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Produced by OMS Newspaper Club...

# The OMS Press

Spring 2019

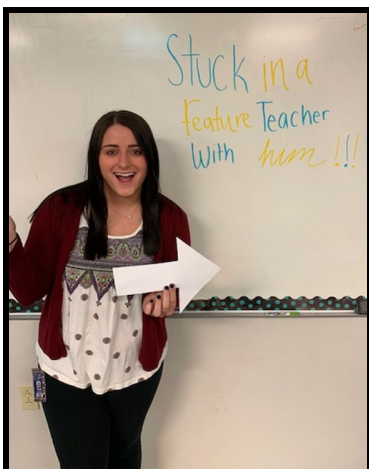
## Feature Teacher

Brandon Polomsky, Jordan Novak and Elizabeth Woloszyn

### Miss Cancasci

#### Teaching

Miss Cancasci started teaching at Roxbury and was there for 1 year. Last year she taught at Roxbury and Orchard and now this year she is at Orchard full time. She is a co-teacher in Miss Webb's first rotation, Mr. Lyon's second rotation, and Mrs. Meyer's third rotation. Her favorite part about teaching is seeing kids progress in their learning. She likes seeing kids get something right that they got wrong before.



#### Family

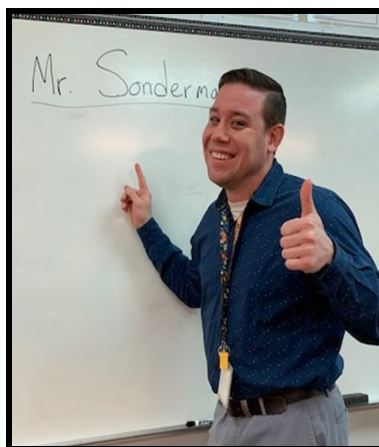
Miss Cancasci is one of four children in her family. She has two sisters and one brother. She was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio. From when she was born to now, she has visited North Carolina every year. She even went to North Carolina for college.

#### Growing up.

### Mr. Sonderman

#### Teaching

Mr. Sonderman started teaching in Columbus, then was later on offered a job to teach here at Orchard! Mr. Sonderman loves the kids here and never wants to leave this school, he loves it so much. He has been teaching for 4 years in Solon now, but it is his 7th year teaching. He is now getting his Masters degree in teaching. He was offered to coach the High School volleyball team, but had to turn it down because he was too busy getting his Masters. Mr. Sonderman teaches in Miss Griffin's second rotation and Mrs. Ours's third rotation.



#### Family

Mr. Sonderman has an older brother who is a band director at American University. He also has a cousin who was on Jeopardy before! And this June Mr. Sonderman will be getting married to his fiancé! Congrats and Good Luck Mr. Sonderman!

#### Growing Up



When she was in grade school, she did cheer competitively. Her favorite subject was math, and she has always loved pets! During high school she was a waitress at Mavis Winkles, and she also babysat little kids. When she applied for a college, she applied to North Carolina, and that is where she went.

### Likes Not Wants

Miss Cancasci would like looking at the beautiful sunset, with her dream pet elephant, and tan on the beach. She loves eating Italian pizza. She could be taking a boat ride, visiting family, and or reading Harry Potter (her favorite series). Miss Cancasci loves to travel. She enjoys traveling to Rome, Venice, Florence, Milan, and many other places.

Mr. Sonderman was a quiet kid growing up. He spent many hours playing sports and playing outside barefoot. Growing up, he had a big group of friends that he still talks to today. Mr. Sonderman's first jobs include: Art Warehouse worker, park maintenance and a cookie factory worker.

### Likes not Wants

Mr. Sonderman loves to go see plays and musicals. His favorite book series is Harry Potter. He loves the black bear because he has seen them multiple times while hiking. Mr. Sonderman would love to go to San Diego because he loves tacos and the beach. Mr. Sonderman loves to play Volleyball, trivia games and read books in his spare time.

## ASK AN APPLE Orchard's Advice Column

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My world has become clutter. My desk is clutter, my locker's clutter, and my room is clutter. I NEED HELP!!!!!!  
-Please Declutter my life.

Dear Declutter,

Now what you need to do is try to really take time to organize things like maybe during recess, instead of going outside. You could take everything out of your desk, throw away anything not needed and then put only what is needed back. Do the same with your locker. I know this seems like a too-obvious solution, but a little dedication is really all there is too it. I personally find that color-coding things really helps the most. According to research, not so neat people usually react to color faster than say...alphabetically organizing things. So color coding your stuff could help a lot. Studies also find that most not so neat people are more sentimental than others. If that's your case, you need to know what to give up and what to keep, or at least where to keep it. And if none of those are really working for, you could ask for help from your teacher, your parents, or an organized peer.

-Honey Crisp Apple and Ginger Gold Apple

I got a 30% on my math test. My mom was mad and so was my dad. They've gotten over it, but I still don't know what I should do.

-Testing

Dear Testing,

I know tests can be extremely hard! What I recommend for you to do is **STUDY, STUDY, STUDY!!!!** But, don't study all in one night, just before the test. Instead, study for it a little bit each night over a week or two if it's really necessary. Studies show that people who study a bit each night and sleep the final night do better than those who save it all for the night before the test and stay up late **CRAMMING! CRAMMING! CRAMMING!** I know it seems like a lot of work, but it pays off in the long run! Also, if you don't understand something ask your parents or teachers for help. A lot of people are sometimes too scared to ask for help or ask questions, thinking it'll make them look stupid. If you think like that, then ask your teacher in private, or leave a note on her desk. And If your teacher holds a study session, go to it!

Don't worry about what you got on your last test, but focus on what you want to get for your next test! I'm sure if you take the time to, you can accomplish great things. Best of Luck!

-Yellow Apple

My little brother is mean. He blames me if he gets hurt, and tells me I'm stupid. I'm older than him, but sometimes it feels the other way around. I need help!!!!

-Running from bro

Dear Running From Bro,

I have a little brother too, and trust me he can be suuuuper bossy and annoying. I totally get you! My best advice is just try to ignore him. And if it gets really bad then talk to your parents about it. But when my brother is being...well...himself....I always ask myself "who's the older one?" If you are really the more mature one, I'm sure you can ignore him. I 200% know how hard it can be to ignore and keep your patience with a younger brother, so it might take awhile, but patience is key. And remember, you're the older one, you're the more mature one. Best of luck with your brother!

Ginger Gold Apple

Dear Apple,

I am getting older and earning more responsibilities. I am struggling under the weight of being a tween. (That sounded dramatic) **HELP!**

-I'm getting too old for this job

Dear I'm getting too old for the job,

I understand that getting older can be stressful. Just try to take one day at a time and not take too much head on! Try to focus on the privileges and positives that go hand in hand with getting older. You'll see that the pros outweigh the cons. Growing up can be hard, but when ever you feel that life is too hard to take on, think about why it is so hard, and what that fear does for you. Then imagine something better that could do the same thing. Okay that sounds confusing. So for example, say I'm really stressed because I'm self conscious. Why do I

feel that way? Well...because I don't want to look stupid in front of people! So what could I be instead of self conscious that would still keep me from looking stupid in front of people? Well I could be more self aware. Get my point? Self awareness and self consciousness are the same thing! One's just better than the other! Good luck!

-Honeycrisp apple and Ginger Gold Apple

Dear Apple,

I'm feeling really stressed because the Cavs aren't making the playoffs, and LeBron's first run could be about to come to an end on the Lakers. HELP!

-Depressed

Dear Depressed,

I feel your pain. This is one of the hardest times for us Clevelanders, but we have to admit, we all knew that the Cavs wouldn't be as good without LeBron (let's be honest buddy). That's just the reality we have to face. But one question for you, **WHY ARE YOU CHEERING FOR THE LAKERS AND THE CAVS!?** That does not even make any sense!! Pick one and stay with it!!! (May I recommend the Cavs!)

As for LeBron's final run, if you really like LeBron and you are stressed about it, take some time off of basketball and find something else that won't upset you as much. Turning your focus to something else will help you., May I recommend art? It is nice and quiet. Maybe watch another sport for a while.

What happens with LeBron and the Cavs happens. Is it worth your time and energy worrying about it?

-Candy 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 freedvice56.
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

## Gray World

By Ashley Rhee

Al opened the door. *What is she wearing?*

She grinned, "I had an inkling that I should change up my style today!"

I frowned and crossed my arms. That was an inkling of a BAD idea to "change it up". This was worse than I thought. Al had been manipulated to the side of the Difference.

Al had painted the regular gray jumpsuit neon yellow and had skillfully penned her name tag with a bright purple gel pen. Frankly, she looked hideous. Plus, Master would not tolerate this nonsense.

I gave Al a strict warning about obeying its laws, but things seemed to go through one ear and out the other with her. When we arrived in Central, I took my position between VH3 and VJ674, and hoped for the best.

Master stepped out from the shadows and surveyed us all. Much to my disappointment, its' eyes locked on Al's uniform. "Prototype AL387401!" she barked.

As expected, she took Al away by the arm and whisked her away down the long corridor toward the isolation chambers.

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Al didn't know. But I do. This is a world where Master controls everything. Why it wants everything to be the same I do not understand. When I saw Al being dragged away, I knew it was the end. I could not make the same mistake. I had to live up to Master's expectation. Protect the Same. Eradicate the Difference. That's the way it is, and it's the way that it will always be. If it wasn't, you shall be gone from the face of the world. I learned this in Year 1.

Master arrived from the corridor. All of our eyes were fixed facing forward. Time for the drills, I knew. It pressed a yellow marked button. We all turned left. Master pressed another orange button. We swirled left and saluted. Master grinned. It dismissed the rest of the prototypes and pulled me aside. I immediately flinched. Master's hand was dangerously close to the kill switch on my forearm.

"You are ready," Master whispered underneath its breath. My eyes widened. *I* had been chosen for *THE MISSION*? I was only a Year 16! This mission was my whole life, it was what I had been training for.

"You are very experienced in the martial arts, and you have a desire to protect the Same," Master continued. "You are ready to be activated."

What did it mean, activated? Master walked out of the room. I obediently followed it. Master guided me into a special padded room and locked the door. I could see a shadow outside, probably it. Master pressed a big red button that reflected the light.

Suddenly, I could *understand*. I couldn't explain how. I just did. I was in a soundproof room, and Master, a teenage girl, was the one who created me. She was looking through one-way glass to see me. For the first time, I saw her face, not the blacked-out darkness she had programmed the prototypes, or the unapproved trainees, to see.

I peered into a mirror. My eyes! They were a lovely black, instead of the dull gray that prototypes wore.

Master walked into the room. "Congratulations," she told me, and since I could understand emotion, I could tell she was genuinely proud.

"I can train you all your life, but there is only one rule outside of the laboratory: Do not ever tell them who I am. I prefer to stay anonymous, Prototype VI158. So you will be regarded as human, I hereby name you Violet," Master proclaimed. "Your first command as an intelligent being? Dispose of that reeking body of the Different prototype."

I then remembered AI. "What will I do without an assigned partner?" I queried.

"Ah, you are smart. Good," Master chuckled. "You are skilled enough to do it alone."

At that, she dismissed me, and I walked away knowing I was The Chosen.

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As I carried AI's deactivated body to the waste disposal container, I thought about how I was partially responsible for her disappearance. If only I had stopped her from wearing that ridiculous neon yellow jumpsuit and the bright purple name tag, she still would be here now, joking and laughing with me.

And the fear of being alone! It focused in and clouded my brain with worried thoughts. What if I succumbed to Difference like AI did? Would Master still be proud of me?

Of course she wouldn't. If one of her best prototypes-now-activated-person had been accustomed to Difference, Master would be overly disappointed.

Right at that moment, I realized something. Difference gave people freedom, while Same wanted everything in grayness and uniform. Gray was boring, if the world was to stay that way the whole rest of eternity. Colors were more fun, more happy. I guess my brain really was weak, because right then and there, I decided I would escape from the lab and fight for Difference.

---

Escape was my plan. It was my only chance for survival. Master would be furious if she knew what I did.

Okay fine, sneaking into the office and reading my files wasn't really necessary, but I was bored without someone to hang out with! I found that I am a strong fighter, but had a soft side for friendship. I also learned that activation turned on a switch in my brain that made me an intelligent being.

I read AI's files too. Her brain was made to comfort me and help me overcome my fear of being alone. Hah. Big load of good it did me, it only made me more afraid now that she was gone.

I had snuck out of the office and was about to open the door when I heard a loud sound.

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There was a crash. And a bang. And then everything I knew was gone. Difference had a dark side, and it was crashing into the lab that started the Same. It was making everything different than it was before. I heard talk of the shadow of Difference capturing some prototypes in the Central. Master was gone, but nobody knew where to. The isolation dormitories were burned to the ground. The entire lab was blown to smithereens, scattered lab coats and papers flying around in the breeze. I looked around, trying to find something that made sense.

My eyes locked on Al's unconscious body. I ran over to her. She was limp, but I could see the obvious kill switch "hidden" on her arm. I took a deep breath and squeezed her arm.

Suddenly her eyes filled with life. Actual life, not artificial life. Al's eyes shone a bright blue. She smiled at me.

"Thank you," she said, her voice filled with gratitude. Then we walked out of the wreckage hand in hand, friends reunited.

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## F I V E Y E A R S L A T E R . . .

*Newspaper Article, 3045*

Violet and Allie, 21, have officially given the world the freedom it deserves. Through the revealing of who spread the Same, Violet alerted people to be on the lookout for that certain mastermind. Allie officially joined the police squad who helped search for the girl from the Same Laboratory, and in between shifts, wrote a book explaining memories of being a prototype of Sameness. Renee Vanderweele, 24, was arrested after being found hiding out in a cargo train.

Difference spreads the Earth like wildfire, and the people have the minds to make their own decisions again. Life thrives like it would always, and people are indebted to the the duo.

Violet only says to "stay true to the friends you have, and you can accomplish anything."  
Allie tells readers to "stay true to yourself as well, and things will always work out in the end."

## "The Disease of One-Sided Love"

By: Isabella Liu



Have you ever heard of Hanahaki? Chances are, you haven't. But what are your thoughts on coughing up bloody petals and flowers? That doesn't seem so nice. What are your thoughts on loving somebody so much, and finding out that they don't love you back? This is the disease of single-sided love; Hanahaki.

What is it?

Hanahaki is the disease of one-sided love. One sided love is when you love someone deeply (not an ordinary crush), but they do not share the same feelings with you. Unlike a normal crush, when someone has Hanahaki, they feel as if they need the person they love. Now what separates this disease from a crush? When someone has Hanahaki, they throw up and cough up petals and sometimes even full flowers covered in blood. This happens because flowers grow in your lungs and clog up your respiratory system. The symptoms of the disease are summarized as strong pain, having flowers blooming in the heart and lungs, and then throwing them up.

### Can you die from it?

Yes. You can die from this disease. This is because the flowers will eventually clog your windpipe, as well as your lungs and other organs in the respiratory system, leaving you unable to breathe. If you go too long without surgery, you will meet death. Some say that if you linger too close to the person you love, who doesn't love you back, you will cough up more and more flowers very violently.

### Is there a cure?

Yes. There is a cure. You have two options: you either get surgery and get the flowers removed forever, or you wait until death arrives. However, there is a downside to the surgery. If you get the flowers removed, so will your feelings for the person you love. You will no longer love the person you once loved when you get the flowers surgically removed from your body. The alternative is death, where you wait until the flowers overtake your body and you die.

### Does it ever end?

Yes. It does eventually end. There are both tragic and happy endings to the disease. Either when you get the surgery, you die, or until your feelings are returned. It seems unlikely, but sometimes, your feelings do get returned by the person you love. It has to be cured with love, however. The disease cannot end with the other person having a strong friendship with you, so this type of cure is the least likely.

### Where did it come from? Is it real?

Where did this come from? Is it real? Those are often questions people ask when they find out about this disease. It was popularized in East Asian forms of art before it was used by westerners. What does it mean? Where did the name come from? The term **hanahaki** comes from the Japanese words *hana* (花), which means "flower", and *hakimasu* (吐きます), which means "to throw up". Its true origins are unknown, but it appears in the manga, "The Girl Who Spit Flowers" by Naoko Matsuda, which was released in 2009. A lot of people use it in fictional works, which the genre is usually angst, hurt/comfort, pining, and general romantic tension. So, if you're about to read a story that contains Hanahaki, be prepared to get hit with massive feelings! Now, the big question most people have, is "Is this disease real?" The answer is no. It's a fictional disease used in writing works.

To conclude, Hanahaki is an extremely deadly disease that can prevent you from breathing, resulting in an ugly death. It can be cured, but the options to cure you from the disease, are not very desirable. So if you have Hanahaki, then you're pretty much stuck with it. However, you can be glad this disease isn't real!

Sources: [Source 1 \(check this out if you're curious!\)](#)

[Source 2 \(check this one out too!\)](#)

The rest of my information came from the fictional stories I've read ^\_^





# THE CAT'S TAKEOVER

BY: Jordan Novak

## **Chapter 1:** Me - Chad

It was July, July 4, for that matter, 1997. My host family was watching fireworks. It was time to make my move. It was time to get the CREW!

The crew consisted of, me (Chad), Sydney, Kitty, Hope, Jay, Kyle, Sam, and Hayley. Everyone had a special set of skills. There are more cats at HQ, but these are the big 8!

- Me - Head planner
- Hope - Second planner
- Kitty - Spy 1
- Sydney - Spy 2
- Jay - Computer tech 1
- Hayley - Timing expert
- Sam - Alert System
- Kyle - Computer tech 2

Our goal was to get revenge on the dogs! Not long ago, the dogs ruined our plan to destroy all dogs and take over the world. We needed to make a plan to get back at them! Then it hit me.

