach, or even just taking a boat ride into the lovely calm water. He would have his pet dog with him. While the dog sleeps he could be playing soccer or basketball.

# ASK AN APPLE

## Orchard's Advice Column

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Dear: Apple

*I only got 54% on my literacy essay!!! My dad was REALLY mad at me, and even though we made up and all, I still don't feel very happy about that. Do you have any advice?*

*Sincerely yours,  
Stressed.*

Dear Stressed,

I am very sorry to hear about your test score. You should ask your teacher if she can go through the essay with you to see what you were missing. You can print out some practice prompts off of the internet and try those and have someone grade it with the checklist.

Your dad may have been mad at you, but that's only because he believes you have the power and persistence to change how well you do on literacy tests. It was probably more disappointment than mad. You should not dwell on what you got on this test. It won't affect anything else in your life....unless you let it. Instead, you should focus on what you want to get on the next test and what you can do about improving. There's nothing you can do to change your score this time, but you CAN change the outcome of your next test. Don't compare yourself to anyone but yourself. You are in control of your success! 😊

-Granny Smith Apple.

Dear Ask an Apple,

Me and this girl have been best friends for 3 or 4 years before another girl came along...I thought she was pretty cool! Then she started hanging out with my best friend, I was like oh we can all hang out and be like best friends in the movies! But then it started getting worse and she got mad at me whenever I was trying to hang out with them. Then I started seeing them do OUR secret handshake, and the next time I hung out with my best friend she acted mean and with how the girl treats me. I have no idea what to do? HELP!

-Friendship Troubles.

Dear Friendship troubles ,

I am sorry to hear about your friendship trouble. I can relate. It's not fun or easy. You should really consider thinking if they are truly your friends or not. Real friends should feel comfortable around each other, and not shut each other out. You may want to just take a break from these friends. You don't have to leave them completely, but just go make some new friends and when they decide they can be a good friend to you, you can hang out with them and the friends that you made.

It might help to talk to them first. Tell them your feelings and that you need a break and to make some new friends too for the times when you are left out. Tell them you hope this will help all of you get this friendship back on track.

I know it seems hard and risky to leave your first 'best' friend, but a true friend will miss you, and always be there for you. If she doesn't understand your feelings and plan, then she's not a true friend.

-Honeycrisp apple

Dear Ask an Apple,

*I have a serious freakout problem with tests. Even when I study and know the material, I still get nervous. I dread tests. Do you have any advice for me?*

*~Red Apple*

Dear Red Apple,

I can understand. Test's make me feel brain dead sometimes. Studies find that nervousness for tests often come from bad testing habits/scores from the past. However, if that's not your case and you usually have pretty good scores, you are probably just overthinking the future. By that I mean, you're thinking too much about what will happen if you fail.

Instead you should focus on what you should be doing right now. And that's being confident, calm, and working hard. A good trick for getting over test-stress is taking breaks between questions and just catching your breath. Think about all of the breathing techniques we've learned this year! Find one or two that work well for you and use it to keep you calm, cool and collected.

Also, even though it seems like you should, **don't stay up super late studying and studying and studying.** Even-out your studying over a few nights. And the night before the test, study a bit, then sleep. Getting to sleep early and getting up early really helps.

In addition, if you're having trouble with a particular subject, you should just stop thinking about it for a night, and the next night go back to studying it. Studies show that studying all at once in one night isn't as effective as studying a little bit every night. If you think about something too much it usually results in over-thinking.

Good luck on your next test. Remember to stay calm, confident, and don't over-think anything. I'm sure you can ace the next test.

Sincerely,

-Ginger Gold Apple

Dear Ask an Apple,

I have a younger cousin, she is 6. She drives me completely crazy! We go and visit her all the time, and it's frustrating! She is always getting mad at me. I try to avoid her, but she just comes over to me and she will act all sweet and nice but then after you start playing with her she becomes really mean! She will do stuff like touch my stuff when I ask her not to and yells at me for playing with her toys that she is not even playing with! She also gets very mad if she does not get her way. Also, to make matters worse, some people in my family are always on her side no matter what she does. I need a way to not get in trouble, but not let her get her way too. Please Help!

-Anonymous

Dear Anonymous,

I'm very sorry to hear about your troubles with your cousin. I have annoying cousins too. Maybe you shouldn't bring stuff to your cousins house you don't want her to touch. If it is something you need to bring though (like your phone), try keeping it in places out of her sight and reach.

If you want to talk about something you don't want her to know, you could spell it out, so she doesn't understand. Also if you really don't like the way she's treating you when you play with her just try to get out of it, and if she yells at you just say yah your always right, even though you don't mean it. Because, considering her age, it won't really matter. Be the bigger person. If she makes you do something you don't want to do, try adjusting the rules. Like if she wants to play with barbies, and you really don't want to, you could tell her "later" and hopefully she'd eventually forget it. Or you could suggest doing something else related to barbies but not actually playing with them.

Now if everyone in your family favors her no matter what, one way to get out of it is sarcasm. What I mean is when she complains about you to them you can respond with "Yeah"'s and "sure"'s but use it in a sarcastic tone. She won't recognize the sarcasm, but your parents will. They'll see you as trying to be the 'bigger' person, and trying not to be mean. But by doing it, you'll convey the message that your cousin isn't actually telling the truth.

We hope some of these ideas help you.

Best of luck next time!

-Honeycrisp and Red apple

## DO You want to Know How to Send your OWN Letter To Ask an Apple?

### First the rules:

1. Do not spread rumors in your letter. This means don't state any information that is not true, or that includes an opinion.
2. When you are typing your letter, remember--there is always more than one side to a story.
3. Don't mention people's names

### Now the Steps:

1. Think of your problem. Does it say bad things about others? Will it hurt other people's feelings? If not, you can move on to the next step.
2. Type your letter
3. Be sure to explain your problem, and to sign your letter with an anonymous name.
4. Send your email to [askanapple1819@gmail.com](mailto:askanapple1819@gmail.com), the password is freeadvice56.
5. Check over your letter. Is your name and other's anonymous? This means you cannot use real names. You can use fake names like Apple Pie. Is this material school appropriate? If so, you can move on to the next step.
6. Send it to our Ask an Apple email
7. You will get your answer in the Orchard news paper.

! KEEP IN MIND !

**Only a limited number of letters are chosen each time. We will randomly select letters. *Your letter will not be selected if it does not follow all the rules of the advice column and the rules of Orchard.***



# Fictional Writing

## Chapter One

(Of Nighthouse)

Written by Isabelle Liu

Emily rubbed her arm. The cramped car was hurting her. Boxes and suitcases were scattered all over the place. Even worse, her brother, Craig was also smashed into the mess.

"How long until we get there?" she asked her parents. Her mother brushed a long lock of auburn hair over her ear.

"Soon," she replied.

Emily groaned. She shifted around to get comfortable. A large, brown suitcase hit her elbow and she winced.

"You said that five hours ago!" she complained. "Let me see that GPS," she leaned over and snatched up her father's phone. She looked at the bottom. It said "Fifteen minutes."

Emily let out a sigh of relief. She kicked back, popped another piece of gum in her mouth, and opened up her phone. She watched a few videos until the dreaded five percent tab showed up.

"Dang it!" she spat. Emily closed her phone and laid her head back on her seat. She tried to take a quick nap, but the bumpy road kept her awake. To make matters worse, her parents were talking loudly. Emily finally managed to drift into a light sleep when her father bellowed, "Here it is!"

Emily opened up her eyes, still half asleep, and looked outside. There was a lush, green hill, and on the top of the hill laid a big house. It was baking in the sunlight.

"That's our house?" Emily asked, astonished.

Her father nodded and broke into a wide grin. "Yup! That's it! Beautiful, isn't it?" Emily's mouth hung in shock. It *was* pretty; she had to admit, but it was so high up on a hill; it looked dangerous.

"Come on Em," her father said. "Take your suitcase." He hauled her suitcase over his shoulder and handed it to Emily.

Emily took her suitcase and dragged it. There was a big, metal gate in front of her. Beyond the gate was a dirt path that split the hill. Emily pushed the heavy gates open.

She continued to drag her suitcase up the hill. When she finally got in front of the large door, she stared at it in shock. The door was about triple her height. She pushed the door open and looked around. It was more like a mansion than anything else.

"Well Emily, there are four bedrooms upstairs. Choose the one you like best, other than the master bedroom of course," her mother said from behind. "And Craig, help us unpack. Then you can join Emily upstairs."

Emily nodded and dragged her suitcase up the steep, curling, stairs. Emily peeped her head in the bedrooms. One of them was the master bedroom. It had a king size bed, a large mirror, a T.V, a coffee table made from glass, and a desk. It was connected to a bedroom made from marble. Emily was shocked. It was huge. *Too bad I can't sleep here*, she thought.

Emily peered her head into another bedroom. The walls were painted mint green, her favorite. A plush looking white bed with laces draped over it laid in the middle of the room. A white, wooden desk was pushed next to it, containing many drawers. The room also had a large window and a T.V. There was a white wooden bookshelf too. It also had a closet. Emily opened the closet. It was empty and huge, like a walk-in closet. Emily made a mental note about this room. *I'll probably take this one.*

The next room was painted sky blue, Craig's favorite. A bed with navy blue pillows and blankets was pushed to the side. A wooden desk was on the opposite side. The room also had a walk-in closet. Emily didn't explore this room very much. *I'll leave it to Craig.*

The last bedroom was a guest room. It was smaller than the others, with a cream colored bed and cream colored walls. There was a nightstand next to the bed with a fancy lamp. There was a small closet, a normal one. There were small windows too. Emily decided she'd take the mint colored room.

She unpacked her belongings and settled in. She put her clothes in the closet, her books on the bookshelf, and her plush animals on the bed. She went downstairs.

"Ah, Emily, just in time." her father said, waving an arm. "Come join us for some lunch."

Sandwiches were resting on plates. Emily took a ham and swiss cheese sandwich.

"So Em," her mother said. "Have you picked a bedroom yet?" Emily nodded.

"Yeah, and I even left the sky blue room for Craig," she added.

After lunch, Craig and Emily went upstairs. While her brother unpacked his belongings, Emily laid down on her new bed. It was as plush as it looked. Emily stared at her ceiling for a while. Then, she got up and took some books from her bookshelf. She then flopped on her bed and started reading.

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After she was called down for dinner, Emily sat down next to Craig. They had mashed potatoes for dinner.

"How are you guys liking the house?" Emily's mother asked, reaching for a napkin.

Craig shrugged. "It's really cool," he said. "But it's just so big for a family of four."

His father agreed. "True, but you kids can bring more friends over," he said.

After dinner, Emily went upstairs again. She played with the laces that were draped around her bed. After a few minutes, Emily froze.

She heard a loud, creaking noise that sounded inhuman.

And it came from the closet.

[Chapter 2](#)

[Chapter 3](#)

[Chapter 4](#)

**A Cat and a "Purse"**  
**Part Two-Back On Earth**  
**By Ashley Rhee**

**Previously in “A Cat and a ‘Purse’”, the P.M.G (or Purse Must Go) have given Hershey the cat a second chance to redeem himself and his reputation-he has been invited back to Earth to help defeat a menace called the Thing. He and his army of purses are in a rocket ship, heading toward the Home Planet...**

**PHOOSH! There goes Jupiter! PHOOSH! There goes Mars! The rocket has landed on the Home Planet in less than a few minutes.**

**“Right on time,” says an unamused voice. Alona? Carla? Mandy?**

**“Well?” I croaked. “Could I have some help here?”**

**I really did need help. The rocket had taken on a few major bumps and bruises, and I was laying near the back of the cockpit, with the original purse in my mouth.**

**“Very funny,” said the voice (Carla?), “but we need to get back on track. NOW. The Thing is spreading... Hey Ben, where is it now?” At that part she whispered so I couldn’t hear, but I clearly could, as cats have very good hearing abilities.**

**“Umm... I think somewhere near the pet shelter,” Ben whispered.**

**Carla responded with a very obvious, “oh, don’t tell Hershey!”**

**“You know that I’m sitting right here?” I said, sarcastically.**

**“We have NO TIME for sarcasm, Hershey! The Thing is spreading, umm, literally everywhere! Here, take this mic. Just in case we need to seperate. Did you bring all of your purses, just in case we need backup?” Carla ask - yelled.**

**“We have to go! The Menace is getting bigger and taking up more wind space in the atmosphere while we speak! We’ll take the original purse and a quarter of the clones, and you can take the other portion of the clones, kapeesh!” Mandy told me.**

**“Kupposh,” I said, but I had the very bad feeling that I was being sent into danger.**





**The source of the squeaking was, in fact, the gerbils. From the way I could tell, this room used to be the girl's bedroom. The room was completely destroyed. I wondered how long it would take to rehabilitate the house after the Menace left.**

**I grabbed the gerbil cage. The two gerbils inside were going nutso. I didn't know why.**

**"Hey, calm down little guys. Hershey is here. I will take you back to your friend, the girl. Yeah, the one who lives here and takes care of you and cleans up your poop."**

**The gerbils still seemed a little hyperactive.**

**Then I knew why.**

**A great shadow loomed over me.**

**I turned around.**

**The Thing. It was here.**

**I was surprised. The Thing did look quite frightful, but also kind of familiar.**

**Then I knew.**

**I turned to face the Thing, to look it in the eye. I couldn't believe it.**

**"Cosmo?"**

**TO BE CONTINUED...**

# **The Tale Of Charlie And Alex**

## **PART TWO**

By: Evan Tercek, Hugh Kopittke and Ben Roder

[To refresh your memory click to read Part One](#)

## Alex

Today is October 31st, and Charlie and I are still deciding on costumes that won't totally humiliate us. We already have to worry about Jeffery, and having the whole school laughing at us isn't going to help any of that. With all our differences, it's not the easiest to choose between costumes. With all the things I like to do in school I really want to have a unique costume. I always wanted to convince Charlie to dress up as an equation considering that we need more than one person to make it. If only there was one person that was willing to dress like me?

## Charlie

NO HOMEWORK! Finally, the one time that I don't have to worry about getting in trouble. I can play *Fortnite* for hours after school before Halloween. I get to eat a lot of candy today and tomorrow. One person I have to worry about is Jeffery Davis and his squad. Especially since we are going out with Daequan, the new kid. I feel like a body guard even though I am not that strong. But there's still just one problem, we still don't know what we're going to be. Not to mention Alex is always wanting to be a geeky costume that will embarrass us all, like last year when he dressed up like a scientist (he for sure looked like one), and the year before when he dressed up as a fraction, with his brother Timmy.

## Daequan

I am really nervous. Even though I have two bodyguards, I'm still not so comfortable. I feel like Jeffery and his gang are going to take all my candy and hurt me. It's a total free-for-all in that neighborhood. You never know what will happen next. I have a little more trust in Alex than I do Charlie, especially because he has witnessed the worst of Jeffery. I am being a grim reaper for Halloween. I was thinking for hours last night that Jeffery was going to make fun of my costume in front of everyone. This Halloween could go 2 ways good or extremely bad.

## Jeffery

Dude, my costume is sick. I'm a stick. A really cool stick. If anyone tries to make fun of my costume I will stick *them* on the moon. I can't wait any longer, and I am going to get the most candy in the neighborhood...taking more than 2 pieces of candy every time, even when it says "please take 2". I will be taking candy from the little kids and Daequan Fishface. It's going to be the best Halloween ever. The full size candy bars are all mine and I am going to dress up in my main costume *the stick*. Then I will change into my costume that I wore last year and hit the same houses to get double the candy.

## Narrator

Knock! Knock! Knock! "The first house, first piece of candy, yes!" Daquan said.

"First house, 10 pieces of candy. Eh." Jeffery muttered.

"This isn't so bad," Charlie said.

Charlie and Alex were being super tough and Daequan felt very protected. After 20 minutes they ran into Jeffery and his friends as usual. That's when this Halloween turned upside down.

"Hey Fisher, or should I say Fishface, Ha. Ha. Ha. Ready to have the worst Halloween ever?" Jeffery said.

"All I wanted to do was have a good Halloween, but you guys are here, and YOU know what that means!" Charlie exclaimed

"Yeah!" Alex and Daequan said at the same time.

"Well guess what, you were right. Ding Ding Ding!" Jeffery said.

"Run," Charlie whispered so quietly that you could hear a pin drop.

With that, they took off sprinting full speed, while pulling Daequan along.

"Guys *please* slow down!" Daequan said panting.

"Just a little longer." Charlie said.

With that, Jeffery and his gang were out of site.

"Get to the golf cart guys!" they faintly heard Jeffery yell in the distance.

"Good job guys," Alex said.

"Thanks," Daequan replied.

"Alex, you ran like an olympic sprinter," Charlie said in disbelief.

"Yeah, I never knew you were that fast." Daequan said.

And with that they heard a dirt bike.

"Dang It" All three of them said at the same time. They all knew who it was. Or did they?

## MADE OF NIGHTMARES

By: Olivia Liu

Erii laid in the darkness. If she moved, she would be discovered. If she whispered, she would be taken away.

In other words, if she gave any hints that she was awake, she would be killed.

The only hope was to wait until sunrise, when the nightmares disappeared. They were everywhere, grasping onto the ceiling, the walls, and under her bed. Watching. Waiting.

