

Editorial Staff: Brandon Polomsky, Jordan Novak, Kendall Fellows, Tim Souza, Ava Benavides, Robert Ferro, Will Stella, Malec Jirari, and Andrea Sanchez Camacho
Producer: Mrs. Meyer



Produced by OMS Newspaper Club...

The OMS Press

2019/2020

Feature Teacher

Written By: Brandon Polomsky & Malec Jirari & Tim Souza & Jordan Novak & Kendall Fellows

Mr. Barry Heffern Orchard Security Guard

Growing Up

Growing up, Mr. Barry Heffern loved playing outside. He grew up in a small town just outside of UnionTown, Pennsylvania, a mountainous area. He loved playing with his older brothers. He always played outside running up and down the mountains. He had to be on his best behavior because everyone knew his parents in his small town. If he or his friends misbehaved, then they would tell his parents. His dream

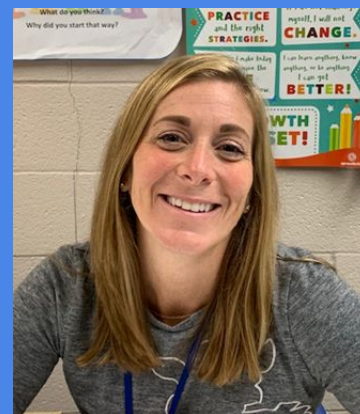


Mrs. Leugers Math Lead Teacher

Growing Up

Growing up, Mrs. Leugers always enjoyed math. She also loved the ocean. At first, she wanted to be an oceanographer, but she loved math more.

Mrs. Leugers has one older brother that is 10 years older than her. Mrs. Leugers went to college at Miami University of Oxford, Ohio for her undergrad. She then went to Kent State University for her master degree for education.



job as a kid was to be a police officer. He loved playing with his older brothers.

Family Now

Mr. Barry has 2 boys, one 41 years old and the other 42 years old. He has 1 brother that is 18 years older than him, and had a brother who was 16 years older than him. Sadly, his 16 years-old brother passed away. Both of his kids graduated from Solon Schools.

Career

Since Mr. Barry has always loved helping others, he was an auxiliary policeman in Chagrin Falls, Ohio for 20 years. But even before that, he was a mailman for 37 years. Then, after retiring from being a policeman, he changed to working here at Orchard as a security guard. His favorite part of working here at Orchard is talking to us kids.

Interesting Info

Mr. Barry loves living here in Cleveland, OH. He loves helping people. Now he works here at Orchard as security, still helping us kids and our teachers.

- He enjoys reading novels by a gentleman, Mr. Woods. He says his novels are the best.
- Mr. Barry says, "If I ever had 100 Million dollars I would live life to the fullest."
- The one thing that he would change is for him being a policeman for his career.
- When asked what superpower he would want, Mr. Barry would pick to be immortal and live forever.
- His least favorite thing in the whole world is terrorism and people fighting. He just hates to see people hurting each other and not being nice to each other.
- Another thing he really dislikes is that technology these days is taking over. Especially for kids. Most kids are on their screens instead of playing outside with their buddies and having real fun. The online world should never affect a real world relationship.

In conclusion, Mr. Barry is a very nice person and is working his hardest to keep us safe here at Orchard.

Before working in Solon as a math teacher, Mrs. Leugers worked at State Farm, as an insurance agent. She worked in market logistics and business insurance before she realized that the business field wasn't for her. She realized she wanted to become a math teacher/math interventionist instead.

Family Now

Mrs. Leugers enjoys her family. She and her Husband have 3 kids: Chase (her oldest) Kendall (her middle) and AJ (her youngest). She and her family now live in Hudson, Ohio, and have no pets. She says spending time with family is her favorite thing in the world.

School Life

Because she has always loved math, she was 24 when she became a math teacher. Mrs. Leugers has been teaching for 7 years here at Orchard. Before she came to Orchard, she taught 7 years at the high school. She prefers teaching here, than at the high school. She states, "The students at Orchard are more friendly than the young adults at the highschool."

Interesting Info

- Of the 4 states that you can see from one X, Mrs. Leugers said she would choose the state of Colorado, right near the Rocky Mountains.
- If she could go back in time and change one thing, it would have to be, to spend more time with her grandfather.
- If she had \$100 million, she would open a school and give a lot back to charity.
- The superpower that Mrs. Leugers would want is to be able to hear from far away distances.
- Mrs. Leugers' favorite book series is Harry Potter because she enjoys the series. It was her first fantasy series she ever read when she was the age of Orchard kids.
- Mrs. Leugers' favorite activist is Greta Thunberg. She is 16 years old, and an environmental activist, with Asperger's. Her movement is School Strike for climate.

All in all, Mrs. Leugers is an interesting person. She's a great leader and helper to the math teachers and students in 5th and 6th grade.

ASK AN APPLE

Orchard's Advice Column

Do you have a problem or issue for which you'd like advice? Are you afraid to ask a friend or adult for advice and want to remain anonymous? If yes, this is the opportunity for you!

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, the password is freeadvice56.
5. Check over your letter. Is your name and other's anonymous? This means you cannot use real names. You can use fake names like Apple Pie. Is this material school appropriate? If so, you can move on to the next step.
6. Send it to our Ask an Apple email
7. You will get your answer in the Orchard news paper.

! KEEP IN MIND !

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

The Rabbit With Only One

Evie Abounader

I heard whispering. I couldn't hear what they were saying. Of course I couldn't. I felt the soft nuzzle of what I thought was my mother. I whimpered.

I am one today. At least I think I am. I open my eyes. *I can finally see!* Oh, the world is so beautiful. I am going to try and walk. I get up. I fall down. I look around, and I can actually see my mother, for the very first time. She is brown, just like me. She helps me stand, balancing me out. She lets go, and I wobble for a little bit, and then I fall. Over and over again.

Other ones come close. They look like me. Brown, but bigger.

Mama says to them, "*He is still falling. He might never be able to hop.*"

I'll try Mama, I think.

I look down. For one moment, I can't understand. Mama has two. Papa has two. Brother has two. But why do I have one?

I try again. Mama and Papa help me. Brother stands to the side. I don't know my name yet. I still can't speak.

"*You'll learn, son*," Papa says.

But I'm starting to doubt their words. I keep falling. I can't stand straight.

Other rabbits come by. "*Hey, you! I'll race you!*" One shouted.

Their laughter rings in my ears as they hop away. I cock my head. I don't understand. Why was that funny? Did it have anything to do with my 'one', and their 'two'?

The more I think about it, the more I get courage from their laughter. I make a promise to myself. *I will learn how to walk.* Even if it seems impossible.

It may be frustrating. But I still try. Up and down. Over and over. The sky turns dark. I can see little glints of light in the black sky. Mama slides me onto her back. I hold on. She hops, and we go into an even darker hole. Then, there is light.

"*The den*," Mama tells me. "*This is where we live. We will sleep here. If there is danger, you hide here.*"

I listen. There is so much more for me to learn.

The light flashes. On, off.

"*Firefly*," Brother says. "*They are little bugs that glow at night.*"

I am tired. I lay down and close my eyes. Soon, I am asleep.

It is day. We go out for another try. This time, I can balance. But I every time I move, I fall again.

I am learning words. "*Sky*," I say. "*Blue*."

Papa nods, "*Yes, son. The sky is blue.*"

Words don't fit well into my mouth yet.

More rabbits come by. They just stand and stare at my attempts to walk, at least one step. They whisper to each other.

It is getting harder. I can move, but only if I am on Mama's back. I want to move on my own! Why is it so hard to walk with 'one'?

Brother teases me sometimes. He makes fun of my 'one', and he hops and challenges me to race him, even though he knows I can't.

I can speak clearer now. It is morning. We are in the den. I have never eaten a dandelion before. They are very yummy scrummy. "Mmmm!" I say, "*Dealishun!*"

Mama laughs. "*Delicious, honey,*" She tells me.

After breakfast, Brother and Papa leave.

"*We'll be back soon,*" Papa says. "*Hopefully around lunchtime.*"

Mama says goodbye to them. "*Be careful!*" she calls, but they are already gone.

She takes me outside, and we practice. I can move! But very slowly, balancing myself, one shuffle after another. Mama congratulates me.

I see a shape moving in the distance. Papa's figure moves closer. I can't see Brother, and Papa is dragging something.

"*Carrots,*" Mama tells me. "*We eat them.*" But Papa isn't pulling a carrot. He's pulling Brother.

Mama rushes over. All I can do is stand and watch. Mama pushes while Papa pulls.

Finally, they reach me. Brother's leg has a large gash in it. It leaks red liquid. Mama has little drops of water running down her face. Papa puts his hand on Brother's stomach.

"*He's still breathing,*" he announces.

I can't believe it. "*He's alive!*" I shout. I wobble, but steady myself out again.

Mama makes a noise that sounds like a laugh and a sob at the same time.

Mama and Papa start carrying Brother down to the den. I slowly shuffle after them. I make it to the hole by the time they pull Brother into the den. Papa comes back out, picks me up, and brings me inside. For a second I see Brother, with Mama at his side, then darkness.

Papa speaks, "*Stay here, I'll be right back.*" We need brother to rest and heal. He needs to sleep.

I am scared. I am all alone, in the dark.

Papa comes back soon after. He has a firefly in his hands, along with a big leaf. He wraps the leaf around his firefly hand. He lets the firefly go in the leaf, and pulls his hand out. Then, he sticks the corners together with some sap.

"*Cool!*" I say. My words bounce around the tunnel. The light flickers. On, off.

"*You will sleep in here tonight, son. Tomorrow, you will find out your name,*" Papa tells me.

I am so excited for tomorrow, I can't sleep. Late at night, I feel Mama lay down next to me. That's when I finally fall asleep.

The next morning, Mama wakes me up at sunrise. I crawl out of the room, the dark room I sleep in with Mama. Brother is awake. He's sitting at the table with Papa, eating carrots. I shuffle over and grab a carrot. I nibble on it. It tastes even more wonderful than a dandelion.

"When?" I ask. I'm hoping he will shout out my name, as joyous as the carrot I'm eating.

"Ah," Papa says. "You want your name, Nico?"

I was so excited. It took me a minute to realize he already said my name.

"Nico," I whisper. "Me, Nico."

Mama nods. "But, if you prefer... Penny..."

I shake my head. "No!" I say loudly.

Mama, Papa, and Brother all start laughing.

I get mad. But, it is hard to be mad at your family forever.

Balance. Believe. Believe. Step. Fall. That's all I did yesterday. Try and try and try. But it didn't work. Not one step moved. I tried hopping. I have the jump part down, it's just the landing that's troubling me. I hit the ground hard, and then I lose balance and fall over.

"Be patient, Nico. You have to learn to hop or you will never be able to steal carrots from Mr. William's garden," I say to myself. I really want to do things the rabbit way. I want to be able to do everything a rabbit can do.

Later, Mama, without warning, picks me up and hops faster than I've ever seen her hop. She dives into the den. Good thing we always stay close by. Mama hides me under a leaf and leaves.

I stay there, shaking with fear. There are loud rumbles.

Mama comes back. She picks me up, and brings me to the entrance.

"Danger," Mama tells me. "They are called humans. They try to take us. Your grandpa got taken by one, and we never saw him again."

I feel sad for Grandpa. I never got to meet him. Now, I'm even more scared of humans.

"Nico, I want you to be careful. Always stay as close as you can to the den. You are an easy target with your one hind leg." Mama tells me.

I don't like Mama saying 'my one hind leg.' It makes me feel like I am less than others.

"Don't say it!" I tell her. "Call it my 'one'."

Mama nods. She understands.

We watch the humans for a while. I am scared of them. What if I am outside alone? What if they take me? I run through a list of what-ifs in my head. I will stay inside from now on.

The sleeping room, where Papa put me last night, is where I will practice my walking. And if I hear the rumbles of the humans, I will hide under my leaf.

I am two today. I wake up early to practice in the sleeping room. Mama doesn't sleep with me anymore. I walk and walk. I try over and over to hop. I keep falling over.

After a while, I start to get tired. I pick up the firefly leaf and explore more of the room. I find a couple more tunnels, leading up, down, left and right. In one, I find a life supply of food. I don't eat any. There are more sleeping chambers, and empty, dark rooms with nothing in them.

A little later, I turn to go back to my room. But soon I get scared. I search and search every dark room. I think that I am lost.

I yell out for Mama, “MAMA! PAPA! BROTHER! ANYONE!”

I am all alone, only the soft glow of the firefly to comfort me.

Suddenly, I hear something. It is very faint, but I can hear it, “Nico! Nico! Nico, where are you?” I would have never heard it if I hadn’t been silent.

There it is again. Closer, this time, “Nico! Nico! Where are you? Are you down here?”

I try to be helpful. “I am over here!” I yell to the voice. It could be Mama. Or Papa. Or Brother.

“Nico! Come to my voice!” It is Brother. He is searching for me.

“Okay!” I say. I walk toward his voice.

He is saying my name, over and over again.

I round a bend and there Brother is. “Nico!” he says, and gives me a big hug.

“This must be a crazy way to start off a birthday, huh?” Brother says to me as he led me out of the tunnels.

The firefly in Brother’s hand flashes to the same rhythm as mine.

“Yes, not the best way to start my birthday,” I agree. “But where are Mama and Papa?”

Brother looks at me, “They took this really seriously. They are outside, looking for you up there. They told me to look in the tunnels, and here you are.”

I nod.

We walk in silence for a while. I don’t know why. Brother chuckles. Then, he bursts into laughter.

I cock my head. I don’t understand. He laughs and laughs.

“What’s so funny?” I say loudly.

We enter my room. I put the firefly back in his spot. I slowly walk to the family room.

Brother is outside, calling Mama and Papa. Brother comes back inside.

Mama and Papa rush in behind him. They hug me and hug me.

Mama cries, “Oh, Nico! You gave us quite a scare. We thought the humans got you,” Mama says.

I am surprised that they are not mad at me.

“Aren’t you mad at me?” I ask.

Mama and Papa look confused. “We can’t get mad at you for being curious,” Papa says.

Mama hugs me again.

“Happy Birthday,” she whispers in my ear.

Later, Brother and I go back into my bedroom. He helps me practice, and slowly, with every time, I get better.

“Soon you’ll be hopping around like crazy!” Brother tells me.

Mama calls us into the kitchen. I walk in, and there is something amazing waiting for me.

“Happy Birthday!” Mama, Papa, and Brother shout.

Next to them is a big carrot cake, and dandelion salad. And there is Grandma!

I’m so excited, I jump. Up, and back down. I land perfectly.

Everyone is quiet for a moment, and then I shout, “I DID IT!”

Mama and Papa run over to congratulate me. Grandma and Brother start singing a song I don’t know. But all I know is that I did it, and I’m happy I did.

The Hunt

By: Bella Felton

I was there when he came down that mountain yelling for help, I was there when he mourned over his lost friend. I'm Riel and this is my story.

A long time ago I was in a village by a mountain everybody was there because some merchants had just set up some stands.

All of a sudden, a man from the village came running down from the mountain screaming, "HELP! HELP!". We all dashed straight over to the scene leaving the merchants behind.

One person, whom I did not know, walked up to the man calling him by name, "Fonzo! What happened?"

Everyone's jaw dropped.

Fonzo was one of the most known men in this Mexican village!

This distressed man couldn't be Fonzo! everyone was thinking.

"It is me! Fonzo! Please help me! My best friend has disappeared in the forest!"

Fonzo was really distressed but everyone was just too shocked to do anything, so I stepped forward and said, "At this moment, someone as great as Fonzo steps forward to ask for help and you are all too shocked to do anything? I say we go out together and look for Fonzo's friend."

There was silence in the village until one person shouted, "Yeah! Save Fonzo's friend!" and right then the most amazing thing happened.

Right as that man agreed with me, the people all started chanting my name, "Riel! Riel! Riel!"

I didn't know what to do, until one woman stepped forward and said, "Well, Lead the way Riel."

They had wanted me to show them where to go?

I turned looking at Fonzo's frightened face as he nodded, signaling me to go. So, I walked into the woods leading up to the mountain and asked, "Where did you see your friend last?"

Fonzo answered me saying, "Up at the top of the mountain, at the cabin where we stay when we go up there to hunt."