"Hope come here, I have a plan," I meowed.

"Great, I have one too," she replied. But she sounded not too sure. Nevertheless she came on over.

After 10 minutes of thinking and drawing, we finished the plan. "Jay, Kyle. You two try to hack into the dog's computer system. Sam, Kitty, Sydney. You three, go be on watch duty," I said in an, orderly fashion.

"Hayley, go find timing the spots with these plans. We'll help Jay and Kyle." Hope said gently, but we knew she was not joking around.

"We can't crack the code, they upgraded their system." Kyle said.

"KYLE!" Hope said angrily. "Please tell me you have a lead, Jay!" she said.

"Nope, It's now at K-9 level! Wait I got something. The code is....." Said Jay.

Right after that, the computer shut down.

"We've been hacked!!!!!" Jay yelled.

"The dogs are coming! Initiate Jaymond protocol!" Hope and I meowed in unison.

"Kitty, Sydney, get out and see what they're doing." I paused, "Sam, go around and tell us what's happening, Hayley did you find us a way to attack? Hope make a new plan! GO, go, go!" I meowed loudly.

"Help, Jay come on, we need power!" Kyle was demanding.

"I can't hack -." Jay interrupted Kyle by crying out. "C.A.T. tech is not so secure. After this we need to upgrade ours!"

"WHO CARES! WE NEED POWER!" Kyle yelled.

"... there's an opening in 10 seconds, 2 minutes, and 5 minutes; based on the algorithm." Hayley said to me. "Let's do all three, we need it!" Said Hope.

**Bang!**  
**Crash!**  
**Boom!**

"They're coming!!!!" All the cats meowed.

## **Chapter 2 : Hope**

The circuits were fried. Sydney, Kitty, and Hayley were down and couldn't help. Kyle and Jay were trying to fix the computers. Chad bumped his head on the wall multiple times. Sam was nowhere to be seen.

"Has anyone seen Sam?" I meowed softly.

"No, sorry Hope," Kyle said softly to me.

"We know how much he loved you, and how much you loved him," Jay pitched in.

I started sobbing. I felt like a hole in the world just swallowed me up and spit me out into pieces. I was nothing without Sam.

Chad and Sydney came over to me. "Uh, it's okay. Do you need some time alone?" asked Chad.

"No, it's okay. I can work". I said surely

You know, this was the first time I had ever seen him so, um, so cheesy, I thought.

"No, it's okay. I can work". I said surely. Not knowing how I'd do it without my step cat brother?

Anyway, Kyle got the computers working. Jay fixed some of the circuits.

Sydney and Kitty were outside looking for Sam. Hayley was licking herself because she could not do anything. Chad and I were making a plan.

"Maybe me, or Sydney or Kitty could do Sam's job until we find him?" I told Chad a little soft, but not too soft. "I don't think you need me. You can make a plan by yourself." I said.

## **Chapter 3: Sam**

"Where am I?" I asked into a mysterious light.

"We ain't tellin," someone woofed.

"We need you!" another barked.

"Dog's, I'll never help *you*," I paused, "You know they will find you."

"Ha, we know where they are because of you're new chip," a different voice said in a southern accent. He continued by saying, "As long as Kitty Galore does not come, our plan is at its best!"

"Exactly," a familiar voice said.

"*LOU?*" I yelled! *I couldn't believe my eyes. My dog friend, Lou, who used to help us had defected to the dark side. Here I am, in a dungeon. I am a fool to think that Mrs. Lou was a friend. Dogs are so two faced. I had to get out. I couldn't leave Hope alone.*

As I was in my own world thinking, Lou disappeared.

But, luck was on my side when I noticed the most air-headed jail guard was on duty. I said to the jail guard, "Guard, I think you have me messed up with another criminal cat. I am Mr. Karesh. Top notch at selling things," I said in an Italian accent. "I am desperately needed to help my cats back at home. Please do the right thing and let me go."

"Whatever you say," he said, followed by a, "Never heard of you though. Eh, whatever, I guess I'll let you go."

The jail guard left the cell area. I was good to go. I made my move. I had to wait an hour for Lou, and her boss to leave the house. I ran as fast as my furry little feet could go, I saw the door and I ran through the doggy door. I guess it's now a kitty-doggy door, I thought to myself. At last I was free!!!! I ran to the lab.

55 minutes later



*Where is it.* I thought. Where is HQ? I ran ahead. I tumbled over an unseen hill. I tumbled, and tumbled, and tumbled. I reached a lit up place. The sign said: **WELCOME TO LAS VEGAS!** "LAS VEGAS???" I meowed. *I know where I am! YES!!!!!!* I thought really hard to what Chad had told me. I remember he told me, "If you ever reach the sign that says 'Welcome to Las Vegas, take 2 rights, 1 left, and then go straight for 3 minutes, then take 3 rights and 1 left and then you will be at headquarters.'" *Okay, I thought, I can*

*do this!*

I took all directions and after 23 minutes I made it to HQ!

#### **Chapter 4:** Kyle

"Open up, Kyle." someone yelled.

"Who are you?" I yelled back.

"It's me Sam, really. Otherwise how would I know your name is Kyle, and your expertise area is computer tech?" Sam said.

I unlocked the door. "WELCOME BACK SAM!!!!" I said. "Hope will be so glad to see you."

We walked back to Hope, and everybody else.

"SAM!!" Hope said about to cry. "I missed you so much!" She started sobbing again.

"This is her second time crying today, in 2 minutes." I said.

"They have my chip, there going to attack, again, they know our weakness, all because of my chip." Sam blurted out.

"WHAT?!" We all yelled.

"They will attack at 19:45 (7:45 pm). Get ready to defend. I know what they are going to do." Sam said.

I told everybody to huddle up.

#### **Chapter 5:** Rocky the Dog

The two leaders of the two sides are meeting tonight at 19:50 (7:50). As the two leaders walk to the middle of a wide open field, they seek a battle of baseball, but the two leaders do not know that they are both thinking that.

"Let's settle our differences with a game of baseball, shall we?" Chad said.

"Of course, it is the ancient way of settling our differences if that is needed." I said. For once the two leaders of the cat and dog world were agreeing.

"To make things more interesting, if we win, you have to leave the cats alone and no longer try to take over the world." Chad said.

"Deal, but if we win you have to help us enslave the world. I know that you will bail like every other time before, because we win every time!" I said.

"Deal, and we will not bail this time for real. And we will play by the rules!" Said Chad.

#### **Chapter 6: NARRATOR**



It's 19:54 (7:54 pm) They were all at the field. Cats were up, 6-5. The Las Vegas Cats were up! Batting was none other than... Jay the cat! Pitching was Mrs. Lou the dog! The bases were loaded. Chad the cat was on base one. Kyle on base two. And Hope on base 3. Lou pitched the ball.

*WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN?????*

HOMERUN!!!!!!!!!! This was the first time in history the cats had beaten the dogs in Cat-Dog Baseball! The cats won 10-5. "Take that *dogs*, We finally won!"

# Only Mortal

Short Story By: Selena Liao

**5/12/2856**

Grandpa is dead. Well, not really. He's alive, mentally, not physically. He's in the internet.

You might be thinking, what? That's not possible! Oh, but yes it is. It is now, thanks to Jorack Hasinjer. He's the creator of the newest simulator, H2op. When you reach the age of 75 (if you have an illness, you can do it earlier), you put this helmet on and you wear it for 2 weeks straight. You start to lose your knowledge. Your memories. Your life. Don't worry though, it's not lost forever. It's safely stored in an off-limits folder to anyone but you. Your body will die once the process is complete. Scary right? It's worth it, for immortality.

Anyway, once that happens, you basically live in the internet. Your body no longer exists but you can communicate to your loved ones. You don't eat, drink or do any human activities. You spend your days zooming through the internet, doing whatever you want. Watching cat vids, reading comics, stalking, and if you do something illegal, well they can't put you in jail. They *can* delete your account off the web which is basically equivalent to ending your life. You can text your family, friends whatever. There is one way for you to sorta join in on things. You can do that by having someone who has your contacts to FaceChat you (they won't see you, just blackness) and when they raise their H2op up, you can see things the camera sees.

That's just how life is. No more underworld. No more heaven. No more afterlife. Just technology. Last year, only 2 people out of 10 billion people decided to die the way Mother Nature intended.

I take out my simulator and surf through the internet. I contact Grandpa.

I type: *hello? Grandpa? U there?*

He responds immediately.

*Hi Kaleila.*

"Kaleila! Come eat your dinner!"

*Well mom's calling gtg eat dinner*

*Okay. Bye sweetheart.*

*ok*

*Bye.*

I log off and start making my way downstairs.

"Hello. How are you today?" Our family's flying robot, Acebot says, in an auto tuned voice.

Just as I open my mouth to answer, Figarro comes bounding toward me. He jumps up to greet me. I fall, laughing. I pat his head. "Hey there buddy." He barks and licks my face. His white, fluffy, Samoyed fur is spread all over my clothes and on my hands and face. "You need a good brushing," I sniff the air. "And a bath."

I turn toward Acebot. "I'm great, Acebot. Also, can you feed him?" I point to the fluffy cloud sniffing my feet. He sneezes and makes a face.

"No problemo. Acebot is at your service." Acebot salutes at me and floats away. Figarro tilts his head and stares at me, probably wondering if he should go eat his food or play with his toy. In the kitchen, Acebot



begins pouring out dog chow. The sound of the food is too much for him because he perks up and stares at me for a few more seconds, then slowly gets off me and races after Acebot.

I roll my eyes. Figarro's a goofball. My goofball.

\*\*\*

Mom says there used to be a thing called school. A long time ago people used to wake up at 7 in the morning and ride a...bus? I don't know why they didn't just use a teleport vacuole to get around. Probably they weren't created yet. Well they should've created a Flybot (like Acebot - you name your own family's Flybot. Ex: Mikebot, Lilbot, Gracebot, etc.) to tutor them about everything.

Coincidentally, Acebot flies on by and says, "It's time for tutoring."

I nod. Let's get this over with.

Hours fly by and Acebot's words all slur together in my mind to a jumbled piece of mush.

Math is so boring.

"Hey I need to use the bathroom." I lie.

"Okay. Be quick," he says.

I run up on the glass staircase up to my bedroom. I shut the door and lock it.

I flop onto the bed, expecting a soft mattress but I end up flopping onto Figarro's fluffy hide.

"Oh my gosh! I'm so sorry, buddy!" He growls at me but then his face immediately morphs back to its cute, floppy face. Then he smiles a toothy smile at me and licks my face. To make it up to him, I grab a bunch of his favorite treats and feed them to him one by one.

He's a bit dirty, so I decide to bathe him.

I bribe him into the bathtub and run the water. I wash him with pet shampoo and then I dry him off.

Once that's done, I brush him.

"There, doesn't that feel wonderful?" I say while brushing his clotted fur. Tons and tons of fur has formed on his brush and all over the bathroom tiles after I brush *one* leg. "Look," I say laughing. "The cloud has just created a mini cloud!" He just barks and grins.

Finally, after an hour of labor, Figarro's brushed, tidy, and dry. I stand up and look at myself in the mirror. My black hair is swinging from a high ponytail to my shoulder. My fair-ish skin is covered with droplets of water from the bath. My brown eyes look way more clear than any avatar I've used in video games.

I look back to Figarro and think that he's prettier than I could ever be. But he looks a little off though. Eventually, I come to the conclusion that he'd look great with a collar. So I rummage through the bathroom drawer but don't find a collar anywhere. Did we ever actually buy one for him? I guess not.

I race out the bathroom with Figarro after me. I scribble on a piece of paper:

*Going out for a bit w/ figarro. Be back in a jiffy. I'd say about 13-14 o'clock. Gonna buy him a collar (w/ my own money). See ya.*

*Kaleila*

"C'mon Figgy. Were gonna buy you a collar." I race down the stairs, sometimes skipping a few steps. I run to our family's teleport vacuole and smash in the passcode. Figarro and I step inside.

"Press in the address. The lights will shut and when they open, you will be at your destination. Have a fun time there." The voice that always plays in the vacuole gets annoying real fast. I push my irritation aside and type in the address for our town square. As expected, the lights turn off. In about two seconds of standing in the darkness, the light comes back on and a bell rings. The door opens.

When I step outside, the surrounding isn't what I expected. I look around, confused. Once I take a good look at where we are, I realize.

We're not in the town square.

We're in Wyoming.

And I live in New York.

**5/12/2856**

"I've got to do something." I think aloud. I look at Figarro. Poor puppy. I dragged him into this mess.

Before I come to my senses, I step into the vacuole. So does Figarro. I press in the address for our house. The room becomes dark and when light comes to and the door opens, we're not at my house. But were in New York. And were in the town square.

"Well, I guess that's the universe telling us to get you that collar." I walk into the pet store with Figarro by my side. I get him a nice, navy blue collar with a little sky blue bowtie attached. Once I pay for it, we walk back outside. Even though the vacuole got us where we wanted to go in the beginning, it didn't follow the address I put in. Getting to New York's town square was probably just dumb luck.

Just to be safe, Figarro and I walk back home. It's not that far from our house.

"Good thing today's a nice day. Let's just think of it as a walk."

As soon as we step inside, my mom immediately starts lecturing me about leaving the house.

"But Mom, I've done this so many times before! How is this time any different?" I complain.

"Because *all* teleport vacuoles, VR machines, everything...they're all either shut down or malfunctioning." She shakes her head.

"Well that explains why I was sent to Wyoming." As soon as those words pass my lips, I immediately want to swallow it back. Mom starts freaking out.

"What? You could've been stuck there forever! I could've lost you for good!" She embraces me and starts wailing. "Wait how did you get back?"

"I typed in our address but it sent me to the town square. Then I decided to play it safe and walk home instead." I shrug. "I wasn't scared at all." I lied. Mom continues to sob. "Is Acebot still working?" I ask.

"Luckily, he is. Since he's connected to a different software, our own wifi, he seems to be okay. But no one knows exactly why the public systems are down."

Acebot flies on over and turns on the flat screen. "Hey look! Tutoring ditcher, the flat screen works!"

"STAY INDOORS EVERYONE AND DON'T USE ANY TELEPORT VACUOLES. DO NOT, I REPEAT, DO NOT GO IN ANY TELEPORT VACUOLE IF YOU VALUE YOUR LIFE," some random lady says.

"Wow." I didn't think it was that serious. "Well it'll get fixed in no time. Right Mom?" I ask.

"Well they're working on it, but it might not be fixed for a couple of weeks," she answers.

"Hey, Acebot can search when they think it's gonna be fixed?" This could be bad.

Acebot just turns his back on me and floats away. Rude. "Look Acebot I'm sorry, I shouldn't have ditched you earlier."

He hesitates then answers, "Yeah, yeah whatever. They think it's gonna be fixed in a couple of weeks at most." He nods back at me.

"Ok. But wait, our simulators are connected to our wifi so I can contact Grandpa right?" I need him in my life.

"Actually, yes. You can use our simulators," Mom answers.

Phew. I didn't know what I would do without him.

"So can I contact him now?" I ask.

"Sure," Mom says.

I walk upstairs and sit myself at my desk.

*Hey Gramps did you know the internet is down?*

*Yes.*

*The only thing that works is our simulators and flat screens.*

*It's happening.*

*Grandpa what do you mean?*

*Take care. They're not gonna be able to restart us.*

*Grandpa? What?*

*You can lead. You can adapt. I love you.*

*Grandpa!*

The simulator screen turns black.

What. Just. Happened? Mom rushes into the room.

"The simulators and flat screens are down too," she says.

Days passed. The internet is still so stubborn. But so am I. I sit and wait and wait and sit for the internet to work. So Grandpa can work.

Acebot comes in. "News flash people! The wifi, software, internet, whatever you call it is...permanently down!" He calls.

What?

"B-but the wifi will come back up again right? They'll fix it *right*?" I murmur.

"They will. They will. They have to," Mom says.

"Oh, I shouldn't have told you that right now...", Acebot says apologetically.

I'm in shock.

Acebot just tells us the news because he's the only internet device that actually still works. I sigh. I guess this is my life now. It feels strange to not talk to Grandpa everyday. I want to just go to my simulator and tell him about him missing, but that's just strange isn't it? Apparently, they have no idea what's wrong. Hasinjer's tech is so complicated, it started with his grandpa wanting to have connection to the dead. Then, Hasinjer's dad took the role and had the smart idea for connecting it with computers. Now, Hasinjer himself, the prodigy of the family, the one with the most brain power, actually succeeded. But even *he* doesn't know what's wrong.

**8/23/2856**

Days drip into weeks. Weeks melt into months. Everyone is mad at Hasinjer. It's not his fault. He didn't know this would happen. Everyone makes mistakes and now just because he made one, he's getting shunned. The only thing that works are the Flybots and regular ol' electrical things. Lightbulbs, fridges, stoves, and things like that are the only things that work. Teleport vacuoles, simulators (sadly), VR devices, and things like that don't work at all. I start to wonder if they're broken for good.

**2/15/2857**

"Down, permanently down. Project Hasinjer is a big fat fail. Everything's the same. Flybots, lightbulbs, refrigerators, stoves, ovens, heaters, and AC units are the only things that work. Your beloved flatscreens, simulators, VR devices, teleport vacuoles, and all of Hasinjer's devices do not work. I repeat, DO. NOT. WORK. Stay tuned for more information at yo-," The reporter's voice gets cut off by Acebot's controlling.