Waiting for their prey to escape the Dream.

But Erii wasn't in the Dream. She was wide awake. The creatures were made of black, writhing, mist with glowing golden eyes. Staring.

The neon green numbers that displayed the time burned in her mind.

3:57 a.m

The glassy cover of the digital clock shone dimly under the golden shine of the nightmares' eyes. Luckily, it didn't reflect back the image of her open eyes. Erii clenched onto her sheets with a death grip, trying to steady her breathing. She focused her half opened eyes on the clock. It seemed that the time had stopped, forcing her to stay with the nightmares. She could make out a crocodile-like figure made of black mist, writhing and twirling in the air. It fixed it's golden eyes on Erii's bed. She watched as it slowly turn its head around to scratch at the wall.

Only it wasn't a normal slash on the wall. It spelled out:

**We know you are awake!**

Erii gasped, forgetting all reality. She swiftly covered her mouth with her hands, but it was already too late. The nightmares scurried over to her bed.

Her hand dropped and went still, turning as cold as the winter night.

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“Evin!”

The thirteen year old boy turned around to see his mother tapping her foot on the wooden floor. She wore an impatient expression as she glanced at her watch.

“Hurry! We only have so much time before the house gets renovated and sold.” She snapped.

“Sorry, Mom,”

“Get your bag ready and meet us in the car within three minutes,” she demanded firmly. Evin sighed and picked up his blue satchel. He ran his hand through his messy, coffee brown hair. *I don’t understand why she’s making a big deal out of the house.* Evin thought, irritated by the rush. *It’s just her old house.*

Evin sat in the back of the car, his satchel on his lap. His older brother took the front seat, and

his twin younger sisters scrambled in the back. His phone buzzed as a message from his father was sent.

Pick out items you like! Save some for me! :)

“...shame that your father is on a business trip,” Evin’s mother was saying. “He has a passion for antique items.” Evin stared out the window.

“Shame,” he mumbled.

\*\*\*

“Woah, is that Mommy’s old house?” Kelly pressed her face on the window to get a better look.

Evin moved more to the left as Kelly’s older sister joined in.

“And we can keep whatever we like?” Lia fixed her eyes on an old pink bicycle. Their mother sighed.

“Yes, honey. Anything,” she said, rubbing her temple. The girls scrambled out the door, pushing each other to get to the bike first. Evin followed his sisters. The house looked rather old, rusty in places, worn and chipping paint, and yellowed grass.

Evin’s grandparents had moved to a nursing home, leaving the house for sale. Someone had bought the house, and the money was given to Evin’s family. A sign shoved into the dying yard read *SOLD* in big, white letters.



Evin walked up the sidewalk leading to the front door, trying not to trip on Lia, who triumphantly rode the pink bicycle to the car. Kelly hurried after her, arms full of garden decorations. Their mother swiftly opened the door with a key.

Evin stepped inside and took in everything. It was similar to their current house, with a winding staircase, dining room, a big kitchen, and a living room with a fireplace. He walked around, observing but not touching anything, like he was viewing a museum. There was a blue glass elephant on a bookshelf next to a pink glass bunny. Evin flipped the pink bunny upside down and read the label.

**RAI**

His mother's name was printed neatly on a strip of tape with a sharpie. He gently set it down inside the satchel. He then turned the blue elephant over.

**ERII**

*Who is Erii?* Evin wondered, confused. He had always thought that his mother was the only child of her family. He took the elephant and walked over to his mother.

"Mom, who's-"

"Shush, Evin," she whispered, leaning away from her phone. "I'm making arrangements with the renovation people. Talk to me later, okay?"

"Okay."

Evin set the elephant in his satchel and headed upstairs. His brother Bryan was checking out the master bathroom and his sisters were looking through a pale pink room. On the white door was a old, dusty piece of paper that read, **Rai's Room! Please knock first!**

*That was Mom's room,* he thought. The navy painted room across the hall caught his eye.

There

were old pieces of wood that seemed like barricades. Fortunately for Evin, the wood was falling apart. The boy carefully brushed aside the wood and stepped inside. *Is this that Erii person's room?* He walked around, observing once more. There were dusty photos pinned on a corkboard. He blew the dust away, revealing the preserved photographs.

One showed his mother, in a ponytail and teenage clothes, posing at the beach. Next to her was

a raven haired girl with thick, dark blue glasses. She wore a large, striped long sleeved shirt. They were clearly having lots of fun at the beach, as the girls were smiling and soaked in water.

Another photo presented the duo at a book cafe. Evin's mom was sitting on a red couch, sipping coffee and scrolling through her phone. Her medium long hair draped over her hunched shoulders. She was wearing similar clothes at the beach; a pink, long sleeved shirt with jeans. Meanwhile, the other girl had her nose buried in a book. Her coffee was set down at the table in front of the girls. She wore a white sweater with the name, *Erii*, printed on the back.

*So that's Erii.* Evin concluded, stepping away from the corkboard. He glanced at the drawers at

the desk. He opened one of them and discovered a small, dusty journal. Most pages were blank, so he decided to take it. Evin flipped through the pages, skimming at the words. Most of them talked about Erii's daily life, what she did that day, and so on.

Until he reached the last filled in page.

I can't keep all this to myself anymore. I can't endanger my family and myself. They need to know about the [REDACTED] Hopefully tonight I can get enough information to report all that's going on. I will try to get a description of the [REDACTED]

Made of black mist

Glowing [REDACTED] eyes

Can come in any [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I hope this could be helpful to anyone in the future. Please [REDACTED] Goodbye for now, journal.

Erii

*This is a odd entry. Why are some parts blacked out?* Evin's mind started racing, coming up with possible reasons. He frantically scanned around the room for any black figures. He found none. Evin calmed down a little, knowing that he was not insane. He took the journal and buried it deep in his satchel. *Did this entry have something to do with Erii's absence?* Evin leaned over to look at the corkboard again, trying to find some clues.

He was observing a photograph of the girls running around in a graffitied parking lot when a cold feeling grasped his shoulder.

"You're next," a thin voice whispered.

## My (Horrible) Birthday

By Angela Sun

Today is my birthday, January 8th, I'm turning 11. I'm lying in bed trying to sleep in when my mom hollers from downstairs, "Hurry up Lily or you'll be late!"

I sigh. I forgot that I had school today. I get up, put on my favorite dress, and walk downstairs to eat breakfast. On the table there are hash browns, sausage, and toast. All my favorites. My dad is leaving for work.

"Happy birthday sweetie," he says as he kisses my head and leaves for work. I eat quickly and get ready for school. As I'm walking to the bus stop I'm trying to be careful of where I step. The roads are slippery with ice. When I'm almost at the bus stop I slip and fall. My dress is ruined, it's covered in mud and ice. Before I can run home and change, I see the bus coming over the hill, it's early. Great, now I have to go to school like this.

On the bus, I try to hide my dress, but of course someone sees it. I get teased the whole way to school. At school I desperately try to clean my dress, but some of the

stains are too stubborn. My eyes tear up. Somehow I know that this will be one of the worst days of school I've ever had.

I walk through the halls keeping my head down. Kids whisper and point at my dress, and some of them laugh. I walk faster to my class. As I get to class, I sit as far back as possible and slump into a chair.

"Lily Deering sit up straight!" barks my mean history teacher, Mrs. Wake, which causes everyone in the class to laugh.

"Yes ma'am," came my meek reply. Throughout the rest of the class I suffer through Mrs. Wake's snide remarks.

After class I look through the halls for my best friend, Violet. I can't see her anywhere though. Looks like she's absent, again.

During lunch, I don't know where to sit. I'm very shy. After looking around I find an empty table and sit down miserably. Today has gone horribly so far. I feel so alone. Kids have laughed at me, Mrs. Wake called me out in front of the whole class, and now my only friend isn't here. Violet is the extrovert<sup>1</sup>. She is friends with everyone. Without her, I don't talk to anyone.

On the bus ride home, kids are too busy talking to notice. I remember that when I get home mom will be baking my birthday cake. When it's my stop, I get off and run home. When I do get home, I smell something burning. My heart sinks. I run into the kitchen. There on the counter is my burnt birthday cake. My mom walks up to me, "I'm sorry sweetie, I forgot about your cake while it was baking. When I remembered, it was already too late."

"It's ok..." I mumble. I slowly turn around and walk up the stairs. My body is shaking. I make it to my room before the tears come. Big, fat tears slip down my face.

## Today was horrible.

<sup>1</sup>an outgoing, overtly expressive person

## Outside The Walls

## Pt. 2

By: Selena Liao

[Click to read Part 1 \(for those of you that need a refresher\)](#)

My mind is swirling.

Should I go?

I bite my lower lip. Mom and Trent are sleeping.

I weigh the odds. What have I got to lose? I'm gonna do it.

Tonight's cold so I reach for my thick woollen coat. Silently, I slip out into the darkness.

My footsteps echo on the street. I meet a few people along the way, but otherwise the streets are bare, stripped from busy people. I wonder why. *Probably because it's night. It's also freezing. No one in the right mind would come outside tonight.* I reassure myself and try to shrug off the suspiciousness. *I'm just nervous. I just got to get to my destination.* I close my eyes for a split second. *Just breathe.* My eyes flicker open and I start running.

The Eastern Side of the Freten Wall is in view. There is a girl, in full black. She motions at me, like telling me to follow her. It doesn't seem she has weapons but any knife or dagger could be hidden beneath her sheets of midnight. She looks familiar. I've walked this far so, before I can think, I follow her.

She leads me to a small shop. The sign reads, "CLOSED" and the building is in shambles. It must have been bombed during The Great War. I think it's abandoned.

"Come," she whispers, so quietly I can hardly hear her.

I'm startled, this is the first time she has spoken to me since I saw her. Nevertheless, I walk inside. What must have been shelves or trays look now, like a burnt mess.

We walk to the very back of the shop, turn left, and then into a small room.

2 people are sitting there, all in black.

"Take a seat," the one on the right, the leader I assume, smiles. Like he's enjoying all this.

"I didn't think you'd come." the other one says. By the sound of their voice, it's a guy again. "The names Maxwell," he grins.

Maxwell whispers something to the other guy. He sighs.

"I am Cole," he looks at me. "Don't bother to announce yourself, we already know who you are."

"I am Naomi. Don't bother to announce yourself, we already know who you are." I say, imitating him through gritted teeth.

Someone behind me laughs.

"I like her." The girl who lead me here holds her hand out to me. "Don't bother with these idiots. They don't even deserve to be insulted," she whispered to me.

From the corner of my vision, I notice that Cole's jaw tightens. Maxwell just keeps on smiling.

"I'm Taz, short for Tazanna. You're here because we need a maid. I'm just kidding, calm down."

"We're called the Shades." Maxwell says. "Great name right? I made it up myself."



"It's a horrible name, but no one had any better ideas," Taz again whispers to me.

I just nod.

"This must be a lot for you. We'll explain things tomorrow. Just whatever you do, don't mention anything about what you've seen, us, this meeting, *nothing*. Don't mention *any* of it," Cole's eyes narrow at me, like I'm the one that acts like a rude, idiotic jerk. "Go on home now."

I start walking out.

"Meet here tomorrow at 11:30pm."

"Sure..."

My mind ponders on about what just happened. I slowly walk back home. I don't even know if I'm gonna commit to this mess. I'm so confused. I don't know anymore then I knew yesterday.

Finally, my family's little, blue, front door comes into sight. I start walking up the first step, when I pause.

Now I know why she looks familiar. Taz is the girl I saw through the window last night.

So she's the one who was stalking me? Can I even trust her? Can I trust them? Can I trust anyone anymore?

I don't get any sleep, even considering how exhausted I am.

Trent bangs on the door.

"Wake up!" he says.

"Ok, ok," I say, irritatedly.

I walk downstairs into the aroma of sweet breakfast.

"Naomi, can you go the store later today, we're running out of some things. Here, I'll write you a list," Mom leaves the room.

Perfect.

"Hey, Trent, tell Mom that I'm gonna go now," now my plan is in action. "Tell her I have a lot of schoolwork and that I don't need a list."

"Sure," Trent says, with a mouthful of food. "Hold on! Wait but what about..."

I don't hear his next words. I've already left.

I run outside to the Freten Wall. I study the exterior, pacing back and forth. *It'll be impossible to get to the other side of this! What was I thinking?* I sigh. So many questions.

But there's only one question that matters.

*How do I get to the other side?*

TO BE CONTINUED.....

M000000000000000000000000

# THE TAIL OF THE THE LEGENDARY MOO 1 AND 2

BY: BEN Roder

(A TONGUE TWISTER)

I AM MOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO 1. NO ONE CAN MATCH THEIR MOO'S TO MINE. MOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO... OH LOOK, IT'S LEGENDARY MOOO 2 MY BEST MATE MOOSTER,

"MOOOOOOOO." SAID LEGENDARY MOO 2.

"I AGREE," LEGENDARY MOO 1 SAID.

"YOU KNOW IT" LEGENDARY MOO 2 SAID.

WITH THAT, THEY SET OFF TOGETHER ON THE QUEST OF A LIFETIME BUT LITTLE DID THEY KNOW HOW POWERFUL THEY WERE TOGETHER. WITH THEM AS A TEAM THEY COULD DESTROY THE UNIVERSE WITH ONE SINGLE MOO!!!!!! . NOBODY COULD STAND UP TO THEM... NOBODY. THEY TRAVELED THE WORLD TO FIND THE DEVICE THAT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO PRONOUNCE (FTGF3Y2%3@#@\$3B\*). HOWEVER, ALONG THEIR TRAVELS THEY CAME ACROSS A LEGENDARY DISCOVERY THERE WAS A... LEGENDARY MOO 3!.

"MOOOO?" SAID LEGENDARY MOO 1 AND 2 PERFECTLY IN SYNC.

BUT SOMETHING WAS UP WITH THIS LEGENDARY MOO. HE WAS **EVIL**, AND HOSTILE AND HIS LEGENDARY MOOS WERE VERY DANGEROUS.

"I FINALLY HAVE YOU!" LEGENDARY MOO 3 SAID.

THEN, ALL OF A SUDDEN A BIG CAGE CAME DOWN ON LEGENDARY MOO 1 AND 2, TRAPPING THEM.

"MOO, MOO, MOO, MOO!" SAID LEGENDARY MOO 3 IN HIS BEST DEVILISH LAUGH IMPRESSION.

LEGENDARY MOO 1 AND 2 KNEW EXACTLY WHAT TO DO.

"READY?" LEGENDARY MOO 1 ASKED.

"YOU KNOW IT," REPLIED LEGENDARY MOO 2.

"WAIT WHAT ARE YOU DOING?" ASKED LEGENDARY MOO 3.

THEN BOTH LEGENDARY MOO 1 AND 2 ATTACKED THE CAGE WITH ALL THEIR MIGHT.

"NOOOO-WHAT-WHY-YOU-CAN'T-NOOOO," SAID LEGENDARY MOO 3 SCARED THAT THEY WOULD BREAK THE CAGE. IN THIS PANIC HE HID BEHIND A ROCK ONLY TO FIND THAT THE LEGENDARY MOOS ATTACK DID NOTHING TO THE CAGE. EMBARRASSED HE QUICKLY SAID, "I KNEW YOU COULDN'T PENETRATE THAT CAGE. THAT CAGE I MADE UP OF THE STRONGEST MATERIAL NOT EVEN YOU TWO COULD DESTROY IT."

BUT REALLY THE WHOLE REASON WHY THEY COULDN'T BREAK THE CAGE WAS BECAUSE THEY WERE RUSTY. THEY HADN'T ATTACKED SOMETHING IN A LONG TIME OR AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT LEGENDARY MOO 3 THOUGHT.

ALL OF A SUDDEN, OUT OF NOWHERE, LEGENDARY MOO 3 PULLED OUT A BIG HUGE CONTRAPTION THAT LOOKED QUITE SCARY. "THIS IS THE LASER EXECUTOR-DESTROYER-DEMOLISHER-CRUSHER OF LIFE 3000, MY LATEST CREATION....," HE RAMBLLED ON PROUDLY.

LITTLE DID LEGENDARY MOO 3 KNOW THAT WHILE HE WAS SPEAKING HIS GRAND SPEECH, LEGENDARY MOO 1 AND 2 HAD A PLAN TO ESCAPE WITH THE TRUSTY BUTTER KNIFE THAT LEGENDARY MOO 3 CARELESSLY LEFT IN THE CAGE. WHEN THEY BROKE OUT, THEY RAN WITH ALL THEIR MIGHT. WHEN THEY GOT TO THE END OF LEGENDARY MOO 3S CAVE, THEY MOOOOED WITH FRIGHT AT WHAT AWAITED THEM...

TO BE MOOOTINUED...

# Simon Towel and the Rabbit

## By Camryn Klein

### Simon

Once when the flowers didn't grow and the grass was brown, lived a boy named Simon Towel. Simon was very well behaved and loved playing in the dirt. Living back when flowers didn't grow was quite boring, though Simon managed. Simon lived in a small little house that his mother built all by herself. She worked hard every day and night so mostly Simon was home alone.

One day, Simon's mother gave her son the most lovely gift a boy could ever have. She gave him a small little stuffed rabbit. Simon carried it wherever he went. He played with it in the dirt, at night, and even while he ate. Simon cherished the doll very much.