Some of the men and women in the group grumbled and left, but most of them stayed, as we walked up the mountain path.

Hours later Fonzo and I were trying to get the rest of the group not to leave, "Please," Fonzo had said, "Please don't leave we still haven't found my friend!"

One weary eyed man stepped forward, "Fonzo, everyone here has been searching all day! We're tired to the bone, your friend is most likely dead!"

Everyone but Fonzo and I grumbled in agreement.

I walked up to Fonzo and said, "it's ok we will keep looking."

So we searched through the night until I found what we had been looking for. The people were right, Fonzo's friend was dead.

"Fonzo! I found him!" I called through the forest.

Fonzo came running. His smile disappeared when he saw his friend, "what.. How.. no.. it can't be."

the sound of his voice, it was small, so small I could barely hear him. As Fonzo dropped to the ground sobbing, I sat down next to him and said, "Let's go back to the village. You need a rest."

The next day Fonzo stayed in bed, while I told the people what happened.

one man responded saying, "I knew it was a waste of time to look."

A few people nodded in agreement as I angrily said, "Next time one of your closest friends goes missing I won't even lift a finger to help you!" and that was that. I stormed off because of the peoples' ignorance.

I went straight back to Fonzo's house and as I walked in he smiled at me and said, "Thank you Riel," "I was wondering if next winter if you would like to go hunting in the woods with me, we can hunt for a week. Would you like to come?" Fonzo asked.

I was shocked. The most important person in the village was asking me to go with him! "Would I?! Would I!?" I paused, "I mean yes, yes I would."

Fonzo smiled saying, "Don't forget, We still have to wait 'till the next winter."

... I swear waiting for the hunt was the worst. it seemed to be the longest months of my life, but the winter finally came.

As we were walking to the mountain's path I said to Fonzo, "You know if we are still friends for a long time, we have the weirdest how we met story."

Fonzo laughed, a sound that I haven't heard since we first came home from the mountain. It brightened me and lifted my spirits, so I laughed along with him.

When we came to the mountain path and the mountain above we stopped as Fonzo took some flowers out of his pack and set them on the ground next to the path.

We ascended up the path to the top of the mountain.

Once we reached the end of path, Fonzo said, "This is the place where we go offroad."

so we turned off the path and started hiking through the dense woods.

We finally arrived at a small cabin and Fonzo set his stuff down, and walked toward the cabin in silence. He hadn't been there ever since his friend's death.

Fonzo gently touched the door of the cabin and opened it. Inside there were two beds in a room and in another room there was a chair and a couch facing toward a window.

It was a nice and cozy cabin and I was tired to the bone. So I walked to one of the beds and plopped straight down onto it saying, "I'm so tired Fonzo, I think that we should both rest."

Fonzo nodded his head in agreement as he sat on the other bed, I don't know what happened next because that was when I fell into the hands of sleep.

I don't know how long I slept, but I remember waking up to Fonzo next to me saying, "It's our first day! C'mon get up!"

I sat up in my bed as Fonzo went into the little kitchen area he came back over with a full plate of pancakes and bacon saying, "Eat up Riel! We need lots of energy for today!"

I got up, ate, and got dressed in a camo outfit and walked up to Fonzo saying, "Are you ready?"

But the only response I got was a scream, "AHH! Something just spoke to me! But Riel is not here! I don't see him!"

I realized the trick right away, because I was wearing camo Fonzo was acting like he couldn't see me. Fonzo immediately burst out laughing, "All right, let's go, before all the animals go away."

we went and came back very late in the day, and I was very tired so I went to bed early.

Later on in the night I woke up to Fonzo screaming, "Don't do it! No! Don't do it!"

I thought it was just another one of Fonzo's tricks, but after another chorus of screams everything became silent. I looked around for my flashlight and scrambled outside to see what had happened.

When I turned the flashlight on, I immediately regretted it. Fonzo was on the ground. Dead. With a rock on his chest.

Something was inscribed on the rock. I leaned in closer to see what it said.

It said, "This is what you get for taking my friend from me. I take your friend from you."

I quickly put on some gloves, picked up the rock and ran.

Tears were streaming down my face as I ran on the path down the mountain, I had lost my best friend.

But at least I knew what to do I was going to run into the village yelling for help the same way Fonzo did that one day a year ago and i'd get a test on the rock to see who did this.

Once I got to the back to the village the sun was slightly coming up as I yelled "HELP! HELP! FONZO IS DEAD!"

Immediately people came running to me all chattering things like, "what! It can't be!" and "Impossible! It's just a trick!"

this went on until one woman stepped forward and said, "Is it true? Is the mighty Fonzo really dead?"

"Yes" I said "This was on his chest."

They all leaned in to see the carved writing on the stone. They were all speechless.

"I want to get it tested so I can find out who did this." I said

One man came forward saying, "I can do it. You will see who did it in about a week," he said facing the stone.

The days and nights passed as I waited to find out who would pay the price for murdering my friend. Finally I heard a knock on my door.

I opened it so that the man could come through. " So," I said, " Who did it?"

"Well," the man started as I interrupted

"C'mon we don't have all day!"

"Jose" he replied

"Who is that? There is not a man in this village named Jose," I said curiously

"Jose was Fonzo's best friend, the one who we found to be dead." he responded.

"How could that be!? He's dead." I said.

"Some people say that spirits can haunt people and do things like this," the man responded back

"DO YOU THINK I BELIEVE IN ALL THAT HOCUS POCUS?!" I screamed.

"Riel," he said "The question isn't if you believe in it, It's about whether it's true or not. Riel if this supposed 'hocus pocus' is true what could this mean for this village, or you? What if this is just a warning? What if this spirit's next target is you?"

Read the original story called the hunting knife

(yes, its not blocked)

Link below

<https://www.scaryforkids.com/hunting-knife/>

The Chosen

Cole Taylor & Shannon Corlett

Chapter 1: The Day It All Happened

Addison Howell

Age: 12

Subject: 54

Time: June 13, 2056 (2:43 PM)

I watched as kids chased each other on the soft warm sand, as well as swam in the cold blue seawater. The coast of California was beautiful, not to mention all of the wildlife that roams in these parts. I saw my little brother, Luke, sitting in the sand laughing. I walked over to him and felt the cool breeze against my face.

“Hi Addy!” Luke exclaimed.

While I was walking towards him, it felt as if someone was watching me. I looked around, but there was nothing suspicious. I decided to just play with my 5 year old brother and shrug it off.

I sat down in the sand while Luke tried to make a sand castle, that turned out to look like a drooping mound of sand with a couple of seagull feathers, rocks, and shells sticking out of it. He began to throw sand at me while laughing. I threw some back and gave out a tiny chuckle, which turned into laughter too.

He started chasing me out to the water. When we reached the water I splashed right in, and Luke did the same. I went under the water to swim away. When I came back up, Luke was gone. I looked in all directions and he wasn't anywhere.

“Hi!” Luke popped out of the water behind me, lightly jabbing me in the rib.

I yelped, jerking forward. “You can't scare me like that!” I scolded, turning around to face Luke with a solemn face.

“Scare you?” Luke tilted his head.

I ignored him and swam back to the sand. I saw Luke behind me splashing the water back and forth between his hands, clueless to anything coming from the outside world.

“Luke!” I shouted “Come here!”

Obediently Luke came toward me. As he was swimming, I heard a horrid scream. I started to frantically wade through the shallow water toward Luke to make sure he was actually okay. *Maybe*

he was just scaring me again. All of the sudden I saw a scarred boy who looked about 15 carrying my little brother.

“Where are your parents?!” the boy demanded. He was right... Where *are* my parents? I looked at the spot where they were sitting. They were gone with no sign of them being there at all. *Nobody* was here!

What?

“I don’t know,” I answered with concern. I looked around one more time, and it didn’t look like anyone else was there but us three. I turned to him and, from the expression on his face, I could tell he was shocked as well. “But seriously, please let go of my little brother.” I demanded politely

“Fine,” he said gently letting Luke go. “Come with me, I think I might know a place we can stay.”

I hadn’t really been quite confident being with a teenager that we’d hardly even known, not to mention his *scars*. How did he even get them? It concerned me!

When we walked out of the range of the beach, I had noticed that the streets seemed eerily quiet, that’s not normal. We walked to the place the boy said we would be safe.

“What’s your name?” I asked

“Jack.” he said. “What’s yours?”

“Addison, but you may call me Addy,” I answered.

That was the only sound we heard for the rest of the trip .Even Luke, who seemed confused, didn’t talk.

When we reached the place Jack mentioned, I paused in confusion. On the outside it seemed like an old abandoned shack. I was guessing that the inside was better. Despite the little spark of fear hiding in my throat, I was the first to walk in. Jack pulled me back as a purple gas filled the air.

“Be careful, it’s dangerous!” He warned. I grabbed a stone off the ground and chucked it at the ratty wall of the shack. Nothing happened.

“Looks safe now,” I claimed with pride.

“Check again,” Jack whispered.

As instructed, I chucked another stone at the creepy shack and a blaring alarm went off. *He knows something I don’t.* I thought. *I should wait until he tells me to strike.*

He then proceeded to walk into the run down house.

I guessed it would be okay to go in after him, so I went in as well. Luke followed me since I was the only person he could trust. When I turned around I thought I had seen a glowing green rock floating behind Luke, but thought it was probably my imagination. I tried to convince myself because we were safe. And that’s all I need, really. To be safe...

Chapter 2:

Name: Jack Lewis

Age: 15

Subject: 1309

Time: September 19th 2056 (6:53 AM)

This day food was running low. I had to hunt for food again. As much as I hated killing animals, I had to. We must hunt in order to survive.

Luke and Addy were like brother and sister to me. If they died on my cause, I didn't know what I would do.

I went to wake them up...

"Enough. Go hunt." I went stiff as a cold voice passed my shoulder.

"Who-Who are you?"

Silence.

I might as well obey.

I headed out with my wooden bow and arrows that I crafted in the Keeper's Home. They were no doubt my favorite. It felt good to get fresh air, again. The Keeper didn't usually let us out. He said, "It was for your own safety." *Yeah, right.*

I carefully stalked through the dense forest looking out for prey such as fat water voles or speedy rabbits.

I spotted a white hare jumping about on the moor.

I paused.

White hares only occur in the winter.

I quickly shot the hare in the eye with one of my wooden arrows, and buried it in the ground next to a white birch tree nearby for later digging up. I scratched my mark into the tree. If I brought it in now, The Keeper would ask for more prey to feed the rest of the kids with us. So I walked around searching for more prey four voles and six hares. Later,

I walked them back to the Keepers Home as a thought about what I should do next. *Make breakfast? Or craft more weapons?* I pondered around my thoughts for the rest of the day, then the voice in my head spoke again.

"Now rescue me... before it's too late.."

"Why?" I said aloud

"To destroy the keeper and save them..."

"I will never betray the one that saved me!" I exclaimed

"You'll see..."

Throughout the whole day I thought about the conversation. Why would anyone want to destroy The Keeper? It didn't make any sense. I decided to keep the information to myself. If it was important he would know about it. Today had been extraordinarily strange to me.

When I got back home the next day, I unloaded the game I had hunted.

"WAIT." the voice yelled

I froze and dropped my hunting knife next to my foot. I tried to ignore it. I went to Addy and Luke's room to wake them up. I opened the door and Addy was crying. I was about to close the door when..

"He LIED!" Addy screamed. I sat down next to her and saw her face covered in tears.

From what? I thought

"It's from the one you call The Keeper" the voice said abruptly.

"H-He LIED to us Jack..."

"What happened?" I said confused

"t -the keeper..." she stammered.

She is not okay she needs help.

"Well talk about it later, for now get some rest," I told her "Wait, wheres Luke.?"

"HE HAS HIM!" she screamed.

"The KEEPER has Luke?!"

Everything rushed through my head. *What was happening? It didn't make sense. The voice.. It was trying to warn me!*

"I see.. You're cooperating now"

You can hear my thoughts .

"It's my ability..."

What ability!

"You'll see soon enough."

No don't go not now! The voice didn't come back. I ran outside faster than I ran before. Then I remembered how we got here in the summer. I was scared but Addy, and Luke were there and I wanted them to be safe. Then a call came to go to that shack. In there ,we waited for days ,living on barely anything. Then The Keeper came wearing that hood so we couldn't see his face. I thought he was a blessing, but he might be a curse.

I ran for what seemed like an eternity, forever without stopping. I felt lost and alone, with so many questions about what this meant.

I ran through the forest until my body just stopped. I hit something.

I heard voices, " Subject 1309 should be taken immediately to be quarantined.

"S-st-op", I stammered " no..."

More voices, " Shouldn't we take the other subject... The S class?"

“ They seem to have a special bond and separating them could have its consequences,” said another voice.

“ Well take him to the facility,”

“ W-wait, stop p-please” I managed to get out a few words.

I tried to stand up and, the last thing I saw was someone's hand closing in on me ...then complete darkness.

TO BE CONTINUED IN THE NEXT OMS PRESS PUBLICATION

Our New World: Seyri

By: Andrea Sanchez

Our History

Imagine, It's 2034, people were supposed to land on Mars one year ago.

They didn't land on Mars.

A rescue team was sent to see what had happened and help any living lifeforms out in space.

They didn't come back.

They didn't even land on Mars.

Curious, scientists researched and researched. They came up with theories about what caused the astronauts and the rescue team to disappear. What caused them to disappear?

No one, really knew. So scientists continued their studies, but the research material had cost a lot.

The United States fell into debt after borrowing money from other countries, the debt grew and the U.S. was not able to pay the money back.

Soon, China declared war on the United States, forcing World War *III*, due to the U.S. not able to pay their 3 billion dollar debt with China.

The United States was so poor. They thought they didn't know if they would be able to fight back. They were running out of resources, money, and time. The countries, Canada and Mexico, joined forces with the United States to help them fight China.

Still, they were drastically low on money, resources, and not really able to defend themselves.

China won the war and conquered all of North America creating the ***Chinese United Nations***.

The people of U.S., Mexico, and Canada, continued to fight back against China, also very poor. The three countries won and with the very little money they had. They broke off from Chinese rule and became a monarchy, Seyri.

Seyri was named after Alexandria Seyri. She saved Mexico, Canada, and the United States from China and from bankruptcy. She was responsible for taking over the three countries and forcing them into becoming one country, thus she named that big country Seyri. She became queen of Seyri and ruled for 23 years until she was assassinated.

Little did the people know, worse things were coming their way. The queen knew, her advisors knew, everyone in the palace knew and they didn't tell a single soul.

Well, that is true, until everyone found out.

To be continued!

THE UNDERGROUND VILLAGE I:

THE GARGONGLES ARISE

Daniel Luce

PROLOGUE

Thousands of years ago, an asteroid hit the planet Mars, and a huge crater formed. The asteroid was made of a magical substance called The Evil Substance. Now, the crater is still there, and all the way from Earth, you can see a glowing, golden light.

RIA

There I was, in a city close to Cleveland, running from the magical, dark spirits. My life couldn't have gotten any worse.

Oh, wait.

It just did.

The evil spirits, called Gargongles, that have bat wings, snake tongues, and four eyes.

They were trying to kill me.

Did I mention that they breath fire? And poison? Well, they do.

I drew out my spear and tried to stab them, but they couldn't be killed. They were immortal.

Still, they could be badly wounded, and I managed to stab one of them. Yay. One out of seven.

I could tell I was going to lose this fight, so I tried to get away on my unicorn, Carrots, but all of the Gargongles stabbed me in the gut, in retaliation.

"Curse you, Gargongles!" I said.

"You'll never win! The Lordship will make you catch flames!" One of them laughed.

I threw another spear and stabbed him in the head.

He got mad, and he did the same to me.

So much for getting away.

THOMAS

I was at the village. The Underground village underneath Cleveland. For warriors destined to fight monsters.

Woken from my sleep to a whining, I stepped out of my hut to see the pixies pinching my pet Unicorn, Henrix.

"Hey! Stop!" I yelled.

The pixies flew away, and I went back to my hut.

I tried to go back to sleep.

Suddenly, the ground shook. This happened often. The dragons were probably getting feeding time. But it felt... different. I stepped outside to see Mayor Canvas' Dragon, Flamoura, rampaging through the town. She picked up a house and threw it like a pile of blocks.