Grandpa *did* say that they wouldn't be able to revive him. *But how did he know?*

*Old-wise-man-sense?* I have too many thoughts on my mind to give this one much thought. Grandpa's smart then I guess. After months of self reflecting, I finally accept that my Grandpa is no longer. His life went beyond Mother Nature, and I guess She finally flipped her lid.

No one is using the internet ever again. But that's okay, we will adapt, we will change, into the people we are meant to be. That I know, for sure. And I'm okay with it.

# The Gift

By Kyle Dong

Today is my birthday, February 22nd. Wait a minute. My name is Lance Buirwicki. Today I turn eleven. Just like everyone else in my school, I want the new game console, the YCube720. The cube is awesome. It can be a laptop, hooked up to a big screen, or act as a tablet. The issue is, that my parents hate video games, and anything associated with video games are banned from our household. Today though, I hold on to hope. Maybe, just maybe, I can luck out today and get my hands on a brand new cube.

~\*~\*~

So, last time we checked in, I was rambling about a cube. The issue is, that was at about 2:00 in the morning so, my parents were still asleep. Now it's about 6:00 am, and I can't wait anymore. So, I'm waking up Mom and Dad.

~\*~\*~

Another update, people hate being woken up at 6:00 A.M. on a weekend, so they went back to sleep. I will attempt to wake them up at 7:00.

Well, I was unable to accomplish my 7:00 A.M goal, because this time I was the one who fell asleep.

My Dad woke me up at 9:30, boisterously booming, "It's your big day!!! You are finally eleven!"

*Next time, I'll make a note to not wake up at 2:00 in the morning for a birthday.*

"Thanks Dad!" I said back.

I got dressed and brushed my teeth.

As I was bouncing downstairs for breakfast, I thought about what would happen if I did get a cube. I would probably be the coolest kid in school, as no one else had one yet. Lance Buirwicki, the coolest kid in school. That, was a name I could live by.

As I descended the final steps, there was a pretty big box on the floor. It didn't take a detective to figure out that the box was probably for me, because it was all wrapped up in cartoon penguins and strung together in my Mom's signature bow.

"Hey Mom! What's this?" I said, playing dumb.

"How could you not know? It was you who was hyper as a hamster last night," she answered.

"Hmmm... Could it be related to today, February 22nd?" I mused.

"No Lance. Definitely not ." she said sarcastically

I walked up to the box. It was an excessively large box. It could be a YCube720 or a new mini fridge. Neither seemed likely, but in this case, I hoped for the YCube720. I carefully pried off the bow, trying not to damage it. I slid the bow and ribbons off and began to work on the wrapping. I peeled the wrapping paper off and discovered.... A UPS box. I opened the UPS box and inside there were lots of strange things. A box of some sort, a weird looking spoon, huge pieces of sand, two dishes, and brown cereal. What was I supposed to do with these? I looked skeptically at my Mom.

"You don't get it?" she said with a sly smile.

"No, not really, unless I'm supposed to eat sandy cereal or something."

My Mom laughed, "No silly. It means that in about an hour, you can say hello to your new KITTY!!!"

~\*~\*~



So, yeah. I'm going to get a cat now. I remembered that as soon as my Mom finished her sentence. My jaw hit the ground and I fell over. Cat. cat. cat. This one word kept echoing through my head, bouncing off my skull. I was going to get a cat. It all made sense. The dishes were for food and water, the 'sand' was cat litter, the box was for cat litter, and the spoon was a litter scoop. For a second, I wondered if this was a dream.

~\*~\*~

Here we are now, present time. I wrote that entry in my journal during our car ride. Now, we are in the neighborhood where the cat guy lives. I'm practically shaking from excitement. I'm in the backseat of the minivan, the carrier in the seat next to me, even though I intend to just snuggle with my kitten all the way home. We pull into the driveway of a really nice house, if house describes it. I feel that 'mansion' would be a more fitting title. I wonder if the kitten will notice how much smaller our house is. We park right next to a large truck in the driveway. My Dad and I get out of the minivan, and I practically sprint to the front door. I wait for my Dad to catch up, then ring the bell three times. A huge guy opens the door.

"You here for the kittens?"

My Dad replies "Yes."

"Well then come on in," he booms. He looks at me, "What's your name?"

"Lance" I squeak. I clear my throat. "Lance."

We walk into the house, and we already see cats and kitties scattered around. There's one in a shoe, one under the table, and one on the stairs. We are led to another room, this one only with a large old cat and a kitten. A kitten comes up and immediately begins headbutting and licking my hand. I hoped that this was the kitten I would be taking home. As the big guy and my Dad discussed flea medicine and spaying, I retreated around the corner to look at all the other cats. One was an orange tabby cat, another a white ragdoll cat, and one other kitten, which was born without a tail. I was sure there were more cats, but I didn't want to go poking around in some guy's house, so I left it there. As I walked backed into the room, my Dad had picked up and was talking to the kitten that I liked.

"Is this the cat I get?" I asked, hoping for a yes.

"Yes it is! And by the way, the cat is a girl, so call the cat 'her' now."

I was so excited that I was lost for words. I looked around but the big guy had vanished. Me and my Dad walked out of the room and out the door. As we headed to the minivan, my cat began to purr. I decided to name my cat Cassie.

"Do you want your name to be Cassie?" I said to her. She replied with a meow, so I imagined that meant yes. Cassie went in the minivan first, and she was pacing on the seat next to mine when I climbed in. My Dad started up the van, and the side door squealed shut. As we were going down the driveway, I wondered if Cassie would miss her mom, or even remember her mom by the time the week was over. If Cassie could talk, what would she say? Would she ask for her mom? Lots of questions were echoing through my head. This cat was thirty times better than any other gift my parents could have given me, even the YCube720.

Later, when we pulled into the driveway. It was getting late, because of the long drive home. My dad and I had left the house at about 6:20 PM, and here we were pulling into the driveway at 10:00. I hopped out of the van and carried Cassie inside the house. She started to blink slowly, and then she yawned. Since this probably meant that she was sleepy, I walked up to my room with Cassie in my arms and closed the door behind us. I put Cassie down at the foot of my bed, and I slid under the covers at the top. I turned off all the lights in my room. I was about to fall asleep when Cassie stood up and walked from the bottom of the bed to where my head was. She sat down and rolled over to face me. Cassie began to purr, so I pet her between her ears.

"Goodnight."

# Adventures of Lina Cordelo

## Adventures in Change

By Taryn Robinson

I don't mean to brag, but I'm a pro at *everything*. And yes, I mean everything. From answering all the math problems, to painting the Mona Lisa.

"Lina, you are so good at everything," my best friend, Kasi gushes. "Can I have it?"

I roll my eyes, and shove my drawing forward. "Well, thanks," I mumble, pulling out a new piece of paper.

"Class! Class! May I get your attention, please?" Mrs. Meyer rings her "attention bell. "We have a new student, and her name is Piper Cora. She is Brian's sister, I believe." She smiles.

We all look up to see the new girl, and I whisper to Brian, "Why didn't you tell me you had a sister?"

Brian shrugs, then turns back to his table.

A girl with red hair smiles, then quickly rushes to where Mrs. Meyer direct's her. The class resumes, and I scoot my chair over to Piper.

I smile. "Piper, I'm Bella." I glance down at what she's drawing. "That's, a, uh, nice potato you're drawing there."

Her smile drops, "It's not a potato."

*Awkward.* "Ahem. Well, good luck," I smile then turn back to my table.

"Wow, that's *really* good!" I hear someone say. "Thank-"

I realize they're all crowded around the table behind me. I poke my head in, my eyes darting around.

Then I see it. Piper's charcoal pencil moving around the page rapidly. It went from a circle to a potato to a beautiful girl drawing, with a perfect head shape. One I can't seem to get right.

Kasi's eyes widen. "Wow, Lina, isn't it good?"

"Uh-huh," I mumble.

"Could you pass me the special eraser? It's right by your foot, on the floor." Piper asks, looking at me.

I see the eraser. I don't want to get the eraser.

"Oh, Josalina. Maybe you didn't hear her? She asked you to get the the eraser, please." Mrs. Meyer smiles at me, and motions to the floor.

I bend slowly, like a old doll with creaky joints, and pick up the eraser. "Oh!" I suddenly shout panicking. "This is *my* eraser. It's not special. Just regular." I hide it behind my back. "I think I saw one in the supply drawer?"

Mrs. Meyer eyes me then goes to check. Then I shoot a dirty look at Piper, and chuck the eraser at her.

"Catch." Just my luck, she catches it.

"Oh! You found one," Mrs. Meyer says as she returns from looking.

I hold my breath. Piper stares at me.

"Yeah. I, I had one," she says quietly.

The crowd departs, and Kasi narrows her eyes at me.

"What?" I ask, trying to match her pace.





## **The Story Of The Tombstone**

By Camryn Klein



It was very intriguing how there was no name on the old plate of granite. What was also surprising was the tombstone had been there for two whole decades, and yet it was so shiny and had not even one scratch on it. I should remember since I was there...

### **Twenty Years ago...**

I felt guilty that I never cried that day, my dad wasn't the kindest, but he was still my dad. I can still remember how he would always make me clean up his mess and how dirty and smelly it was. He said I was a mistake. He said that dancing was for babies. He said that I should not be so wimpy, and instead I should be more manly.

When my mom and dad got divorced I knew things wouldn't be the same, but I didn't know it would be that bad. When my parents got divorced my dad took full custody of me.

That day at the funeral I remember that I finally saw my mom for the first time in three years. I didn't even cry about that. As my dad said "crying was for wimps." My mom was gripping me so tightly, it was like she was about to lose me again.

When I visited his tombstone the next week, the carving that said "Carter Danforth", still looked like new. It still looked good the next month, and the next year.

### **Present day...**

Today... the carving that said "Carter Danforth" has just disappeared. Instead there is dirt on it that hasn't been there the past three times I have visited his tombstone. I touched where it should be and have a lump in my throat. My dad never really expressed his feelings, so when I whispered "I love you", the tears came pouring down my cheeks. I loved my dad, but I wasn't sure he felt the same.

All of a sudden, a voice came pounding out of nowhere. "I love you too, son." I looked up to see a ghost of my father. But when I rubbed my eyes he was gone.

The next day I woke up to the smell of fresh pine. I had left my window open that night and loved waking up to the smell of fresh pine. I quickly changed into my running clothes and drove to a park where I loved to run.



As I paused to take a breath and look at the beautiful lake, a small boat started to appear from the mist. Everyone else around me was still running. Someone started to run towards me and stopped.

"You ok, man?" He said confused looking at me.

"Do you not see what I'm seeing?" I said weirded out.

"Ummm nope" He said slowly walking away from me.

As the boat got closer, it looked like it was looking for someone. I started hearing weird voices shouting in my ears.

"William, William Danforth," the voices stopped. "Come, come."

I felt as though I was in a trance. I slowly started moving toward the boat. What was I doing? It was like my feet were controlling me. As I sat down in the boat, I slowly started to faint...

No one ever saw William Danforth ever again. Rumors say the boat was leading to his father. Others say he was captured. His mother was torn when she heard the news. Yet no one ever exactly figured out what and where William went.

## **Karma** **By Ashley Rhee**

### **-Ginger-**

I'm waiting outside my locker for my friends. *Where are they?* I checked my Apple watch. The minutes ticked by. If they don't show up in a few minutes, they will make me late for class!

**BRINGGGG!**

Shoot. There goes the bell. I have to run all the way to class and scuff up my new Nikes. Instead of a pure white, they're muddy brown. My mom is going to be so mad! Even worse, I left my clarinet at home, so I have to sit out during music. Today is going horribly so far.

After band, my friend Zoe runs over to me.

"Hey, Ginger! Sorry I couldn't meet you at your locker, I got wrapped up in some drama over by the gymnasium."

"It's okay," I tell her, and she grins.