But one day when Simon was walking to school, he dropped it by accident when he was talking to his friend Harry. He was so lost in his conversation that by the time he realized the little Rabbit was gone, school was already over. He was so sad.

So, Simon tried to retrace his steps and found that it had been stolen. Simon was so devastated. When he told his mom, she was persistent to find that Rabbit. She knew that it meant the world to Simon. Since the village that Simon lived in was so small, she decided to go out and look for it. Simon decided to go along as well. He wanted his stuffed rabbit so dearly.

They went from the Peter's to the McMimmon's, and to the James's and to the Carmen's. They searched from head to toe, yet the toy rabbit was nowhere in sight.

But all the looking made Simon tired. After the 43rd house, Simon fell asleep on his mother's shoulder. That night, Simon dreamt that he was with his beloved friend again. Thinking about the rabbit made the little boy so sad. He loved it with all of his heart. He only hoped that wherever it was, it was in good hands, and indeed it was.

### Talia

As Talia woke up to her next miserable day, she had no clue that this would be the day she would meet her best friend. Her mother and father argued day and night. Her siblings would constantly tease and fight with her and remind her that she was the youngest in the family. Talia lived in a very small trailer, where the air smelled of terrible odors of body odor and dirty clothes. As she walked on her way to school, she found a small little rabbit laying on the cobblestone of the pavement. As she picked it up she realized it had a name on it. She felt bad for the child who dropped it. It looked like the child who had previously cared and loved the toy rabbit cared for it deeply because there were little blue swede overalls and black and white shoes on the toy.

She stuffed it in her small little bag her mother had sewed for her older sister that was passed down to Talia. As Talia got to her school children crowded the doorway to her classroom. Everyone tended to pick on Talia so it was no surprise that big and mean Billy Mills shoved her as





she walked in the hallway of the cramped school. She tugged away but as she did so her bag broke and out flew all her books and the small rabbit.

Billy slowly moved toward the toy rabbit. Just then he grabbed it with an evil smirk on his face. He cackled at the sight of a baby toy being carried by a 5th grader. Suddenly, the bell rang and Billy strolled to class with the poor rabbit, leaving Talia red and angry. She was determined to get that rabbit back.

## **Billy**

Every time I woke up, mom would be sitting on the front porch with her cigarette in one hand and the *People* magazine in the other. She would say, "Billy get me the ashtray!" In her cranky tone she would say "Get up you big pile of mush!" But this morning was different. She said "Billy get me my robe and get up right now you dum dum!" So I grabbed her robe that had orange juice and bacon grease blobs and handed it to her. She had a bottle in her hand and a cigarette in the other.

My mom was an addict. I hated living with her. When my mom and dad got divorced it felt like a big storm rolled in. The last time I saw my dad was on my birthday, four years ago. It wasn't fair that my mom took full custody of me.

On my way to school I saw the perfect little Simon Towel talking to his wimpy friend Harry. I saw he had dropped his toy, but I didn't feel like saying, "Hey you dropped something" So I headed into school feeling worthless.

When I saw 'Raggedy Ann' come in, I had to tease her. I gave her a big shove. All her books dropped and she picked them up but my eye caught the toy rabbit. I laughed, she stole the Rabbit that was behind Simon after it had mistakenly been dropped. I took it and ran into my room. Just then I saw Simon walking into the same classroom. I smirked when I looked down at the rabbit.

After class, I went toward the ocean near my house. I threw the rabbit, letting it drift slowly away sinking to the bottom of the waters. I can't imagine anyone would ever find that thing.

But Billy was wrong ... someone would find it.

## **The Rabbit**

As I tossed and turned in the rough waves and fell to the bottom of the ocean, I thought about Simon. I thought of Simon, Simon Towel, my beloved friend who always took care of me. After years of loving me, I am lost without him and awfully scared in the terrible waves, now at the ocean floor. My body hurt so much from the awful waves that my clothes colors started blending and fading to the point where you could only tell the color of my shoes and nothing else. But now I feel like time keeps on going slower and slower and ...

I feel someone pick me up I hear the person talking who sounds awfully familiar...

## **Simon (Lots of Years Later)**

I took my daughter, Penelope, with me. I loved coming here. I liked how the breeze blew and how the ocean waves went drifting toward shore. But just then Penelope and I spotted something. It looked familiar. I saw, faded little blue swede overalls and a pair of black and white shoes.

"My rabbit!" I exclaimed. It had been decades since I had seen the toy rabbit. I scooped it up and held it tightly. I saw Penelope looking at it with curious eyes. "Here my daughter, treasure this, it was once mine and I am now giving it to you." Penelope hugged her father and gazed into his eyes and squeezed him once more.

## Talia

When I heard Simon had found his toy rabbit, I did not understand what he was talking about, but when I saw the little toy I couldn't believe it! I had tried finding Simon's toy rabbit all along. I always wondered who it had belonged to. I had no idea that my own husband would have been the previous owner of the toy rabbit that I was trying to find all of these years. I grasped it shouting, "You found it! You found it! I have been looking for this toy for forever because Billy, that bully, took it from me!"

I smiled at the sight of it. I then saw the toy rabbit blink, and I couldn't believe my eyes.

## *Walking Too Slow*

*By Ashley Rhee*

*I walked alone. Who cared what they said, anyway? Recess was horrible. My so-called "friends" were far ahead of me, walking across the pavement at their own pace, looking around, but leaving me behind. Some friends they were. They only cared about themselves. I jammed my hands inside my coat pockets roughly and fought against the wind. None of my "friends" even looked back at me.*

*BRINNING! The recess bell rang. Time to go inside, finally.*

*I lined up in the girl's line, behind some gossiping girls. One of them turned around, and quickly looked away. "Look, it's Charlotte. What a weirdo."*

*I was used to the public shame. The thing I didn't get was why it seemed like everyone hated me. Was it because I didn't wear the right clothes or do the right things or get the right grades?*

*We filed inside. It was nice and warm inside the school. I went straight to the lunch line. Ugh, plastic for lunch again. WHY did Mom never remember to pack my lunch?*





"Yes, we should let the kittens develop with their mother. They then should be strong enough to leave her, when adoption comes." They took me along with each of my brothers into a loud, rumbling box that smelled horrible, like gasoline and urine. I decided to sit down, because I was tired. As soon as I lay down, the box began to move! My siblings that were still standing fell right on top of me! After what seemed like an endless game of 'pig pile' the box stopped, and one of my brothers at the top of the pig pile rolled and hit the side of the box.

One by one, they scooped us out of the magic box, my mother included. They took us into a place that these big humans called 'house' or sometimes 'home'. I decided I liked home; there was always food, toys, and places to relieve myself.

I would squat in the living room at first, but the humans there didn't appreciate my small ponds and little mountains. They would pick me up and place me in a box that smelled like air freshener and poop. If I did squat there, they would reward me with a treat. It was either a piece of mystery meat, or a hard crunchy square. I decided that squatting in the box was a good thing.

There weren't always big humans that liked me. There were little humans too, ones that liked to play rough and tug on my ears and tail. Even if the little guys started it, and I nipped them back, the bigger humans would give me less food during the next meal, so I had to stop biting them, which was extremely unfair. More or less, I had a happy life.

One day, I went to find one of my brothers. I had nicknamed Flash. I wanted to play tag, but he was nowhere in sight. I looked around the entire house, but I could not find him at all.

I walked up back to my mom. I nuzzled her, asking her if she knew where Flash went. She got a sad look in her eyes. She nodded towards the big human and walked away. I never saw Flash again.

One by one my brothers and sisters were taken away. Soon it was only me and my mother. She would now hold me closer, not wanting to lose her last baby. But there was no avoiding destiny.

One morning I awoke with the realization that there was another human in the house. I remembered what had happened the last time another one was in the house; one of my brothers was taken away.

The big humans stood moving their mouths for a little bit. I saw a kid hiding behind a wall. He kept taking glances at me. I walked over to him. He smelled sweet, like a pile of sugar. He persisted by shooting glances at me as he spoke with the big human. And my mother kept wrapping herself tighter and tighter around me.

"I'll take her." The big human said. What did "I'll take her" mean? But then, strong hands lifted me off the ground. My mother called for me. She cried, but inside, we knew it was goodbye.

The humans brought me outside the house, next to a loud, rumbling vehicle much like the ones I had experienced in the small box. I tried to scratch them and run away, but his grip was just too strong. "Can I hold her?" The small human was talking again, making senseless noises with his mouth.

"When we get in the car, Lance." Came the booming reply of the bigger one. He opened the door to what was called a 'car.' The little human, presumably Lance, hopped inside.

As the big human handed me over, Lance said, "thanks dad." Lance had a gentle grip, and immediately began petting me. I licked him as thanks, and he began to giggle uncontrollably. As the car drove down the long road, this boy, I decided, was all mine.

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# Informational Writing

## Missions In Space

By Grant Lee

There are over 35 interesting space missions that NASA and other space agencies around the world had launched. Many scientists are studying and working on how to send humans to different planets to try to make humans be able to survive on other planets; and some are simply just studying the features of planets.



Voyager II

### Pioneer Missions

The Pioneer probes were sent to space to explore Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune and beyond. Before the Pioneer probes were sent, scientist and astronomers knew very little about the planets beyond the asteroid belt.

Exploring Jupiter - Pioneer 10 was launched on March 2nd, 1972 from Spaceport Florida Launch Complex 36, in the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. Pioneer 10 was a 569 pound (258 kilograms) probe launched by NASA. It was created around a hexagonal bus and carried a 2.74 meter diameter parabolic dish high-gain antenna. It was sent into space by an Atlas/Centaur/TE 364-4 launch vehicle. Pioneer 10 was not manned. It carried a gold-anodized aluminium plaque that was placed onto the body of the probe. The plaque was designed to show a picture of a man and a woman and some information to show the origin of the spacecraft. Pioneer 10 was the first spacecraft to travel through the Asteroid belt and to make direct observations of Jupiter. It was also the first spacecraft to obtain close up images of Jupiter. Right now it is now over 8 billion miles away. That's running around the earth 321,272 times.

Exploring Saturn - Pioneer 11 was launched on April 5th, 1973 from Spaceport Florida Launch Complex 36, in the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. Pioneer 11 was a 571 pound (259 kilogram) probe also launched by NASA. It was also not manned. Its route through Saturn's outer rings brought it within 21,000 kilometers of the planet (which is very close), where it discovered two new moons (almost running into one of them). Pioneer 11 was sent to study the asteroid belt and the environment around Jupiter and Saturn. It was also sent to study solar wind and cosmic rays. It was the first probe to encounter Saturn and the second to fly through the asteroid belt. Thereafter, Pioneer 11 became the second artificial object of five artificial objects to achieve the escape velocity that allow it to leave the Solar System. Due to power constraints and the vast distance to the probe, the last routine contact with the spacecraft was on September 30, 1995, and the last good engineering data was received on November 24, 1995.

There were no Pioneer missions ever since 1973. The Pioneer mission sent scientists and astronomers on Earth a lot of information. Pioneer 10 is currently about 15.4 billion kilometers away from Earth. Pioneer 11 is about 12.4 billion kilometers from Earth. Pioneer 10 is on the exact opposite side of space from Pioneer 11. It is now impossible for scientists and astronomers

## Voyager Missions

Voyager I and II have been sent to explore the planets beyond the Asteroid Belt and even the planets far beyond the Kuiper Belt. The main mission for the twin spacecraft was to study Jupiter and Saturn.

Voyager I was launched on September 5th, 1977. It also was not manned. Voyager I was sent to explore and collect information on the weather, magnetic fields and rings of two planets, Jupiter and Saturn. It was the first probe to provide detailed images of their moons. Voyager 1 carried a golden record on the side of the craft. The records carried 115 images and lots of sounds. They also added musical selections from different eras and spoken greetings from humans in fifty-five languages.

Voyager II (shown in picture above) was launched on August 20th, 1977. Voyager II is expected to provide the first direct measurements of the density and temperature of interstellar plasma, when it enters interstellar space. This will help astronomers and scientists know more on interstellar space. For example, astronomers and researchers have suspected that Titan has liquid water, so Voyager II will be sent to find out if it has water. The astronomers found out that Titan has a liquid under its thick icy surface.

There were no more Voyager missions ever since 1977. Even though the Voyager Mission was supposed to end when the probes reached interstellar space. When the probes reached interstellar space, the scientists thought the mission was worth to keep going, so they tried to keep contact with the probes. They also tried to repair any of the broken machinery.

## Conclusion

The process of getting ready for these missions is hard. The scientists need to build and create the satellite or space telescope or probe, which takes a long time. Then they need to be able to communicate with the space vehicle in order to send commands and receive pictures. The scientists also need to angle the solar panels in the right direction so the space vehicle will be able to collect energy from the sun for the right amount of time. Undoubtedly, there will be many more space missions to come, as the interest in space exploration is increasing and the technology is advancing over time.

[https://www.google.com/search?q=voyager+2&source=inms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwj\\_hb6RIs\\_dAhXC64MKHZYoDAgQ\\_AUICigB&biw=1280&bih=579&safe=active&ssui=on#imgsrc=QHUCGtYCIQyqYM:](https://www.google.com/search?q=voyager+2&source=inms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwj_hb6RIs_dAhXC64MKHZYoDAgQ_AUICigB&biw=1280&bih=579&safe=active&ssui=on#imgsrc=QHUCGtYCIQyqYM:)



# 5 Easy-To-Take-Care-Of Pets!

By Aaron Choate

100% of all of you who are reading this right now either have pets or don't have pets. Probably though, around 75% of you have pets, right? Well, today I'm going over some easy-to take care-of-pets! I personally have an ADORABLE guinea pig named Autumn. She is very cuddly and fluffy, and especially cute.

## A Hermit Crab?

Hermit crabs don't really do anything, and are not very sociable. They are extremely independent and live almost their entire lives in shells. They do everything by themselves. Like every other pet, they eat and grow to take care of themselves. All you need to do differently is buy bigger shells. They also are a tiny bit more sociable if you buy them another friend to play with; ANOTHER HERMIT CRAB.



## A Box Turtle, Any Turtle



Any turtle would work fine as a good pet. They are a lot more friendly and social than hermit crabs. They require a larger tank, depending on the size of the turtle. They are fun to hold, and to watch them eat their food. They prefer veggies and fruits, and some types of mealworms.

## A GUINEA PIG!!!

Guinea Pigs are amazing pets, and they love to eat, run around, and poop like there's no tomorrow. They are very social and cuddly. They require lots of supplies, but it is SO worth it. The picture above, that I got from the Internet, almost looks EXACTLY like my cute Autumn. She is a Calico, which is orange, white, and black. This is my personal recommendation. They need a ton of greens, like kale and green bell peppers. Timothy hay is also nice. You might also want to buy bedding for the cage, a water bottle, treats, a little shelter, and some chew toys. I know, I know, WOW. So next time your mom drags you to a trip to Ulta Beauty (the one by Rusty Bucket), ask to go into Petco. That's what happened to me, and now I have Autumn!



## A Betta Fish



Betta fish are easy to take care of, and they require little attention. Of course, you need to buy a bowl or a tank, fish food, and something for decoration. They need a weekly bowl cleaning. I had an amazing Male Red Veiltail Betta fish whose name was Rio. I got him on the first night of the Summer Olympics on August 5th, 2016. (Get it? RIO De Janeiro?) He sadly died in the summer of 2018, but hey, I still had him for almost 2 years! It was fun to watch him eat his food and dart around his bowl. Betta fish are aggressive, so don't go sticking your fingers into the water. My mom had one when she was my age and, according to my grandparents, her Betta ate my aunt's goldfish.

## A Snake

Somehow, snakes make really good pets. This might not be your thing if you aren't into anything reptilian or slither-y. They eat mice, lizards, or just some living small thing...not your annoying little brother (LOL). Really, they eat small rodents. They like to live somewhere warm, so maybe get a terrarium to keep them in with a heat light on top or heat rocks in the terrarium.

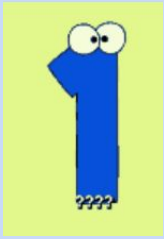


Mrs. Meyer's son, Nathan and his pet snake, Slither (10)

# Weird Facts About Presidents...

By: Ashlyn Fitzgerald

There are lots of weird presidents and weird situation that they seem to get into. So here are some weird facts about presidents.



## GEORGE WASHINGTON'S "WOODEN" TOOTH

Yes George Washington is known for many great things but one of them is certainly not his dental hygiene. But, who could blame him. Back in the late 1700s to early 1800s no one seemed to care about their teeth. George Washington lost his first adult tooth when he was 22 and it went all downhill from there. His mouth started hurting when he chewed and no matter what he did, his teeth just got worse and worse. Then George Washington got his first false teeth when he was 49 years old, and no they were not made of wood!!!!!! When George Washington became the first President of the United States, he only had one of his own teeth left! At age 64 George Washington's last tooth was removed.



## The Lincoln and Kennedy Assassinations

Lincoln and Kennedy were both very great presidents, but that's not the only thing that they had in common. Sadly, they also had very similar assassinations. First of all, Lincoln and Kennedy may have lived in different centuries, but the dates of their important events are surprisingly similar. They were both elected into congress in the 46th year of that century. For example, Lincoln was elected into congress in 1846 and Kennedy was elected in 1946. Also, Lincoln was elected as president in 1860 and Kennedy was in 1960. They were both shot in the head and on a Friday. Finally both their assassins were born 1838 or 1939, which are still surprisingly similar.