"Hey!" I yelled.

Flamoura turned to me, anger in her eyes and I instantly regretted shouting at her.

I ran into town, fleeing into one of the stores, *Ella's Potions*.

Great. Last time I went there, Ella the demon witch tried to kill me with her snake hair and demon claws.

"Why, hello sweetie! So nice to see you again!"

I turned around to see her staring at me, with a platter of her "Jam" sandwiches. I groaned as she lunged forward, about to kill me.

SONICA

The village was exploding. It burned as the dragons went wild, attempting to kill us all. The unicorns stampeded, the pixies bit us, and the Carvongs (winged lions with demon claws) did a nice tear 'n' share at the cattle.

I ran over to a swarm of pixies and attempted to swat them away, but they didn't move. So, I grasped my dagger and attempted to stab them, and they flew away.

Suddenly, the dragons, Carvongs, Unicorns and Pixies fled out of the caverns, slithering away like snakes.

"What's happening!?" I yelled over the noise.

"Don't know," Joe, my neighbor, shouted. "It seems like something's brainwashing them!"

Suddenly, the walls of the cavern that we all lived in caved in. The village blew up, to reveal a giant Gargongle swarm, led by one the size of a skyscraper, with a silver crown on his head.

"The gargongle king! Retreat!"

One of the Gargongle's flew down and stabbed me in the gut. I blacked out.

I woke up in a prison. There were metal bars around me, and I was chained to a wall.

In the cell across from me, there was a blonde girl. I saw her throwing a rock at the wall, bored. I recognized her from the village.

"Hey! Who are you?" I asked her.

She noticed me and replied.

"My name's Ria!"

"Oh! I'm Sonica!"

"Hey! Do you want to get out of here?" She asked me.

"Um, yeah! Duh!" I told her.

"Good. I've escaped this dump before, so I know my way around."

"Um, okay..."

"Well, let's go! My friend, Thomas, is coming to help us!"

We crawled into some vents in the ceiling and agreed to meet each other outside.

THOMAS

I was busy battling Ella the witch when I got the message from Ria.

"You'll never help your friend!" Ella steamed.

I stabbed her with my sword and she disintegrated. I ran out the door, and I saw Flamoura. She ran toward me, ready to kill, so I took a dog biscuit out of my pocket. She ran over, took it out of my hand, and scooped me onto her saddle.

"Well, now I have a ride!" I yelped.

I'm afraid of heights, so this wasn't good. I was nervous that I'd fall off and go SPLAT on the ground. Flamoura started growling, so I stroked her scales to calm her down.

"Hey, girl... You okay?" I asked.

She grunted.

"Good. Now let's go rescue Ria!"

Suddenly, a bird knocked us out of the sky.

Whee.

The bird was on fire, and left a trail of smoke and ash behind her. She had elaborate feathers and golden eyes, and she looked like she wanted to pulverize us.

"A phoenix! Go!" I yelled, and Flamoura flew away, dodging the fireballs and smell of ash and smoke. Suddenly, Flamoura turned around and breathed fire at the Phoenix, attempting to stop her.

The fire absorbed into the bird, and made it stronger.

"Oh, man!" I yelled as Flamoura dodged left, then right, then turned around and flew right into the Phoenix. The bird disintegrated as it plummeted to the ground. SPLAT!

"Okay, girl. Slow and steady."

Eventually, we reached the Gargongle prison. We saw Ria and some weird girl waving on the roof. Flamoura flew down to the roof.

RIA

"Hey, Thomas!"

"Who's... She?" Thomas asked, pointing at Sonica.

"I'm Sonica, thank you very much. Now can we please get out of here?"

"Sure. Hey Ria? Why'd you call ME? I know you can get out yourself. And... is that a giant spear cut in YOUR HEAD!?" Thomas asked.

"Yep. I'm fine. I see you brought a dragon? Nevermind. Let's go."

We all hopped on the Dragon, who Thomas insisted was Flamoura, the mayor's dragon, and I believed him.

"Where to?" Thomas asked.

"How about the Lands of Prophecy. We can find out what's happening and save the creatures," Sonica said.

"Sure. And by the way? I'm the boss. Okay?" I said.

"Okay." Thomas interrupted, "Lands of Prophecy, coming forward. Just three days! Enjoy your flight on Dragon Airlines!"

Enjoy the next story in The Underground World series in the next OMS Press!



6 Gifts: Chapter 1

Minseong Hong

Once, they say that the world was peaceful.

It's hard to believe, staring at the ruined, battle-torn world that is the Ice Kingdom. It's hard to believe, listening to my parents talk about politics and which kingdoms are the least likely to attack us and how many soldiers we lost in the last battle.

But... the elders speak of the Ice Kingdom with beautiful fields of snow, free of burning fires and pits where there were explosions.

However, there hasn't been peace for a long time.

"We've been at war for 15 years," His Royal Highness January Ice, King of the Ice Kingdom mutters. "And yet have we seen damage like this? Impossible!"

My father sits, hunched over a group of scrolls. Mother, Her Royal Highness Holly Ice, Queen of the Ice Kingdom murmurs "hmmm," and stares at her reflection, admiring it.

I don't understand what she's admiring. Her face is clad with makeup: Thick globby eyeliner, blush too red, ruby red lipstick. She's actually pretty without her makeup: Beautiful, even. But the makeup is too strong, too fake.

"Impossible, Impossible," Father repeats.

"Darling?" Mother asks, voice sweet as honey. It's a wonder she loses a single argument with a voice like that.

"Yes?" Father looks up.

"My dear, I'm really out of my eyeliner and my allowance--"

"Yes, of course, my love," Father replies and turns back to his papers. Mother has asked for more money so many times that she doesn't even have to finish the sentence. She goes through 10,000 ice coins in a week.

"Father?" I ask, gathering up my courage.

"Yes?"

"May I leave? I need to visit the village--"

"Whatever. Go," his voice is like stone: Not warm, not cold, just hard. No emotion.

I curtsy and leave. Before I close the door, I hesitate. I wait for more words: *Have a good time. Be careful. I love you.*

Nothing.

I exit the room. My bodyguard, Icicle, and maid, Lucia, are waiting there. They escort me back to my room.

My room isn't really a room. It's the entire 10th floor of the Ice Palace.

Call me spoiled if you want. I get it a lot.

"Visiting the village, your majesty?" Lucia asks. I nod. Lucia heads to the closet to get some stuff, and Icicle takes his place outside my door.

Lucia comes back inside, carrying 5 dresses. She lays them out on my bed. “Your father requested you to wear these today, Princess,”

I nod and examine them: A blue ruffled long dress, white puffed skirt, simple green dress that would show off my shoulders, and gray skirt of rippling silk. I pick the blue dress. I know it’ll look the best on me. Lucia slips it on me and does my hair into 2 plaits. My father doesn’t like this style, and I’m not a huge fan of it either, but I prefer to wear it when going to the village because most village girls wear their hair like this.

Lucia puts on my diadem back on; A simple circlet of silver, with small diamonds in the front. I’m not allowed to wear a crown until I become a woman, so a diadem will do for now.

She finishes me with some silver slippers, a white fur coat, and pale pink lipstick. I don’t like to wear too much when going to the village, as it intimidates the villagers. If I had it my way I would wear jewels in my hair and rings and bracelets and makeup, but I don’t think it’s really polite since the villagers live on 1-2 meals a day.

I am escorted outside, where a snow chariot pulled by a group of snow leopards stands. A bag of packages of food and other supplies is already there. I climb in.

I ride past fields of ice and snow. The fires from the previous battle with the Fire Kingdom are gone, but you can still see the charred bits of ash and the stumps of trees.

And then we reach the village. It’s large, with quite a pathetic group of houses; with rotting and crumbling wood. The villager’s clothes are ragged and way too thin for the middle of December. My heart crumbles to see it, and I feel terrible for having all of my jewels and silks.

I climb outside the chariot. People start coming out of their houses.

“Hello,” I say to an old couple who come to see me and hand them a package full of clothing and food. More people come pouring out, and I do the same thing to them. They seem eager to receive packages, and as I hand them out I wonder who got the packages with jewelry inside. I snuck in some of my least favorite jewelry. I would do it more often, but I like most of my jewelry and father doesn’t like me giving my jewelry away.

When it seems like everyone has gotten one, there are a couple of extra left. I take them back, as father strictly forbids giving anyone two.

As I’m heading back into the chariot, I hear a voice.

“Hey!” A woman races towards me. She wears a leather jacket, black jeans, and a black shirt. Her dark bangs remind me of claw marks. Her eyes are a dark, greenish-blue. She’s thin, but I can tell she’s strong from her broad shoulders and defined arms and legs.

“What are you doing here?” she demands. Her voice is like ice.

I smile politely and curtsy. No use starting a fight when I don’t need to. Maybe this woman is just upset.

“I’m here to pass out food,” I take one of the packages and hold it out. “Would you-”

The woman grabs the package out of my hands and throws it on the ground. Glass shatters, and jam spills across the snow. I see a diamond in the ground. That package had one of my jewels inside.

I’m shaking from shock. *Who is this woman?* I think numbly.

She bends down, and her fingers land on the diamond. She pulls it out and reveals a diamond necklace.

I hate that thing: It’s heavy and ugly and horribly old fashioned.

She stares at it and laughs.

"Look at this," She holds up the necklace. "Royals get millions of these things. And us?"

She stares at me. Her blue eyes bore into my soul. "And us?" she repeats.

I bite my lip. Behind me, I can hear Icicle tensing.

That's true.

So, so, true.

"I—"

The woman takes the necklace and rips it apart with her bare hands. She storms off, and even though she's gone her presence lingers in the air.

6 gifts. I think, watching the mix of ice, water, fire, earth, darkness, light swirling around me. As far as I know, I am the first elf to have more than 1 or 2 elements in their control.

6 is what I have.

I sigh and close my palm. The swirls of magic disappear from my hand.

My mind wanders to today's meeting with the villagers. The scene replays in my mind, over and over again, that single moment when the woman tore the necklace.

I should feel angry. Angry at the woman. I should be sending soldiers to imprison her right now. That is what I have been taught to do.

So why did I tell Icicle to stay quiet? To ignore an act like that? And act like that that should have cost the woman a long time in the prison?

Ice coat my hands, like it always does when I am nervous. I let it spread, watching the ice grow and grow until it covers my entire arm.

"Thinking, your majesty?" Lucia asks.

I nod. "Did Icicle tell you about what happened?" I ask.

"Yes," Lucia replies, turning back to folding my clothes neatly and stacking them in piles. It pains me to know that all those clothes that Lucia has out are tens of times more than the amount of clothes most villagers have.

There is a long silence. I watch the ice crawl up my neck and to my face, and let it disappear at the last moment.

"You did the right thing, Princess," Lucia says.

"Yes, I know but... It goes against everything I've ever learned,"

Lucia smiles, and even though she's only 20, 5 years older than me, the wisdom in her eyes suggests somebody much older. "You must learn the difference between right and wrong, Venus."

That catches me by surprise. It is forbidden for servants to use my actual first name. "Venus?" I ask stupidly.

"Yes, Venus. Your name is important. I do not believe in people using your title. You are more than that," Lucia replies.

Wow. That is... The nicest thing I had ever heard.

Light tricked onto my fingers, like it does when I'm happy, and I quickly stop it before it crawls up my whole arm. "Thanks,"

Lucia smiled. "You're welcome, Venus. You're welcome,"

The Dark Hole

By Lily Sieman

Part One

Destiny Lido heard the alarm and shot up from her bed. It was the first day of school, and she didn't want to be late. She ran downstairs.

When she got to the kitchen table, there were chocolate chip pancakes and a note that said, "Have a great first day of school! Love, MOM."

At least she left a nice note, Destiny thought.

Destiny's mom worked an early shift and then went to bed right after her shift. She was a doctor. Destiny barely saw her. Destiny's dad died from cancer when she was 2.

The pancakes were cold, but tasted surprisingly good. She hoped her mom had made them that morning.

When she was done she did the dishes because her mom was definitely not going to do them.

She went upstairs to her room to get her clothes on. She picked out a dress and jean jacket from her closet. Then she went to the bathroom. She brushed her teeth as good as she could and brushed her long blond hair. She had learned how to braid her hair and did 2 french braids on the sides. That was her finished look.

The school bus was just arriving when she walked outside. "Oh, No!!!" she said to herself.

She ran as fast as she could and waved her arms. "WAIT!!!!!"

Destiny saw the bus driver in the window looking at his watch. He was tapping the watch when he saw her.

She was nearly there and the bus driver started to close the door. She jumped through the bus door and heard it close. She landed on her face, frustrated, but glad she made the bus.

"Get up," said a mean voice.

Destiny got up and saw the bus driver looking at her.

She was the last stop so everyone was looking at her. She found her usual seat in the back and sat down. She could feel her face turning red hot.

When they got to school everyone was already talking about her epic fall.

Someone from her bus went up to her and said, "Watch this video!"

The video was Destiny falling through the bus doors. Someone had taken a video and Destiny knew who it was.

Courtney Negio.

They were both in 6th grade. She was the school's most popular girl. She had been making fun of Destiny since kindergarten. Destiny never knew why.

Courtney walked up to her. She said, "Hey bus face." Courtney could see the tears in Destiny's eyes. "Are you crying?" Courtney asked with a smile, because she knew the answer.

Destiny ran toward the playground. She was having the worst day and school hadn't even started yet. She stopped to take a breath and decided to run home.

Destiny was in her neighborhood when she saw a flicker of black in the sky. "What was that?!" she yelled.

She heard a noise below and she saw a small hole had started appearing under her. She wanted to move, but something was telling her to stay. Destiny started sinking. She yelled, "HELP ME PLEASE!!!!!!!!!! HELP, HELP, HELP!!!"

Then the sound died down. She had sunken into **A DARK HOLE!!!!**

Part 2 in next OMS Press

Periwinkle Blue Sky

Written with the idea that beaches don't need trash

By: Zorro Ladron

(Fake name)

"Come on, come on! Peri, hurry up!" Blue said as she stuck her head into her sister Periwinkle's room. "Papi says we have to leave in 20 minutes!"

Periwinkle merely nodded and continued shoving clothes and books into a blue suitcase. "I know, I know, I'm almost ready. Is Sky still packing?" She asked breezily, as though they were discussing the weather.

Blue bit her lip. How could her sister, only one year older than her, be so calm all the time?

"Yeah, Sky's about done. She's waiting in the car with Ginger," Blue responded, shaking off her jealousy of her sister and flicking her dark blue hair over her shoulder. Her dark curls had once been black, like her mother's, but she had dyed it on her most recent birthday - the day she had turned 11.

Periwinkle nodded and put a deck of Uno cards into the front pocket of her suitcase. "And you're ready? Your stuff is in the car?" she asked.

Blue nodded. She had just put her own white suitcase in the car with the youngest sister of the three - Sky, who was only 7 years old, and the family cat, Ginger.

"All right then," Periwinkle said, zipping her suitcase up and pulling herself to her feet. "Go watch Sky. I need to put my hair up," she said, reaching for a hair tie.

Blue nodded and rushed out of the room, pausing only to marvel at Peri's long golden hair for a moment, as she always did every time she left her room.

Blue jogged down the stairs and out into the garage, where her sister Sky was playing Candy Crush on their Papi's Ipad, with Ginger, purring, on her lap.

Every summer the family would pile into the car for five long hours and drive to Maine, where they rented a house for one, blissful, happy month.

Blue closed her eyes and pictured it - the green shutters, the back porch, the single swing hanging from the large oak tree in the back, and the slick stone steps leading through the forest and down to the beach.

And somewhere in the forest, found by ducking under a large evergreen, was a narrow path leading to Fort PBS - The old treehouse that the sisters used as a hideout when they were bored of the beach.

There was plenty to do - hammocks the girls had found in the garage and hung up so they would have a place to sleep, piles of books in one corner, a small beanbag chair, and the best view of the sea from the treehouse window.

Blue smiled as she remembered the last time they had been to visit - Peri had been 11, she had been 10, and Sky had only been 6. The visit had involved them heading to many, many candy stores, filling their section of the beach with a whole sand castle city for Ginger, and their Mami teaching them how to skip stones.