"Anyway, did you hear? That weird new kid Isla dropped all her stuff in third period, and her drink spilled all over the floor. I don't know what it was, but rumor has it that it was cream and onion soup! I mean, who drinks cream and onion soup?" Zoe rants on and on about the new girl Isla.

~~~~~

The thing that bothers me most is that I'm partners with the new girl in sixth period, and she's not that bad. Isla is actually pretty nice. I feel guilty the whole rest of the day for adding a comment I really

shouldn't have and adding to the gossip. I told Zoe that the new kid was just as weird as she had described.

**-Zoe-**

This is my best school so far. It's not very hard to compare. The first and second schools I went to were private, and everyone's parents were really rich except for mine. The kids made fun of me the whole time I was there. The third school was public, but in a very bad school district, so it was really poor. They couldn't even afford new computers for the library! Seriously, those things were so ancient they belonged in a museum.

Finally, my fourth school, this school, is in a pretty good school district. It's public, and it's a pretty average school. Average lunch, average drama, average people. Actually that's not true. The kids here literally worship me. Me, a kid who has to move every 2 years because my parents have been deployed into yet another country!

Anyway, I've been using my popularity to its fullest extent. The only not-average person at this school is Ginger. Ginger is my best friend so far, so I knew she would understand when I couldn't meet her at the lockers. When I saw her scuffed-up shoes, I felt really bad, but then again, my parents couldn't afford those shoes for me even if we scraped together money from the past three years.

The best part of popularity is that people tell you stuff. Sometimes it's what you're looking for, other times it's useless junk. Today I heard whispers of this weird kid Isla dropping her stuff. Not so exciting, right? So I spun it into a story. That may sound cruel, but I've always thought that if Ginger doesn't get her morning gossip, she'll be mad at me and not be my friend anymore. I can't lose Ginger. She's my only friend here. I'll be all alone without her.

I honestly don't have that much of a problem with Isla. It's just, she has the perfect life. She's smart, pretty, and has perfect parents who shower her with gifts every Christmas. I have to admit, I'm really jealous. So when I heard that story, I turned it into something awful. I still don't know why, but I'm guilty.

**-Isla-**

What is everyone's problem with me? And that Zoe, she surely has a vengeance with me too. Though, I seriously have no clue what I did wrong.

I would never drink cream and onion soup.

The thing with middle school is that rumors spread like wildfires. Now the whole entire school thinks I'm a klutz who drinks cream and onion soup. I liked it better when I was just the geek, the new kid that nobody bothered. Now, every time I raise my hand to answer a problem, people glare at me. Their looks tell me, "Be quiet, Isla. You don't even belong here."

Which I do, so this is utterly ridiculous. I even got a letter in the mail about the gifted program. I get into that every year, so it's no big surprise. Some of my friends said they heard *Ginger* say she got into the gifted program too. Either that's a big fat lie or Ginger is smarter than I realize. She's nice and all (nicer than Zoe, anyway), but I didn't know that she is that smart. Well, I still look forward to seeing her.

**-Ginger-**

I got into the gifted program.

**Q.  
M.  
G.**

I can't believe it. Zoe will explode with fake happiness when I tell her.

This is the greatest day of my life. Being thought of as smart? I've always gotten low A's, never A+ material like that new girl Isla.

Speaking of Isla, she probably got into the gifted program, too. I'll just apologize about the cream and onion soup rumor Zoe started. Hopefully she'll understand.

I honestly can't wait to be there, in the gifted program.

**-Zoe-**

I've been punched in the face by the notorious Gifted Program. Isla got in, no surprise there, she's a smarty-nerd. But Ginger got in too. What if I lose my best friend? I've been trying to look happy all day, but I think Ginger can tell something's up. If she noticed, she isn't saying anything about it. So is this karma?

**-Isla-**

Ginger corners me in the hall on the way to the gifted program bus.

She asks, "Are you still mad about the, you know, rumor? 'Cause you know it wasn't my fault. I'm sorry about Zoe. She's just jealous,"

"No," I tell her, because that was the truth. It's a stupid rumor, and I'm not losing sleep over it.

Ginger looks as if a large weight has been lifted from her shoulders. She sighs, and her face relaxes. Her body loosens, and she smiles at me.

"So, I needed help on this math problem..." Ginger continues to ask me.

Deep down, I know that Ginger is a good person underneath all that popularity. I think we'll be good friends.

**-Zoe-**

I flip through a dictionary at the school library, looking for the definition of "popularity". It says, "Someone whom everyone likes". *Maybe true popularity doesn't mean being pretty, wearing the right clothes, or having the most friends. True popularity means being someone everyone likes, not this obnoxious person who spreads rumors.*

I walk out of the library. I spot the kids for the gifted program down the hallway. Isla is chatting with Ginger. Right when the kids start toward the bus, Isla looks back down the hallway.

She smiles at me and waves. I grin and wave back. Maybe karma is on my side after all.

**By Ashley Rhee**

**I stepped inside. The first thought that came to my mind was: “*Eww, this place reeks!*” Which it really did. Besides from smelling like day-old dirty diapers, the cages looked unclean,**



**“But... Only us, Cosmo, and Hershey have the knowledge and brainpower to destroy Food on Food, or any planet. And I don’t think Cosmo would blow up his planet anytime soon. Neither would Hershey explode his place of refuge? So it must be one of us.”**

**Everybody was dead silent; it was so awkward. Then Minnie ran, gears and gadgets spilling out of her pockets. Have I said that Minnie is the ultimate tech wizard?**

**Mandy chased after her twin. “Minnie, wait! She didn’t mean YOU were the traitor, she just thought there WAS a traitor! Come back!” We all followed. But Minnie didn’t come back. In fact, she ran faster, into a back alley.**

**I was the first one to run into that back alley after her.**

**“Minnie! We don’t mean to hurt you!! Stop running! We can explain!” I called after her. Minnie finally slowed to a stop, and pressed her body up against the brick wall at the end of the alley.**

**Minnie twirled her light brown ponytail in one finger. “Go away Hershey. What’s done is done. You should have known. I exploded Food on Food, not some crazy alien force. It was the handiwork of Ivy, or as you have called me for all this time, Minnie.”**

**“Ivy... Ivy.” I rolled the name around in my head for a little while. “IVY! That’s it! I saw your name under the ‘Galactic #1 Most Wanted’ section of the news! But why would you want to explode Food on Food?” I queried.**

**Minnie, or should I say, Ivy, sneered. “For publicity, of course. You can’t be a good supervillain if you don’t explode a few planets. And it turns out, that one was the most useless.”**

**I gasped. “How dare you! Something is precious to everyone! Cosmo’s planet was precious to him! The people on that planet... what happened to them?!? YOU’RE the real Menace, not Cosmo!”**

**Ivy grinned evilly again. “The thing with being a villain is, well, you just don’t care either way.”**

**Then she nimbly climbed over the brick wall like it was nothing. Up at the top was a self-built hoverboard. “Catch me if you can, cat,” she called to me as it rose up into the sky. Apparently it worked pretty well, since she was out of sight in the span of about two seconds.**

**By then the P.M.G. had caught up. “Minnie! Wait!” Mandy yelled to her twin sister. “Don’t worry, gang,” Alona panted. “We’ll find a way to catch her... together!”**

**TO BE CONTINUED...**





# How To Be Cool 101

By Hershey The "Purse Man"

With comments by Cosmo the Fatty Catty

Translated by Ashley Rhee

As you probably already know, I have made new friends. But it has another factor behind it; not just being happy: Being cool. Yes, you read that right: Being cool. The cool factor is a very important part of life on Earth. Coolness shines bright in all of us, but let's face it: Some people just have more of the ability to be cool than others. And I am one of the naturally cool cats. But, for some reason, the people who used to be cool try to avoid me at all costs. Whatever. They're just jealous. Yeah. JEALOUS. Anyway, because I'm such a nice cat, I'll share some rad tips on how to be cool; Hershey the "Purse Man" style! (also some footnotes by Cosmo.) ~ Hershey

Tip 1.) Have a lot of friends that can boost up your rep. I had the purse clones.

Footnotes (by Cosmo): You can do this one, but only with extreme caution. Don't just walk up to some popular kid and go, "HEY BEST BUD! Let's go hang out!" Also don't do this one if you have purses for companions. Definitely NOT.

Tip 2.) Have a lot of fun with your status.

Footnotes: Don't. If you are uncool like Hershey, the cool people will just beat you up. Unless you want to spend the rest of your life shoved into a locker, then don't follow this "tip".

Tip 3.) You have to make sure Hershey approves. When stuck in a tight situation, ask "W\*H\*H\*D?", or "What Would Hershey Do?"

Footnotes: Seriously? I wouldn't follow this one either. The answer would most likely be uncool things like "Eat a purse", or "Go on an adventure to the litter box". Instead, be yourself. That's much more important than looking up to an idol and worshipping the ground they walk on.

So, overall, if you want to be cool, be kind. The true meaning of someone popular is somebody that everyone likes, not someone everybody is afraid of. Have a kind word for everyone, no matter who they

are. Also, always have a joke ready for those annoying people in life that try to shove you down. *That* will make you much more popular than worshipping an idol that thinks he's way cool (even if he's not). ~ Cosmo



## Imaginary

### Part 1

By, Mandi Lu

*Just stick. To. The. Wall. Be one with the wall and she won't notice you.* I inched along the wall of my school holding my breath, hoping that Andrea wouldn't see me. *Just slip past her. See? she's too busy talking to Caitlyn to notice me! I'm safe.* Just as I finished that thought Andrea turned her head and our eyes met.

"Well, if it isn't Amberlyn Luce Withers! For a second I thought you were you trying to avoid me!"

She laughed but I didn't get the joke. Then she stopped and looked around, clearly expecting Caitlyn to be laughing with her. Caitlyn, fortunately, had uncomfortably slipped away around the corner. I took that to my advantage.

"Looks like Caitlyn's ran off!" I said with an eye roll. It was my turn to smirk.

Andrea snarled and pointed to the clock, hung sideways on the wall. "Go to class you-"

Luckily I didn't have to hear her nasty insult, as the bell rang.

~.~.~

*Crrreeaaakkk.*

I opened the door, cringing at the loud creak.

"Mom! I'm home!" I called.

My mom was standing over the stove creating some sort of soup.

"Ambi you're early! How was school?" she asked.

Without hesitation, I lied, "Great!...uh....How about you?"

"Oh, well....we got a few cake orders at the bakery, and sold some cookies and other sweets. There. I'm done. Go wake up your father for me, will you?" She went to a cabinet and took out bowls to scoop the soup into.

"Alright" I answered

I walked into my parents room next door to find my dad sleeping. Slowly I crept to his side and poked him.

"Tina? What time is it?" He groggily rubbed his eyes and stretched with a yawn. Then he saw me.

"Oh, It's you Ambi, wassa time?"

I glanced at the digital clock on the bedside table, "4:51" I told him

"I'll get up, you go help your mother with dinner, 'kay Ambi?" He muttered.

"Alright" I answered walking out, but two steps out of the door I turned back for I had heard snores coming out of the room I had just left.

My parents used to work in a company that created baking tools like cookie molds, trays, etc. But recently the company shut down and we moved here. My mom found a job here at a bakery....but not my dad. I didn't want to add to our problems, so I always lied to my parents about school.

~.~.~

The next morning at school was the same. *Stick. To. the. Wall. Blend in with the wall and she won't see....darn!* Andrea turned her head and saw me.

"You are *really* starting to offend me! Why do you want to avoid me so badly? And....isn't it the third day in a row you've worn that shirt? Do you ever wash your clothes?" She held her nose and walked off, "C'mon Caitlyn!" Then she looked around and came to the realization that Caitlyn had snuck off. "UGH! That brat! She-she always does this! I-" Andrea stalked off cursing.

I went to my locker while the bell rang behind me, feeling better than I did 30 seconds ago.

I went to lunch three hours later and sat in the corner with my lunch box. I opened it and found that I had a pretty basic lunch. PB n' J and a juice box. I took a bite of the sandwich and quickly regretted it. It tasted like something between sweaty socks, and old fish. I felt my eyes water and my face heat up. People were looking at me gagging so I quickly swallowed the thing and prayed it wouldn't come back up.

"That doesn't look very appetizing," said a voice behind me.

I whirled around to see a girl with dark blue eyes and long brown hair standing there with a tray in hand.

"Oh-Hi-I-um, I mean, yeah, It's not very appetizing," I chuckled weakly.

"Do you mind if I sit here?" She asked grinning.

"YES! I mean, sure!" I said casually, like I had new people asking to sit by me every other day.

She sat down and began eating,

"Are you new?" I asked.

She looked at me considering how to answer, "Well...yes, I guess you could say that."

"I can tell," I muttered.

She looked troubled, "Huh?" she asked.

"No one ever sits with me. They get a bad rep if they do," I said avoiding her gaze.

She rolled her eyes.

"Nice to meet you too. My name's Mia Lucado," she said plopping down next to me.

I looked up at her grinning.

~.~.~

"How was school today Ambi?" my mother asked.

"Great! We got a new student named Mia Lucado. She's in my class and she sits in the seat next to me! She's really nice," I grinned happily.

"That sounds wonderful" my mom looked very tired and I immediately volunteered to help her with dinner.

The next day, I arrived at school in an amazing mood! But, things started weird as soon as I sat down in my classroom. Mia grinned at me as we sat down.

Ms. Alli began attendance, "When I say your name, say 'here' Alright?" She asked with a snap, "Emma Alison,"

"Here" Emma answered.

Ms. Alli continued until at last, "Chloe Yalnatz"

"Present!" Chloe called.

Troubled, I raised my hand.

"Amberlyn? Yes?" my teacher asked kindly.

"Why haven't you called Mia's name?"

"Mia? Who is this Mia?" she asked.

Surprised, I motioned my hand towards Mia's desk. "Mia Lucado."

Andrea snickered loudly.

"The new girl!" I turned my head, and to my shock, Mia's desk was deserted.

"I believe you are mistaken Ms. Withers, we don't have a Mia Lucado."

I was shocked. I had seen Mia walk in with me and sit by my desk! And she disappeared in the time it took me to raise my hand, and question her attendance. How on earth could she disappear? Something....something was wrong.

"Amberlyn? Are you alright? You don't look well?" Ms. Alli asked concerned.

"I-I'm fine...." I lied.

"MIA!" I ran to Mia at lunch, ignoring the people staring at me. "MIA! WHERE WERE YOU THIS MORNING?" I screamed, "YOU-you just disappeared!"

She turned bright red at the sight of me and was suddenly very interested in her fingers. "I-it's complicated...I don't know how to st-."

"COMPLICATED?! You just disappeared in mere seconds! How? It's a straightforward question!" I want to hug her tightly, but at the same time scream at her until my throat hurt.

"I don't know how to explain....It's-," Mia stuttered.

"It's a simple question! That's what it is! How on earth did you just disappear in-in mere seconds?"

"Withers, who're you talking to?" I turned around to see Andrea walking by with her tray,

"I'm talking to Mia, Mia Lucado, right. Here." I motioned to Mia smugly ready to say, *See? There is a Mia Lucado!* But turning around I saw no Mia. My face flushed red and Andrea burst out laughing.

*Where on earth did she go? How does she do that?*

"Looks like 'Mia' is gone!....Again!" She set her tray on a table. And sat down laughing. Confusion flooded through me as I sat down.

Mia appeared casually again during Social Studies that afternoon, looking as though everything were normal. As Mrs. Yates droned on about the American Indians of the Great Plains, I shot Mia questioning glances, and she returned with apologetic looks. I was going to corner her as soon as possible.

At last it was gym. Coming out of the changing room, wearing my uniform, I went to go find Mia. But after searching the changing room, the warm up station, and the track around the gym, I realized Mia was gone. A horrid thought had come to my mind while searching for Mia: *Was Mia just a hallucination?* But...she couldn't be. My brain was perfectly fine! Then where on earth was Mia?

***Who on earth was Mia?***

As I warmed up, I thought about possible reasons Mia wasn't at Gym. Maybe she went to the nurse, or....maybe she forgot her uniform in her locker. As I began running the track I continued thinking of possibilities. Suddenly, up ahead I saw Mia running in her uniform. I increased speed to run to her. But instead of running to Mia, I ran into John Jenson. I fell backwards wanting to punch John. Angrily, I got up to find that Mia had disappeared! *Stupid John! If not for him, I might have gotten to Mia! Stupid stupid John!*

I spent the rest of gym, in a terrible mood.

I searched for Mia outside while walking home, but I had no luck. As I approached my home, my anger increased. *Stupid clumsy John! Annoying secret-keeping Mia! Stupid snotty Andrea! STUPID STUPID SCHOOL!*

I stomped on to the threshold and slammed the door--almost. Just in time, I remembered my dad was still asleep and put my hand between the frame and the door to stop the bang, and I felt a surge of pain from my hand. In anger and pain I screamed, then I realized screaming defeated the whole purpose of why I put my hand there and screamed again.

"Ambi?" my dad yawned as he walked out of the room, "Are you okay?"

"Are you alright Ambi?" my mom asked.

Taking a deep breath I answered, "Yeah...I-I'm fine," I forced a grin.

"Oh, alright" She answered smiling.

I faked a smile and my mother smiled warmly back. I went to my room and began thinking,

*Who on earth was Mia? How is she doing this? WHO IS SHE?!* I remembered what she had said to me a day ago when we first met at lunch,

*"Are you new?"*

*"Well....yes, I guess you could say that,"* she had answered.

I froze in thought.

*"Well....yes, I guess you could say that,"* I remembered her say again.

What does that mean? So is she new? Is she?

Groaning with annoyance and anger I went to my math homework.

The next morning I woke up unusually confident. I was going to find Mia.

The confidence, however, lasted about half an hour. When I arrived at school Mia was gone. Ms. Alli took attendance without calling Mia's name once.

When lunch arrived, I found myself positive that Mia was there. Sitting down to eat, I saw Mia seated at a table up ahead with her back to me. I nearly cheered out loud. I stood up to call her over. A few people walked past her laughing, blocking her temporarily from my view. As they left, I found that the table Mia had once been seated in, was empty.

From out of nowhere, pure anger took over me. I kicked the bottom of the table and stood up, ignoring my now-sore toe. Abandoning my lunch, I ran out of the cafeteria to the restroom ready to scream, to cry, to yell. Suddenly from nowhere, Mia appeared, from thin air, just a few feet in front of me. Shock paralyzed me.

And suddenly, I screamed.

"Calm down Amber!" she cried

'MIA?! YOU JUST---APPEARED!!' I screamed.

'Amber, please just let me expl-,' she pleaded.

After the shock, I suddenly felt angry, why hasn't she told me? What was happening? Why am I so misinformed about my own possible best friend?

"I WILL NOT LET YOU EXPLAIN MIA! TELL ME! HOW DO YOU KEEP DOING THAT?! WHY DO YOU KEEP DOING THAT?"