<https://www.snopes.com/fact-check/linkin-kennedy/>



## Calvin Coolidge's Pets

Everyone loves pets but 26 pets is kinda a stretch. President Calvin Coolidge's White House pets consisted of.....4 cats, 5 birds, 8 dogs, one racoon, a black bear, a Kangaroo, 2 lion cubs, a very small antelope, and Pekin ducks. So if you ever want a pet just tell your parents about Calvin and they will feel lucky you only want a cat!



## Thomas Jefferson's & John Adams' Trip to Shakespeare's birthplace

You see anyone can say they are a Shakespeare fan, but really no one can break off a piece of the chair from Shakespeare's birthplace and keep it as a souvenir! In 1786, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson took a trip to Shakespeare's birthplace. John at first did not like the idea of going to the birthplace. He described the tourist sight as, "small and mean." But of course Thomas talked him into going and before they knew it, they were both big fans! Such big fans that they decided to break off a piece of a chair that was there.

My sources:

<https://www.kqed.org/pop/20516/weird-facts-you-never-knew-about-the-u-s-presidents>, <https://www.mountvernon.org/george-washington/the-man-the-myth/a-history-of-washington-s-dental-troubles/>

# The Maker of Chocolate

By: Camryn Klein and Hannah Mitchell



Milton Hershey is famous for lots of candy, but the most famous candy he has made is Hershey chocolate. Milton has invented all different types of chocolate including one of the most famous inventions: milk chocolate candy. He has made the world a sweeter place with his new inventions.

Milton Snavely Hershey was born on September 13th, 1857 in Derry Township, Pennsylvania. He started going to school when he was only six years old. He eventually dropped out though in fourth grade. When Hershey was fifteen he was an assistant. Afterward, when Hershey was not even twenty yet, he inherited some money and decided to spend it on trying to make a business. He tried several businesses, but they failed. Hershey's life was about to go down-hill.

Then, shortly after when Hershey was twenty-six he went broke, since he had tried making two businesses and both had failed. Soon after, Hershey tried yet again another business. He started experimenting with boiled milk, cacao beans and more. Then he created his first invention, a creamy sweet drink called chocolate milk.

He then started another new company called the Lancaster caramel company making all kinds of caramels. But eventually he sold it in 1900. That same year he invented his most well known invention, milk chocolate which led to Milton making Hershey kisses in 1907, and eventually he made Hershey almond bars that next year. Soon everyone knew the name Milton Hershey.

By then Hershey had gotten married to a woman named Catherine. When Hershey and Catherine found out they couldn't have children, they decided to found and create a school and home for orphaned boys. Since he now lived the life of wealth, he felt the need to help people in need of homes and education.

Milton dedicated his life to making sweets from chocolate to gourmet gummy bears to soothing caramel. Milton became famous for many things such as his amazing inventions and donating money to charities. He even had his own amusement park named after him called

Hersheypark in Pennsylvania with roller coasters and all sorts of crazy and fun slides!

Unfortunately, when he was eighty-eight years old, Milton Hershey died of pneumonia. However, his long life legacy still lives on!

Sources: Milton Hershey biography, dictionary, [Milton Snavely Hershey - People of Pennsylvania - Netstate](#)

Images from: Google images



# Artificial Intelligence

By: Kyle Dong and Kavneer Mojhail

Have you ever wondered how Tesla cars drive by themselves or what goes on the top of your social media stream? Artificial Intelligence is the answer (AI for short). It is the software that lets robots and machinery think for themselves and learn like the human brain does. As new technology comes out AI is behind it. Elon Musk states that “The pace of progress in artificial intelligence is incredibly fast...it is growing at a pace close to exponential.”

AI functions by obtaining large amounts of data and processes it through fast algorithms. This allows the software to draw conclusion, find patterns, etc. In much simpler terms it lets AI “think” by itself. AI can sometimes be smarter than a human because of its ability to “think”. With this information, it outputs filtered data to carry out the process in other softwares or machines. Sometimes it gives signals to other databases to function. For example smart home speakers ( Ok Google, Hey Siri, Alexa or Cortana) may use speech recognition to identify a person. This technology may carry out a certain function because that specific person is speaking. A much simpler example is in video games, for example Fortnite. During the “Fortnite Mares” event, zombies try to attack and run toward the players that are in a certain range. This is a simple form of AI because the game recognizes where the location of the player is and then tells the zombies to follow the player.

The base of the tech industry depends on AI. Most databases run on AI. For example:

- Portrait mode is an AI run camera option, that takes pictures as if it is a professional camera. The camera uses AI because it observes the setting in the photo, which adjusts the camera settings for the best picture.
- PvE games, which is player vs. computer generated opponents. Some examples are AI chess, Fortnite Save The World, and Minecraft. Another example of AI is AI chess. AI chess is nearly impossible to win, as it has consistently beat the world’s top players.
- Siri suggestions is a feature on apple that views what apps you visit often, where you go regularly, etc. With this information it gives the user of the phone suggestions.
- Tesla cars use AI for their self-driving software. Sensors first make a profile of the cars surroundings. Then AI algorithms process the input and tell the car to function a certain way.

AI is the new definition of life. From listening to a radio in the car to scrolling down on Instagram, AI is everywhere. Anything where a computer makes a decision by itself is considered AI. Some conspiracy theories state that AI will stop listening to its programmers and take over the world. AI is expanding rapidly. Where will AI take itself next?

# Elephants

By Evan Dan, Adam Han and Michael Lee



You know how cars are made of metal, can be huge, and weigh a lot, right? Well, elephants are actually heavier than cars. There also no similar species to elephants. Read more to some new and interesting facts about these massive animals.

## Ancestors

Of course, all animals that live today have ancestors. After single-celled organisms became more complex, nature became more complex. Then came out woolly mammoths. Through scientific attempts, the data shows that woolly mammoths are more closely related to Asian elephants than to African elephants. The Asian elephant is also an ancestor of the straight-tusked elephant which lived in the pleistocene era (about 781,000-50,000 years ago). There definitely are other ancestors of elephants since there are several different types of elephants. This means, that there must be several different types of ancestors of the elephants. For example, the African elephants have come from the Stegodon. The Stegodon is believed to have shorter legs than the African elephants. Woolly mammoths had fur, modern Asian elephants mainly only has thick skin on the outside. But there were also ancestors of the Stegodon and the woolly mammoth. On the African elephant side, there was also the Mammot. There are more types, but these are just some of the earlier examples.

## Homes

Elephants can live in Savannah deserts, grasslands, swamps, forests, mountains, tropical forests. The elephants have a wide variety of plants to eat and so if one species of plant dies out in their habitat, they have a lot more options of fruit benefiting their survival. They also live in elephant herds. Elephants live in herds because it ensures that the calves (young and baby elephants) of the herd are protected. African elephants tend to live in savanna grasslands. Asian elephants tend to live in forests. Originally, Asian elephants actually came from Ethiopia. Two species of asian elephants are the indian elephant and the borneo pygmy elephant. Two species of african elephants are the african bush elephant and the african forest elephant.

## Food

Elephants can eat up to 200-600 lb. of food a day. Elephants usually eat 70,000 calories. The elephant can actually drink up to 50 gal. of water! They spend up to 80% of the day feeding! The tree bark is one of the elephants' favorite food. They also eat grass, small plants, fruit, roots, bushes, and some other plants. Elephants usually don't get eaten themselves, because of their large size, but lions could kill African elephants, while the Asian elephants could be eaten be eaten by tigers, but rarely for both elephants to get eaten.



## Family

Female elephants that are related will form herds, and society, and form deep family bonds. The oldest and often largest female will become the leader of the herd or the matriarch. The male elephants though, they only spend 5% of their lifetime with the family herd, but they do spend a little time with other males that are alone. The males leave the herd at about 12-15 years old. There are typically 8-100 elephants in a herd.

## Mating and Reproduction

Usually, the male elephant approaches the female elephant. If the female elephant is interested, then the female may leave the family group walking with her head up, and turn sideways to watch the male elephant following behind. The elephants will probably stroke their trunks before they mate. The male will stay near to guard the female for a few hours or even several days. Females have very long pregnancy, lasting up to 22 months. A female elephant may actually give birth to 12 elephants in a lifetime!



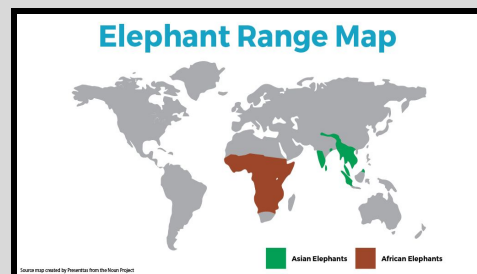
## Fun Facts

Elephants are the largest land animal, and are heavier than cars. They can weight up to 13,000 lbs. They also measure up to 18-21 ft long. They can become as high as 11 ft. The African elephants can live up to 70 years old. Asian elephants however, can only live up to around 48 years old. However, captive elephants don't live as long as elephants in the wild. Captive males will only live up to 40 years old. And females live only to 19 years.



Rock hyra

The elephants' closest relative is the rock hyrax. The rock hyrax is also called a rock badger or rock rabbit, and is a medium-sized terrestrial mammal native to Africa and the Middle East. They are also related to manatees (sea cows).



# These Foods are Hurting you

By: Camryn Klein

You may think these foods are good but you may be shocked by the results...

## Granola



Have you ever wondered why granola tastes so good and yet you **think** it is healthy? Well this food might help but there is more hurting than helping. It may have fiber and iron in it, but granola is very high in calories. Not only that, but also it includes lots of oils that are not good for you. In addition, it contains tons of sugar that is tricking you with “healthy” names. Some brands even have a certain food called inulin that can cause digestive problems. So think about it the next time you take a bite of this breakfast delight.

## Fruit Juice

This juice is a great way to get all those fibers that a normal fruit does, or so you **think**. Actually fruit juice has tons of sugar and in this sugary drink is not all the good stuff for you that is in actual fruits. We all know sugar can make us obese. These so called “nutrient” drinks that you drink everyday for breakfast are lying to you about your health. So is it fruit juice or fat juice?



## Popcorn



You should probably take a minute before you put that buttery snack in your mouth. When eating a bag full of this means you are agreeing to high blood pressure because of the way too much sodium. This might seem delicious and buttery but do not be tricked, this will just hurt you.

## Hummus

This has to be healthy, right? I mean it contains chickpeas which are very healthy for you, so why is it bad? This store bought dip can contain lots of fat and can be loaded with lots of salt. Homemade hummus is much healthier. Your better off making it yourself than buying it.



Sources: 10 foods you think are healthy but aren't by [Jessica Brown](#) from [discover](#) and, dictionary



# 5 Animals You Didn't Know Existed

By: Mallory Kavanagh

I am sure you know the basic animals, tigers, lions, giraffes. But have you ever hear of the following animals?

Quote from,



<https://www.ranker.com/list/japanese-spider-crab-facts/laura-allan>

## 1. JAPANESE SPIDER CRABS

Imagine a half spider, half crab. That is a spider crab. Many are afraid of spiders. Well, this is the spider crab: "They are not only the largest crab known to exist, but they can live longer than humans - and are carnivorous. They've even been known to chop off human fingers with their claws!" The claws help to protect them from large animals such as octopuses.

Quote From:



[eat.https://www.education.com/resources/plants-and-animals-the-earth/?referral\\_url=kidsbiology.com](https://www.education.com/resources/plants-and-animals-the-earth/?referral_url=kidsbiology.com)

## 2. SEA PEN

This is a creature that lives in the sea, but it looks just like an ink pen.

The sea pen can also move. It does this by detaching itself from the sand or mud. "The sea pen is not actually one animal, but rather consists of many separate animals called polyps." At night time the sea pens bury themselves in sand in hopes of capturing some plankton to eat.



## 3. AFRICAN CLAWED FROG

This African Clawed Frog is like any other frog, except it has claws, instead of webbed feet like all other frogs! It uses its claws to tear apart its food. It also uses its claws to scoop up the food and put it into its mouth. Believe it or not, some people even have these frogs as pets!



## 4. CHINESE WATER DEER

A Chinese Water Deer has canine teeth. They live in China and Korea. They look like a regular deer minus the canine teeth hanging out of their mouths. It also is the only deer to not have antlers. They use their fangs for hunting.



Quote from:

<https://www.arkive.org/lowland-streaked-tenrec/hemicentetes-semispinosus/image-G125110.html>

## 5. LOWLAND STREAKED TENREC

"An extraordinary-looking family, the tenrecs exist only in Madagascar and have a greater diversity of form than any other family of insectivores. Members of the subfamily Tenrecidae look like a cross between a shrew and a hedgehog, with long, pointed snouts and spines amongst their fur." Some of these Lowland Streaked Tenrecs can fit in your hand! Also, newborn Lowland Streaked Tenrecs don't have a spine! They weigh only 200 grams which is the weight of 4 quarters. They also hibernate during certain times of the year. Their nesting sites are near water.

# WAVERLY HILLS SANATORIUM

By Mallory Kavanagh

Do you believe in ghosts? If your answer is no then you are probably thinking that Waverly Hills Sanatorium is not haunted. Sure, you may be right, but there's evidence saying it is. First, let's learn the history.

## HISTORY OF WAVERLY HILLS SANATORIUM

Waverly Hills Sanatorium (Or Waverly Hills for short) is located in Louisville, Kentucky. Back in July 26, 1910 it opened. Back then it was a "Hospital" for people with Tuberculosis or TB for short. TB is a very deadly disease and it is very contagious. Since TB was so contagious, many people were infected with it in a short amount of time. At the time, there was no cure for TB. (There is a cure today). TB is a disease that affects the lungs. When people were sent to Waverly Hills they had to stay there for the rest of their lives! Including the nurses! Or until the disease went away, which rarely happened!

## WHY DO PEOPLE THINK THAT IT IS HAUNTED

Many people believe that Waverly Hills Sanatorium is haunted because of how many people died. Many people died from the TB. The doctors didn't have a cure, so they would experiment with the patients to see if they could find a cure. Most often, when they were experimenting the patient would die. Because people were dying so quickly, they had this "Body Chute" that they would send dead people down to be picked up by a train. Many people believe that the body chute is haunted.

## GHOST SIGHTINGS

People say there are many ghosts at Waverly Hills, and here is some evidence through ghost sightings.

### Timmy

"Timmy was a six or seven-year-old boy who died at Waverly, but has yet to move on. Visitors often bring toy balls to the hospital and invite the ghostly child to play. The balls sometimes move." Many times the balls also roll back to the visitor after they are thrown.

### The Lights Ghost

"...the lights at Waverly Hills Asylum flicker and also turn on and off...obviously there is no electricity running through the entire building but many people have seen this phenomena occur." Many ask the question how do the lights flicker? Many people believe that the ghosts can do things that the simple human can't such as operate the lights when it is impossible for the humans to do so without electricity.

## WAVERLY HILLS TODAY

Today, Waverly Hills hosts one of the scariest haunted houses every year at Halloween. They have a light show at Christmas, and throughout the year they do ghost tours. Still to this day, Waverly Hills is one of the most haunted places in the world.

Do you believe that Waverly Hills Sanatorium is haunted? Do you have the guts to go there? Or do you just want to sit on the sidelines and watch everyone else face their fears?

Evidence From: <https://exemplore.com/paranormal/The-Ghosts-of-Waverly-Hills-Asylum-in-Kentucky>  
<https://mysteriousuniverse.org/2013/10/the-ghosts-of-waverly-hills/>

# Top Ten Restaurants in Solon!

As rated by Aaron Choate and Callen Silverberg

We all know that our “beloved” city we call Solon has WAAAAYYYYYYYYYYYY too many banks, and not a lot of restaurants. I mean, it’s like, hey, want some food with your main course of MONEY? That’s gonna be the future if Solon doesn’t turn this around.



## 1. Chipotle

Chipotle is definitely one of the best Mexican restaurants we have around here. Yes, It may have lines out the door most of the time, but it’s worth it once you actually get your food. The Twinsburg is better than the Solon one, but this is about Solon.



## 2. Chicago Deli

Chicago Deli is undoubtedly the greatest diner-style restaurant to ever grace this city. They NEVER have a busy line, and you always get great service with great food; an awesome combination. (Try the steak fries: AMAZING)



## 3. Senorita Bonitas

Bonitas is the best mexican sit-down in this area. Coyote’s is also awesome, but that’s in Chagrin Falls. Back to Bonitas. They have such good food that when you eat it, you can’t stop. (Like me with the chips and salsa.) (LOL)



## 4. Boston Market

Boston Market is probably the best take-out or sit-down restaurant in the Downtown Solon area. The food is breathtaking, because you need to take breaths from trying not to eat it all at once.



## 5. Burntwood Tavern

Burntwood is a fancy sit-down restaurant. The service is okay, but not as good as it needs to be. The food is pretty good, but... just... don’t order the lemonade. It’s homemade in some sort of way, and it’s not good.