"Blue, where's Peri?" Sky asked, startling Blue out of her happy memories.

"She's inside, finishing packing up," Blue told her, ruffling Sky's blond hair.

Sky smiled up at Blue and blinked her long eyelashes.

Oh, don't get cute with me, Blue thought as she turned away to close the trunk of the car.

At that moment, Periwinkle, Mami, and Papi burst out of the house, suitcases in their hands. "Let's move, troops!" Mami shouted as she shoved the rest of the bags into the car. "No time to waste!"

The family piled into the car, and Papi started the engine. Periwinkle pulled out the road map, Sky curled up with Ginger, and Blue pulled out her sketchbook. They were ready for the long car ride.



3 hours later - Periwinkle found herself struggling to keep her focus on the map, and both of her sisters were nodding off. Looking over, Peri saw Ginger purring in her sleep.

"Winky, (Mami said, using Periwinkle's PARENT ONLY nickname) why don't you take a nap? I can navigate."

Periwinkle shrugged and handed Mami the map, deciding to not show how grateful she was to finally get some rest.

"Alrighty. Turn left at the next light Nicolas, we're going to find some lunch," Mami said, addressing Papi.

Peri smiled and closed her eyes. It felt good to hear her mother call Papi by his real name around her, as though she was old enough to hear it.

The sun filtered through the car windows, casting shadows all over the place. Periwinkle felt herself drifting off. *When are we going to get there?* she wondered. *And which room will I get this time?*

When they had been to Maine last year, she had to share the light blue room with Blue, but she didn't mind that. The room had a white, fluffy bunk bed and the book nook in the corner. Sky had gotten the cozy green room with the nice dresser and the bed with the most pillows, and Mami and Papi had gotten the nice white room, with the king sized bed and the big windows.

Peri hoped to get the green room this year, and that Blue and Sky would have to share. Not that she minded sharing or anything, but a girl does have to get some alone time every now and then.

Maybe we'll end up in a different house. One with four bedrooms, so that everyone can get... But Periwinkle had fallen asleep, and never got to finish her train of thought.

Meanwhile, Blue had woken up, but hadn't opened her eyes yet. She had been having a wonderful dream about the treehouse, and that Papi had added on to it and made it Fort PBS 2.0! In the dream, they had all sat up there, even Ginger, and ate lemon cake. And then a giant alien flew in on a hoverboard...

Blue rolled over in her seat and opened her eyes. "Mami?" She asked. "Did you pack snacks?" Her stomach growled as though approving her choice of question.

"Yes, Bluey-Gooey. Of course I packed snacks. How about popcorn and pears?" Her mother offered.

"Sure," Blue said as she sat up in her seat and picked up her sketchbook, which had fallen to the floor while she napped. She opened it and flipped to a blank page, wondering what to draw.

Blue loved art. Painting, sculpting, sketching, she could do it all. And she could do it well. All of her art teachers in school loved her, filling her with praise. She had a collection of report cards from past art classes - all of which had O on them for outstanding.

Positioning her pencil, she began to draw. Her last art teacher had given them the assignment of drawing a picture of what they pictured their summers to be like, and another one for how their summers really were. Blue sketched a quick scene of a treehouse looking out over the ocean, and her head poking out, with the wind whipping her hair around.

"Here you go, hon. Popcorn and pears." Blue nodded and barely reacted when her mother set down the food - she was in what her dad called "The Art Mode," when she became very intent on finishing whatever she was drawing.

The next 2 hours passed by quickly. Blue finished her first drawing of the treehouse and moved on to 17 more, which included;

- A portrait of Ginger sleeping
- Her backpack, in full detail
- A truck
- A girl in jeans and a sweatshirt
- A city
- The beach in Maine
- A surfer on a giant wave

When the car parked smoothly into the resort lot, Blue finally put away her sketchbook, happy with her progress. Sky groaned sleepily and rolled over, not wanting to wake up. Periwinkle opened her eyes slowly and rubbed her sore muscles.

I'm going to get into the house first, and dibs on the best bedroom! Blue thought, realizing that her family was gonna take a while - only her Papi and her Mami had left the car so far.

Blue grabbed her bags, climbed over Sky and Ginger, and jumped into the parking lot. "Whoa....," she said as she looked up at the house.

The family had not rented the usual house, with the green shutters, the back porch, and the oak tree with the small, wooden swing. They had rented out a cozy-looking, large, white house that was two stories tall instead of one. Blue grinned.

"Enough rooms for all of us!" she thought aloud, and rushed up to the front door, which Papi had already unlocked.

Grinning, she stepped inside - and the house was awarded with another; "Woah..."

The inside of the place was even better than the outside! Many puffy chairs surrounded a fireplace, and above the mantel was a painting of the seaside. And more paintings lined the small hallway leading into the kitchen, which had smooth tile (*Perfect for Sock-Skating*, Blue thought), nice counters and a round white table, which Blue assumed was for meals.

Across the kitchen there was a small pantry, and a little coat closet for the family. But Blue didn't have eyes for any of that. She could only see the staircase leading up to the second floor. *New room!* She thought.

Blue dashed up the stairs, taking them 3 at a time. *Room, room, room!* She grinned wickedly.

"Eat my dust, Peri! That good room it as good as mine!" The hallway was silent (other than the rummaging around of belongings in the master bedroom - which her parents had already claimed).

Blue crept down the hall. First room. She smiled and pushed the door open. Sunshine yellow wallpaper greeted her, along with a white bed and two bean bag chairs. A closet for clothes, a nightstand, and a little shelf for visitors to put their books.

"Hmmm... A little too bright. Maybe I'll leave this one for Sky....," Blue said and exited, closing the door behind her.

Second room. Blue pushed the door open and peered inside. The room was painted a light blue, and had a BALCONY. A BALCONY!!! Blue was ready to drop her search right there to have this room. But she had to check the last one first. Noting the lime green covers of the bed and the white curtains, she left.

Final room. Blue took a deep breath and pushed open the door. "Woaaaaahhh....," she whispered. The room

had a bunk bed, but the bottom bunk had been removed and replaced with a little office area, surrounded by paintings. Dark indigo wallpaper, the little nightstands, the bean bag chair by the window, and the view! Oh, the view!

Blue rushed over to the window. The beach stretched out in front of her, and she could see an island out in the distance. And, she could see the top of Fort PBS in the surrounding forest.

Blue smiled. She'd found her room. Now to claim it officially.

"Dibs!" she shouted, throwing her backpack on the floor and running back to the car to grab her suitcase.



Meanwhile, Sky had scooped up Ginger, shouldered her backpack, and clambered out of the car. "I'm gonna get the best room!" She shouted back to Periwinkle. And then she dashed inside.

The first order of business was to set Ginger down, gently of course, and to make sure he didn't go running out the door. Closing the door with a cat in your arms is always a challenge, but Sky managed. Carefully, she set Ginger down, and paused a moment to watch him sniff around the floor, exploring.

"I'm gonna get the best room, Ginger. And you and I can hang out all day." Sky smiled at that thought. Then, she ran upstairs to look around.

A few moments later, Sky had claimed the yellow room. She didn't like the idea of having a balcony - because she was afraid of heights, and Blue had already claimed the indigo room, and yellow was her favorite color. So, here she was.

"Dibs!" she shouted, throwing her backpack down on the floor. At that moment, Periwinkle came in, grinning.

"You guys left me the best room!" she said. "I have a BALCONY!"

"I know," replied Sky. "I'm afraid of heights, and Blue seemed to like the idea of having an office for a room."

Periwinkle nodded. "Well, thanks, little sis," she said. Then she ducked out of sight.

Sky listened happily to the thump and familiar call of, "Dibs!" in the room one over.

"Alrighty then," she told herself. "Let's get unpacking."



"I'm gonna beat you to the beach!" Periwinkle shouted down the hallway, an hour later, when everyone had finished unpacking. She dashed out of her room and down the stairs.

Blue was sitting at the table sipping lemonade and drawing, of course.

Periwinkle jogged past Blue, nearly tripping over Ginger, and hurried out the door. She smiled as she caught a whiff of the sea air from over the top of the hill. Turning, she headed for the backyard.

The backyard was full of soft grass, the kind that has been rained on repeatedly. There was a large oak tree that hung over the side of the house, and Periwinkle was not surprised to find Sky sitting up there.

Periwinkle headed out a little ways and found a set of stone steps leading down to the beach. "Haha, yes! First one there," she whispered triumphantly as she climbed down to the sand. Then, she stopped dead.

"No. No way," she murmured.

"Yes way," said a voice a little ways behind her. Periwinkle spun around.

"Pretty bad, right?" the man asked.

He wore khaki shorts and a Hawaiian shirt covered in little dolphins. "They won't quit it. We have tons of people cleaning up, hosting town meetings, going to the mayor, but nothing works."

Periwinkle's eyes filled with tears as she looked back at the beach. *How?* She thought.

How

many

people

would it take

to cover

a beach with

TRASH?

Broken glass, beer bottles, soda cans, plastic bags, old socks, and strands of yarn littered the soft sand. A seagull was stuck in one of those small sodas can holders. A baby turtle crawled inside of a can. The ocean was dark in the distance - obviously an oil spill.

Periwinkle was the only one on the beach. The sea rushed in and out, taking trash from the beach and into the water, making the ocean grimy and disgusting. Peri sighed.

"How? Who did this?" she said aloud to no one in particular.

A small breeze blew in and ruffled Peri's hair. Periwinkle turned away from the water and began to walk back to the stone steps leading back to the backyard of the rental house.

"Peri? What the-" Blue stood at the bottom of the steps. Her eyes grew wide. "No." She murmured. Then she asked, "What the heck? Are you sure we're in Maine?"

Periwinkle didn't respond.

Blue shook her head. Her knees trembled.

"Come on," Periwinkle said. "Let's go back to the house."

Blue nodded weakly and the two turned and climbed back up the steps, trying to forget what they had just seen.



"Call MOTS at Fort PBS," Blue said as soon as she and Peri were inside the house. Periwinkle nodded and headed for the front door.

Sky, who had been in the family room petting Ginger, looked up, confused, and then gathered the cat in her arms and followed Periwinkle.

Blue grabbed her sketchbook and a pencil, and then snuck some juice boxes into her bag. Then, she too headed out to find Fort PBS in the forest.

It didn't take too much time to find it, but Blue was still grateful to enter the shade of the treehouse. It was a warm day out, even with the cloudy skies.

Sky and Ginger were already up there. How her younger sister had gotten the large cat up there, Blue didn't know.

A little grunting sound from behind her told Blue that Peri was climbing up into the treehouse too. Ginger carefully jumped down from Sky's arms and strutted across the room to the ladder, watching Periwinkle as she pushed herself up.

"What's going on?" Sky asked. "And next time, can we please go to Fort PBS together? The forest is scary..."

Blue resisted the urge to laugh. Her little sister was scared of everything!

"It's about the beach, Sky. It's covered in TRASH!" Periwinkle said, trying to shove a meowing Ginger off of her.

"Huh? Covered in trash? Isn't there like, a No Littering Law?" Sky asked, her face growing white. Ginger climbed off Peri and trotted over to Sky.

"Yeah, there is. But no one is following it!" Blue said. "There's even an oil spill all the way out at sea! And it's killing the animals!"

Sky gasped in her little girly cute way that made Blue want to pinch her.

"We have to do something!" Periwinkle said. "But what?"

END PART ONE

*Just gonna say it now, Zorro Ladron is a FAKE NAME.
And I will drop hints at the end of each story I write, and
it's up to YOU little people to figure out who
I am!!! First hint: I'm in 6th grade. If you're looking for more clues;*

I've also written a story called - Mouthful.

Aventuras Nuestras

Our Adventures

(Spanish)

By: Abby Goodman and Andrea Sanchez

"What are we doing, what are we doing, what are we doing," Erica whispered. She grasped the can of white spray paint in her clammy hand. "What the HECK are we doing?!"

"I don't know, it was your idea!" Felix whispered back.

"MY idea? Geez, bro, I'm trying to SAVE you!" Erica shook her head mopped with black curls.

The two were hiding under a dumpster behind Felix's mother's apartment building. They were fighting again. But this time it wasn't over books or sleepovers, it was about Powers.

Every time someone turned 13, they were sent to the hospital to pick out a "super-power." Long story short, the patient gets a lot of shots injected into their body,

filling their DNA with something people called; Power. Powers took a variety of forms like-shape shifting, telling the future, ect.

Felix smoothed back his own brown hair. "SAVE me? If she catches me spray painting our apartment, I'm gonna be soooo dead!"

Erica sighed. For the past five years since Felix's dad died in a car crash, her best friend had been living with his mother. Whom, Erica thought to herself daily, was a horribly selfish human. And Erica had proof! Felix's mother had chosen the Power to send pain to anyone she wanted. And she used her Power on Felix!

"She uses her OWN POWER on you! Isn't that, like, ILLEGAL?" Erica whispered, putting her thoughts out there, as she often did, without thinking.

"There's no need to spray paint my apartment for that," Felix whispered back. He and Erica got into fights about this often. The thing is though, Erica usually won.

"It's not your apartment. It's your mother's apartment because she PAYS to live there, and she treats you SO BADLY that she doesn't even deserve to be your mom!"

To that Felix had nothing to say. Yes, it was true that his mom paid for the apartment, and yes it was true that she didn't want him to exist, and yes again, she did use her Power on him.

Felix took in a sharp breath and tilted his pointy chin to the sky, as though saying a small prayer.

"Fine. Spray paint it is. So now what do we d-"

"Shhhhh!" Erica interrupted. "Do you hear that?"

They listened. Far off in one of the higher rooms of the apartment building, the sound of laughter was coming from an open window. Felix's face had gone white.

"Mom invited her garden club over tonight... Oh we are IDIOTS! We are so going to get in so much trouble!!" He whispered obviously worried.

"You're the one getting in trouble, not me ya know?!" Erica whisper-yelled.

"Easy for you to say," Felix muttered under his breath.

"No, we're fine! They're distracted! This makes our job EASIER!" Erica whispered back, trying to convince herself more than Felix. "Come on! Let's get this over with," she added.

The two stood up and tip-toed over to the front of the building. Felix pulled down the fire-escape ladder to the room where the laughter was coming from.

•

A few moments later the two stood back, admiring their work. Pink and white danced across the building, spelling out the words;

P O W E R S A R E N ' T F O R M A N I A C S

They'd written it kinda small, but the message was clear. Leave Felix Alone.

Felix was nervously peering over his shoulder as if something would jump out at them.

"Felix, you all right?" Erica asked. "Yeah, yeah, I just can't believe we just did that without getting caught." Felix answered.

"Well, if we stand out here any longer, we ARE going to get caught!" Erica told him as she pulled him back to the alleyway from which they had come.

•

"I didn't do it! I swear!"

"Erica, you were out of bed the whole night, proof from your dog-"

"You're an Animisperer?" Erica asked, wondering if this man had gotten his second Power yet.

"That's beside the point, Erica." The policeman answered, exasperated. "Your dog saw you sneaking in, and I read his mind, because yes, I did choose the Power to read animals thoughts, and what you did was illegal! My goodness... SPRAY PAINTING someone's apartment?"

The policeman trailed off and looked out the window of the dingy old office the two sat in. It was a grey and cloudy day, although the weatherman (Someone named Cris who was a Stormbreaker-someone with the Power to control and predict weather) had told them there should be lots of sun that day.

"Word of advice, don't trust people with the Power Stormbreaker. There's word going around that the DNA altering system glitched when making that Power, and the people who claim to have that Power, can't predict the weather at all," Erica's mother had told her one day while they were folding clothes.

Oh! Her mother. How disappointed she would be when she found out...

"Erica Parkins!" The policeman shouted jolting Erica out of her thoughts. "What?" she asked. The policeman said something into his walkie talkie.

"I just asked you if there was anyone else who helped you spray paint that apartment." There was a pause. A very quiet, very small pause. In that pause, Erica realized that when dealing with police officers, it was best to admit that you committed the crime than to blame someone else... or give away your partner..

"No, officer. No one helped me. I did it myself." The policeman stood and walked to the window, glancing around as if someone might have been listening in.

"Erica... you'll be 13 next week, right?"