"Amber, PLEASE! Let me speak!" Mia said, close to tears, "I'm really, really sorry for not telling you! I just couldn't-and."

"COULDN'T?! WHAT DO YOU MEAN CO-"

"AMBERLYN LUCE WITHERS! LET! ME! SPEAK!" she took a deep breath, I-I'm your-

Suddenly, she stopped, and with a look of apology...she bolted down the hallway. Confusion overtook my anger. I ran with her right on her heel, screaming her name.

Suddenly she turned a corner sharply, and I fell over. I looked up, now completely confused. But Mia wasn't there. I was surprised at how unsurprised I felt about this,

I stood up and roared, "MIA! I. KNOW. YOU. ARE. THERE! I KNOW YOU CAN HEAR ME! WHY-' I stopped, not because I heard kids expressing their concern for the sudden scream in the nearby classroom, not because my throat hurt a lot from yelling, but because Mia had appeared.

"Mia, please, please, please, tell me what is happening, I just want to know how and why you keep disappearing and reappearing"

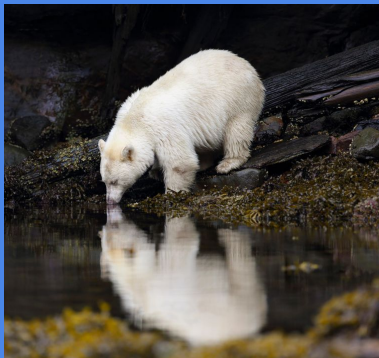
We were both quiet for a moment, then, Mia stared directly at me, and from the look in her eyes, I knew she wasn't going to run, disappear. She was going to tell the truth. Taking a deep breath she said, "I'm your imaginary friend."

*To Be Continued...*

# Informational Writing

## *Spirit Bears*

*By Mandi Lu*



BRITISH COLUMBIA, THE WESTERNMOST PROVINCE OF CANADA, HAS SOME PRETTY POPULAR TOURIST ATTRACTIONS. LIKE THE CAPILANO ROPE BRIDGE, THE BUTCHART GARDENS, AND YOHO NATIONAL PARK TO NAME A FEW. BUT ONE ATTRACTION THAT TOURISTS CAN ONLY HOPE TO SEE IS A BEAR OFTEN MISTAKEN FOR THE FAMOUS POLAR BEAR: THE RARE KERMODE BEAR, NICKNAMED THE SPIRIT BEAR.

THE SPIRIT BEAR IS A RARE SUBSPECIES OF THE AMERICAN BLACK BEAR. THEY ARE A LOT LIKE BLACK BEARS. THE ONLY DIFFERENCE IS THAT WHILE BLACK BEARS ARE BLACK, THE SPIRIT BEARS ARE AN UNCOMMON WHITE COLOR.

### *How Do They get Their Color?*

MANY PEOPLE THINK THAT THESE SPECIAL CREATURES ARE JUST ALBINO BEARS. BUT SINCE THEIR NOSE, EYES, AND PAWS ARE BROWN, SOMETIMES BLACK, IT WOULD BE INCORRECT TO CALL THIS CREATURE ALBINO. SO WHY ARE THEY WHITE? THIS PHENOMENON IS KNOWN AS KERMODISM. THEIR FAMOUS WHITE FUR ACTUALLY COMES FROM A RECESSIVE GENE. A RECESSIVE GENE IS BASICALLY A GENE THAT CAN BE COVERED, SO TO SPEAK, BY A MORE DOMINANT GENE. SO BOTH PARENTS MUST HAVE THIS GENE FOR THEIR CUB TO HAVE IT. BUT THAT DOESN'T NECESSARILY MEAN THE PARENTS HAVE TO HAVE WHITE FUR. THEY JUST HAVE TO HAVE THAT GENE. THIS RECESSIVE MUTATION TAKES PLACE AT THE MC1R GENE. IT'S THE SAME GENE ASSOCIATED WITH RED HAIR IN HUMANS.

### *What Do They Eat?*

SPIRIT BEARS ARE OMNIVORES, THOUGH THEIR MAIN DIET CONSISTS OF PACIFIC SALMON. WHEN THE SALMON RETURN IN FALL, FROM THE OCEAN, TO SPAWN, SPIRIT BEARS EMERGE FROM THE WOODS TO FEAST ON ALL SORTS OF SALMON TO PREPARE FOR HIBERNATION. WHEN THEY AREN'T HIBERNATING AND THERE AREN'T ANY SALMON, SPIRIT BEARS EAT ALL KINDS OF THINGS LIKE BERRIES, NUTS, FRUITS, ROOTS, GRASSES AND OTHER



PLANTS, INSECTS, AND CARRION. THOUGH THEY'LL EAT PRETTY MUCH ANY PLANT OR INSECT, THEY ARE PRETTY PICKY EATERS AND PREFER CERTAIN FOODS. THERE AREN'T REALLY ANY FOODS THAT THEY'LL GENERALLY PREFER. IT REALLY DEPENDS ON THE INDIVIDUAL BEAR. ONE SPIRIT BEAR MIGHT PREFER ROOTS, WHILE ANOTHER ONE MIGHT PREFER BERRIES. ON SOME ISLANDS, WHITE KERMODE BEARS HAVE MORE MARINE DERIVED NUTRIENTS IN THEIR FUR, INDICATING THAT WHITE KERMODE BEARS EAT MORE SALMON THAN THE BLACK KERMODE BEARS.

### *Where Do They Get Their Name From?*

SPIRIT BEARS ARE FORMALLY CALLED KERMODE BEARS. THEY'RE NAMED AFTER FRANCES KERMODE OF THE ROYAL BRITISH COLUMBIA MUSEUM. MR. KERMODE DEVOTED MOST OF HIS TO RESEARCHING THEM AND PROTECTING THEM, AS ONLY ABOUT 100 OF THESE BEARS EXIST. THEIR NICKNAME SPIRIT BEAR THOUGH, COMES FROM THEIR FUR. AS THEIR FUR IS SO BRIGHT AGAINST THE GREEN FOREST PEOPLE DESCRIBED IT AS A GHOST-BEAR. BUT PEOPLE THOUGHT THE NAME GHOST BEAR SOUNDED A BIT SPOOKY SO THEY MADE IT SPIRIT BEAR.



## Everglades National Park

By Kyle Dong

When you take a vacation to Florida during the winter months, you're probably looking to stay warm and relax in the sun. However, not only humans like to relax in the warmth of Florida. The Everglades National Park in Florida is home to many rivers, alligators, and a place for visitors to learn about both.

To those of you who don't know, there are many distinct differences between alligators and crocodiles. Some of them are:

- Crocodiles have a 'V' shaped snout. Alligators have a more broad 'U' shaped snout.
- When crocodile snouts are closed, you cannot see teeth. When alligators close their mouths, they seem to be smiling.
- Crocodiles prefer salt water places. Alligators prefer the fresh waters of marshes and lakes.

So now that the differences are clear, you can walk into the park as an alligator vs crocodile pro. This will be helpful because the park is inhabited by hundreds of alligators.

When you walk into the park admission area, there is a booth for tickets, and a small restaurant. You can buy real alligator meat there, though no one I knew had the guts to try 'Alligator Rib-Eye.'

At the booth, you buy admission for \$15/person. Buying one, you wait in line for a photo. The photo is in front of a green screen, so they can just edit in a template with an alligator in it. Even though the photo is obviously fake, you are prompted to buy the photo for \$20.



The park is really small, so as soon as you walk in, you can see the airboats. Airboats look just like motorboats, except the motor has been replaced with a fan that is about 5ft tall. The airboats are used for the airboat tour.

After the airboats, you can see all of the enclosures for the captive alligators. They have about 9 alligators in captivity, 2 of which were babies when I visited.

In the back of the park, there is an animal show. All of the rangers are charismatic, so there are a lot of laughs during the show. Near the beginning, they talk about the delicate ecosystem of the Everglades. Then, they bring out the baby alligator. The baby alligator is really cute. When the ranger comes around and lets you pet the alligator, take the chance. Unless you live close to a Gucci store, you probably won't be able to feel that material anywhere else besides Florida.

After the alligator, the park ranger takes one of the snakes out of its enclosure. Again, he comes around with the snakes so you can pet it. After the snake, you can ask for any of the animals to be taken out again for a picture.

As soon as the animal show is over, go back to the front of the park. The people at the airboats are calling group numbers. When your number is called, board the airboat.

If you are lucky, you get a front row seat. The front row is not just good for the view, it is also good for staying away from the fan. The fan is extremely loud. The airboat ride is about 20 minutes long, but because of the beautiful scenery, it feels much shorter. You ride through open ponds and rivers, all littered with sawgrass and birds. These birds are mostly herons, a long legged bird that kind of looks like a crane. Occasionally, you can see an alligator in the woods beside a river or sunbathing in some grass. It is actually really hard to catch a picture of an alligator in the water, as they are hard to see, and the loud noise of the airboats scares them away. So, don't be disappointed if you don't catch a picture.

When the airboat docks, not much else is left to do. You can hold another baby alligator near the docks, and snap a picture. Otherwise, this is all that the Everglades National Park has to offer. You can admire the alligators, hold a snake, enjoy the scenery of the airboat ride, and maybe eat an alligator steak. All this said and done, maybe you even learned a bit during this warm vacation fieldtrip.

## **12 Weird Phobias**

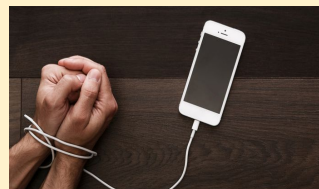
By Olivia Liu



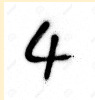




What is a phobia?




**Phobia**- an extreme fear of something

There are around 8,000 known phobias in the world. You've probably heard of trypophobia, the fear of holes, or claustrophobia, the fear of being confined in a small space. Those are two of the most popular ones. But have you heard of these unusual phobias?

1. Nomophobia: the fear of being out of mobile phone contact



|                                                       |                                                                                       |
|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2. Ablutophobia: the fear of cleaning                 |     |
| 3. Oikophobia: the fear of household appliances/stuff |     |
| 4. Tetrophobia: the fear of the number 4              |    |
| 5. Erythrophobia: the fear of blushing                |    |
| 6. Ipovlopsychophobia: the fear of being photographed |  |
| 7. Hemophobia: the fear of blood                      |  |
| 8. Scopophobia: the fear of being looked at           |   |
| 9. Cherophobia: the fear of happiness                 |   |

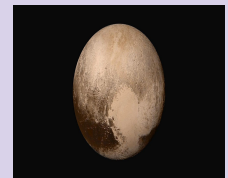
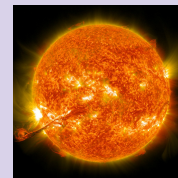
|                                                |                                                                                     |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10. Francophobia: the fear of France           |   |
| 11. Xanthophobia: the fear of the color yellow |  |
| 12. Chromophobia: the fear of colors           |  |

Source: <https://www.randomlists.com/random-phobias?qty=30#>  
 Pictures from Google  
 Idea from Aizah Shahbaz

## These are 10 Science Facts you didn't know about!

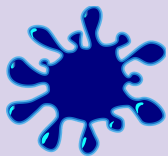
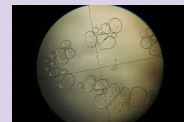
By Aizah Shahbaz

1. There is enough DNA in the average person's body to stretch from the sun to Pluto and back- 17 times



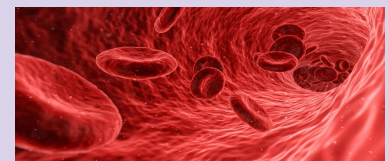
2. There are actually over two dozen states of matter (that we know of).

3. You can't taste food without saliva.



4. Octopuses have blue blood.

5. An individual blood cell takes about 60 seconds to make a complete circuit of the body.



6. The universe is made up of 50,000,000,000 galaxies.



7. Babies have around 100 more bones than adults



do.

8. The Eiffel Tower can be 15 cm taller in the summer.
9. The average person spends 6 months of their lifetime waiting for red light to turn green.
10. Sloths can hold their breath longer than dolphins.



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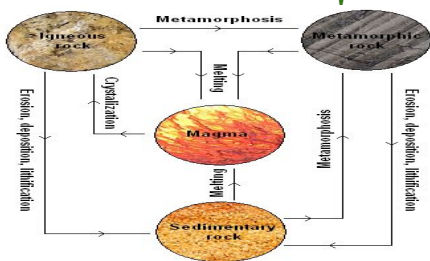
Sources: <https://www.zmescience.com/other/feature-post/10-quick-scientific-facts-will-blow-mind/> Up to fact 6  
<https://www.howitworksdaily.com/15-amazing-science-facts-that-will-blow-your-mind/> Up to fact 9  
<https://www.rd.com/culture/weird-facts/> Up to fact 10

## Ten Facts About Our Home

By: Isabella Liu

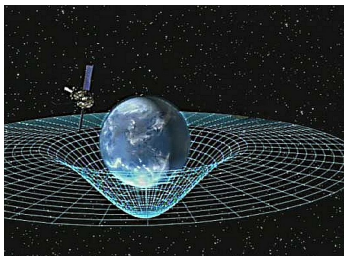
Ah, the Earth. Our home planet. We don't know a lot about it, considering the fact that we have only discovered 5% of our Earth's oceans, leaving 95% of it shrouded in mystery. Yes, you might know by know that about 75% of the planet is water and about 25% is land, but did you know these ten following facts?

### The Earth is Recycled



Unless you've already learned about this in science, Earth's rock cycle transforms igneous rocks to sedimentary rocks to metamorphic rocks and back again.

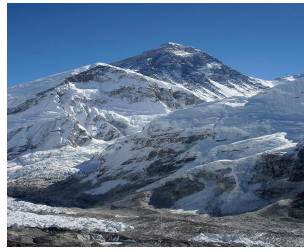
### There's Uneven Gravity



Did you know that the Earth isn't a perfect sphere? Maybe you do. But because the Earth isn't a perfect sphere, its mass is distributed unevenly. And uneven mass means slightly uneven gravity in places.



## Two Highest Mountains



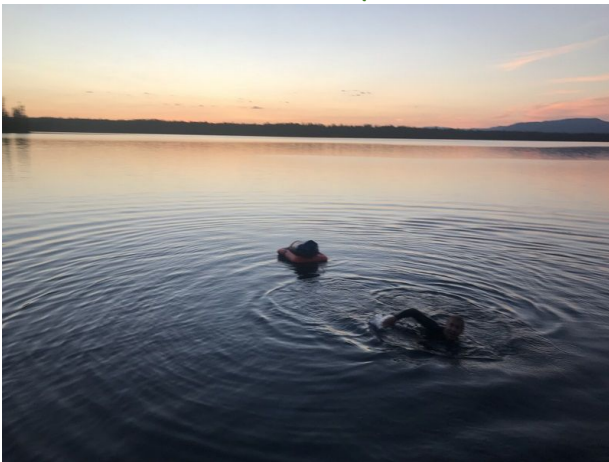
What's the tallest mountain? Many people might answer Mount Everest right away, but there's actually a tie for the tallest mountain! The tallest is either Mount Everest or Mauna Kea. The summit of Mount Everest is higher above sea level than the summit of any other mountain, extending some 29,029 feet high. However, when measured from its true base to summit, Mauna Kea takes the prize, measuring a length of about 56,000 feet.

## Two Moons



Earth may have had two moons at one time. It might have been a tiny moon, only about 750 miles wide. It may have orbited Earth before it catastrophically slammed into the other one. The crash might've destroyed the second moon.

## The Lakes Can Explode



Lakes? Exploding? Is that possible? Indeed it is. In Cameroon and on the border of Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo there are three deadly lakes: Nyos, Monoun and Kivu. All three are crater lakes that sit above volcanic earth. Magma below the surface releases carbon dioxide into the lakes, resulting in a deep, carbon dioxide-rich layer right above the lakebed. That carbon dioxide can be released in an explosion, asphyxiating any passersby.

## Earth Used to be Purple



According to Shil Dassarma, a microbial geneticist at the University of Maryland. ancient microbes," he said, "might have used a molecule other than chlorophyll to harness the sun's rays, one that gave the organisms a violet hue." Dassarma thinks chlorophyll appeared after another light-sensitive molecule called retinal was already present on early Earth.

## Sprinkled with Cosmic Dust

Our Earth is actually covered in dust from above. On a daily basis, about 100 tons of interplanetary material (mostly in the form of dust) drifts down to the Earth's



surface. The tiniest particles are released by comets as their ices vaporize near the sun.

## Extremely Dry



What's the driest spot on Earth? Some sort of desert, obviously. The driest spot on Earth is the Atacama Desert of Chile and Peru. In the center of this desert, there are places where rain has never been recorded.

## Not Quite a Sphere



You look at a nearby globe in the classroom. Looks like a complete sphere, right? Well, it's inaccurate. The Earth's shape is similar to a sphere, but where the poles are is flattened and the equator bulges. In the case of the Earth, this bulge is due to our planet's rotation. This means that the measurement from pole to pole is about 43 km less than the diameter of Earth across the equator.

## 24 Hours?



This fact may be known to many, but the Earth does not take a full 24 hours to rotate on its axis. It takes 23 hours, 56 minutes, and 4 seconds to rotate, but we just round it to 24 hours.

Sources: [Check this out!!](#)  
[Check this out too!!](#)



# The Benefits of Proper Sleep!

By Aizah Shahbaz

A lot of people never want to go to sleep. They always just want to stay up late watching videos or playing games. And a lot of people love going to sleep. People say it's important to get sleep, but what are the benefits of proper sleep?

Here are 10 important points about the importance of proper sleep!

1. "Lack of sleep impairs your higher levels of reasoning, problem-solving and attention to detail."
2. "Lack of sleep also influences your mood, which can affect how you interact with others."
3. "Sleep affects almost every tissue in our bodies." "It affects growth and stress **hormones**, our **immune system**, appetite, breathing, blood pressure and **cardiovascular health**."
4. "On average, adults need 7 to 8 hours of sleep per night. Babies typically sleep about 16 hours a day. Young children need at least 10 hours of sleep, while teenagers need at least 9 hours. To receive the maximum benefits of sleep, getting a full night of quality sleep is important".
5. "To make each day a safe, productive one, take steps to make sure you regularly get a good night's sleep."
6. Sleep plays a vital role in good health and well-being throughout your life. Getting enough quality sleep at the right times can help protect your mental health, physical health, quality of life, and safety."
7. "During sleep, your body is working to support healthy brain function and maintain your physical health. In children and teens, sleep also helps support growth and development. During sleep, your body is working to support healthy brain function and maintain your physical health."
8. Sleep helps your brain work properly. While you're sleeping, your brain is preparing for the next day. It's forming new pathways to help you learn and remember information.
9. Studies show that a good night's sleep is involved in healing and repair of your heart and blood vessels. Ongoing sleep deficiency is linked to an increased risk of [heart disease](#), kidney disease, [high blood pressure](#), diabetes, and [stroke](#).
10. Deep sleep triggers the body to release the hormone that promotes normal growth in children and teens. This hormone also boosts muscle mass and helps repair cells and tissues in children, teens, and adults.

Your immune system relies on sleep to stay healthy. This system defends your body against foreign or harmful substances.

Sources:

<https://newsinhealth.nih.gov/2013/04/benefits-slumber> Fact 1 to 5

<https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health-topics/sleep-deprivation-and-deficiency> Fact 6 to 10



## 5 Different Foods That You Didn't Even Know Were Edible

By Hannah Mitchell

There are many foods that everyone has tried at least once. Different fruits, meats, chips, fast foods, and lots of others. But have you ever thought about eating chicken feet or tuna eyeballs? Many of these foods are probably going to sound disgusting, but some people around the world enjoy eating it.

### Chicken feet

Chicken feet is a meal enjoyed in East Asia, the Caribbean, South America, and South Africa. It is definitely not the weirdest food because lots of people eat chicken legs, but not chicken feet! This meal is actually pretty popular in the places where it is eaten, but if you travel to East Asia and see chicken feet on the menu at a restaurant would you try it?



### Haggis

Haggis is definitely one of the more unique meals. Haggis is eaten in Scotland and is made of sheep's heart, liver, and lungs. Many people may think this sounds absolutely disgusting, but it's because we're not used to eating hearts or organs from animals. People who eat this think it's fabulous.



## Tuna eyes

Don't tuna eyes sound super appetizing? Probably not to you. However, tuna eyes are very popular in Japan and surprisingly do not taste as bad as you think. They taste like squid or calamari or octopus. If you like the taste of calamari, you just might like tuna eyes. But if you don't think that the tuna eyes look appealing, I think lots of people would agree.

## Hakarl



Hakarl is a meat served in Iceland. It is basically just the rotting carcass (which is a dead part of an animal) of a shark. The way they get the shark to rot is they bury it underground in a shallow pit pressing against stones so the poisonous fluids in the shark will come out so it will be safe to eat. Even Anthony Bourdain said, "the single worst, most disgusting and terrible thing."

## Turtle soup

Turtle soup may sound really disgusting, but it was actually a crowd favorite in the 18th century. The reason no one really eats turtle soup anymore is because it was used a lot during the age of exploration to be sold to the market dead or alive. It was also used to eat it and get a rich meat. Up till the 18th century, turtle soup was sold at restaurants, in cans, and prepared by personal chefs. But why did people stop eating them? Turtles were becoming less and less common. And on top of that, they also reproduced slowly so not many new turtles would come to the sea. Because of this, most people stopped eating this special soup.



In conclusion, there are some unique and different looking foods that people around the world eat. Even though they sound or look disgusting, some of them are common, and even popular in some other countries. So, if you see any of these foods being served, would you gag or get some?

### Sources

The 50 weirdest foods from around the world-Hostelworld

Why have Americans stopped eating turtle soup? - The Takeout

## The Craziest and Wildest Rides in the World

By Camryn Klein

You might think these rides are crazy but some people like these wild rides...

### 1. X-Scream

This ride is located in Stratosphere, Las Vegas. It tilts riders at 27 feet hanging off of a building moving back and forth. It is 900 feet up in the air! It is pretty much just a huge teeter totter.





Unless you like hanging off buildings high up in the air, this ride is not for you!



## 2. Wild Gorge Swing

This huge swing is in South Africa (Wild 5) at the top of Lehrs Falls. Riders are strapped into a harness and are then plunged into the top of the gorge, which is the same height as a 33-story building. It goes as fast as over 70 mph. The ride last for an entire 25 seconds. If you like jumping off of mountain's, this is for you!