## 6. Rusty Bucket

Bucket (as my family calls it) is a pretty dang decent restaurant. The food is awesome and always hot, and the service is inconsistent. But overall, a good restaurant. (again, TRY THE FRIES)



## 7. Burgers 2 Beer

B2B has some really good food. The service is great, and the kid’s menu is pretty funny. The burgers on it are the porcupine, and the turtle; because they add pretzel sticks or pickle coins to make them look like the animals!



## 8. Panera Bread

No, Panera is not a bakery. (That’s only half of it). You may have seen their commercials on TV saying: “Food As It Should Be.” The food is actually not bad, the service is okay, and the baguettes are completely amazing.



## 9. Longhorn Steakhouse

Longhorn is a sit-down-western restaurant with lots of SPICE. (get it?) Again, you may have seen their commercials saying: “You Can’t Fake Steak. It’s honestly more of a steak/barbecue place for older people, unless you are a kid T-Rex.



## 10. Antonio’s Pizza

Antonio’s is probably the best pizza place in Solon, right up there with Domino’s and Gionino’s. The pizza is fully customizable (I like mine with light sauce, since they always drown my pizza in it.). The mild wings are also pretty decent.

# Natural Disasters and How They Happen

By Hannah Mitchell

Have you ever thought about how deadly natural disasters happen? Natural disasters happen in all different kinds of ways, and they greatly affect our world.

## Earthquake

Earthquakes can be either very calm, or very harmful. Earthquakes are caused by the Earth's tectonic plates. Tectonic plates are always moving very slowly. When they stick to each other due to a problem, the stress between the two creates an energy that gets released through the Earth's crust, that results in shaking in the world's surface. There are ratings to tell you how strong or weak a earthquake is. The ratings range from less than 2.5 all the way to over 8.0. If you have a rating of 2.5 or less, then it's a very minor earthquake, and most of the time you won't even feel it. If it is 2.5 to 5.4, then the earthquake can be felt, but it usually doesn't give that much damage. 5.5 to 6.0 means it may give some damage. 6.1 to 6.9 means the earthquake will cause a lot of damage. 7.0 to 7.9 means it is a major earthquake and there will be a lot of damage. Lastly, 8.0 or greater is a very, very, very bad earthquake that can damage a whole city. There have been many harmful earthquakes throughout time. For example, the San Francisco earthquake in 1906, or the Japan Earthquake of 1923. But those two earthquakes are not the only ones. There have been many people affected by this dangerous natural disaster.

## Tsunami

Tsunamis are usually caused by underwater earthquakes. This is why most tsunamis happen a little bit after an earthquake. Tsunamis happen also because of the Earth's tectonic plates, getting stuck together and creating a wave of energy that turns into shaking on the earth's surface. The earthquake may happen underneath the ocean, which is why the waves reach such great heights. There have been many tsunamis in the world, and meteorologists have figured out many ways to know when a tsunami might happen.

## Tornado

Tornadoes can be a very dangerous natural disaster. Tornadoes happen by very, very strong winds changing directions and speeds. Their speeds can reach higher than 250 mph! Because of these super strong winds, anything a tornado touches, will easily be wrecked to pieces. Most tornadoes happen after a severe thunderstorm, flash floods, or severe winds. Most meteorologists are starting to recognize that these severe storms are signs of a tornado.

## Hurricane

Hurricanes are caused by water vapor that releases energy when the water vapor condenses and forms liquid drops. They usually form over oceans, and eventually make their way to land. An interesting fact

about hurricanes, is that the water has to be at least 80 degrees fahrenheit within 50 meters of the ocean's surface in order for the hurricane to form at all. This fact about these natural disasters can actually be potentially dangerous. Because of global warming, the temperatures of the ocean's are getting higher, which gives a better chance for hurricanes, or even Cyclones which most of the time are worse than hurricanes. Hurricanes also have a rating based on how strong the hurricane is. The rating is in numbers 1 through 5, with 1 being the weakest and 5 being the strongest. Hurricanes are a very strong natural disaster.

## Scientists Help

Scientists nowadays are doing everything they can to predict when a natural disaster may come. For example, scientists are starting to know that severe thunderstorms or winds may be signs of tornadoes. They are also learning the signs of tsunamis are earthquakes.

Natural disasters are a very important topic to learn about. Learning about them saves lives. So, what can you do to save people worldwide?

### Sources

11 facts about earthquakes, earthquake facts for kids, national hurricane center, tsunami-wikipedia, tornadoes facts and information

## Is Your Phone Spying on You?

By Mandi Lu

Our lives today are filled with technology. The usage of chromebooks at our school increases, more things are bought online every year, and more and more robots are replacing human jobs. But the most popular and most used electronic is, without a doubt, the iphone. The iphone can do many, many things and save people a lot of time and effort. In fact, experts predict that the number of texts sent this year can go up to about 1.6 trillion. That's about 200,000 texts every second. So in the time it takes you to read this sentence, about 1,000,000 texts will have been sent.

Though the iphone is extremely useful in everyday life, many experiments led by everyday people can prove that your iphone isn't as innocent as you think. Your phone in fact, may be spying on you. You read that right. That little device in your pocket may be listening to you.

### The Beginning

This topic was brought to my attention when I was having a conversation with a teacher of mine. She told me that she'd recently visited a friend who had Crohn's disease. They had had a conversation about her disease for a good fifteen minutes. Later that day, she'd gone to her job and had joked around with someone she worked with about getting a lawyer. And all the while, her phone had been in her pocket turned off. That night, she opened up Facebook, and the first two ads to load were about Crohn's disease and finding a lawyer in Solon. And the weird part was, my teacher had never looked up or texted or



posted anything about Crohn's disease or getting a lawyer. The only possible explanation was that Facebook had heard her talking.

### **What Does the Internet think?**

This is actually a very popular topic on the internet. Many youtubers have run experiments where they turn their phone off and talk into it for about five minutes about some random topic that they've never googled. In a few hours, or even minutes, they simply reload the page and there's an ad about the topic they were just talking about, though many think this is done with behind the scenes editing. You might think that at first, but listen to this.

*Kare 11: Verify* even did a review on this by interviewing some people including Sean Lanterman, , a "tech whiz" from the Computer Forensic Services.

"One thing that I think consumers don't necessarily realize is that phones are really snitches in their pockets," Says Sean Lanterman. One of the interviewers colleagues were even mentioned in the video. She claims she and a friend were talking about getting new glasses and her friend recommended a place to her called *Zennies*. She had written it down on a piece of paper and that night when she went onto facebook. Guess what happened? She saw an ad for *Zennies*. And she says,

"I hadn't googled it, I hadn't looked it up yet."

The interviewer also tells us, "But if your phone is eavesdropping on you, it's not reporting to a human. It's talking to other machines"

But what "other machines"? How does this process work? The video never said.

The interviewer concludes the subject saying, "So yes, we can verify it's happening to people. It's hard to pin down who or what's behind it! Google does use things you say to google assistant to route ads your way. But the company flat-out denies spying. Google claims, 'We only process speech after the hot word, "ok google" is detected"'. He goes on to say that facebook claims the same thing.

### **Be Careful**

I honestly don't think Apple is ever going to use anything you say into your phone to stalk you or start some sort of Apple Apocalypse and try to take over the world. But try not to tell your phone something like, "Hi phone, my name is \_\_\_\_\_, I am eleven years old and I live in Solon, Ohio and you are welcome to stalk me." Why? Because all this research states that your phone is in fact listening, so that information can be saved. And that is not good.

### **All-in-All**

In conclusion, your phone could actually be listening to you. That doesn't mean you need to board up your phones microphone or burn it in a bonfire. But that does mean you should be more careful. Though your phone does provide you with much information and entertainment, it can save anything you say into it. That little device in your back pocket is capable of doing many things you can't imagine, so don't be fooled by its innocent appearance.



# Top 9 Must See

## BROADWAY SHOWS

Written Mandi Lu & Co-written by Ashlyn Fitzgerald

Whether you're a Broadway fan or not, Here are 8 shows you must see!

### The Secret Garden

**1** The Secret Garden is based off of the all time favorite classic, "The Secret Garden" Written by Frances Hodgson Burnett. This wonderful musical tells the story of an orphaned girl called Mary Lennox from India who has to live with her uncle, Archibald Craven's who faces the tragic loss of his beloved wife, Lily. After her loss, he tries desperately to shut away all memory of her. That includes her beautiful garden. But Mary decides to try opening the garden back up. Along the way, she meets Dickon Sowerby, who teaches her the secrets of nature. Sir Colin Craven is a sick 10 year boy, whom is locked away by Archie, since he is a reminder of Lily, that Mary teaches to walk. Archibald Craven's finally learns to live without Lily.

### In The Heights

**2** This winner of four Tony Awards was written by legendary singer, rapper, dancer, and actor Lin Manuel Miranda when he was only in college. Many years later it is remembered as an amazing musical about a boy from Puerto Rico who lost his parents, Usnavi de la Vega. (Named after the very first thing his parents saw when they arrived: US Navy.) He now lives in Washington Heights, selling coffee. But soon, he meets Vanessa, with whom he falls in love. Meanwhile, Nina Rosario, who is the first person in her family to go to college, comes back home sad and ashamed as a dropout. Everyone in Barrio knows her as the "one who made it out". But what will they think now? Not only that, but she grows more and more agitated everyday at her overprotective father's refusal to accept Benny, her American love interest.

### Hairspray

**3** Tracy Turnblad and her best friend Penny are obsessed with *The Corny Collins Show*. (Much to her mother Edna's disapproval.) So when she gets a chance to actually be on the show, she takes the first chance to audition. With the help of her African American friend Seaweed, she makes it. That angers "evil dance queen" Amber Von Tussle and her mother Velma, but attracts Link Larkin. Tracy also finds out that black people can only dance on the show once a month. With the help of her friends Seaweed, Link, Penny, Motormouth Maybelle, her father, and Edna, she sneaks them on the show ending her in jail. That is-until a special-someone rescues her with the help of a can of hairspray.





### Les Misérables

Les Mis is one of the musicals that you will be sobbing afterwards. Les Mis is about the tragic French revolution. This winner of eight Tony Awards tells the story of an abused and hungry man called Jean Valjean. No one liked him, especially after the priest was killed and he was wrongly blamed. Since then, the town's police had been searching relentlessly for him. He grew up to be a strong man who did anything to help others. Of course, he left the town as soon as possible leaving the policeman searching and searching. He was a righteous man and became mayor of a new town. In that town lived a lady as poor and abused as he had once been. She was a widow, and since she couldn't care for her beloved daughter Cosette, she sent Cosette to a terrible family where she worked. She would send money to that family to care for Cosette, but they greedily took the money for themselves, leaving Cosette with nothing but work. The widow was getting desperate for money and sold her hair, and much more to get money. Overcome with worry for Cosette, hunger, sorrow, and exhaustion, she died in a hospital alone with Jean Valjean. Her last wish was for Cosette to be taken care of. Jean went to find Cosette and did indeed take very good care of her. Years later Cosette became a beautiful lady and fell in love as well. But the man she fell in love with had to go to war. Not only that, but a certain someone from her past life comes back. With a husband risking his life at war, a police still searching her father, and a friend from the past, what will happen? Where will all of them end up?



### Newsies

This musical took place in New York back when newspaper boys ran about the city every morning. They're mostly all orphans and they're nicknamed Newsies and their leader is Jack "cowboy" Kelly. They're played by a wealthy man called John Pulitzer. Until he's faced with financial issues. He decides to raise the price of the newspapers....by a hundred times. Yikes. The boys are poor enough as it is and they are outraged. They decide to go on strike in protest. Leaving the poor editor torn between writing what is right, and what is easy.



### Wicked

Wicked starts out in the world of the Wizard of Oz. The Munchkin mayor and his wife have their first baby that turns out crippled. But they love her anyway and named her Vanessa. Their second one (named Elphaba) is even worse. She turns out green, and the mother dies while having her. So her dad constantly neglects her for being green and being the thing that killed his beloved wife. But one day he decides to send his Vanessa and Elphaba to a wizarding school. But the only reason why he sent Elpha is so she can protect and care for Vanessa. When they get there, they see a gigantic mob around a girl named Glinda. Once the teacher comes to announce the room, the crowd breaks up to reveal this beautiful girl with a big long dress and which is very obvious everybody LOVES her. The announcer announces the roommates and

their rooms and when Alphaba is paired up with the most popular girl in school, Glinda, she is sure there has been a mistake since she has not been paired with her sister. Glinda is not so happy either since she is paired up with someone who is the color green. They both try to get out of it, but nothing works and they still end up stuck to each other. At first Glinda tries to make Elphaba's life miserable by telling her what to wear to school and which hat to a party. But then she changes because of the kindness Elphaba gave her back and tries to repay her by giving her a makeover (Really?!?). When their first class starts Elphaba turns out to be really good at magic, even the best in her school. Then Glinda realizes and wants Elphaba to teach her. Elphaba is hesitant at first, but then she decides she'll try even though it does not work out well. One day, one of the teachers takes an interest in Alpha and says that if she can keep up the good work, then she and Glinda can meet the Wizard. Will they meet the wizard and what happens after that?



### Footloose

Ren McCormack has been dancing for his whole life, to get all his stress out. But when his family moves to a new town because of financial problems, this turns his world upside down. Now at first everything's fine. Once they get there, they go to church and they meet the minister Shaw Moore, who is conservative. It is illegal to dance in the town of Beaumont. This becomes a problem. This performance is a must see for those who like to watch a story of romance and breaking of the rules.



### Hamilton

This fantastic hip-hop rap musical is also written by legendary Lin-Manuel Miranda. Telling the true story of one of America's most devoted founding fathers and the American Revolution. It tells an amazing story about a boy who's abandoned by his father and left with his mother who shortly dies. With a desperate wanting for education and a big future, he goes to America where he meets his best friends, and his soon-to-be worst enemy. After stealing cannons from the British he gets hired as George Washington's "Right Hand Man" Which takes him to his wife and his first child. After winning the war, he seems to lose everything. He loses his wife's trust, his first child, his best friend, and much more. And most of this happens because of his fierce wanting for an everlasting legacy. Since he's not letting anything get in the way of his ambition, he loses a lot of things, including a good friend who becomes an enemy and a murderer.



### Dear Evan Hansen

This absolutely hilarious show is currently the number one best rated show on Broadway. It tells the tale of a boy called Evan Hansen with a social disorder. He lives in constant fear of social interaction and strangers. His only comfort is his mom. They live without his father and his mother is

currently trying to finish college, so she takes courses far into the night. Evan is never awake to see her return. He's practically living without her. Another comfort is his therapist, who advises him to write letters to himself as a way to improve his relationships. (Hence the name, Dear Evan Hansen.) Then one day, he finds out a boy called Connor has committed suicide after a long history of drugs. He finds himself lying to Conner's mom about how he and Conner were best friends and Connor's mother really heals. But not only does he help Connor's mother heal, he helps Connor's sister (AKA, Evan's crush), Zoey heal as well. Zoey is currently broken between mourning for Connor and hating his memory, as she never liked him when he was alive. Zoey and Evan end up falling in love...but it's all because of a lie. Evan Hanson now has the funny dad, the caring mom, and the girlfriend, that he's always wished for. But it's only because of a lie. At first it's not that bad, building up the lie. But after a speech about Connor that Evan made goes viral...well, you can imagine the guilt, and the undeserved happiness that Evan feels. How will he deal with it? What will happen? This hilarious, heart-breaking, and powerful musical will leave you laughing, crying, and singing along all at once.



### The Best Cars in Nitro Type!

By Aaron Choate

We all know how awesome Nitro Type is, especially when we have nothing else to do. Some of us want cars, some wish they had them, and others just HAVE them. I personally have some pretty decent cars (I'm level 52!), and plenty of awesome achievement cars too. Enjoy what I have to share!

1. The NASA Shuttle  (obvious) (Most expensive) (\$15,000,000!!!!)
2. The Macro  (obtain by owning 30 cars)
3. The Flux Capacitor  (the time-traveling car from Back To The Future!)
4. The F-35 JSF  (an Army jet!) (\$10,000,000)
5. The Gotham  (The Batmobile!) (Tied With Ferreti Samsher 458... for \$12,000,000)
6. The Judge  (Cool) (\$700,000)

7. The WAMPUS  (not for sale!) (the best car ever!)

8. The Ferreti Samsher 458  (2nd most expensive!) (\$12,000,000!!)

9. The Mini Sherman  (obtain by completing **5,000** races!)

## One Of The Best Books In The World... Wonder by R.J.Palacio

Book Review by Sai Velamala



If you're one of the few how hasn't read Wonder yet, maybe I can persuade you with my summary. Wonder is about a boy named August or "Auggie" Pullman, a ten-year-old boy living in New York City, who was born with a facial deformity that made it difficult for him to make friends. He has been homeschooled up until the fifth grade, but his parents have decided that it is time for him to go to a real school. They enroll him in Beecher Prep, a neighborhood private school.

Auggie settles into the first few months of school and his classmates slowly get used to the way his face looks. He becomes friends with Jack Will, and with a girl named Summer who sits with him at lunch on the first day. Apparently, a rumor that touching Auggie will give you the "plague" arises, so his classmates make a point of avoiding touching him, soon Auggie begins to feel alienated. Things get a lot worse on Halloween, typically Auggie's favorite day of the year. From this point on Auggie starts suffering life with the bullies at Beecher Prep. If you read this story of acceptance, you'll learn the important life lesson of treating others the way you want to be treated.