The question was so out of the ordinary that for a moment, Erica couldn't speak.

"Y-y-yes sir. I will be 13 on October 22nd," Erica responded.

"All right then. Due to law, we are not allowed to punish you during the month in which you get your Power. But once you have it..."

The silence that followed made Erica vow to herself to never again touch a can of spray paint for the rest of her life.

End of Part One

Keep an eye out for Part Two in the next OMS Press!!! 😊

Survive

Part 1

By: Ava Benavides with help from Sydney Lader

Cam, Mike, Autumn, and Hope absolutely hated school, just like A LOT of other kids at their school. Cam liked sports. Mike failed every class, Autumn loved cooking, and Hope was your everyday social media whizz. If you need to know something about the internet she was the person you would go to. But the thing was, all those people were on different sides of the river. They knew each other but not very fondly. I mean Hope once invited Autumn to her 7th birthday party, but at that time she invited the whole class, so you get the irony.

Our story starts 20 years ago, this day, but in 2019. Cam, Hope, Mike, and Autumn were all required to go to each other's houses and play a board game. That's where our story starts.

The teacher had just announced board game day, and nobody was happy. Hope turned around to her friend Liv and said in a whisper, "I can't believe the teacher is having board game day. I'm already 15?!"

"Class, I am assigning groups. Be quiet," their teacher hissed.

Autumn looked around. She was worried. She thought, "I hope I'm not in a group with Neil Righters." He picks his nose and she didn't want to see that up close.

"Let's... let's have Hope and Autumn with Michael and Camron in a group."

"Ugh. I can't believe she put me in a group with Hope! She won't pay any attention." Autumn thought to herself.

Cam got up and joined Mike, Hope, and Autumn. "Okay I have to survive," Cam pointed out.

"What's that?" Autumn, Hope and Mike said almost at the same time.

"It's a game that my dad gave me. It's the only board game we have, and it's been passed down in my family for a long time," Cam said shakely. "I really don't want it. I mean, what if there are spiders or something in it. We haven't played that game for like, a million years!"

"Let's play it!" Mike said.

"Sure but how do you play it?" Hope asked questioningly.

"You um... how do you play?" Cam asked himself?

"Let's just open the game and read the directions," Autumn said.

"But it's so old and the directions are faded," Cam stepped in.

"Who cares?!" Mike said. Then he yelled, "Free for all!"

Hope butted in, "This better not take long. I have a class to learn how to take a good selfie at 5:00," and with that they dispersed for their next class.

...

DING DING the broken school bell rang and the students all packed up.

They walked together to Cam's house.

"This is your house?!" Hope almost shouted.

"I know, I know, I'm not rich," Cam hung his head low.

"No no! This house is Amazilicious! It's gorgeous. I need to take a picture so I can show it to Mrs.Reinfield, my photo teacher. She'll be so amazed. She loves houses like this, old and rusty. This picture is going to be AMAZING!" Hope squealed! Hope pulled out her phone. This wasn't odd because she pulled it out about every 5 minutes.

They went inside and sat down at a small table. Cam opened the game and a slight breeze came out of the box.

"Does this remind anyone of Jumanji?" Cam asked.

"The movie about the people who get sucked into a video game" Autumn asked?

"No, no. The one that came out like 50 years ago about the people that bring Jumangi to earth from a board game," Cam explained.

"Kinda?" Mike said questioningly.

The game had a big board with gold letters on the top that read **SURVIVE**. Cam dusted off the rest of the game and then coughed.

"Yikes when my dad said this game was pretty old, he was right!"

There were two dice and a board that had what looked like a bunch of caves from Indiana Jones and there were also a bunch of hills, a few mountains, a desert and even a big grassy meadow. There were four characters you could be: **Mr. Calimyster, the witty professor; Mr. Overwatch, the scaredy cat who knew nothing; Miss Torpedo, the workout girl who could conjure things; and Mr. Rightfight, the strong go-getter.**

"I'll be Mrs. Torpedo," Autumn said as she read the card about Mrs.Torpedo with a picture of a young teen with a long ponytail on the back.

"I'll be Mr. Calimyster," Mike said as he read a card with a guy with cheerful eyes, big glasses, and a ponytail.

"I'll be Mr. Rightfight," Cam said as he saw a handsome young man with giant abs and a ponytail that went to his shoulders." It's not like I could actually look like him though," he frowned.

"Hope, you are Mr.Overwatch," Cam said.

"Right. Okay," Hope said looking at her phone and not paying any attention to the game. Cam rolled the dice and an echoing scream came from the game.

Read Part 2 in the next OMS Press!

Mouthful

By: Zorro Ladron (Pen name)

December 2nd

2007

Dear Mrs. Bruno,

Okay, first off, I'd like to tell you what's going on right now. Why I'm not talking. Why I'm trying to get other kids to not talk. Why we're on a kind of revolution. I'm currently only talking at home and when a teacher calls on me, but nowhere else. Other kids are blabbing their mouths off whenever they feel like it, even if they signed the oath I made in my notebook.

Well, I feel like you need to know what's happening, and why your classroom is quiet ALL THE TIME. It was kinda my friend's idea, so if you get mad, don't be too harsh on me. You see, I just got braces. The full set. And they're REALLY annoying. I can't talk properly! And I have a reputation to uphold! So, I stopped talking. And when I did, it was with My. Best. Diction. so no one would know!

I tried to get other kids to stop talking too, so that I wouldn't be left out or bullied. I don't like the idea of being left out or bullied. AT ALL. So, I'm writing to you and explaining what's going on and asking you to not try to stop it, because then I'll be the only one who's not talking, and I will get bullied, most likely.

Sincerely yours,
Renie Parker

December 2nd
2007

Dear Ms. Parker,

Thank you for writing me and telling me what's going on. Most of my recent students don't do that kind of stuff. I do understand why you would try to get my class to stop talking, and most of the time it is very helpful. But, Renie, I don't think you have to get the ENTIRE 6th grade on board with this!

Socializing is a part of life, and if you don't talk or sing or express yourself using your voice, you might be in some trouble. I won't try to stop you because, well, I care about you, but I would advise to drop the whole thing and be yourself!

~Mrs. Bruno

December 5th
2007

Dear Kiwi,

Hi! Banana writing from a chilly Ohio! How's Hawaii? I hope it's warm up there. First off, what do you think our next nickname of the week should be? I was thinking something candy-related instead of fruit-related. Yes, I do think that even if we are in different states, we should do the nickname thing. I mean, just plain old Anna and Renie isn't gonna cut it.

The whole no-talking thing is going great, thanks for the idea! I did tell Mrs. Bruno about what happened, but I only said, "I got the idea from a friend," and not, "My best friend Anna gave this idea." Just so you know.

There's a new girl coming to our class in, like, 3 or so weeks, right after winter break is over. And when you're back!!! I'm really sad that you had to leave a few days earlier. I REALLY miss you! Please right back soon, Kiki. Byeccc!

Sincerely yours,
Banana

December 13th

2007

Dear Banana,

Sorry I took so long to write back, I guess postal service isn't as good here as it is in Ohio! Hawaii is GREAT!!! Our hotel had a GIANT POOL on the ROOF! So cool!

I miss you too, Banana, by the way. Also, I do like the idea of doing candy nicknames for this week! I think I'll be... umm... Oh! How about, Kit Kat? I like that A LOT better than just Kiwi. What is your nickname gonna be?

I haven't made any friends here yet, but it is very warm here. I'm glad the no talking thing is working out!

See you soon,
Kit Kat
(Formerly known as Kiwi)

To: Nico Ink

From: Cassie Bruno

Subject: No talking

Hello, Mr. Ink. I have a very important subject in our hands. First off, how are your students doing? Are they acting, well, quiet lately? Because, you see, my class has stopped talking.

Well, they still respond when I ask them a question in class, but other than that, they don't talk. Instead, they are using papers to pass notes in class, sign language, and body movements to tell each other what they want.

Is your class doing this too? Because I understand that they have recess together...

Cassie Bruno

To: Cassie Bruno
From: Nico Ink
Subject: Re: No talking

There are few students who are doing it, yes. But not the whole class. Have you figured out who started it?

Nico Ink

To: Nico Ink
From: Cassie Bruno
Subject: Re re: No talking

Yes, I think I know who started it. Renie Parker. She wrote a letter to me a few days ago saying that she says she doesn't want to talk because she just got braces and that they made her talk funny. Not wanting to be left out, she started a NO TALKING revolution.

Cassie Bruno

To: Cassie Bruno
From: Nico Ink
Subject: Re, re, re: No talking

Renie Parker? Really? She was a top student in 5th grade! Huh. Well, I guess things can change... How do we stop it? If Renie has started it off, and we punish her, do you think we can stop it? Have you talked to her yet? Maybe a detention wouldn't hurt... Or we could talk to the principal and have her come in and encourage them to talk?

Nico Ink

To: Nico Ink
From: Cassie Bruno
Subject: Re, re, re, re: No talking

Let's ask to have a staff meeting and see what the other grade teachers think. You never know! Maybe the others will think we're crazy for trying to stop kids from being quiet. It's always been difficult to do that.

Cassie Bruno

December 13th
2007

Dear: Kit Kat

I think that my nickname should be Starburst. I really like them! They have tons of different packaging too, gum and chewies, and hard candies. Also, Starburst kinda sounds spacy, you know? Like, Star - burst? A star bursting?

I've always wanted to see a star explode. And shout, KA-BOOOM! with it. That would be so cool! So, my name is Starburst for the week.

Tomorrow is Winter Break! And I'll get my phone back! (Yes, I WAS grounded, that's why I couldn't come over before you left!)

Now I'll be able to email you!!! Yes!!! My hand is starting to get sore from writing all these letters. Well, I'll see you soon!

Sincerely yours,
Starburst
(Formerly known as Banana)

To: Anna Ling
From: Renie Parker
Subject: WINTER BREAK!!!

Hi, Kit Kat! Me again. I hope you got my letter. If not, it's fine. We're world's away! Is it like, midnight where you are now? Sorry if I woke you up...

To: Renie Parker
From: Anna Ling
Subject: Re: WINTER BREAK!!!

Hi ya, Starburst! No it's not midnight, it's like, 7:30 PM. I'm getting ready to go to dinner.
How's your winter break?

To: Anna Ling
From: Renie Parker
Subject: Re, re: WINTER BREAK!!!

My winter break is going good so far, but we need to talk about the whole, No Talking thing... I think the 6th grade teachers are on to me. Yesterday they kept calling on me in class, and Mr. Ink was eyeing me in the hallway. Did Mrs. Bruno tell them???

To: Renie Parker
From: Anna Ling
Subject: Re, re, re: WINTER BREAK!!!

You know teachers, they always tell their friends. Here's my advice; lay LOW. Get more people to sign the oath. I'll sign it when I get back from Hawaii. At lunch PRETEND to be engrossed in conversation, nod, laugh along, ect. Showing them that you're still socializing should help to get them off your back. I need to go now, my mom's calling me. Try out my advice when school starts again!!!

January 1st
2008

Dear: Big Bro

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!! I hope you're having fun in college! I have SO MUCH to tell you! We all love and miss you, Daniel. Well, first off, there's this No Talking thing that's going around at school, that I started. (Sheepish grin) Well, I started it because of my braces, if you were wondering. I don't like talking with them because my voice is all funky.

And I don't like being the only one to do things, so I made everyone else do it too. I thought I would be fine, using sign language and passing notes for the rest of the year. But here's the funny thing. THE TEACHERS DON'T LIKE IT.

WHAAAAAT??? Yeah, I know. You'd think that they'd be HAPPY that I took the mess of getting the students to quiet down off of their hands! But now they're trying to end it. Daniel, I don't want to get teased for talking funny! Please, I know you're in Japan, and you're probably all busy with your work, but I REALLY NEED YOU HELP!!! Write back soon...

Love, your little annoying sister,
Renie

END PART ONE

Hello! As I've already said in Periwinkle Blue Sky, (Have you guys read that story yet?) Zorro Ladron is a fake name. I'm putting clues at the end of every single one of my stories!

*Here's the hint for this story: **Mouthful** is based on a small moment in my life. (Not the no talking part. That was from the book - **No Talking** By Andrew Clements, but the **BRACES** part...) Keep an eye out for any other hints in my other stories!!!*

Informational Writing

Impeachment News

William Stella

If you have been following politics recently, then I am sure that you would have heard about our president Mr. Donald Trump. Just last week a vote approved moving forward with the impeachment process of Mr. Trump.

What does the word “Impeached” mean? Impeached is the process where the following happens to a person in office:

1. First, the people who believe that he did a high crime or misdemeanor gather evidence to prove that the person in office did something wrong.^[4]
2. Second, the House of Representatives will vote and if they get 2/3rds or more votes that say he is guilty. Then the person is officially impeached.^[4]
3. Third, the Senate puts the president to trial. If they find him guilty then he will be removed from office.^[4]

First, Congress gets proof that he did a “high crime or misdemeanor.”^[5] In our case what President Trump did was the following: while talking to Ukraine’s president, Vladimir Putin, he encouraged President Putin to look into a scandal involving Mr. Joe Biden and his son Hunter Biden. [Mr. Joe Biden is a political rival of Mr. Trump’s. He is also running for president in 2020 and is likely to be running against Mr. Trump.] It is unclear whether President Trump threatened to take away military aid if President Putin did not look into this. Some people think this because a few days before this phone call, he directed the Attorney General Barr to withhold some military aid from Ukraine. This could be true, although President Trump denies this.^[1, 2]

Next, the House of Representatives has to vote. In the House, there are 235 democrats and 197 republicans.^[7] President Trump is Republican, so the majority of the republican section of the House will probably vote for him. If this is true, then he may not get enough votes to be impeached.

Lastly, if he gets through the first 2 steps then he gets put on trial by the Senate. This is the part when the Senate decides whether or not to remove him from office.^[4]

President Trump is the third president ever to be tried for impeachment. This is a really big and important thing that at least everyone who lives in America has the right to know about it.

Sources:

1. <https://www.cnn.com/2019/09/25/politics/donald-trump-ukraine-transcript-call/index.html>
2. <https://www.cnn.com/interactive/2019/09/politics/whistleblower-complaint-annotated/>
3. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Attempts_to_impeach_Donald_Trump
4. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Impeachment_in_the_United_States#Procedure
5. The New York Times - National Edition

The Founding Fathers

By: Robert Ferro

Back in the age of the Revolutionary War there were some influential men who were viewed as the most important and influential in American history. Today these people are known as the Founding Fathers. There were many influential people at that time, but the most famous are George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, James Monroe and Benjamin Franklin. If you want to learn more, keep reading.



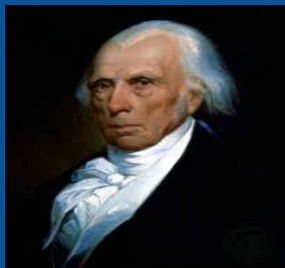
The first and perhaps most important Founding Father is George Washington. He was the commander-in-chief of the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War. He was the first president of the United States and he served for two terms in a row. He single handedly laid the foundation for what an American president should be like/act like. Although most of his speeches and articles were written by another Founding Father, Alexander Hamilton. Washington was also the writer himself, mostly self educated. He never abused his power as president. George Washington lived a long life for his time, living from February 22, 1732 through December, 14 1799. At the age of 67, he contracted a throat infection after riding his horse in a snowstorm. Sadly, this resulted in his death and the end of a great man's life.



The second founding father is John Adams. He was known for many things, but he is most well known for his brilliance, extraordinary political independence and

being the 2nd president of the United States. John Adams won the presidential election and served from 1797-1801, with Thomas Jefferson as his vice president. John Adams was the first president to live in the White House and had 5 children, he lived an incredibly long life for his time, living from October 30, 1735 through July 4, 1826.

Another Founding Father is Thomas Jefferson. He was the 3rd president of the United States with Aaron Burr as his vice president. Thomas Jefferson was a democratic-republican and was a great and intelligent man in life and plays one of the most important roles in the history of the U.S.A. He lived to the old age of 83 years old before dying on July 4th, 1826.