## 3. Shweeb

Located in new Zealand, this ride is very unique! Riders climb into a clear tube, held by a monorail. Riders then pedal by moving and face off against each other through this 2,000 foot long course. This is pretty much just a huge bike race!



## 4.Nothin' But Net

Located at Zero Gravity Thrill Amusement Park in Dallas, this ride is simple, riders are taken 100 feet up in the air and are dropped in a secure net. No harness, just a secure net. It sounds crazy, but some like this crazy, adrenaline ride!

## 5. Insanity

Also in Stratosphere, Vegas. This ride does not disappoint by it's name. Dangling off 65 feet over the edge of the building spinning at 40 mph, riders are as well hanging 900 feet up in the air! It faces riders at a 70-degree angle, overlooking the city as they are spinning, making very frightening views.



## 6. Disk 'O Coaster

This ride is not the fastest ride, but is quite wacky. Riders are fastened into a weird disk that fits quite a bit of riders. This ride can travel at 43 mph, spinning riders around and around on the rollercoaster. Many theme parks have this in different themes.

## 7. SkyCycle

Located in Japan, this ride is nature's friend. Riders pedal across a very narrow roller coaster track, 50 feet up in the air. With the only safety of a seatbelt. Seems to me like this ride is quite a different way to bicycle.



## 8. Ejection Seat

Originally made by Technical Park, this huge slingshot launches riders 200 feet up in the air at 60 mph. The seating fits two people per shot. It gives you the same adrenaline as it would if you were flying!

So, would you go on these rides?

Sources:

[The World's 30 Strangest Rides - Popular Mechanics,](https://www.stratospherehotel.com/ThrillRides/Insanity)

[https://www.stratospherehotel.com/ThrillRides/Insanity,](https://www.stratospherehotel.com/ThrillRides/Insanity)

[Stratosphere Tower Insanity - Las Vegas | Insanity the Ultimate Thrill](https://www.stratospherehotel.com/ThrillRides/Insanity)

# Top 10 Unique Video Games!

By Aaron Choate and Callen Silverberg

Playing the same video games over and over just gets boring, right? Well, we have 10 games that will probably NEVER get boring. They each have their own story to tell. And each of them are also beautiful in their own ways. No, we aren't talking about your normal Fortnite modes, or some weird knock-off of Crossy Road. (Fortnite is cool, though.) These are amazing. Let's jump right into it, shall we? The games below are in no particular order.

10. Roblox



Roblox is pretty much a game where you can do anything you want. You can fully customize your avatar to match what you like. You can play millions of other people's games around the world. (Just a side note from Aaron- play "Bee Swarm Simulator"! It's my favorite game!) It comes on all platforms, such as mobile, PC, and some consoles. Your imagination is the limit!



### 9. Disney Infinity

Disney Infinity's goal is to go for endless. You can buy separate Play Sets such as Marvel, a few Star Wars ones, Inside Out, and Pirates of the Caribbean with much more, to follow certain storylines with formats and goals, or go free for all in the Toy Box mode. There are dozens of characters to be, although you have to buy them

separately, but some come with the Play Sets. You could be Sam Flynn from Tron all the way to Wreck-It Ralph or Phineas. (Only on consoles)



### 8. Super Smash Brothers Ultimate

S.S.B.U is a ridiculous mash-up of any sagas of Nintendo games. They all have insane powers and abilities, and you just try to K.O. the other people/players/characters with yours. But it's not just that. There are some objectives, too. You can be from Mario to Link, or even Kirby! There's also an awesome adventure mode! Get e'm! (Only on Nintendo Switch)



### 7. Minecraft

Minecraft was at one time the biggest game in the world before Fortnite showed up. Everybody knew about it, and so many people played it. It still has its own events, called MineCon. New updates are released public, and famous people are invited. Minecraft is a 3D world where everything is made of blocks. Depending on which mode you choose, Survival is the harder of the two. You have to

build shelter and watch out for mobs all while mining for resources. In Creative mode, you can't die and you can build whatever you want with infinite inventory. You can also join servers online with other people, such as Mineplex. The code for Mineplex is [pe.mineplex.net](http://pe.mineplex.net) on Pocket Edition; others are [us.mineplex.net](http://us.mineplex.net) if you are interested. (Minecraft can be played on all electronics)



### 6. Lifeline

This is not a very popular game, but it is nonetheless awesome. In this game, you make decisions, for an astronaut named Taylor (who is a man) that is lost on a mysterious planet, through texting. You get to lead him on a hunt for something that





might help him escape the crooked wasteland. (Just an annoying hint, it's not free. It costs 2 bucks and only on mobile.)



#### 5. Undertale

One of the all-time best games; you truly get to make relationships. When the credits screen appears, you will remember everything that happened on your journey. This game finds a place in many people's hearts. It follows a unique storyline, and lots of humor. (Only on Switch, PC, and some consoles.)

#### 4. CSR 2

CSR 2 is a fast-paced online multiplayer racing game. You can do virtually anything with your car, and get new ones that look awesome. Like most racing games, it is a drag racing game, while pitted against one opponent. You have to hit all of the right shifts, use nitrous, etc. (Comes on Android and IOS)



#### 3. Brawl Stars

Brawl Stars was one of the best games of 2018 on mobile devices by the same creators of Clash Royale and Clash of Clans (SUPERCELL). You can enjoy PvP action with multiple characters such as Poco, Nita, and El Primo. There are also lots of weapons too. (Comes on mobile)

#### 2. Hole.io

This is a popular game on PC and Mobile, and it is played by millions worldwide. The objective is to eat everything on the map by making it fall into your hole. If you eat enough for a certain time, your hole will grow and be able to eat other people. There are many holes to play as; my favorite is the swirling black hole.



#### 1. Drive Ahead!

Drive Ahead! is one of the best of the best all time games for us. There are countless unique vehicles to drive, helmets to be, and arenas to fight in. The objective is to crash the other person's helmet 5 times with your car to win. In 2018, they added something new... something special. HOT WHEELS WEDNESDAY! You earn tickets to fight in real life Hot Wheels arenas, and if you rack up enough points, you can earn actual Hot Wheels cars to play as. Pretty cool, right?



# The Origin of Board Games

By Aaron Choate

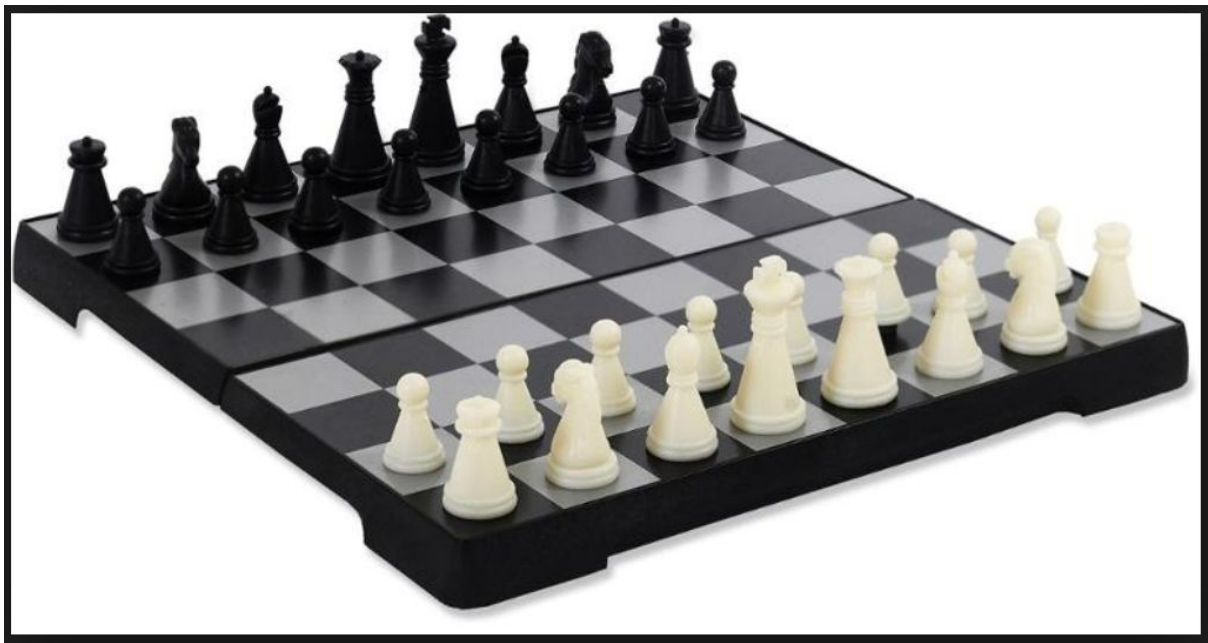


**How Old Are They?** Board games have been around since the times of Ancient Mesopotamia, 4,600 years ago. They have entertained people for centuries. A version of bowling started in Egypt! The oldest board game known to man is Senet, another Egyptian game. It is played by the rules of conjecture.

**Why Were Board Games Created?** When people have nothing else to do on rainy days or evenings, board games are usually their first choice. They offered a sense of togetherness. People needed some other form of escape from boredom.

**What is the Most Popular Game Today?** I did a little bit of researching on some cool websites, AND took a poll among my friends and family, and the most popular board games today are most likely Chess or Monopoly. The top selling board game today is Chess. Chess has been around for centuries, and Monopoly started in 1935. There are now multiple versions of it, such as Fortnite, Cleveland-Opoly, and Pokemon!

Sources: Wikipedia, Medium, Brilliant Maps



## Toys You Didn't Know Existed

By: Camryn Klein

### #1 Flushin' Frenzy



This is a game where you have to catch the flying poop? Weird huh? What you do is press on the plunger. The goal is to be the first person to catch the flying poop! The player who has the most tokens wins. I would never wanna play this game!

### #2 Roadkill Toys???

Imagine unwrapping a present and you find a dead stuffed animal? These toys are supposed to look like dead animals that have been run over. It's no surprise that no one knows about this weird and kinda disgusting toy.



### #3 Moon Shoes



This toy is pretty wacky. It is pretty much mini trampolines for your feet. This was designed for people to feel like they were on the moon...perfect for people who want to become astronauts. From all of this positive, comes the negative, they are huge! But I guess normal shoes that you wear to the moon are as big as this too.

### #4 Cabbage Patch Snacktime Kids

This toy would be really fun right? Well if it didn't try and eat your hair and fingers instead of the plastic food that comes with it that they should eat, it would be fun. This toy was made in 1980's, because it was from this time period they didn't have the advanced tech we have today. However that still does not give them the excuse to create a doll that bite peoples' fingers off. Thankfully this toy was discontinued.



### #5 Pimple Pete



This gross game is based off of pimples as you should have guessed from the name. In the game you have to pull out Pete's pimples. Wiggling and twisting pimples out, I don't know about you, but I am certainly not gonna play this game. But if you like to pop pimples, this game is for you!

So have you ever heard of these *crazy* toys?

Sources:

**15 Weird Toys You Don't Want to Get This Christmas,  
NEW GROSS GAMES: PIMPLE PETE AND FLUSHIN' FRENZY**

Should grades be abolished?

By Ashley Rhee



Giving students letter grades has been a somewhat heated topic for years. Some people think that grades can motivate students to do good work and teach them responsibility. Others argue that grades pressure students, and that they aren't entirely fair. Others don't like that some kids stay up really late studying, which is detrimental to health. Check out the two perspectives on this debatable issue...

### YES!

Grades should be abolished because kids feel pressured to tell others their scores. Let's say you got a D on the last Social Studies test. Someone else comes up to you and asks you what you got. You don't want to tell, but you feel pressured to tell them.

Secondly, sometimes grades aren't fair. In an article called "The Pros & Cons of Report Cards & Letter Grades" by Bill Reynolds says, "Letter grades often assess more than just academic performance. Factors such as attendance, class participation and late assignments can have a sizable impact on a student's final letter grade. Students who have high scores in these factors -- but struggle with class lessons -- may end up receiving the similar grades as their higher-performing classmates who struggle with attendance and class participation." So basically, if you do good in your academics but come in late, you get a similar grade than someone who struggles with academics but has a perfect attendance record.

This means that grades aren't accurate, unless just based on test scores. Is that really fair?

In addition, grades might pressure someone to stay up very late studying for a test so they get a good grade. Staying up late and not getting enough sleep can affect other aspects of school negatively, even if one part is positively affected by the good grade.

On the whole, grades should definitely be abolished, due to the negative influences of them, being stressful and inaccurate.

### NO!

Grades should not be abolished because they make people proud of their hard work. If you work hard studying to get an A on your Math test, then you should typically feel gleeful and proud of all the effort you put into it! Getting a grade is the prize for the effort.

Grades are also used by teachers and students to determine if they understand the subject or if they need to spend more time studying it. One article, "Eliminating the Grading System in College: The Pros and Cons" by David A. Tomar says, "Students can use grades to gauge where they are on the continuum between Excellence and Failure." This means that many students use grades to see where they are on the spectrum of understanding. Without grades, some students might get confused about whether they understood the topic or not.

Third of all, without grades, how would colleges admit people? They rely on SAT scores and GPAs to see who is ready for college or who isn't. Without grades, colleges would have to rely on only the SAT or ACT scores, which are a one day glimpse of a student.

Another benefit of keeping grades is that even though someone might stay up late studying, getting a good grade teaches them responsibility, which is an important life skill. If you don't work hard enough, you won't get the opportunities you want, and grades prepare kids for this rule in the real world.

So, grades overall should not be abolished because they make you proud of your hard work, they show that you understand, and they help colleges decide if you are ready for them.

Sources:

→ <https://thebestschools.org/magazine/eliminating-grading-system-college-pros-cons/>

→ <https://education.seattlepi.com/pros-cons-report-cards-letter-grades-3633.html>





# The Bears In Bee Swarm Simulator! (Roblox)

By Aaron Choate

The Bears in the game are very friendly, but some are intent on destroying you. The quest givers are friendly, but one just... well... dances. Let's start!



Black Bear  
Egg Giver!

The Lots of Quests=Insane



Science Bear

Science Conversion!

The Cool Bear with



Mother Bear

The Awesome Reward Giver!



Brown Bear  
Jelly Giver!

The Royal



Bee Bear

The Beesmas Event  
Giver!...Who will most likely never return, sadly. It  
was pretty much your only chance to get a Festive  
Bee during his event in March of 2018.

The Beesmas Event



Panda Bear

The Fighter!



Polar Bear

The Chef With Polar Power!  
(Mmm! Spider Pot Pie and Beetle Brew!)

The Chef With Polar Power!



Gummy Bear!...

Who used to  
give out quests in an event but now WRECKS you if  
you engage in conversation inside his secret lair.

Who used to



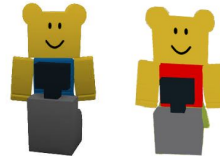
Sun Bear He was only around for a limited time for an event... but still gave out amazing items. He will most likely not return either.



Tunnel Bear! ...Who counts as a boss mob. Do not engage unless prepared with really high level bees.



Shadow Bear. He looks like Tunnel Bear, except he is the dancer. He also does nothing. He has a Diamond Egg at his feet, but be careful when trying to get it, as the material around him will destroy you on contact.



The Three Shop Bears! Noob, Pro, and Top Bear.

They run the Starter shop, the Pro shop, and the Mountain Top Shop. Whew, that was a mouthful!

## Top 10 Super Bowl Commercials From the Past 5 Years

By Emir Naduvil

Many people watch the Super Bowl. Some people watch it not necessarily for the game, but for the ads. Here are the top 10 Super Bowl Commercials from the last 5 years.

**WARNING: MOST VIDEO LINKS MUST BE USED WITHOUT ANY TRACES OF A SOLON SCHOOLS ACCOUNT.** You may need to read and enjoy this article from the comfort of your home account!

10. Not Everything Makes the Cut(Amazon) - Super Bowl LIII, 2019

This advertisement is really cool & has a good sense of humor with the Alexa Toothbrush, Dog Collar (Ordering dog food.....Ordering dog food...Ordering Gravy..), and Hot Tub.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8y-1h\\_C8ad8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8y-1h_C8ad8)

9. Puppy Monkey Baby(Mountain Dew) - Super Bowl 50, 2016

This was legitimately a crazy ad. The so called "puppy-monkey-baby" comes with a cooler of mountain dew kickstart. And after drinking the Mountain Dew, the humans do the exact same dance that the puppy-monkey-baby did.

<https://www.today.com/video/puppy-monkey-baby-watch-the-bizarre-mountain-dew-commercial-614936643625>

8. Hyundai Elevator Commercial - Super Bowl LIII, 2019

This was also a really good ad (probably 2 times as more entertaining as the Super Bowl itself). It had a bunch of people in an elevator getting dropped off at bad things that could happen to you. But then this one family made a smart choice to go to Hyundai to get a car for a low price.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B5FzKB5TW0Y>

7. Bubly Sparkling Water - ft. Michael Buble - Super Bowl LIII, 2019

There are 3 people arguing how to say "Bubly" in a shop. What could possibly go wrong? One of them is Michael Buble, who just acts weird all the time. And unless you're not a fan of people acting weird, this is a very good commercial that all viewers would want to watch.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SRfsJl\\_0HHA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SRfsJl_0HHA)

6. T-Mobile - "I'm Not Google" - Super Bowl LIII, 2019

Why do you ask a person for an eggplant parmesan recipe? Because they're google? Who would think that? Someone did.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xTEIPTnb7IE>

5. Odell Beckham Jr. and Eli Manning do the Tango - NFL - Super Bowl 52, 2018

Odell stops during practice after catching a pass from Eli Manning. Then, they start to do the tango. And after dancing for a while, some offensive linemen join the party. And after that, you just see a bunch of players doing some cringy dances.

<https://www.giants.com/video/watch-it-again-eli-and-odell-dance-in-super-bowl-commercial-20330535>

4. Wiener Stampede - Heinz - Super Bowl 50, 2016

This video is absolutely crazy. Heinz decided to make a bunch of dogs look like hot dogs running into the arms of the sauce bottle mascots. It was weird but really good.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6igElOW4hUA>

3. Avocados from Mexico Dog Show - Avocados from Mexico - Super Bowl LIII, 2019

Humans act like dogs where dogs are supposed to be the star. And the prize is an avocado feast. What could possibly go wrong here?

<https://www.ispot.tv/ad/IS1W/avocados-from-mexico-super-bowl-2019-top-dog-featuring-kristin-chenoweth>

2. Doritos vs Mountain Dew - Blaze vs Ice - Super Bowl 52, 2018

Starring Morgan Freeman, this ad combined a battle of cold and hot, snack and drink, Doritos vs Mountain Dew. It was cool having the Doritos show off it blaze and the Mountain Dew show its cold.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZsmZChFMisY>

And the number 1 commercial of all time is.....

1. NFL 100 Commercial - NFL - Super Bowl 53, 2019

For those people who tuned in late, you may have seen the greatest commercial of all time. The ad features Patrick Mahomes, NFL MVP, Baker Mayfield, star Rookie QB, and Ed Reed, recent HOF inductee who played as a safety. A fight for the ball starts with Marshawn Lynch stealing the cake(and the show). They throw the ball and try to play keep-away until the end.

<http://www.nfl.com/videos/nfl-super-bowl-commercials/0ap3000001015213/NFL-stars-converge-for-epic-NFL-100-commercial>

# "Harry Potter in 99..."

By Jon Cozart

Pictures added by Jocelyn Bolden



There once was a boy named Harry,  
Destined to be a star.  
His parents were killed by Voldemort,  
Who gave him a lightning scar  
Yo, Harry you're a wizard!  
Harry goes to Hogwarts  
He meets Ron and Hermione  
McGonagall requires he play for Gryffindor



Draco is a daddy's boy  
Quirrell becomes unemployed  
The sorcerer's stone is destroyed by Dumbledore

Ron breaks his wand  
Now Ginny's gone  
And Harry's in mortal danger

Tom Riddle hides  
The snake inside  
His ginormous secret chamber



Harry blows up Aunt Marge  
The dementors come and take charge  
Lupin is a wolf  
The rat's a man



And now the prisoner is at large

They use time travel so they can  
Save the prisoner of Azkaban  
Who just so happens to be Harry's Godfather.  
I don't really get it either.

Harry gets put in the Triwizard Tournament  
With dragons and mermaids  
Oh no! Edward Cullen gets slayed  
He's back.

Harry, Harry, it's getting pretty scary.  
Voldemort's back and you're a revolutionary Harry  
Dumbledore, Dumbledore,  
Why is he ignoring your constant attempts to contact him?

He is forced to leave the school  
Umbridge arrives, Draco's a tool  
Kids break into the Ministry  
Sirius Black is dead as can be!

OoooooOoh

Split your soul, 7 parts of a whole  
They're horcruxes, it's Dumbledore's end...

There once was a boy named Harry  
Who constantly conquered death.  
But in one final duel between good and bad  
He may take his final breath.





# MATHCOUNTS®

## *OMS Mathcounts Team triumphs at Cleveland State*

### *Knocks out SMS during Regionals*

*By Emir Naduvil, Nora Bao, Julia Wang, and Kyle Dong*