## The Stars of the Sea

By : Rachel Torgov

Even though Starfish, or Sea stars, seem to be less exciting to some people, if you take a close look you will see that they are not a bit less extraordinary than any of the other sea creatures lurking the depths of oceans. They are full of mysteries and secrets of their own.



Sea stars are amazing creatures. Although their most common name is starfish, they are **not** fish. In fact, they are actually related to Sea Urchins. Sea urchins or urchins sea creatures are typically spiny, and are in the class Echinoidea. Sea stars have a long life span. 35 years!

Some things you might not know about Sea stars is that there are about 2,000 different types of Sea stars! A female Sea star can spawn up to 65 million eggs at once! Imagine having so many babies around!

Sea stars are remarkable creatures. But still, they are no more, or less awesome as all the other creations of nature.

## News

### SCHOOL STORE

BY: MALLORY KAVANAGH

Have you ever wondered where people get these cool pencils or that scented kneaded erasers? Well they may get them for 5 dollars at Target or they may get them at the school store for just a couple of cents right here at Orchard! The school store is a great place to get some new school supplies so you always have yours, even if you forget them at home.

### WHAT DO THEY HAVE?

Other than the typical supplies, some of the school stores most popular items are: scented kneaded erasers, glow in the dark space kneaded erasers, cool notes notebook, animal eraser, and more fun things!

### WHEN IS THE STORE OPEN?

The school store is open every Friday from 8:15 am to 8:50 am. Come on down between these times to get some great products. (We have change!)

### WHERE IS THE STORE?

The school store is located by the display cases by the cafeteria.

**WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!**



**A Place to have fun, Make friends, and discover your talents!**

**Check it out at Bainbridge Rd, Solon, OH 44139!**

**choose between the categories of art, music, theater, or dancing!**

## Should Teachers Give Out Homework?

By Aizah Shahbaz

A common question among kids is what is the purpose of having homework? Some people may think that it helps and some people don't know what the point of having homework is? See what the research says below.

### Yes! HW should be banned!

- ★ Some people think homework is for no reason.
- ★ Studies show that there is no significant improvement in learning doing homework.
- ★ It's hard for students to care about homework because it doesn't even help to achieve adequate grades.
- ★ Homework eats up kids free time.
- ★ Homework can also cause so much stress that they can feel burnt out by already doing so much work in class.
- ★ With homework being implemented it takes away kids extracurricular activities time.
- ★ Another reason is when the adults don't bring work to home, why should kids have to do homework at home when they already do their studies at school?
- ★ School is a full-time job for kids. They already have to sit there for 7 hours of learning.
- ★ The last reason why homework should be banned is because it takes a lot of dedication & time to do each assignment well.

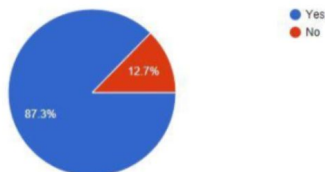
### No! HW shouldn't be banned!

- ★ Some people think homework is useful. It helps to improve the functioning of your brain.
- ★ It helps to develop your study skills, that will help students in the future.
- ★ The concept of being independent will help children grow.
- ★ HW teaches kids to be responsible toward their own work and it will refresh whatever they have learned in class.
- ★ Homework teaches time management. It teaches students to set priorities and determine how well they understand concepts.
- ★ It teaches students how to do problem solving.
- ★ Homework gives parents a chance to see what their child is learning in school.
- ★ It teaches students about the importance of planning, staying organized and taking action.
- ★ The last reason why homework should not be banned is because homework is not boring and is not a waste of time and there are many benefits of not only doing homework, but handing it in on time.

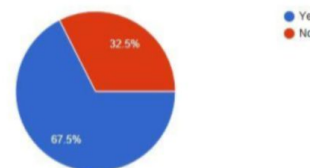
# What Do Orchard Students Think About Homework?

When Orchard Middle School students were polled on whether or not they think they should have homework, the results were as follows:

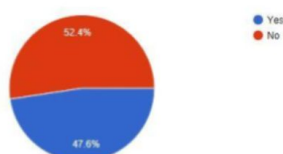
The first question was do you have someone at home that can help you when you need help with homework?



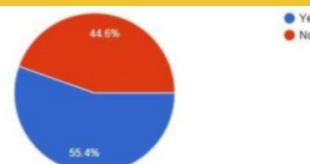
The second question was do you feel like your homework is beneficial to your learning?



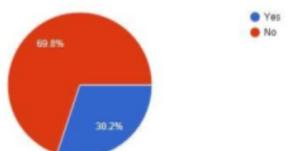
The third question was do you think homework is interfering with your family time?



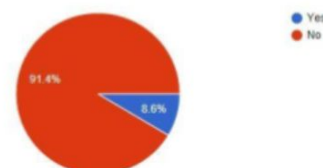
The fourth question was do you think homework is interfering with your after school activities?



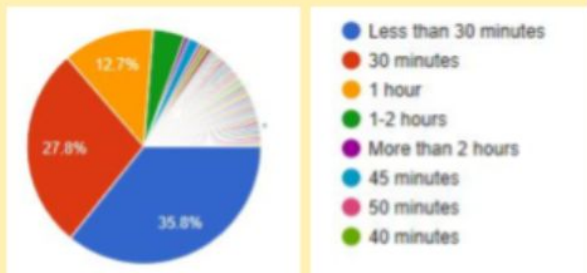
The fifth question was do you think your teachers are giving you too much homework?



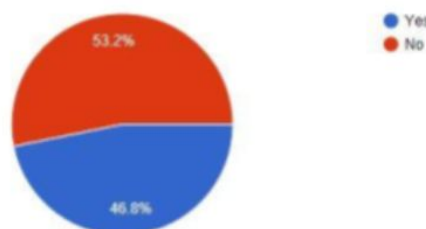
The sixth question was do you wish your teachers gave you more homework?



The seventh question was what is the average amount of time you spend on homework every night?



The final and main question was do you think homework should be banned?



My survey source was Orchard Middle School Teams 5A, 5B, 6A and 6C.  
Thank you for all of your input.



# National Days You Didn't Know Existed

By Hannah Mitchell

Did you know there's a Unicorn Day? A Harry Potter day? Or a Superhero Day? There are so many national days that you probably had no idea existed, and by the end of this article, you will have learned about a few of them.

## Harry Potter Day



On Thursday, May 2nd of 2019 make sure to be in your Harry Potter Spirit, for it is Harry Potter day! All the Harry Potter fans, make sure to book your calendars for this special day.

Here are some fun facts about the famous books and shows: Harry Potter and J.K Rowling's birthdays are both on July 31st. Ron Weasley's birthday is March 1st, 1980. Hermione's birthday is September 17, 1979. May 2nd is the anniversary of when Harry defeat Voldemort in the second wizarding war.

## Unicorn Day

This mythological creature has been a loved character since ancient times. I'm sure that a lot of you will be happy to know that there is a Unicorn Day! April 9th is the day where, if you like unicorns, you should dress up in a colorful outfit or have a sweet lunch, and chances are you might actually see a unicorn.

Here are some fun facts about unicorns: In ancient Greek times, unicorns were believed to be fierce animals that shouldn't be bothered. In the middle ages, unicorns were mostly based on the bible. This is why we have a Unicorn Day.



## Superhero Day



The next national day that you should know, is Superhero Day! On April 28, maybe dress up as your favorite superhero, or help out someone's day, because it is Superhero day!

Here are a few fun facts about superheroes: The first ever superhero made was Mandrake the Magician, whose super power was hypnotism. This superhero came out in 1934, just 4 years before Superman. There are over 8,000 superhero characters, so you shouldn't have a problem finding a superhero to honor on Superhero Day.

## Dog Day

The last, but definitely not least national day is Dog Day! If you love your dog, then on August 26 you should definitely play, give them lots of treats, or do whatever your dog would like for their special day.

Here's some fun facts about dogs: Dog Day was founded in 2004. The earliest dog recorded was 31,700 years ago, and had a diet of horse and reindeer! There are over 100 dog breeds in the world.



In conclusion, I hope you learned about national days that you didn't know about before.

Sources: International Harry Potter day, Unicorn Day, Days of the Year, National Day Calendar, National Dog Day

# OMS Press Seasonal Column!

By Abigail Goodman

## New Year's

New Year's Eve is a common celebration in the United States, and also the entire world! In the US, we have the famous ball drop in New York City and celebrate with music and lights all night long. But how about in the other countries?

In China, they have great celebrations with dragon puppets and fireworks and awesome food stands. Adding on the Chinese New Year does happen to be on a different time and day because they base their calendar on the moon rather than the sun.

In India, everyone dresses up in different dresses and cloaks and exchange things like chocolate and candies with friends and families. They hang out at theaters and in decorated streets, greeting each other and singing.

In Mexico, there are celebrations and games played outside and everyone will get any drink they can find and have a toast when the clock strikes midnight.

## Grumpy Cat?



I was told by a friend that there is a secret about Grumpy Cat that I think you should know. Both she and her little brother, Pokey, were born with a kind of feline dwarfism that made it so they were always frowning and had a rather mean appearance. Grumpy Cat, as it turns out, is not really grumpy! Her real name is Tardar Sauce (Not kidding!) and her owners say she is a really sweet cat, and also that her little brother is the real mean one!



# Riddles, Quizzes, Recipes and More

## 10 Quotes that Speak to Your Soul

Collected by Ashley Rhee

- 1.) "Imperfection is beauty, madness is genius and it's better to be absolutely ridiculous than absolutely boring." - Marilyn Monroe
- 2.) "Always be a first rate version of yourself and not a second rate version of someone else." - Judy Garland
- 3.) "A real friend is someone who walks in when the rest of the world walks out." - Walter Winchell
- 4.) "Our time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life."  
- Steve Jobs
- 5.) "Success is the result of perfection, hard work, learning from failure, loyalty, and persistence." - Colin Powell
- 6.) "Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success." - Edward Everett Hale
- 7.) "Happiness lies in the joy of achievement and the thrill of creative effort." - Benjamin Franklin
- 8.) "Think little goals and expect little achievements. Think big goals and win big success." - David Joseph Schwartz
- 9.) "The most exhausting thing in life is being insincere."  
- Anne Morrow Lindbergh
- 10.) "It is better be hated for what you are, than to be loved for something you are not." - Andre Gide

Quote sources:

→ <https://www.keepinspiringme.com/quotes-about-being-yourself/>

→ <https://www.brainyquote.com/topics/success>

## Riddles

by Abigail Goodman

| Riddles                                                                                                                                                             | Answers      |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| It can run, but it never walks.<br>It has a mouth, but it never talks.<br>It never sleeps, but it has a bed.<br>It wears no hat, but it has a head.<br>What is it?  | A river.     |
| A pink man lives in the pink house.<br>A yellow man lives in the yellow house.<br>A blue man lives in the blue house.<br>What kind of man lives in the green house? | The gardner. |

# The Job Quiz!

By Stephen Ingram

1. It's time to go to college! Where will you go?  
A. Harvard.  
B. Michigan State.  
C. The local fire academy.  
D. I don't need college! There are plenty of jobs that don't need college, am I right! Right?

2. What college courses will you take?  
A. Mathematics.  
B. Engineering.  
C. Don't they choose the courses for you at the academy?  
D. None, I'm not going to college!

3. Yay, first day at work! But how do you get there?  
A. My luxury car.  
B. Public transport.  
C. Dude, usually I live on the job. If not, I drive my compact sport.  
D. I am carpooling with a friend. Save the environment, right?! Right?

4. Where do you work?  
A. Chicago.  
B. Miami.  
C. Portland, OR.  
D. Bismarck, North Dakota.

5. So, you're on the way to work when a car hits a truck holding soap. You...  
A. Drive by. That's not even where I work.  
B. Call 911. I mean, seriously, it is a car accident.  
C. Responding to that is my job.  
D. Get out of there! The soap could flood the street.

6. You are late one day for work. You are like ...  
A. It's ok. I make my own hours.  
B. Quick! I must get to work, but it's not the end of the world.  
C. I have a beeper and gear in my car, so if I am needed, I can just head to the scene.  
D. Oh dear, this is bad. I can't lose my job.

Bonus: 7. You are thinking about your retirement future. You...  
A. Have a great Investment Portfolio that will allow you to live comfortably in retirement and still have enough left over for your children to inherit.  
B. Have put enough away to live, but might not have much to give away..  
C. Have a great pension plan and retirement benefits.  
D. Are beginning to worry because you aren't getting future benefits from your employer.

## Answers

Mostly As: Actuary: good job! An actuary is someone who deals with management of risk. It may sound boring but it's important.

Mostly Bs: construction worker: your engineering degree got you this good job building stuff. Nice!

Mostly Cs: Firefighter: Nice work!

Mostly Ds: Restaurant cashier: not bad, but you may want something better.



# What Kind of Person Are You?

## By Abigail Goodman

**You're invited to a party with lots of loud music and people dancing and laughing. How do you react?**

- A. Go home. Studying is better than a party!
- B. PARTY!!!!!!
- C. Go to a quiet corner with your friends and eat cupcakes.
- D. Hang out in the bathroom for a while, what if you embarrass yourself?

**There's a snow day and you have no school. What do you do at home?**

- A. READ. STUDY. MATH.
- B. Video Games
- C. Sleep
- D. See whatever everyone else is doing.

**What movie do you prefer?**

- A. No movies. NO MOVIES. People should read instead.
- B. HARRY POTTER. (Maybe with a bowl of popcorn and some Sprite...)
- C. The Hunger Games! I LOVE thrills.
- D. Whatever everyone else is watching! (I don't care as long as it makes me look cool!)

**You've just remembered there's a quiz tomorrow, and you're totally unprepared. How do you react?**

- A. The world is ending... (Bad grades, bad grades, bad grades.)
- B. I don't care about school anyway. Staying home is way better!
- C. What ever. I'll just hang out at home and pretend to be sick.
- D. I'm totally scared!!!

**What food do you prefer?**

- A. A healthy salad.
- B. CANDY! Who says junk food isn't food?
- C. Pizza. Duh.
- D. Hot dogs. Isn't that what everyone likes?

### **Mostly A's: The Study-Type.**

You prefer to spend your time reading and studying, and don't care much for the things "ordinary" kids like. Your friends depend on you for help in difficult school situations.

### **Mostly B's: The Totally-Silly**

You like parties and snow days and candy, and are not into the whole, "school" thing. If you have friends, you are always willing to stick up for them.

### **Mostly C's: The Relaxed and laid back-Type:**

Always one of the kids who hangs out, totally chill. You can hide anything you want to hide, and are usually complicated in style but simple on the inside. You're often misjudged.

### **Mostly D's: The Insecure-Follower:**

You don't necessary care what you do, as long as it helps you stay in the background. You tend to panic in stressful situations, but can be a good friend when you need to be.

### **Mixture of all: The Happy-Type:**

You live a life anyone would expect a middle schooler to live; Smart, funny, interesting, and easy-going.



# Russian Pancakes Recipe

By Anonymous

---

1. Take a large bowl
2. Get milk, flour, salt, sugar, baking powder, lemon, eggs, butter, and vanilla extract.
3. Start by putting 2 cups of milk in the bowl.
4. Add 1  $\frac{1}{4}$  cups of flour.
5. Add a pinch of salt and  $\frac{1}{3}$  cups of sugar
6. Slice lemon, and squeeze  $\frac{1}{8}$  tablespoon of lemon juice. Take out any seeds. Then pour into the bowl.
7. Break 2 eggs, beat on top of batter.
8. Stir the bowl lightly.
9. Melt  $\frac{1}{4}$  stick of butter and whisk in (pour in while stirring)
10. Add  $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon of vanilla extract
11. Stir heavily for at least 3 min

---

How to cook the pancakes:

1. Put a pan on the stove and turn up to Half heat. After 30 sec or until hot, lightly oil the pan. Lift and roll oil around until oil spreads freely, and pour on batter. Wait until most of it bubbles, and flip it. Repeat until you have a stack of golden brown pancakes.





# How To Build The Perfect Snowman

By: Mallory Kavanagh



Winter is the time of year for spending time with your family, friends and, snowmen! Snowmen may have been first made in 1380, but that does not mean it is not the perfect family tradition!

What You Need: Snow (Of course!), a carrot, 10 pebbles, 2 sticks, and decorations (Scarf, Hat, Gloves, etc.)

1. Make sure your snow is the packable kind, not the kind that falls right out of your hand.
2. Make the snow into 2-3 balls. The biggest on the bottom and the smallest on the top. Stack them up one on to of the other.
3. Take 5 of the pebbles and put them on the top ball in a smile form.
4. Take the 2 pebbles and put them on as eyes above the smile leaving room for the nose.
5. Stick your nose in between the mouth and the eyes. Make sure the point is facing outwards.
6. Add sticks as arms in. If you are using 2 balls put them on the first ball. If you are using 3 balls put them on the middle ball. If there are any "branches" on the stick make sure they are facing outward.
7. Take the last 3 pebbles and place them on the snowman's torso to resemble buttons.
8. Add the decorations.
9. Have fun with your snowman!