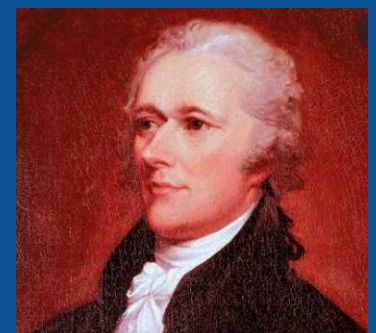
Another Founding Father is James Madison. He worked on the first Constitution and the Bill of Rights. He also helped co-write the Federalist papers with Alexander Hamilton and John Jay. In addition, he co-founded the Democratic-Republican party. He became the Secretary of State when Thomas Jefferson was president and he later served as the 4th president of the United States. He did many important things.

James Monroe was another founding father, when he was only a teen he was a hero in the battle of Trenton and in the famous painting of Washington crossing the Delaware he was supposed to be the person holding the flag, he was elected the 5th president of the United States. He died on July 4th, 1831.



Benjamin Franklin was an important founding father and only had two years of formal education. Benjamin Franklin became a hit writer as a teenager and spent half his life in unofficial retirement, he also was a genius creating an instrument used by Mozart and Beethoven, he was also a reluctant revolutionary and his son was a British loyalist, although he was a leading author, printer, political theorist, politician, Freemason, postmaster, scientist, inventor and civic activist. He is currently on the \$100 bill and died on April 17, 1790. His last words were "A dying man can not do nothing easy."

The last and probably most important founding father was Alexander Hamilton. Alexander Hamilton had his reputation destroyed after he died by other politicians and while he lived with the Reynolds Pamphlet. He started the first national bank and wrote most of George Washington's addresses, letters, and speeches. His story is currently being told through a Broadway play and that play has gained a lot of fame. In 1780 he married the daughter of a very rich man named Phillip Schuyler, he was also a colonel in the



revolutionary war and later promoted to general, He was born as a kid in the caribbean and looked to war as a way for him to rise up in life and secure his place in history. When he was 10 his parents split and two years later his mother died, when he was 17 a hurricane destroyed his town and he wrote about, soon the people in his town saw his writing and literally got people to donate money to get him a ticket on a ship heading to new york, his brilliant writing was also represented when he wrote love letters to Eliza Schuyler (who he later married) and also with the federalist papers. In the federalist papers he was planning to write a series of 25 essays with his friends John Jay and James Madison, in the end they ended up writing a total of 85 essays John Jay wrote 5, James Madison wrote 29, and Hamilton wrote the other 51, Hamilton's writing really was a masterpiece, and he was really important in the creation of America, but out of all the other founding fathers, he died the youngest. In 1804 he dueled Aaron Burr, he was shot and died soon after. These are just a few of the things made Hamilton the most influential and important founding father, there are still many other things but these are some of the most important, I hope you now feel like I do with Alexander hamilton, that he was an influential and important.

Now you know about the 7 founding fathers and how they are important and influential. George Washington was a general and the first president. John Adams was a political genius. Thomas Jefferson was a powerful political figure and the third president. James Madison was a secretary of state. Alexander Hamilton was one of the most brilliant men who ever lived and created the national bank. James Monroe was a military hero. Last, but not least, Benjamin Franklin wrote the Declaration of Independence.

Sources: Wikipedia on each founding father

Area 51 Raid



By:Malec Jirari

Inspired by: Brandon Polomsky

As you all know Area 51 is a secret military base (I would classify it as the best in the world). The Area 51 Raid was supposed to happen on September 20, 2019. People were planning to raid Area 51 to get aliens. People thought they were going to get stuff like 100% germ killing hand sanitizer and Minecraft 2. People wanted to raid Area 51 because of their curiosity of this highly secretive place. It was thought that millions of people were going to go, but in actuality, only 200 people went.

In the actual raid, 2 people got arrested and luckily no one died or got hurt. One person got arrested for an alcohol related arrest and another for Indecent Exposure. During the raid, there was a Rollover accident that happened. A Rollover accident is a car collision usually with a motorcycle involved.

The person who actually started the Storm Area 51 plan was Matty Roberts. His line was “they can’t stop us all”. The plan of the raid went viral on social media and everyone was talking about it.

The people who actually did go are lucky because it could have gone bad and people could have been hurt.

Source Used: [Cnn News](#)

FLL and Jr.FLL

by Vishesh Goyal

Do you really like playing with legos? Do you like working with a team? Do you like programing? If you said yes to any of the above questions, then First Lego League (FLL) is for you!

FLL and Jr. FLL is about legos and teamwork and competition. In Jr. FLL you build a model with lego bricks and then in FLL you get to build a robot. After you build the robot you get to program it so the robot can move and complete tasks. Then in FTC (FTC stands for FIRST Tech Challenge) you build an actual robot from metal parts and metal wires and it takes hard work to build it. The teams also have to build a remote control so they can move the robot in the competition. FTC is really different from FLL and Jr. FLL.

As a part of First Lego League, teams follow the FLL core values or expectations. The core values are:

- **Discovery** : *We explore new ideas*
- **Innovation**: *We use creativity and persistence to solve problems.*
- **Impact**: *We apply what we learn to improve our world.*
- **Inclusion**: *We respect each other and embrace our differences.*
- **Teamwork**: *We are stronger when we work together.*
- **Fun**: *We enjoy and celebrate what we do!*

These are the values that you will learn and work from that teams will show the judges in the expo.

Teamwork is all about working with your team. It's about having fun problem solving and working together to build the model in a short amount of time. It's about working together to be prepared for the Expo (the competition).

What to expect : what you will expect is , your meeting spot. Your meeting spot is really important because that's where you will meet so that you can create your project and your model, but for FLL you need to meet at someone's home that is in your team. Your team can meet any time you want and any day you want until November or December, because in November the competition is for FLL and in december the competition is in december. Also, your team will need to go to at least 2 field trips so that you can learn new things and you can put your pictures in your show me posters.

Expo's are the most important part for Jr. FLL, and tournaments are the most important part for FLL. In the expo's for Jr. FLL teams put their model and show me poster on the table so that when the judges come around then they can easily see the work that has been done. The judges grade the work quickly. Then after they do that and all the teams are graded, they will call out teams to get awards.

With FLL when you go to the tournament teams put their robot and show me poster on a table. Teams wait until their time comes to present their robot and also present the show me poster to the judges. The judges are really nice and they will praise team if they really like the work. At the awards, teams are called up. Not all teams get awards.

This is the link for the Jr. FLL and FLL website: [Click on this](#)

Quarter 3 2019 Tech News

By Deniz Buldum

Apple:



Apple has recently released its [iPhone 11](#), [iPhone 11 Pro](#), and [iPhone 11 Pro Max](#). In the same event, they have also announced their Apple Watch Series 5, and their new [2019 iPad refresh](#).

iPhone 11, 11 Pro, and 11 Pro Max

The new Apple iPhone 11 is the successor of the hugely popular iPhone XR. It addresses some of the problems with the iPhone XR.

As Apple's new "budget" phone, Apple has decreased the price by \$50. This may not seem like a lot, but by doing this, Apple is leaving a possible 1 BILLION dollars of profit on the table. This shows that Apple may even be losing sales because of outstanding budget options from the likes of Xiaomi, OnePlus, and Samsung. This phone also comes with 2 cameras instead of one, a feature that Android phones have had for a LONG time. So you can now take ultrawide pictures with the cheapest new iPhone. This phone also features the Apple A13 Bionic, one of the fastest smartphone chips in the world, along with 4K 60 FPS video recording and Apple's 3rd Generation Neural Engine (a unique chip designed to help the phone with AI-related tasks). The 11 Pro lineup comes equipped with another camera, an OLED display instead of the Liquid Retina/Advanced LCD display in the 11. Other than that, and its unreasonable price tag of \$1000+ compared to the iPhone 11, the Pro iPhones don't really have any big differences.

The new launch also drove down the price of the old iPhones more than normal. For example, you can get a brand new iPhone 8 for only \$480, and last year's iPhone XR for only \$600, which makes it more affordable for millions of smartphone users.

Apple Watch

Apple also released the new Apple Watch Series 5 in the same event. The new Apple Watch has an always-on display that dims the display's brightness and turns off some of the pixels when you're not looking at it. It comes in either 100% recycled aluminum, stainless steel, ceramic, and titanium. Other than that, there aren't many differences.

Samsung

Galaxy Book S

The Galaxy Book S is a new premium Samsung ultraportable laptop using Qualcomm's 8cx laptop platform (A chip similar to many smartphone chips). The benefit of using a modified phone chip shows in battery life (23 HOURS) and thermals (zero fans). This makes it so that the device stays quiet and cool, even under load because these processors don't need much cooling. The device also turns on instantly and integrates beautifully with other Galaxy devices. It has a 13.3-inch display, a chiclet (a compact style of keyboard with very little key travel) keyboard, and 8 gigs of RAM. It isn't available to order yet, though.



Galaxy Note 10

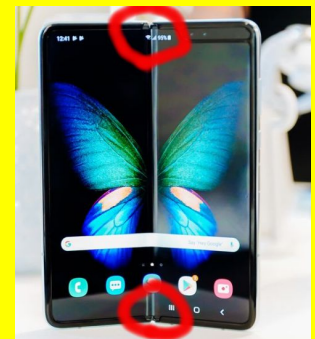


In the same event, the Galaxy Note 10 was announced, now being available to buy. It has an Infinity-O curved display, and features a new S Pen. It also has a plain, slightly curved, rectangular shape. Other than that, and considering the fact that the regular Note 10 isn't as high-res as the 10+, it really isn't all that different from the Galaxy S10 Plus.

Galaxy Fold

The "redone" Samsung Galaxy Fold is now available. It is kinda the same as the old Galaxy Fold, but it has some new plastic dust blockers around the hinges.

Samsung has made the hinges stiffer to further decrease chances of dust getting into the screen. Some sources say that it also feels sturdier.



Galaxy Tab S6



The new Galaxy Tab S6 was announced at the same time as the Note 10. As usual with Samsung, its display blows ABSOLUTELY EVERYTHING out of the water with a resolution of 2560x1600 (quad HD!) and is the first tablet to support HDR 10+. Nothing can match this display. On the performance side of things, it is average for a phone

released in mid-2019 with a Qualcomm Snapdragon 855 and either 6 or 8 gigabytes of RAM. The thing is, it doesn't hold a candle to the Surface Pro 6. At only \$250 more, and with a full laptop grade Intel Core i5-8250U, it's your best bet for a high-end hybrid. Also, it has a 2736 x 1824 screen that is even sharper than that beautiful QHD display. As if that wasn't already enough, it has many more ports and runs full Windows 10.

QLED 8K TV

Samsung has released a new 8K TV, with a price tag to match. The price for the 55" model is \$2,499. You can expect to pay a whopping \$69,999 to \$99,999 for one of the absolutely huge 98" model. WOAHH. 100 GRAND. FOR A TV. WHAT THE HECK? How does Samsung expect to actually make a profit? Nobody will buy this except for crazy rich home theater enthusiasts.



Microsoft

Surface Event 2019

While writing this, there was a new unexpected Microsoft event, in which many new Surface devices were announced, including the Surface Pro 7, the Surface Laptop 3, the Surface Neo, the Surface Duo, the Surface Pro X, and the Surface Earbuds.

Surface



Microsoft released the new Surface Pro 7, which comes with Intel's new 10th Gen Core series, fast charging and (finally) a USB-C port. In fact, all of the new Surface devices come with USB-C and fast charging. That makes the Surface Pro 7 friendlier to a lot of users. Also, they released a foldable phone and tablet and a pair of wireless earbuds, although most of the stuff will be arriving in 2020.

Google

Google has had an event where its heavily leaked Pixel 4 was announced. It was pretty much a spec bump with a few features to show off the RADAR CHIP that they put in the phone. It lets the phone automatically sense when you pick it up so that it can show the time and prep its face-recognition sensors. It also has a time-of-flight camera that can vastly improve the photos if used the right way.

Now to introduce the problems that plague every Pixel launch:

- The face unlock function works when your eyes are closed, so people can unlock your phone when you're sleeping
- Battery life is poor
- There is only up to 128GB of storage, in an age when a lot of phones are getting 1TB+ of super-fast storage.



Following the trend of renaming all their products Nest, the Google Home Mini has been renamed to the Nest Mini 2nd Gen. It has better sound too, and it remains the go-to smart speaker. If this keeps going, Google will probably be replaced with Nest Search Engine. I certainly wouldn't be surprised.

So that was it. Apple released their new phones, along with Google and Samsung, and Microsoft went crazy with the foldable electronics thing.

Sources: [Surface Event 2019](#); Apple website, Samsung website, Google store website



Halloween: A History

By Robert Ferro

Do you like Halloween? Everybody does! But have you ever wondered about its origins and where it came from? Read on and you will find out!

Halloween first originated from the ancient Celtic Festival of Samhain. People would wear costumes and start bonfires to ward off ghosts.

Things would later change and in the eighth century, Pope Gregory III designated November 1st as a day to honor saints. All Saints Day incorporated some of the Celtic traditions and the day before All Saints Day was designated all Hallows Eve (later Halloween).

This day marked the end of summer and the beginning of the harvest, and cold winter (a time associated with human death). People believed that on the day before All Saints Day the worlds of the living and the dead became blurred, and that on October 31st the dead ghosts would return to Earth. The spirits were believed to cause trouble and ruin crops. People called Druids built huge sacred bonfires to burn crops and animals as sacrifices to the Samhain deities. At the end of the night they relit the hearth fires to prepare them for the winter to come.

The celebration of Halloween was extremely rare in colonial New England. As the beliefs and customs of different European ethnic groups and the American Indians meshed, a distinctly American version of Halloween began to emerge. Some of the early celebrations were called "Play Parties". Play Parties were public events to celebrate the beginning of the harvest. People would tell the stories of the dead and tell each others' fortunes. Some early Halloween festivities in Colonial America included telling ghost stories and making mischief.

The many immigrants coming to America in the second half of the 19th century helped popularize the celebration of Halloween nationally. Stealing from the European traditions, people began dressing up and going from door to door asking for money. It eventually became trick-or-treating where people would ask for candy.

In the late 1800's there was a movement in America to change Halloween into more of a time of socializing and neighborly get togethers, than about pranks and witchcraft.

At the beginning of the 20th century, Halloween parties for both children and adults became popular. Parties focused on games, food, and festive costumes.








Today there are many Halloween movies being made and lots of Halloween parties happen at this time of the year. Halloween has become such a big candy giving holiday that 25% of the candy purchased annually in the U.S. is for Halloween.

Halloween has since evolved into a day with many fun festivities and activities, like trick-or-treating, pumpkin carving and apple bobbing. Black cats and witches have become symbols of Halloween and it is considered unlucky to cross paths with a black cat. This folklore originated in medieval times when people believed that to avoid detection, witches would turn into black cats.

This is the history of Halloween, from the ancient festivals, to the fun parties and everything in between. Halloween is an amazing holiday with a rich history and what better time to share this information than October!

THE MOST POPULAR COSTUME IDEAS FOR EACH GRADE (PRE-K THRU 5TH)

PRESENTED BY SONYA MALIK

PRE-K	UNICORNS, DISNEY CHARACTERS, ANIMALS, BUGS, AND WITCHES COSTUMES.	
KINDERGARTEN	MARIO KART, DESCENDANTS, DISNEY CHARACTERS, UNICORNS AND WITCHES COSTUMES.	
1ST GRADE	DESCENDANTS, DISNEY CHARACTERS, WONDER WOMAN, SUPERGIRL, AND STAR WARS COSTUMES.	
2ND GRADE	DESCENDANTS, MINIONS, SUPER HEROES, HARRY POTTER, POLICE OFFICERS, AND ATHLETE COSTUMES.	
3RD GRADE	ATHLETES, SUPER HEROS, FOODS, HARRY POTTER, POLICE OFFICERS, AND ANIMAL COSTUMES.	
4TH GRADE	FOODS, SUPER HEROES, POLICE OFFICERS, STORY BOOK CHARACTERS, ATHLETES, AND HARRY POTTER COSTUMES.	
5TH GRADE	FOODS, ATHLETES, SUPER HEROES, AND HALLOWEEN CLASSIC COSTUMES (VAMPIRES, WITCHES, GHOSTS, ETC).	