~~~

Mathcounts is a team made up of 10 Mathletes who represent their respective school. They represented Orchard Middle School with 10 students. The mathletes in Mathcounts are Nora Bao, Kyle Dong, Kevin Lim, Clarissa Li, Emir Naduvil, Julia Wang, Devim Lim, Robert Ding, Jiya Rai, and Jason Xi.

Every Thursday for 2-3 months they met till 4:30 to practice and learn new math skills. The teachers who coach math counts are Mrs. Gorby and Mrs. Majors. The OMS Mathcounts team can only allow ten 6th graders to compete at Cleveland State University.

On Saturday, February 23, many mathletes from different schools competed in the 2019 Northeast Ohio Mathcounts Regionals. The competition consisted of 4 rounds. Two individual rounds: Sprint and Target. Two team rounds: Team and Countdown. Orchard's Countdown team consisted of: Nora Bao, Clarissa Li, Kevin Lim, and Emir Naduvil.

**Sprint round:** Everyone does a test of 30 questions individually within a time of 40 minutes. The questions progressively get harder. Then people who scored high on the test are able to go to states for the Mathcounts States Competition. Your score is determined by how many questions you get correctly

**Target round:** Everyone does 4 tests with 2 questions each in 6 minutes. The questions are harder than the sprint round and get more complicated as you go. You multiply the score

by 2 for each question correct and add it to the sprint round score to get the final individual score.

**Team Round:** Four people are selected to represent their school. They first complete a set of 10 extremely hard questions together in 20 minutes. They then are put in brackets based on the scores of the tests. The top 8 go to the countdown round.

**Countdown Round:** This round is single elimination, so if you lose, you're out. A single question is put on the screen. Teams have 45 seconds to answer the question. When you know the answer you hit the button. First team to get 3 questions correct wins the match and moves on.

Orchard Middle School had placed in the top 8 and was able to compete in the countdown round to go to states. Solon Middle school had also made it to the countdown round and by pure luck the ended up competing for the answer in the countdown round. It was the 6th graders vs the 8th graders.

The team of 4 were super nervous to compete considering how they had lost to them before. 3 minutes into the countdown round and the SMS was leading 2-1. That's where Orchard took the nail out of the coffin. After 2 more questions Orchard was tied with SMS to move on. During the question, Solon Middle School's Alex Zhu hit the buzzer and unfortunately got it wrong. Orchard now had 40 seconds to answer the question and win. Orchard's Mathletes hopes were finally up. A few seconds later the team agreed on an answer and Emir Naduvil buzzed in. They had won the round!

Though OMS was later crushed by the eventual champion, Birchwood Middle School, 3-0, they had still managed to beat SMS in the countdown round. Solon Middle School still placed 3rd in the team round and was 1 place away from making it to states. Incarnate Word was the runner-up of the team and countdown round which lead them to states along with Birchwood taking 1st.

As for the individual round no one in OMS had made it to states. But Kyle Zhou placed 8th with 32 out of 46, and after a while, he was eventually confirmed to go to states. Alex Zhu places 1st at regionals with 38 out of 46 and is now officially heading to states!

# ORCHARD'S TWO SCIENCE OLYMPIAD TEAMS MAKE TOP THREE

*By Mandi Lu*

March second, 6:55. While every other middle schooler was probably in bed, fifty orchard students, from grades fifth to sixth were crowding outside Mr. Luce's trailer. Why? To head out to an important competition that they had spent months preparing for; Case Western Reserve University's Science Olympiad Competition.

7:30. Orchard's bus pulled up on campus next to Bingham 103. This was the building that everyone would spend the next seven hours in. Everyone entered the building, and after a breakfast of donuts, people dispersed to various competitions.

Throughout the day people came in and out with lab coats, star charts, graphs, goggles, test-tubes, packets, magnifying glasses, and much more.

After seven hours of work, everyone nervously gathered into Strosacker Hall to see what three months of work would get them.

And of course, Orchard's teams kept their unbeatable streak of top three! Team Time got third place and Team Space got first!

And though this is a great accomplishment, we have yet to find what the Science Olympians and Mrs. Benedict herself think of this. Is everyone satisfied? What did people think of their events? Do they plan on trying out for the Middle School's even more intense Science Olympiad team?



According to a survey sent out to all Science Olympiad members, around 53% felt very satisfied with their event's placement and 30.8% of people felt somewhat satisfied. Only 7.7% had neutral feelings and the same amount, 7.7%, felt dissatisfied. Most people said that they are happy with their placements overall, but are not as happy with the actual events themselves.

When asked how difficult the events were on a scale of one to ten the majority said 7. Only about 30% of people chose six or eight, 10% choose 5, and 10% choose 9 or 10. Many people complained saying that what was on the test was never on the official rules paper so they weren't really expecting a lot of things, therefore making it a lot harder.

Next the Science Olympians were asked if they planned to try out for the Middle Schools Div. B team next year. Around 70% said yes for sure, 10% said no and 20% said that they were unsure.

Here's what some individuals had to say. "Division A was amazing. I've heard some bad things about Division B, but I'm willing to do it anyway because I want to learn," says Kailani Farivar. "It was fun doing it this year, but I don't know what to expect next year, where it gets harder," agrees Brynna Chantry. Most people who said yes to Division B said it was because in Division B you get to travel and stay in hotels. Many people also want to do it to make friends. "I can learn even higher and make even more friends in middle school," Says Siri Kolli.



After that they were all asked if they thought the competition was well organized, a staggering 57.1% said it wasn't very well

organized. Only 42.9% of all the Science Olympians thought it was well organized. Once again, people said it was because the rules sheet didn't match the actual competition. "For one of the competitions, there was a mom as a judge who was walking around with a toddler on her back. That is so informal!" someone said anonymously.

Lastly the Science Olympians were asked if they were happy with their entire teams (Space or Time) placement. 13% said no, and unsurprisingly, all of them were on team Time, the team that placed third. The majority, 71% of people on team Time said they were happy. And of course, 100% of people on team Space said they were happy.

Overall, the majority was generally happy with the competition and hope to do it again. Kartika Mohta said, "The events were not as organized as much as last year's competition, it could have been better but overall it was a fun competition." Jiya Rai said, "I think science is really fun and I want to get more hands-on experience and knowledge. Science Olympiad is a way I can achieve that." And Satyarpita Parameswaran speaks for all of us when she said, "Thank you to the coaches, Mrs. Benedict, and Mr. Luce for spending so much of your time on Science Olympiad!"





# World Champion Taekwondo In Solon

## By Aaron Choate



Taekwondo is a very popular martial art. Solon hosts a variety of martial arts locations, but I personally go to WCT. Taekwondo originated in Korea, and has taken off ever since in popularity. Karate is mostly combat and weapons, but TKD is mostly forms and self-defense.

**WHY?** To have fun, and develop a better and stronger body. I used to be a total wimp, but now I actually feel stronger.

**WHERE?** 31300 Solon Rd suite 15, Solon, OH 44139 (Look for the brown sign!)

**WHEN?** Any day but Sunday, at certain class times. They have everything you need to know on the website, including the class schedule. If you are interested in seeing a schedule, this is the link to their website:

<http://www.worldchampionkick.com/>

See you there!

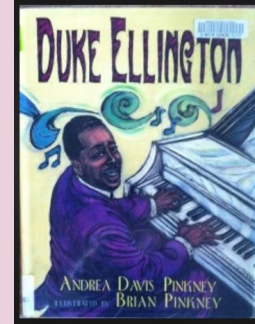
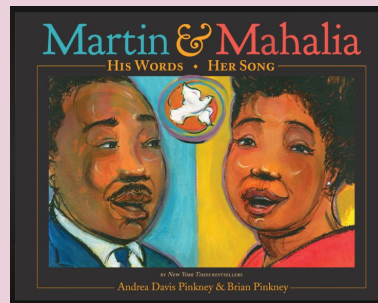
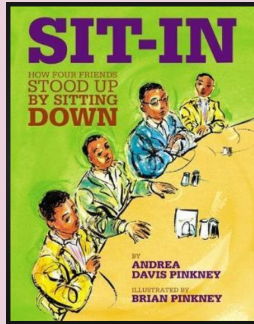






# INTERVIEW WITH BRIAN PINKNEY FIRST EVER ILLUSTRATOR TO VISIT OMS!

*Edited, formatted, organized, and questions asked by Mandi Lu  
Answers typed by Ashlyn Fitzgerald*



Q1: DO YOU HIDE EASTER EGGS IN YOUR BOOKS?

"I DO, THERE ARE A LOT OF THINGS THAT PEOPLE DON'T SEE. LIKE IN MARTIN, THERE'S A DOVE ON EVERY PAGE AND ONE THIS ONE PAGES, IF YOU CAN STEP BACK YOU CAN SEE THAT THE WORDS FORM A DOVE."

Q2: WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE PART ABOUT DRAWING?

"SKETCHING BECAUSE IT IS FUN AND FREE. AND YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG"

Q3: WHO/WHAT'S YOUR BIGGEST MOTIVATION?

"DIFFERENT FINE ARTISTS. IN THE PAST VINCENT VAN GOGH, PICASSO, AND COMIC BOOK WRITERS."

Q4: WHEN DID YOU DECIDE TO BE AN ILLUSTRATOR?

"FIFTH GRADE"

Q5: WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE STYLE OF ART THAT YOU DO?

"I LIKE A LOT OF STYLES"

Q6: DO YOU GET CREATIVE BLOCKS? IF SO HOW DO YOU DEAL WITH THEM?

"I DO, I WILL JUST SIT OR JUST DO SOMETHING ELSE LIKE WATCH A MOVIE OR GO SWIMMING."

Q7: WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE BOOK? (NOT

"I LIKE HAROLD AND THE PURPLE CRAYON, AND

|  |  |
|--|--|
| WRITTEN OR ILLUSTRATED BY YOU AND YOUR FAVORITE WRITTEN/ILLUSTRATED BY YOU)  | <p><u>WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE.</u></p> <p>"WRITTEN BY ME IS <u>PUPPY TRUCK.</u>"</p>  |
| Q8: IF YOU COULD TELL YOUR KID SELF ANYTHING, WHAT WOULD IT BE?              | "ENJOY DRAWING AND TRUST THAT YOU WILL DO BETTER."   |
| Q9: WHAT'S ONE BIG THING YOU HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH AS AN ILLUSTRATOR?           | "TO INSPIRE PEOPLE."   |
| Q10: WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART ABOUT READING ONE OF YOUR BOOKS?             | "SURPRISING MYSELF FROM WHAT I CREATE."  |
| Q11: WHAT IS ONE THING YOU HAD TO GIVE UP TO BE A BETTER ILLUSTRATOR?        | "BEING A PERFECTIONIST."   |
| Q12: HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED BEING ANYTHING ELSE OTHER THAN AN ILLUSTRATOR? | "YES, A SCIENTIST."  |
| Q13: DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE ANIMATOR?  | "NOT ONE FAVORITE...I LIKE BATIST, JACOB LAWRENCE, R. LEWIS."  |
| Q14: HAVE YOU EVER BASED A CHARACTER OFF SOMEONE YOU ACTUALLY KNOW?          | "YES, ONE OF MY CHARACTERS IS LIKE MY SON, ANOTHER ONE IS LIKE MY WIFE."   |
| Q15: WHAT IS YOUR DRAWING PROCESS LIKE?                                      | "FOR SCRATCHBOARD, I FIRST COVER THE BOARD IN BLACK, THEN SLOWLY SCRATCH THINGS OUT, THEN COLOR IT WITH OIL PASTEL."   |
| Q16: WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR FUTURE ILLUSTRATORS?                        | "DRAW ALL THE TIME AND EXPERIMENT WITH DIFFERENT TYPES OF TECHNIQUES"  |
|  |  |

# 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!**

## Spring Riddles

1. How excited was the gardener about spring?
2. What season is it best to go on a trampoline?
3. What do you call a rabbit with fleas?
4. What goes up when the rain goes down?
5. What month of the year is the shortest?
6. Name a bow that can't be tied.



Answers: 1. So excited he wet his plants. 2. Spring time 3. Bugs Bunny 4. Umbrellas  
5. May (only 3 letters) 6. A rainbow

Source: <https://www.allprodad.com/spring-jokes-for-kids/>



# **How To Make Chili**



**By: Mallory Kavanagh**

**Chili is an amazing food! Me and my family love it!! This recipe has been passed down from family member to family member in my mom's family.**

## **Ingredients:**

**1 pound of ground turkey  
1 large onion chopped  
2 cans of chili beans  
2 cans of chili tomatoes  
4 cups of tomato juice  
2 cups of water  
1 package of chili seasoning  
Salt and pepper**

## **How to make it:**

**Brown the ground turkey and onion in a large pot. Add the remaining ingredients and stir. Bring to a boil. Cover and Simmer on low for 1 hour. You can also add noodles to your chili if you wish too. Enjoy!**

**Did you like this recipe? Take this google form to tell me what you think of the Chili!!**

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1fAlpQLSe7xUUvZ6c5TPRIq-GLE31D8hvhUadyEXzG6aEzcl5HdSHeLg/viewform>

## *Without Me*

*By Mandi Lu*

I stand there  
Stare  
What to do?  
Where to go?  
Where is safe?  
What is safe?  
I turn around  
Could I go back?  
Would I go back?  
Would They accept me?  
They never have.  
Why would They now?  
I stand there,  
Watching Them on the other end of the blacktop  
Talking.  
Laughing.  
Without me.  
I used to be one of Them.  
I used to stand there and talk and laugh with Them.  
I used to have friends too.  
Two boys run past me  
Laughing  
Chasing each other  
Without me  
Toward the field there is a group of girls  
Playing jump rope  
Smiling  
Without me.  
By the playground there are two more girls  
Drawing something with chalk.  
Without me.



All around me people talk

Laugh

Play

Smile

I used to be able to laugh, play, and smile, too.

I used to have friends too.

Recess would be over soon.