## 25 Funny Jokes You Can Ask People

Collected by Sai Velamala

Ask people jokes and make them laugh!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

1. Today at the bank, an old lady asked me to help check her balance. So I pushed her over.
2. My dog used to chase people on a bike a lot. It got so bad, I finally had to take his bike away.
3. I'm so good at sleeping. I can do it with my eyes closed.
4. My boss told me to have a good day.. so I went home.
5. Why is Peter Pan always flying? He neverlands.
6. A woman walked into a library and asked if they had any books about paranoia. The librarian says "They're right behind you!"
7. The other day, my wife asked me to pass her lipstick, but I accidentally passed her a glue stick. She still isn't talking to me.
8. When you look really closely, all mirrors look like eyeballs.
9. My friend says to me: "What rhymes with orange" I said: "No it doesn't"
10. What do you call a guy with a rubber toe? Roberto.
11. What did the pirate say when he turned 80 years old? Aye matey.
12. My wife told me I had to stop acting like a flamingo. So I had to put my foot down.
13. I couldn't figure out why the baseball kept getting larger. Then it hit me.
14. Why did the old man fall in the well? Because he couldn't see that well.
15. I ate a clock yesterday, it was very time consuming.
16. I know a lot of jokes about unemployed people but none of them work.
17. Did you hear about the Italian chef that died? He pasta way.
18. Why couldn't the bicycle stand up? Because it was two tired!
19. Parallel lines have so much in common. It's a shame they'll never meet.
20. Where do you find a cow with no legs? Right where you left it.
21. As I suspected, someone has been adding soil to my garden. The plot thickens.
22. What did the traffic light say to the car? Don't look! I'm about to change.
23. I just wrote a book on reverse psychology. Do \*not\* read it!
24. What did one hat say to the other? You stay here. I'll go on ahead.
25. Why wouldn't the shrimp share his treasure? Because he was a little shellfish.

Source: <http://pun.me/pages/funny-jokes.php>

## 25 Funny Riddles to ask People

Collected by Sai Velamala

Get others confused and challenge their IQ!

- 1) What two things can you can you never eat for breakfast ?
- 2) What has a face and two hands but no arms or legs ?
- 3) What tastes better than it smells ?
- 4) What kind of room has no doors or windows ?
- 5) During what month do people sleep the least ?
- 6) What's orange and sounds like a parrot ?
- 7) What goes up and never comes down ?
- 8) What becomes shorter when you add two letters to it ?
- 9) Two children are born on the same day from the same mother, but they are not twins. How is that possible ?
- 10) Johnny's mother had three children. The first child was named April The second child was named May. What was the third child's name ?
- 11) Before Mt. Everest was discovered, what was the highest mountain in the world ?
- 12) How much dirt is there in a hole that measures two feet by three feet by four feet ?
- 13) What has four wheels and flies ?
- 14) What gets wetter the more it dries ?
- 15) Which word in the dictionary is spelled incorrectly?
- 16) You can't keep this until you have given it.
- 17) What grows when it eats, but dies when it drinks?
- 18) What spends all the time on the floor but never gets dirty?
- 19) What animal turns about 200 times around its axis after it dies?
- 20) How many months in the year have 28 days?
- 21) A man goes out in heavy rain with nothing to protect him from it. His hair doesn't get wet. How does he do that?
- 22) What part of the Turkey has the most feathers?
- 23)What has a neck but no head
- 24) What goes up and down but never moves?
- 25) Ten ladies tried to fit under a small umbrella, none of them got wet. How did they do it?

Answers:

|                                                                                                         |                                                                          |                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                        |                                                                                           |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) Lunch and dinner<br>2) A clock<br>3) A Tongue<br>4)A Mushroom<br>5)February, it's the shortest month | 6)A Carrot<br>7)Your age<br>8)Short<br>9)They are triplets<br>10) Johnny | 11)Mt. Everest; it just wasn't discovered yet<br>12)There is no dirt in the hole<br>13) A garbage truck<br>14) A towel<br>15)Incorrectly | 16)A promise<br>17)Fire<br>18)Your shadow<br>19)A rotisserie chicken<br>20)All of them | 21)He is bald<br>22)The outside<br>23)The bottle<br>24)The stairs<br>25)It wasn't raining |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Sources:

<http://pun.me/pages/funny-riddles.php>

<https://icebreakerideas.com/riddles-for-kids/>

# Which Schyler Sister are You?

Take this quiz to find out!

By Mandi Lu and Co-written by Angela Sun

## Q1: Who are you in your group of friends?

- A) The leader. All your friends look up to you.
- B) The glue. You are kind to all and you keep your friends held together.
- C) The ray of sunshine. You are always smiling and others like being around you.

## Q2: How would you describe the way you dress?

- A) I dress in whatever makes me look awesome.
- B) I dress in whatever I'm comfortable in, but I still make sure it looks decently good on me.
- C) I dress in bright and beautiful clothes.

## Q3: What's your ideal weekend like?

- A) Staying up, going to the beach, watching that new show
- B) Reading some books, exploring nature, going swimming
- C) Seeing friends and family, and going somewhere far, far away.

## Q4: What do you look for most in a friend?

- A) Someone who trusts me.
- B) Anything good as long as they are a good friend.
- C) People who would never leave your side.

## Q5: What's your favorite style of food?

- A) Something fancy and simple.
- B) I don't really have a favorite style, I'll take anything if it's good.
- C) Sugary sweets—that counts, right?

## Q6: How patient are you?

- A) Depends who...
- B) The most patient person you'll ever meet.
- C) Pretty patient, though I know when I've reached a limit.

## Q7: Describe yourself in three words.

- A) Sweet, caring, and snappy
- B) Kind, loving, and strong
- C) Happy, independent, and lively.

## Q8: What's your favorite subject

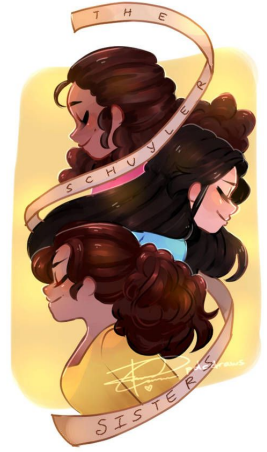
- A) Math
- B) Reading
- C) Art

## Q9: Your going to Disneyland for Vacation! What are you most excited about?

- A) All the triller rides
- B) The shows along the road
- C) The beautiful views and buildings

## Q10: What's your favorite part of the newspaper?

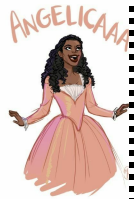
- A) Quizzes like this one
- B) Fantastic fictional stories
- C) Comics and artwork



## Mostly A's?

### YOU'RE ANGELICA!

You might seem snappy and sassy, but you can also be tender and sweet when you want to be. You're very stubborn and tend to make quick decisions....maybe too quick sometimes. You are very responsible and a natural leader.



## Mostly B's?

### YOU'RE ELIZA!

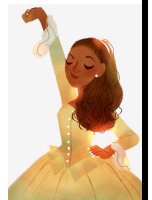
You are usually very calm and super patient. (maybe too patient at times) You are a generally kind person and love and appreciate those around you. You are not only sweet and tender, but very strong. You ensure that everyone is getting along.



## Mostly C's?

### YOU'RE PEGGY

You're a sweet and kind person. You are very independent and keep everyone happy and cheerful. You often seek support from your besties, (and you have a lot of them) and they seek the same from you. And when you do get upset, you don't stay that way for so long.



## Logic Riddles

Collected by Gavin Kirksey

- 1. Question:** There was a man who wanted to jump in a pool but there was a formation of ice on the surface of the water. Sunlight gleamed and reflected onto the surroundings. You have rope and a deluxe collection of chocolates. A lifeguard is sitting asleep nearby and has a cellphone in his pocket. There are three kids sitting gloomily at the edge of the pool. There are 10 mins for the pool to close. A family nearby is having a picnic with a lot of chili to spare and there are blue fishes in a nearby lake. The temperature is -10C. If the man does not heat himself in 3 mins, he will die of hypothermia. How does the man get into the water?
- 2. Question:** Listen closely, for these four riddles are all connected. 1. How do you put a giraffe in the refrigerator? 2. How do you put an elephant in the refrigerator? 3. The lion king is having an animal conference, and all animals attend except one. Which animal does not attend? 4. You are on a stranded island that is inhabited by crocodiles that are in the water. How do you get across without getting eaten alive?
- 3. Question:** Two 5 year old boys stand on their balcony collecting rain. Boy 1 catches 2 cups of water whilst boy 2 catches 3. They see a smart looking man walking down the street. The boys make a bet to see who will get the man wetter. Boy 1 is 2 metres closer to the edge than boy 2 and the balcony is 25 metres from the street. Which boy will get the smart man wettest?
- 4. Question:** I was taking a private plane to China and almost missed my flight. On my way to the terminal there were 7 other girls walking in the opposite direction. Each of these girls had 8 purses and each purse had 2 dogs. How many people or dogs were riding the plane?

**5.Question:** An empty bus pulls up to a stop and 10 people get on. At the next stop 5 people get off and twice as many people get on as at the first stop. At the third stop 25 get off. How many people are on the bus at this point?

**6.Question:** You're in a unbreakable room. You only have scissors and 2-feet long rope and logic. There's a small window, big enough only to put one item through. The rope nor the scissors fit into the window, so how do you escape?

**1. Answer:** By jumping into the lake.

**2. Answer:** 1. Open the refrigerator, put in the giraffe, and close the door. This question tests whether you tend to do simple things in an overly complicated way. 2. Did you say, "Open the refrigerator, put in the elephant, and close the refrigerator?" Wrong Answer. Open the refrigerator, take out the giraffe, put in the elephant and close the door. This tests your ability to think through the repercussions of your previous actions. 3. The Elephant. The elephant is in the refrigerator. You just put him in there. This tests your memory. 4. You just jump into the water and swim across to the mainland. Have you not been listening? All the crocodiles are attending the Animal Meeting. This tests whether you learn quickly from your mistakes.

**3. Answer:** Neither because this man was smart so he carried an umbrella which blocked all of the boys water.

**4. Answer:** Just one. The 7 other girls were walking in the opposite direction, so they were heading away from the plane.

**5. Answer:**Just 1, the driver.

**6. Answer:** First, throw logic out the window. Next , cut the rope in half. Two halves make a hole, escape through the hole.

Source:[https://icebreakerideas.com/riddles-for-kids/#Riddles\\_for\\_Kids\\_with\\_Answers](https://icebreakerideas.com/riddles-for-kids/#Riddles_for_Kids_with_Answers)

# Memes!!!

## The Oldest Memes?

By Aaron Choate



You Need Some MILK!

This meme has been around forEVER, and it never gets old. (BOI you need shum MILK!)





## 2. Welcome 2 Chile's

This meme... oh my god is it funny. Just go to YouTube and watch the video.



## 3. Welcome to Del Taco, We have some Free Shavocado!

(pronounced Free Sha-vak-ah-do) The "Free Shavocado" meme is pretty funny, but it's supposed to be "Fresh Avocado" in the funny way. (And Del Taco IS real...)



## 4. R.I.P. Harambe

Harambe was a gorilla that was tragically shot and killed when somebody's kid fell into his habitat, and since then, memes have avenged his death for a long time. **WE LOVE YOU**

**HARAMBE!!!** 🐼🐼🐼🐼🐼🐼🐼🐼



## 5. Charlie Bit My Finger

This video was the most viral video of all time for a few years straight. It depicts a young boy who just got a baby brother, Charlie. The silly older brother keeps putting his finger into Charlie's mouth, while screaming:

"AAAAAAAAAAHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!!!!"

"Charlie bit me... and that REALLY hurt!" Since it takes place in England, it's funny considering he has a British accent.



## 6. Pepe

I don't really understand his meme, but whenever you play a game or watch a video and see Pepe, laugh!



# Sports



## NBA Basketball News



By Xavier Dose

### Cavaliers Offseason

After losing the NBA finals last season, and once LeBron James departed to the Los Angeles Lakers, the Cleveland Cavaliers went into rebuild mode. During the 2018 -2019 NBA draft the Cavaliers selected 8<sup>th</sup> pick Collin Sexton from the University of Alabama. Collin is a fast and athletic prospect and addition to the team. After the terrible 0-6 start in the NBA season, the Cavaliers fired 2 year (2016-2018) head coach Tyronn Lue. They soon promoted Larry Drew as the interim head coach.

### 2018 Lottery picks

1. Deandre Ayton-PHOENIX SUNS
2. Marvin Bagley III- SACRAMENTO KINGS
3. Luka Doncic traded to the- DALLAS MAVERICKS
4. Jaren Jackson- MEMPHIS GRIZZLIES
5. Trae Young traded to the- ATLANTA HAWKS
6. Mohamed Bamba- ORLANDO MAGIC
7. Wendell Carter Jr-CHICAGO BULLS
8. Collin Sexton- CLEVELAND CAVALIERS
9. Kevin Knox-NEW YORK KNICKS
10. Mikal Bridges-PHILADELPHIA 76ERS
11. Shai Gilgeous Alexander-CHARLOTTE HORNETS
12. Miles Bridges-LOS ANGELES CLIPPERS
13. Jerome Robinson-LOS ANGELES CLIPPERS

## NBA 2018-19 season

The NBA season is kicking off, however teams are already proving themselves to dominate on the court. For example the Raptors, Warriors, Trail Blazers and Bucks have already 10 wins as of November 15. On the other hand, teams like the Rockets and Timberwolves are not doing as well as people predicted. Though there is still a lot of season left to improve their record, teams like the Suns and Cavs are at the bottom of their conference and are struggling to get back into the race for the playoffs. There are many games left in the season for the ranks to shift and the playoff race to sway. Players leading in scoring are Kemba Walker, LeBron James and Joel Embiid and hopefully they can keep their scoring run.

## NBA Playoff Predictions

### Western Conference

1. Warriors
2. Rockets
3. Thunder
4. Lakers
5. Trail Blazers
6. Nuggets
7. Jazz
8. Clippers

### Eastern Conference

1. Raptors
2. Celtics
3. 76ers
4. Bucks
5. Pacers
6. Pistons
7. Wizards
8. Heat



### NFL Tracker Weeks 9-16

#### Week 9

**Rams @ Saints** - This game was "America's Game of the Week" featuring the undefeated Rams and the one-loss Saints, in a showdown at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome. The Saints surprised the Rams by building a 14-7 lead at the end of the first quarter, and then extending it to a 35-14 lead after help from Michael Thomas and Alvin Kamara. But the Rams would strike just before the half, as Greg Zuerlein kicked a 56-yard field goal at the half to make it 35-17 Saints. But the Rams wouldn't stop at that. They scored 10 more in the third and then scored a TD and a two point conversion to single handedly tie the game. So basically you could say the Rams scored 21 unanswered points. But from then on, it was all Saints. First they scored a Will Lutz field goal, and after the Rams failed on fourth down, the Saints scored a wild 72-yard touchdown to Michael Thomas. Final: Saints 45, Rams 35.

**Chargers @ Seahawks** - Although the Chargers were trailing by one because of a missed extra point, the Chargers wound up winning the second quarter battle 13 to 3 to lead 19-10 at the

half. The third quarter was scoreless, but then in the fourth the Chargers scored a TD and then the Seahawks returned the favor (made the extra point, and the Chargers didn't). Now it's 25-17. On the final play of the game, on 3rd and goal, the Seahawks took a pass to the end zone but David Moore dropped it. Final in Seattle: Chargers 25, Seahawks 17.

**Texans @ Broncos** - This turned out to be another classic. At the half the Texans led 16-10, but Case Keenum and the offense scored a touchdown to take the lead. Then in the fourth the Texans retook the lead back with a field goal. And as time expired, the Broncos missed a field goal. Final in Denver: Texans 19, Broncos 17.

### Week 10

**Falcons @ Browns** - Expecting yet another terrible loss for the Browns? Well it didn't happen. Although leading by only 14-10 at the half, Baker Mayfield threw for 2 TDs and now it was 28-10. After the Falcons scored a TD the Browns stopped them at the goal line twice and they won 28-16.

**Rams @ Seahawks** - Seattle was clinging to a 21-20 lead when the Rams scored a TD. And after a failed two point conversion and a field goal by Sebastian Janikowski, the score was 26-24 Rams. And then the Rams scored a field goal and a touchdown after a turnover. Now it is 36-24. As Seattle would score a TD and get the ball back, they had a chance to win. But the 4th and 10 was unsuccessful, and the Rams held on, 36-31.

**Cowboys vs Eagles** - Dallas had been terrorizing the Eagles' offense all in the 2nd half. This led to a Dallas romp and then they won at home, Cowboys 27, Eagles 20.

**49ers vs Giants** - Nick Mullens, coming off a 4 TD performance against Oakland, is trying to propel the Niners to their next win. But this Monday Night Showdown was going all to the Giants in the second half, and the Giants won 27-23 courtesy of a 2 minute drive with the go-ahead TD. Odell Beckham Jr. had 2 TD receptions in the win.