Argumentative

Children at Orchard Need More Recess

🕶️ By Emmett Coggin

In my opinion, children at Orchard Middle School should get more recess 🙏. Honestly, it feels like we walk out the door to recess and we have to come back in.

According to google, children around the world get an average recess time of twenty five minutes. That's a lot more than Orchard students!! We get fifteen if we're LUCKY!! But if we're late it's ten. For kids that play sports, it's even less. It takes about five minutes to get the teams set up, everyone outside, and on the soccer field.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends that children participate in 60 minutes of "moderate to vigorous activity per day," -and suggested that recess be part of that. One very important point is that the activity at recess helps children focus. Students are less fidgety and energetic, so they can settle down and learn better. When kids don't get the exercise they need, some struggle to sit still. Recess would definitely help children with focus and learning.

A second reason that kids should get more recess at Orchard is it reduces stress. It's helpful to get a break. It's HARD for kids to constantly be thinking about academics. The pressure to do well and responsibility expectations puts stress on kids. It's hard for students to concentrate. It's harder to learn when you're stressed. But recess takes students' minds off all the things they're stressed about.

Recess contributes to student health. According to PATHWAYS TO FAMILY WELLNESS, "Many children suffer from obesity, but even children at healthy weight levels benefit from physical activity". Recess can help students be physically active. All kids need to run and get some exercise. Exercise helps the brain and your health. Recess is a time you can do that! And we're not getting enough recess during the school days.

Recess time actually teaches life skills. Students learn to cooperate with others. Students learn to compromise and share. Students also learn teamwork. These skills are important for life in the future.

Recess is also a social outlet. Students meet new people. Students are super chatty during class because they don't have enough time to be social during a 15 minute recess.

Last but not least, not only do we already only get fifteen minutes for recess, but because of being called in early, we generally don't even get those fifteen minutes. Students are called in early to line up. Below is a chart for the recess time we actually had from tuesday October 1st to October 4th (There was no school on Monday).

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
4 Minutes	7 Minutes	5 Minutes	4 Minutes

In all 4 days together Orchard 5th graders only got twenty minutes. In four days, they got less than they should in two.

In conclusion, kids at Orchard should get a lot more recess. It would help kids both mentally and physically. It would help them make friends and stop stressing. The reasons stated in this text are only a few of the many MANY, reasons recess is important. Children at Orchard would benefit from more recess.

Lunch Line Rights

By Lily Siemen

School rule: You can't tie your coat around your waist or put it on without zipping it up when you're in the lunch line.

Should we keep the rule or should it go away? The Orchard cafeteria established the rule because it is thought that students have been stealing food.

Following are two opinions about this rule.

The rule should go away!!	The rule should stay!!
The rule is not necessary. It should definitely go away. Kids are honest and don't want to get in trouble. In line people say, "Why do I have to zip up my jacket, I don't like it." People also say, "I'm not going to steal anything! Who would think I	The rule should stay. It makes sure people aren't stealing. The rule must have been put into place because people were stealing. Of course people might say, "I'm not going to steal." Do we really believe them? Stealing shouldn't be a thing,

would steal anything." There are adults everywhere. Kids couldn't steal anything. People these days don't even care about stealing food. Kids are honest and don't want to get in trouble. The rule is not necessary!! It should go away!!

however, there are lots of tempting things to steal, everywhere people go, even school cafeterias.. It's not difficult for kids to zip up their coat and take something from the Orchard cafeteria. People steal, that's life. The Orchard rule is a very reasonable rule. It should stay!!

You can vote on the rule. Just click here [Voting on school rule](#)

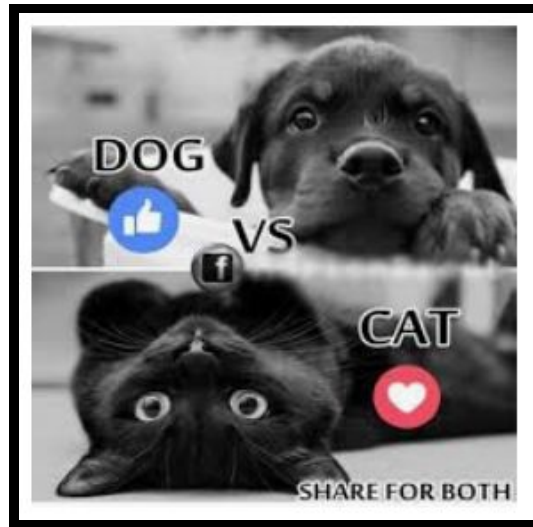
Dogs vs. Cats

By Ava Benavides

The lifelong question! All this time we have been searching for the answer! We need to know... DOGS OR CATS! Some people may like cats. Some people like dogs. They have their ups, they have their downs. What will you choose?

Read what research says about dogs and cats as pets....

Dogs	Cats
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dogs make great companions• They help you stay active• Dogs help you meet new people• Dogs help their owners feel calm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cats are better for the environment• Cat owners are usually smart• Cat's lower their owner's risk of heart disease• Cat owners sleep better
Source: Dog Benefits	Source: Cats Benefits
Please take the survey below so we can see what Orchard students think is the better animal. Dogs vs. Cats Survey	



Poetry

Friendship Door

Minseong Hong

*Friends are like doors,
You knock on the door,
But you only go in
If the owner lets you.
When will somebody let me in?
I'm waiting outside the door.
I knock again,
And again and again.
But there is no answer.
So I'm waiting outside in the cold.
Afraid to speak, afraid to move.*

*If you will let me in, I'll give you,
My love,
My loyalty,
My kindness.
But if you will never let me in,
I'll stay here waiting in the rain.*

Riddles, Quizzes, Recipes, Reviews, and More

Halloween Costume Contest

August Malemud

Do you like Halloween? Do you make homemade costumes? Well, then we have a contest for you! This year, the Newspaper Club is having a contest for the best homemade halloween costume. There will be three winners. All participants will get a shoutout in the next OMS Press issue. All winners will get their name and picture in the next OMS Press issue.

Rules are very simple:



- Your costume must be homemade
- You must email a picture of you in your costume to Mrs. Meyer at alysonmeyer@solonboe.org by November 5th. Write Homemade Costume Contest in the subject. Be sure to tell what your costume is and your name.
- Costumes must be school appropriate (no weapons, masks, blood, etc.).

If you break one or more of the rules above, you will be disqualified. If disqualified, you will not be recognized or win a prize.

Electronic Drawing Contest

August Malemud

Are you an electronic pro? An art expert? Well, Then I have a good contest for you! 5th and 6th graders can submit any electronic drawing made on google drawings to Alysonmeyer@solonschools.net. Include Electronic Drawing Contest in the subject. Be sure to include your name.

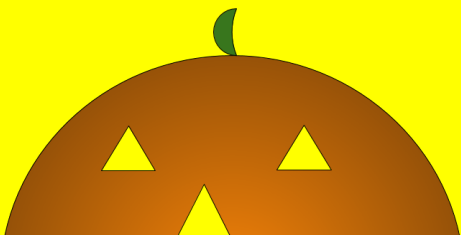
Steps to get onto google drawing:

1. Search up Google Drawings on chrome
2. Click on the first link that comes up (It should say Google Drawings - create diagrams and charts for free.)
3. Name your drawing YOUR NAME 2019 OMS Newspaper Drawing Contest
4. Add images, lines, shapes, or text

You must submit your drawing by December 20. Drawings must be school appropriate (NO swords, guns, blood, gore, ETC.). If you don't follow the rules for submission, your drawing will not be eligible for the contest.

Top 3 winners will get their drawing in the next OMS Press.

Here is an example:



Hope you had a
HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

Riddles

Selected by Tim Souza

- 1. Give me food and I will live, give me water and I will die. What am I?***
- 2. The more you take, the more you leave behind. What am I?***
- 3. I do not have wings, but I can fly, I do not have eyes, but I can cry! What am I?***
- 4. I'm only useful when I'm full, but I'm full of holes... What am I?***
- 5. I speak without a mouth and hear without ears. I have no body, but I come alive with wind. What am I?***
- 6. Two girls ordered iced tea in a cafe. One drank hers immediately, and ordered another. One drank hers slowly. Surprisingly, the one who drank slowly died, yet the police found poison in both drinks. Why did the one who drank quickly survive?***
- 7. If you have me, you want to share me. If you share me, you don't have me. What am I?***
- 8. I come once a minute, twice a moment, but never in a thousand years. What am I?***
- 9. You measure my life by the hours, and my purpose is expiring. I'm quick when I'm thin and slow when I'm fat. The wind is my enemy. What am I?***
- 10. I have cities, but no houses. I have mountains, but no trees. I have water, but no fish. What am I?***

ANSWERS (Stop cheating!)

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Fire | 6. The poison was in the ice. |
| 2. Fingerprints | 7. A secret |
| 3. A cloud | 8. The letter "M" |
| 4. A sponge | 9. A candle |
| 5. An echo | 10. A map |

Riddles

Compiled by Vishesh Goyal

After you think about your own answer to the riddle, highlight the empty space below the riddle to view the answer.

- 1. Imagine you are bound together with rope and laid on a train track by a psycho. There is a runaway train coming towards you at 200 mph. There is also an asteroid hurtling toward you from space at 500 mph. What do you do?*
- 2. You are 17 years old and trapped in a castle with no way out. You wander around the castle, looking for a way out. When you stop wandering, you see 3 doors open in front of you. Behind the first door are magnifying glasses that will fry you with the right amount of light. Behind the second door is an alligator that will eat you no matter what you do. Then, behind the third door is a policeman looking to capture children. What will you do to escape this horrible castle?*
- 3. There's a plane that has 100 bricks in it. The hatch is open, and one of the bricks falls out. How many bricks are left?*
- 4. There is an old lady that lives on an island and wants to get to the mainland. She walks around the island and then finds a bridge to cross. The bridge is really sturdy, but in the end she drowns. How does the old lady drown?*
- 5. I am something people love or hate. I change people's appearances and thoughts. If a person takes care of him/herself I will go up even higher. To some people, I will fool them. To others I am a mystery. Some people might want to try and hide me, but I will show. No matter how hard people try, I will never go down. What am I?*

6. *How many seconds are there in one year?*

7. *If a rooster laid a brown egg and a white egg, what kind of chicks would hatch?*

8. *There is a dead man in the middle of a field. As he approached the field he knew he was going to die. There are no footprints of any sort around him, though there is an unopened package next to him. How did he die?*

9. *Why weren't the tennis players allowed in the restaurant?*

Click on '[source](#)' to find the [source](#) that riddles 5-9 came from

Recommendation Station William Stella

This series is about a 12 year old multimillionaire, and - above all a criminal mastermind. But Artemis does not know what he is getting into when he kidnaps a fairy, Captain Holly Short, of the LEPrecon unit. Things really get worse when he demands 1 metric ton of gold. How is Artemis going to avoid being mind wiped? You can find this all out in Artemis Fowl #1.

Once you finish the first book you will get hooked on this fantastic fantasy series.





Unicorn Quiz

Find Out What Unicorn Species You Are!!!

By Daniel Luce



People often wonder about the common species known as Unicornis Hornivorus, A.K.A. The Unicorn. However, there are many different species of Unicorn. Take this quiz to find out!

1. You find a river without a bridge. To get to the other side, what do you do?

- A. You find some wood and mud to build a bridge!
- B. You spread out your wings and fly across. Simple!
- C. *You swim across the river, using your webbed hooves.*
- D. YOU GIVE UP.
- E. You ask for your royal attendants to carry you across the river. Obviously!

2. You see a poor fairy village being robbed by fire giants. What do you do?

- A. You build a scare-giant and scare away those fire giants!
- B. You get a bucket of water from the well and fly across shooting water at the giants. They run away. Easy!
- C. *You breathe scalding hot water and make the giants drop the stolen goods. They run away, screaming.*
- D. YOU WALK AWAY CRYING.
- E. You order your royal guards to take care of this business. Duh!

3. You come across a new species of mountain dragons. What do you do?

- A. Build a saddle and make some dragon biscuits. Then you saddle up!
- B. You go away. You don't need a dragon to fly after all! You have wings!
- C. *You give it scalding hot water to protect itself, then trot away.*
- D. YOU RUN AWAY, TERRIFIED.
- E. You ask your biologist to take it back to the palace, after taking a selfie with it. (Of course!)

Results:

Mostly A's: Forest Unicorn.

These unicorns live in the forest and are ever so creative. They build crafts in their workshop to fix most problems.

Abilities: Runs fast, Builds things.

Mostly B's: Sky Unicorn

These unicorns are winged and live in sky cities. They use their wings for everything and are often considered lazy.

Abilities: Wings, Controls weather



Mostly C's: Water Unicorn

These unicorns spend most of their time in underwater cities. They are the only unicorns known to do this.

Abilities: Breathes scalding hot water, Breathes underwater, Webbed hooves

MOSTLY D'S: HUMAN

FACE IT. YOU'RE A HUMAN.

Mostly E's: Rainbow Unicorns

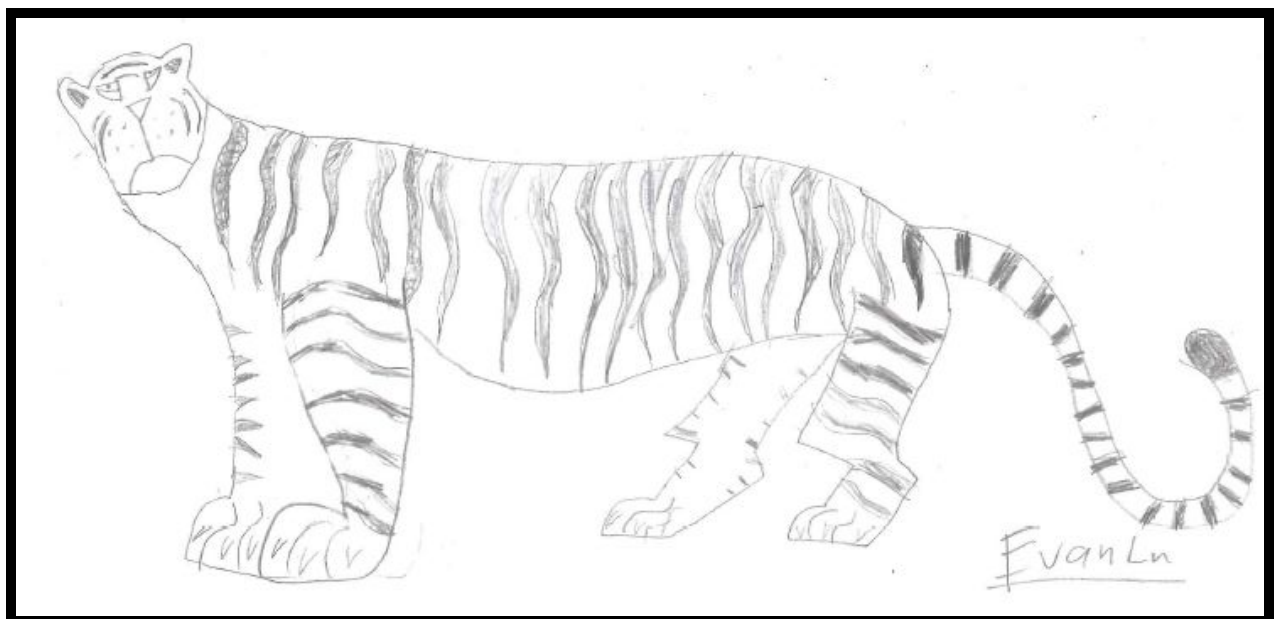
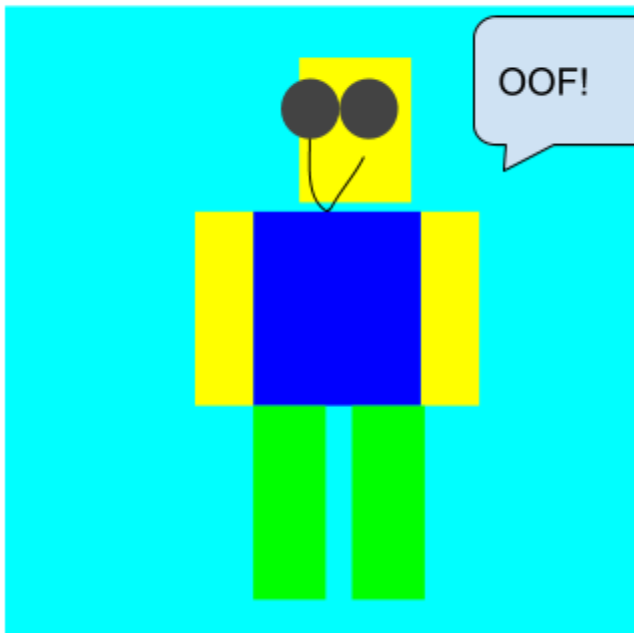
The leaders of the Unicorns, these royalties are found by and on rainbows. They have palaces on land, however. They use their royal attendants to solve most problems, though they might use nearby rainbows if forced to.