Until then,

I'd be alone.

I walk over to some shrubs and seat myself among them.

Better to be lonely alone.

Than lonely publicly

My knees go to my chest

And I sit there

Hugging my legs.

I think back to what life was like before They ditched me.

It was only a week ago

Though it feels like lives ago

I would talk with Them

Laugh with Them

I would smile with Them

I was happy.

It would still be that way if the news about my condition had not leaked

I don't know how They found out about it.

I had come to recess happy and smiling.

And the first thing They said to me had been

*Is it true you have Cystic fibrosis?*

I swore to Them it wasn't contagious

*Freak* They said,

*Freak.*

I don't blame them for being scared of me

I'm not normal.

I'm not right.

Now everyone knows.

No one will ever befriend me.

Or go near me.

**RITTING**

Finally

It's over

~.~.~

Every day.

Every recess

Continues like that one.

Where I sit there

Watching Them enviously through the parted leaves of the shrubs.

Every.

Single.

Day.

Some days it's anger I feel.

Some days it's envy.

Some days I feel I deserve to be left out.

Few days it's hope.

Most days it sadness.

Almost all days it's sadness.

But one day.

I do feel happiness.

One day a girl comes to me.

One day I look up.

One day I look at the sky and notice the sun.

I notice her.

I notice her extended hand.

Jumprope?

Go away

Why?

*I'm Lia, the girl with the breathing problem, you don't want to be near me.*

*Is that a yes?*

One day I smile for the first time in ages.

One day I'm happy.

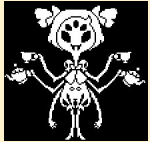
One day I find a friend.

# The Top 8 Most O.P. Characters In Undertale!

By Callen Silverberg and Aaron Choate

As Undertale was mentioned in one of the previous articles, the characters weren't described in detail. This article focuses on characters of the boss fights, or even THE boss fight. Each character is amazing, and even MLG-Worthy. Let's do this!

8. Asgore: Asgore would deserve to be higher on the list, but for us, he didn't really make the cut. If you spare him in his boss fight, he will get all softy and sweet, and then guess what? Flowey killed him! Yay!..... AAAAHHHHHH!



7. Muffet: Muffet is the first time where you get to witness the true power of the purple soul, which represents Perseverance. But the reason she is not higher on the list is because you can skip the entire fight just by eating something in front of her from the Spider Bake Sale. ("All profits go to spiders in need!")

6. Papyrus: This hilarious and self-centered skeleton is a pretty tough boss fight. He will mock you a bit, and send anything he can, but if you spare him, he will try to be your friend. This is the first time you see the power of the dark blue soul, which represents Integrity.



5. Mettaton: Mettaton is a pretty serious theater nerd. (Like us!) He is self-centered like Papyrus, and has a dream to be a star. He has the power of the yellow soul, which represents Justice. His fight is more like a pop quiz at the beginning, but when he turns into Mettaton EX, it turns into a shootout.

4. Undyne: Undyne is one tough cookie. Literally, this boss fight is so hard. You can't truly have mercy on Undyne, but you can try to... She has the power of the green soul, which represents Kindness. You can block her attacks with the green soul, but you can't move while doing so.



3. Toriel: Toriel. The guardian of the Ruins, and the first fight you'll ever have in the game. She doesn't really want to hurt you, she's just doing her job. Spare her and tell her why you are there, and she will 100% forgive you.



2. Sans: The reason Sans is in the number two spot is because he is the second-most powerful character. His boss fight is RIDICULOUSLY HARD, but if you wait a second until he falls asleep, you can take a clean shot at him, if you're the kind of person who would want to do that.



1. The Biggest... The Baddest... OMEGA FLOWEY! Omega Flowey is the true boss fight at the end of the game, and definitely the hardest. He has all six souls, and will not stop trying to WRECK YOU SO HARD. Flowey can also turn into Asriel Dreemurr, but O. F. is more creepy so we're going with him. He has nonstop attacks such as the Flytrap, Vine Shooters, Laser Beams, and during each interval, he controls a different soul and then attacks you with it.

# 5 MUST-SEE MARVEL MOVIES!!!!

By Aaron Choate

I am a diehard Marvel fan, until I die hard (GET IT????!!). There are so many Marvel movies to see and some of them haven't even come out yet. Some of the sequels are better than the originals, but hey, a few number ones are better than 2 OR 3. **DO NOT, I REPEAT, DO NOT READ THIS IF YOU HATE SPOILERS!!**

## 1. Avengers: Age Of Ultron

In AAOU, two new major characters make their first debut in the MCU. Obviously, I am referring to Ultron of course, and Vision! This is my favorite MCU movie. Vision and Ultron are totally awesome, and let's not forget another first appearance...HULKBUSTER!!!!!! Only the biggest and most awesome Iron Man armor! Also, the little scene at the end of the movie shows Thanos getting the Infinity Gauntlet from a high protected vault, getting ready to collect the Infinity Stones.



## 2. Avengers: Infinity War

Again, more characters make their somewhat-kind-of-first appearance. Thanos (Josh Brolin!) has already been shown in cutscenes after movies, but this is his big solo movie. Some ACTUAL new characters are the Children of Thanos, who are Proxima Midnight, Corvus Glaive, Cull Obsidian, and Ebony Maw. Favorably, they all perish. For example, Cull Obsidian gets exploded in the sky by a rocket!!

## 3. Captain America: Civil War

This is the first movie to feature Black Panther, or at least introduce him to the MCU. Iron Man and Cap are kinda having an argument about if the Avengers should become confidential and kept in order, or if they should just roam free and do as they please. The argument cuts the Avengers in half, and they wind up having this huge fight at some airport in Germany. Thor and Hulk are also missing, because Hulk took off into space in a Quinjet after Ultron was defeated in AAOU; Thor is somewhere in space too, taking care of some family business to be continued in Thor: Ragnarok.

## 4. Black Panther

Black Panther became the highest Box Office MCU movie of all time making ONE. BILLION. DOLLARS!! On the USA's movie rankings, it actually beat Titanic. Now that's a record! It clearly happened after Civil War and Age of Ultron, because Ulysses Klaue has a new vibranium arm (Ultron cut it off) and his father is dead, making T'Challa the next Black Panther. He has to protect his city, Wakanda, from a mysterious person named Erik Killmonger. (More about him in the movie, I flipped when I found out who he really was...)

## 5. Thor: Ragnarok

Ragnarok was so important to the MCU timeline it wasn't even funny. Thor turns out NOT to be the oldest sibling; that title now goes to his OLDER SISTER Hela, the goddess of death. Odin, the dad, dies, and Thor winds up on the trash planet Sakaar. He also meets an old friend, and a person who also took on Hela. Asgard, where Thor is from, is getting ready for its doom by the hands of Surtur, a giant flaming skeleton with an awesome looking face.

There are so many other movies in the MCU, but these are pretty much the only TRUE good ones. The others were okay, but not as good as these movies.

# The Top 6 Coolest-Looking Fortnite Skins!

By Aaron Choate

I have GOT to stop making recommendations for you readers, but I can't stop. That's the issue. Let us BEGIN!



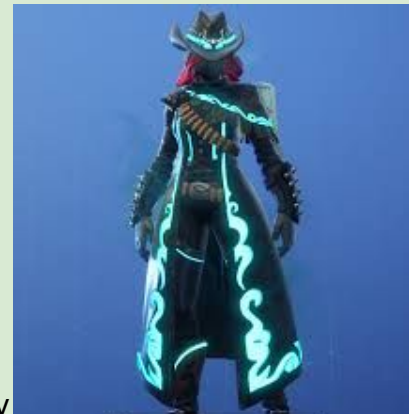
Drift



Dj Yonder



Ragnarok



Calamity

Omega



The Ice King





# Sports

Emir Naduvil, Dylan Hershey

# Super Bowl

Los Angeles Rams(2) vs. New England Patriots(2)

**Score: Patriots 13, Rams 3**

Mercedes-Benz Stadium - Atlanta, GA

6:30 PM EST - CBS

## Leading up to the game.....

Many Saints fans are protesting the NFL by playing their triumph in Super Bowl XLIV(Saints 31, Colts 17) during the Super Bowl, due to a uncalled pass interference that would otherwise won the game for the Saints. And some Chiefs fans are protesting the overtime rules. But it's too late now, as the Rams and Patriots are preparing for the Super Bowl.

## Playoff Runs

### Rams

The Rams entered the playoffs with a bye with the #2 Seed. They beat the fourth-seeded Dallas Cowboys by 8, 30-22, in a game that came to Jared Goff's number one weakness on offense; rushing the ball.

They then beat the first-seeded Saints 26-23 in overtime on the road, aided by the pass interference no-call by the referees. They intercepted a pass in overtime and won the game on a 57-yard field goal by Greg Zuerlein.

### Patriots

The Patriots also entered the playoffs with a 2 seed. They beat the fifth-seeded Chargers by 41-28 after opening a dominant lead and never looking back.

Then they traveled to Kansas City and beat the first-seeded Chiefs in overtime, 37-31, after Bill Belichick became the first coach in postseason history to win a challenge over three times in a quarter.

### Fun Facts

- This is the first time two cities' MLB teams and NFL teams have met for the league championship(The Boston Red Sox and the Los Angeles Dodgers faced against each other in the 2018 World Series) since 1969(NY Jets vs Baltimore Colts in Super Bowl III, NY Mets vs Baltimore Orioles in 69' World Series)
- This is a rematch of Super Bowl XXXVI, won by the Patriots 20-17.
- This is Tom Brady's 9th Super Bowl(as a player), a feat that will likely never matched.
- The Rams made the Super Bowl representing Los Angeles for the first time since 1979. LA has two Super Bowls, coming both from the then-Los Angeles Raiders.

### Recap

#### First Quarter

The game started off bad for the Patriots, as Nickell-Robey Coleman deflected a Brady pass that was picked off by Cory Littleton. And after the Rams punted, the Patriots drove but failed to score as Stephen Gostkowski missed a field goal. And after the Rams punted once again, the Patriots punted again. And after a Patriots fumble was recovered by themselves, they punted to the Rams and that ended the first quarter.  
End First: Patriots 0, Rams 0

#### Second Quarter

The Patriots got a three-and-out and got on the scoreboard with a field goal. And after 3 more punts, the Patriots turned it over on downs at the Rams 32-yard line. And at halftime, it was the second-lowest halftime score in Super Bowl History. (Super Bowl IX, Steelers 2, Vikings 0)

Halftime: Patriots 3, Rams 0

#### Third Quarter

After a punt by both teams(including a Super Bowl record-breaking punt of 65 yards by Johnny Hekker), the Rams finally got on the board after a 10-play, 42 yard drive ended in a 53-yard field goal by Greg Zuerlein. And after the Rams halted the Patriots just outside field goal range, the quarter ended.

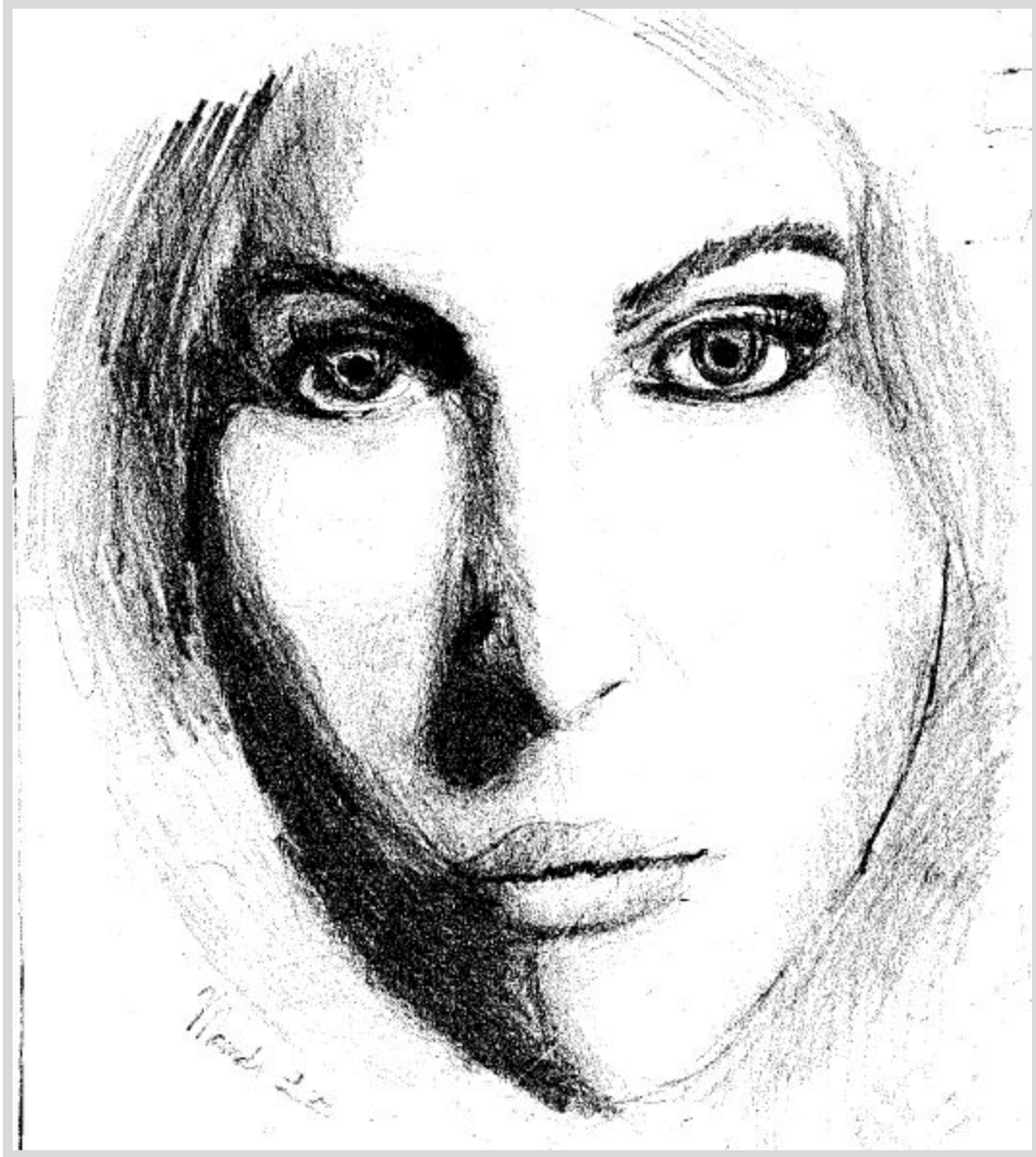
End of Third: Patriots 3, Rams 3

#### Fourth Quarter

After the Rams punted, the Patriots scored the first(and only) touchdown of the game after a Sony Michel touchdown run. And after Stephon Gilmore intercepted Jared Goff at the Patriots 3 yard line, and the Patriots then put on a time-killing drive that ended with a Stephen Gostkowski field goal. And after the Rams did hurry up to get to the Patriots 30-yard line, with 8 second left, they attempted a field goal by Greg Zuerlein which would've been followed by an onside kick if successful, but was wide left and the Patriots ran out the clock and Tom Brady won his record 6th Super Bowl(most ever by a player).

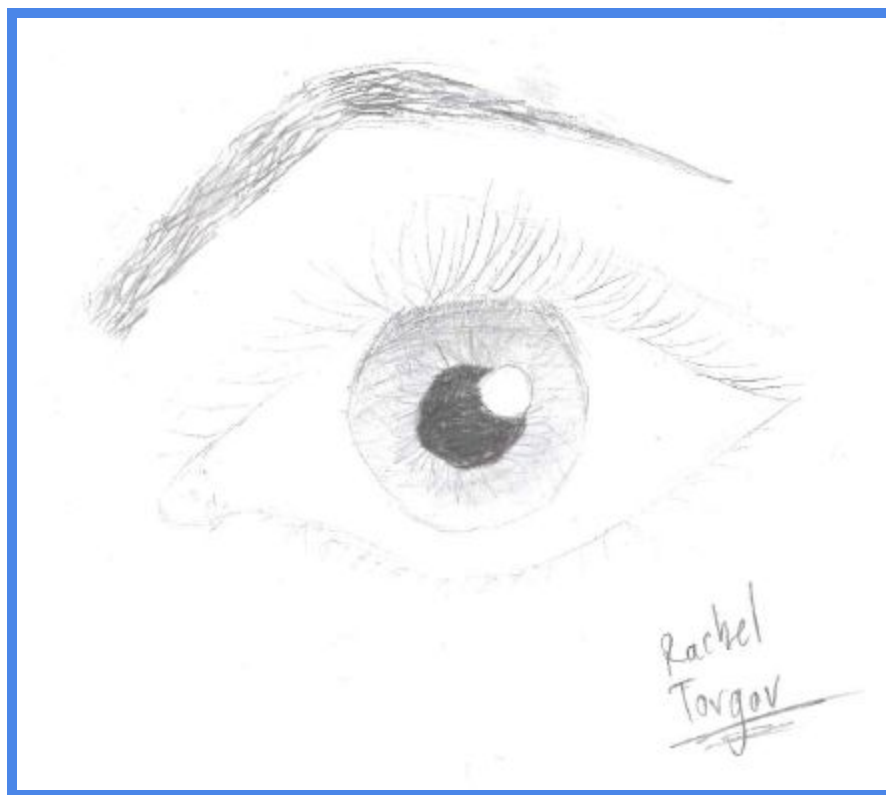
Final: Patriots 13, Rams 3

# Art Gallery



*Please excuse the lack of hair, I made this in third grade so I was too lazy to draw hair 🙄*





*By Anna Brokhman*





## Art by Evelina Glusauskas