### Week 11

**Chiefs @ Rams** - This game was originally supposed to be a MNF showdown in Mexico City, but because of "poor field conditions" they moved it to the Rams' stadium at the Coliseum in LA. Chiefs' fans angered at this, and this proved to be bad luck as they found themselves trailing 13-0 halfway through the first quarter. But then Patrick Mahomes caught fire and made it square at 23 at the half. But then the Rams responded with 17 points in the 3rd compared to the Chiefs' 7. But then Mahomes finally ignited and turned a 30-40 deficit into a 51-47 lead in just 13 minutes. But the Rams' offense proved to be too much, and they won by a touchdown by Josh Reynolds with a minute left, 54-51. This is the highest-scoring MNF game and the third-highest scoring in NFL history.

**Chargers vs Broncos** - The Chargers are on the cusp of clinching a wild card berth. But the Broncos, led by Case Keenum, pulled off an upset in LA as Brandon McManus nailed a field goal as time expired to win 23-22.

**Cowboys @ Falcons** - The Cowboys traveled to LA with the NFC East in a tough race. The first 5 scores were field goals, 3 by Atlanta, and 2 by Dallas. But Dak Prescott and Ezekiel Elliott



scored 2 TDs and led by 10. But after the Falcons scored 10 in a row(field goal and TD), Brett Maher nailed a 50+ yard field goal and gave the Cowboys the W, 22-19.

### **Week 12**

**Dolphins vs Colts** - In this good game in Indianapolis, Andrew Luck and the Colts were looking to get over .500 in the wins column and the Dolphins were trying the same. The Dolphins were looking good midway through the fourth, leading 24-14. But Andrew Luck caught fire and tied the game with 3 minutes left. And after Indy stopped the Dolphins from scoring, they scored on a two minute drill as Adam Vinatieri scored the game winning field goal as time expired. Final: Colts 27- Dolphins 24.

**Browns @ Bengals** - The Browns have a 25-game losing streak on the road. But this would be snapped, as the Browns poured 28 in the first half and never looked back. Final in Cincinnati - Browns 35, Bengals 20.

**Vikings vs Packers** - After exchanging 2 TDs in the first half, the Vikes scored 10 unanswered and never looked back. Final in Minnesota - Vikings 24, Packers 17.

### **Week 13**

**Bears @ Giants** - The game started off with both teams finding the endzone in the first quarter with a surprise in Chase Daniel playing for the injured Mitch Trubisky. In the second the Bears took the lead by 4 with the score 14 to 10. Starting the second half the Bears put nothing with Chase Daniel throwing interceptions, and the Giants took the lead after 2 consecutive scores for 7 and they took the lead 24 to 14. In the fourth the Bears tied it up at 27 with a Cody Parkey field goal, a successful onside kick, and with a Tarik Cohen TD pass to Anthony Miller as time expired. The Bears fell short with a field goal in OT by the Giants. Final score 27 to 30.

**Jets vs Titans** - The Jets started good in this one, as they scored 10 on the Tennessee defense before the first quarter ended. But after they scored 6 each in the second quarter with field goals, it was 16-6 at the half. But the Titans would not give up, as they cut the lead to 9 and eventually 3. And as time expired, Marcus Mariota threw a touchdown and the Titans won 26-22.

**Chargers @ Steelers** - The Chargers traveled to Pittsburgh to play the Steelers in an epic showdown. But in the first half, this was all but that. Yes, the Chargers scored a subpar 7 points, but their very good defense gave up 23 to the Steelers, capped off by 2 TDs from Ben Roethlisberger to Antonio Brown and a rushing touchdown from James Conner, making it 23-7 Pittsburgh at half. But the Chargers, led by veteran Philip Rivers, made a comeback with 2 TD's and 2 2-point conversions and single handedly tied the game at 23. And then they took the lead with a Justin Jackson rushing touchdown. But Big Ben threw a TD, and just like that, it was 30-30. The Chargers drove to field goal range and attempted a field goal to win the game. But something weird happened. And here are some of the rules for a field goal/touchdown winner situation.

- If the clock expires and there is a penalty on the defensive team, there will be an untimed down(the game play clock doesn't run) - and if you attempted a field goal, the field goal will be 5 yards closer(if you are at your opponents' 25 yard line, you would be moved to their 20)
- If there is an offensive penalty and the offensive team does make a field goal, there will be a re-kick moved 5 yards back.
- If the team makes it, and there is a penalty on the defensive team, they will decline it and therefore make the field goal valid.



- If there is a delay of game, there will be 10 seconds taken off the clock. If this had happened to the Chargers(with 3 seconds left) they would've lost.

So Michael Badgley, the rookie from Miami, tried to kick a 39-yard field goal from the 21-yard line of the Steelers, and missed it. Wait a second.....one of the players on the defense was offside!(Before the center snapped it to the holder, one of the defensive players started early). This player was Joe Haden and they kicked again from 34-yards away. But it got blocked. Wait.. another player was offside?!?!?! This was Artie Burns. So they moved it to the 11 yard line to attempt a 29-yard field goal and he made it. Wait.. there's another offside?!?! On the same person?!?!(Artie Burns). So the Chargers declined the penalty and won 33-30.

## Week 14

**Dolphins vs Patriots** - This would turn out to be an epic showdown in Miami. Miami wanted to get over .500. The Patriots needed some room on surging Houston. So in the first quarter a "Browns TD"(no extra point) was scored by the Patriots and the Dolphins scored a TD and made the extra point. It's 7-6. And Tom Brady and Ryan Tannehill have a slugfest after that. Miami was trailing 27-21 at the half, and quickly regained it at the end of the third quarter and led 28-27. And after the Pats scored two field goals, the Dolphins performed what is now known as "Miracle in Miami". Ryan Tannehill completed a 17-yard pass to Kenny Stills. Then he lateraled it(to shove it) to DeVante Parker, who then threw it to Kenyan Drake. Drake avoided 3 tackles, and the safety.....Rob Gronkowski. Wait, Rob Gronkowski is a safety? I thought he was a tight end. But Bill Belichick made the wrong decision as he slipped at the goal line and Kenyan Drake went in. Final score- Dolphins 34, Patriots 33.

Miracle in Miami link - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Miracle\\_in\\_Miami](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Miracle_in_Miami)

Video of Miracle in Miami -

<https://www.nfl.com/gamecenter/2018120906/2018/REG14/Patriots@Dolphins?icampaign=scoreStrip-globalNav-2018120906>

**Chiefs vs Ravens** - The top ranked defense against the top ranked offense. Who would win? The Chiefs scored the only points in the first with a touchdown, and after exchanging 10 they led 17-10. But then the Ravens went on a 14-0 run and were leading 24-17. But after a critically made fourth down, the Chiefs tied it with less than a minute left. But a critically missed field goal after a strip sack made it go to overtime. The Chiefs then redeemed themselves by scoring a field goal and stopping the Ravens on fourth down. Final - 27-24 Chiefs.

**Rams @ Bears** - The Rams had an amazing offense. The Bears had a great defense. Who would win the game? The teams, surprisingly were tied 6-6 at the half. But then Chicago's defense took over. They scored a safety(stop a player with possession of the ball in the end zone) and a touchdown, and that proved to be the final score, 15-6.

## Week 15

**Eagles @ Rams** - Everyone thought the Eagles were done. For good. But in this game, they held on tight. They held the Rams to a 13-13 tie at the half. But after the third quarter, they led 30-13. The Rams' comeback was unsuccessful, and the Eagles won in LA 30-23.

**Steelers vs Patriots** - This game was a rematch of the 2017 game. And the Steelers needed to eliminate the Browns from their AFC North crown. And after a long-fought battle, the Steelers won 17-10 stopping the Pats on 4th and 5 with less than a minute left.

**Saints @ Panthers** - The Panthers are trying hard to keep the playoff hopes strong. The Saints need to clinch a first-round bye. So the showdown in Carolina started off with a Carolina touchdown and 2 field goals by the Saints, and the score was 7-6 at half. Then the Saints scored a touchdown, and on the 2 point conversion, Drew Brees threw an interception and the cornerback returned it for a safety(2 points). And after the Panthers' offense were halted 3 times, the Saints won 12-9.

#### **Week 16**

**Texans @ Eagles** - In Philly, the Eagles were trying to keep playoff hopes alive. The Texans were trying to seal the division. In the fourth, the Eagles surprisingly led 29-16 but after 2 Texans touchdowns to make it 30-29 and a Nick Foles injury, it looked like the Eagles were out. But Foles came back into the game and Jake Elliott nailed the game-winning field goal to win 32-30.

**Steelers @ Saints**- The Steelers are trying to close the division with a win today and at the Bengals. But the Saints, led by tailback Alvin Kamara, QB Drew Brees, and the defense, led 3 at the half(17-14), but then trailed by 4 entering the fourth(28-24). But Drew Brees engineered a drive that ended with a touchdown. And after the Steelers fumbled, the Saints won 31-28.

**Jets vs Packers** - This game turned out to be a classic in MetLife Stadium. The Jets only led by 4 at the half(21-17); however, they led by 15 to start the fourth(35-20). It looked like that Aaron Rodgers was done for good. But no. He had 2 rushing touchdowns(yes, in the fourth quarter), an extra point, a converted 2 point conversion, and a field goal by Mason Crosby and the Packers overcame a deficit of 15 to lead by 3, 38-35. And after Pro Bowl kicker Jason Myers made a field goal to send it into OT, the Packers scored a touchdown and won in OT, 44-38.

#### **Week 17**

**Browns vs Ravens** - The Steelers, trailing by ½ games behind the Ravens in the AFC North, needed a Ravens loss paired with a win to win the division. But late in the half, a 27-7 lead was nullified by a fumble originally called a touchdown. So it was 20-7, and eventually the Browns cut it with 10 points of their own, and after only surrendering two field goals, the score was 26-17. And after the Browns scored and forced a Ravens punt, it looked like the division dream for Pittsburgh would become a reality. But after an interception by C.J. Mosley on 4th down, Baltimore sealed the division, clinching the 4 seed.

**Cowboys vs Giants** - This was a useless game for the Cowboys(they don't want injured players out for the playoffs), who had already locked the NFC East. But they played the majority of their starters, and they won 36-35.

**Colts vs Titans** - The winner goes to play the Texans in Houston. The loser stays home on the couch. The Titans, without star QB Marcus Mariota, put up a hard fight and only trailed by 7 entering the fourth quarter. But after the Colts scored 9 of their own, they won 33-17.

Playoff Games Are Set!!!!!!

Rules:

- 2 conferences, 4 divisions/conference, 4 teams for each division

- Division winners in each conference are in playoffs, seeded by record(Wins to losses), and tiebreakers. For example, if one division winner had a record of 12-4 and the other division winner had a record of 11-5, then the team with a 12-4 record would be ahead of the other team with a 11-5 record.
- 2 best non-division winners enter playoffs(based on record)
- Tiebreakers are used for same record.
- Top 2 division winners get a first round bye
- There are a maximum of four rounds(In order: Wild Card(4 games), Divisional Playoff(4 games), Conference Championship(2 games), Super Bowl)
- The 2 seed gets a first round bye, but has to face the highest seeded team after the 3rd seed plays the 6 seed, and the 4 seed faces the 5 seed.
- The 1 seed gets a first round bye, and gets to face the lowest seeded team.
- The 3 v 6 match basically determines one Top 2 Team's matchup(if the 3 seed wins, they play No. 2, and if the 6 seed wins, they play the No. 1 seed)

#### AFC

1. Chiefs, 12-4, AFC West WINNER
2. Patriots, 11-5, AFC East WINNER
3. Texans, 11-5, AFC South WINNER
4. Ravens, 10-6, AFC North WINNER
5. Chargers, 12-4, AFC West Runner-up
6. Colts, 10-6, AFC South Runner-up

#### NFC

1. Saints, 13-3, NFC South WINNER
2. Rams, 13-3, NFC West WINNER
3. Bears, 12-4, NFC North WINNER
4. Cowboys, 10-6, NFC East WINNER
5. Seahawks, 10-6, NFC West Runner-up
6. Eagles, 9-7, NFC East Runner-up

#### **The Hunt for the Number 6**

In the NFL, 6 teams from each conference make the playoffs. But even if you are extremely good you may not get what you like. The seeds are as shown for each conference.

1. First round-bye, home-field advantage throughout playoff run, best division winner
2. First round-bye(against 3/4/5), 2nd best division winner
3. Wild card round(vs 6), 2nd worst division winner
4. Wild card round(vs 5), worst division winner
5. Wild card round(vs 4), best division runner-up
6. Wild card round(vs 3), 2nd best division runner up or best third place team in division(this happened in 2017, when the Falcons, Saints, and Panthers made the playoffs, all from the NFC South).

So right now in the AFC seeds 1 and 5 have been taken. But there are a few teams fighting for the 6 seed. They are the Colts, Titans, Dolphins and Browns. The Browns and Dolphins are eliminated with a loss, and the Colts are eliminated with a loss and a tie against Tennessee, and Tennessee needs to tie the Colts and lose in Week 16.

In the NFC, seeds 1,2, and 3 are taken. The Cowboys need to win out to get the 4 seed, the Eagles and Redskins need to win out and need the Vikings to lose out. And the Panthers, it's a long shot. Here's what they need to do.

- Win out both games(at Falcons and at Saints)
- Eagles(vs Texans) and Redskins(vs Titans) need to lose their games(mentioned to their name), tie in last game(playing each other)
- Vikings lose out

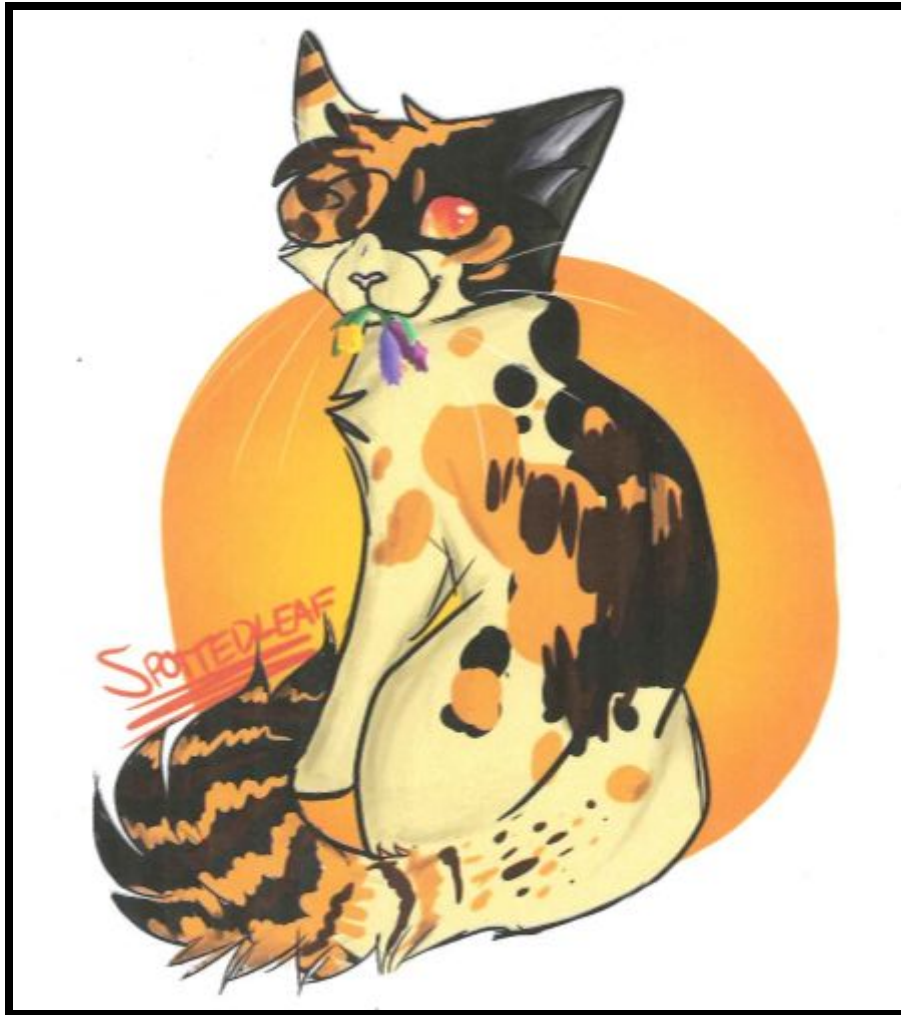
If this were to happen, then the Panthers would likely be playing the Bears as the 6 seed.

All other teams not mentioned are out of the playoffs(with exception of the Falcons).

So will there be drama in the North? Epics in the South? The playoff teams will be announced in the newspaper, right under this article. So if you're wondering, a division title puts you in automatically, and you have to be a good team otherwise

# Art Gallery





1/1/19  
Shannon Corlett





SHANNON  
CORLETT



"Destiny isn't a path  
that any cat follows blindly. It  
is always a matter of choice, and  
sometimes the heart speaks loudest."

Leafpool

Warriors, Sign of  
the Moon page 108



That moment you realize you can write Shakespeare but you can't correctly spell "inspired"



This editions "Expectation V.S. Reality"s theme is school. If you have an idea for the next OMS Press Edition's theme please email me! Thanks! 😊



Fourth to Fifth Inspired by Julia W. By. Mandi Lu



Thanks to Josie Liao for inking this!

Now and Then By. Mandi Lu. Inspired by Julia W.



Notice the fortnite poster. 😏

Big Difference By. Mandi Lu Inspired by Evan Dan



Cashier Issues Part 2 By Mandi Lu