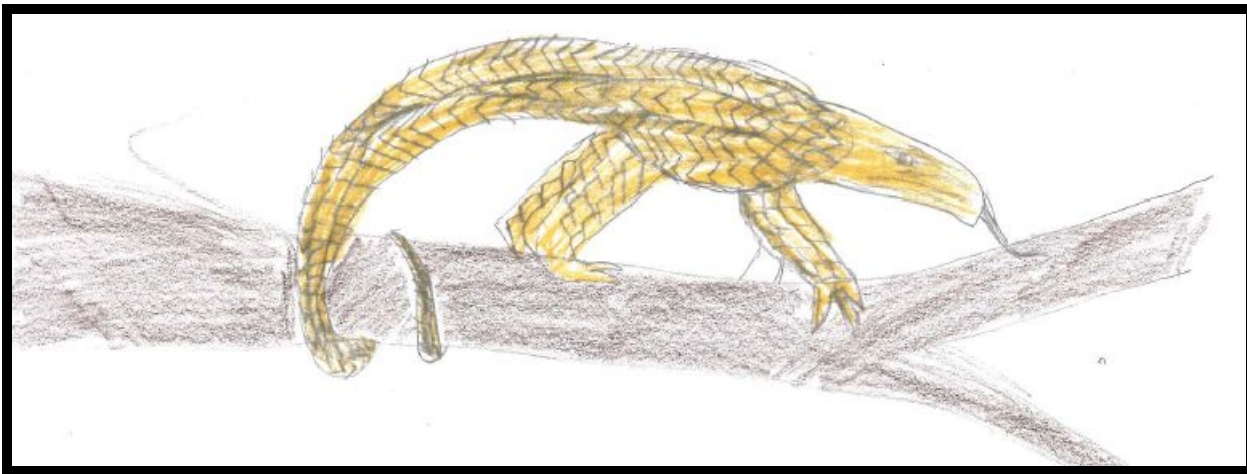
Abilities: Wings, Controls rainbows



Art Gallery

The OOF Meme
By Naomi

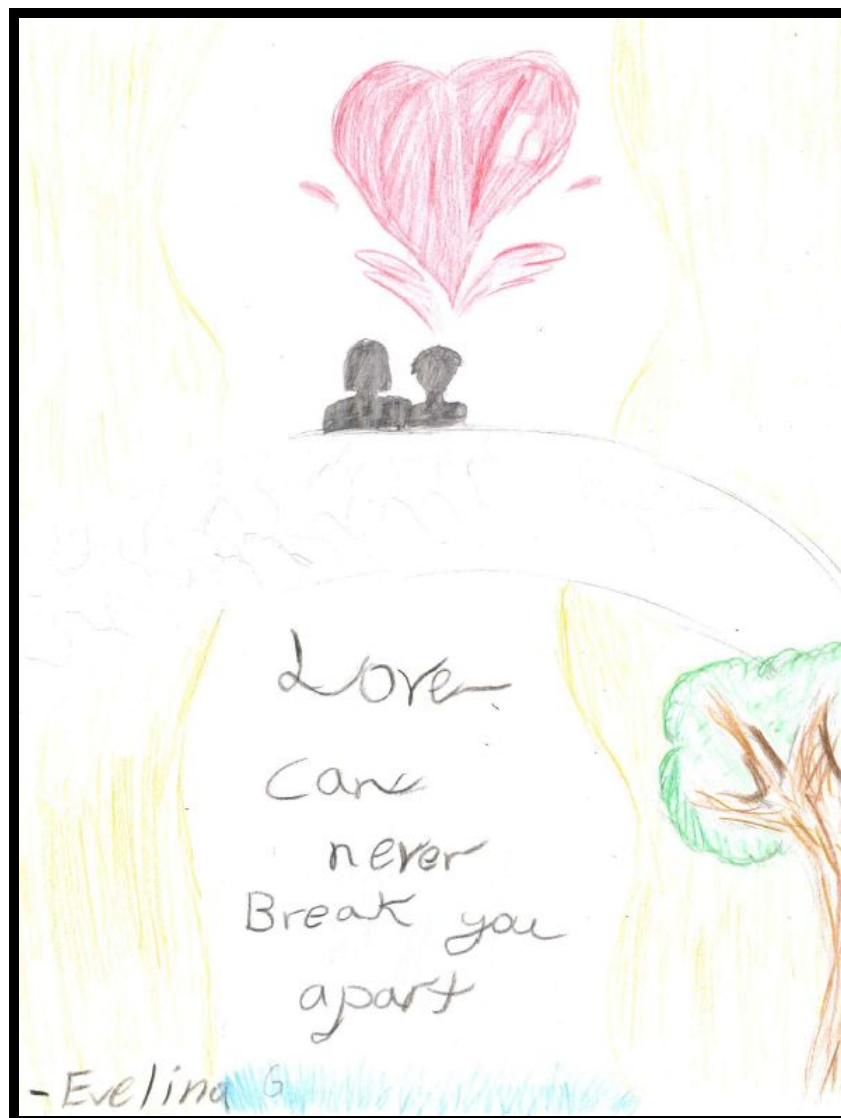


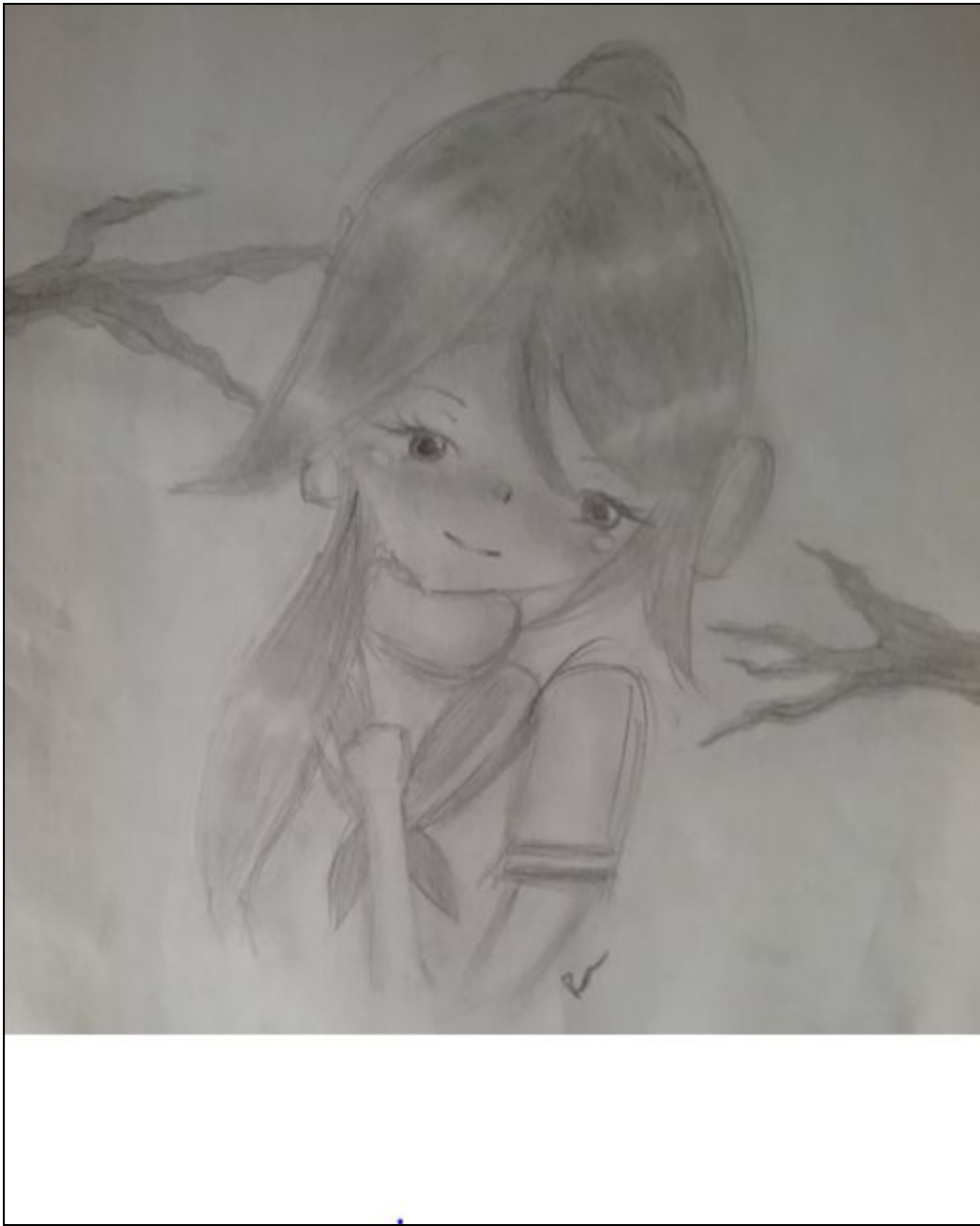


Evan Lu



Evan Lu





Rachel Torgov

Mythology

GREEK MYTHS

By Minseong Hong and Adriana Friedman

Athena, The Gray Eyed Goddess

Who is she?: Athena is the goddess of wisdom, crafts, weaving, battle strategy, and war. But don't confuse her with Ares! Unlike the bloody war god, Athena focuses more on smarts and logic, and not just straight up destroying everything.

Looks: Athena's appearance is not usually described, but she always has gray eyes.

What are her symbols?: An olive branch, owls, snakes or serpents, weapons, and Aegis.

Roman form: Minerva. In her Roman form, she is not warlike, but is more focused on crafts and weaving.

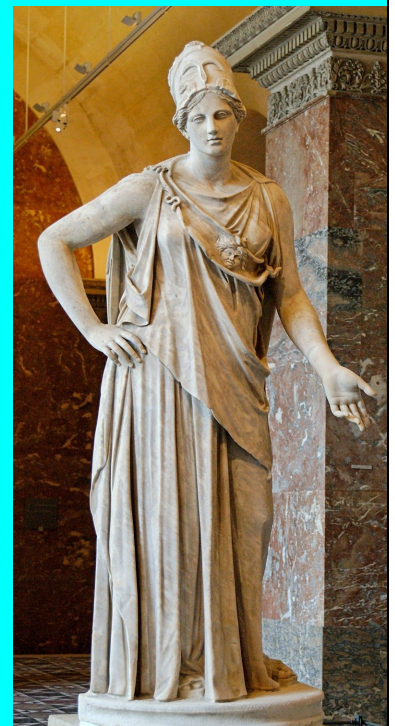
Myths she is in: Athena is in lots of stories, like the story of Perseus, creation of Athens, story of Arachne, the Trojan War, Odysseus, and more.

What about her personality?: Athena is usually known to be very wise and proud. She can be cruel, like in the myth of Arachne, and sometimes does punish mortals quite harshly.

Other information: Athena's favorite city was Athens. She also invented the olive tree.

The Myth of Athena and Arachne

Arachne was a mortal weaver so skilled her weavings looked almost real. She was, though, extremely vain, and even claimed that she was better than Athena herself.



Of course, this *did not* go well with Athena. Furious, she went to earth in the shape of an old woman and visited Arachne's home. A crowd had gathered at Arachne's to watch her weave, as usual.

Athena\Old lady went to Arachne and said: "You must credit your work to the goddess of Athena, after all, she is the goddess of weaving and must have given you this gift,"

"I bet I am more skillful than Athena," Arachne said disdainfully. And Athena appeared in her real form.

"If you think you are so skilled," Athena snarled. "Then let us compete."

And so they had a weaving contest, Athena against Arachne. Now, you might be thinking: That's not fair! Athena's a goddess, she invented weaving, and Arachne's just a puny mortal!

But the thing is, Arachne did stand a chance. No, she was better than Athena. She was just that good.

They wove for hours and hours, the crowd oohing and ahing as they watched the two compete. Finally they finished.

Athena had created a weaving showing her father, Zeus, defeating the Titan Kronos. The lightning bolt looked so real you could almost hear it sizzling with electricity.

And then Arachne's weaving... She pictured the gods as stupid, silly, and no good to mortals. Athena was enraged by this and transformed Arachne into a spider.

SO... What's the moral?

Some people say that it's that somebody is always going to be better than you. But that's not true. Arachne was as good as Athena.

The moral is to not let pride blind you. Arachne knew that weaving the gods like that was stupid, especially with a goddess right in front of her. She acted out of stupidity and rashness, thinking that she was the best. So don't make this mistake.

Think that Athena was cruel to punish Arachne like that? That's nothing compared to what Ares has done. That god... He's straight up violent.

Ares, the God of War

Who is he?: Ares is a war god, just like Athena, but that's where the similarities end. Ares is cruel, mean, and bloodthirsty, unlike Athena. He is known to never think and just start attacking things, simply because he can. Even though he pretends to be mean and strong, Ares can easily run away after being hurt.

Looks: Ares is not described too much, but he is handsome, but probably also scary looking. He wears a helmet, and usually is pictured carrying a spear and shield.

What are his symbols?: Vultures, boars, snakes, weapons, helmet, and dogs.

Roman form: Mars. Ares is very similar to Mars, and both are cruel gods who love war.

Myths he is in: Ares is not in as many stories as Athena. He fought Hercules, dated Aphrodite goddess of love, and killed one of Poseidon's sons. He appears in various other myths, but not any specifically major ones.

What about his personality?: Ares is bloodthirsty, loves war, and is pretty violent. Because of how different he and Athena are, it's weird that they can both symbolize such similar things.

Other Information: Ares is enemies with Hepheasutus, because Aphrodite, Hepheasutus' wife, once had a little fling with Ares and ended up being the embarrassing family story for 4000 years.

The Time Ares Got Kidnapped

Now, you may be wondering, can the gods get kidnapped?

And the answer is, our reader, of course. It happened to Ares.

So one day, twin giants named Otis and Ephialtes woke up and thought: Hey! Let's destroy Olympus! So they started ripping up mountains from the ground and stacking them up to make an assault tower.

The gods were not happy. Hera finally challenged Ares to fight the giants. But.... Ares had different plans. He thought Athena should fight Otis and Ephialtes!

"But I'm wise," Athena said. "Wise enough to do it myself!"

So Ares had to go kill the giants himself.

Ares charged the giants, carrying his huge spear and shield. The giants were *not* impressed. They were expecting a huge attack! Not just Ares rambling down Mt. Olypus in his chariot screaming that he would kill them!

The giants quickly created some super strong chains and a trap. As Ares charged towards them, the giants pulled the ends and created a tripline that sent the god of war flying out of his chariot.

Then the giants tied him up and dragged him away. The giants stuffed him in a bronze jar where he was stuck for 13 months. He tried to break the chains, but they were too strong.

A few days later, the giants created a ransom fee for Ares. But the gods never came to get him, nor paid the fee. Nobody had ever really liked Ares.

However, the stepmother of the giants took pity on Ares and found Hermes. She convinced him to save Ares.

He succeeded, and the gods rallied together and destroyed the giants.

So see? It is possible to kidnap a god.

Moral of the story: Strength sometimes has to bow down to wisdom. Ares... Well, he couldn't escape by himself. He might have had the strength of a hundred people, but he didn't have the smarts to escape by himself. Not to mention that nobody even wanted to free him... Which is pretty rough.



In your daily life, think about these gods: Was Athena right to punish Arachne like that? Should the gods have rescued Ares quicker? Maybe explore some other myths about these two. Which one do you like more? I think it's easy to say Athena, but maybe you feel bad for Ares.

So here are the two war gods of Greek Mythology. Do you like Greek Myths? I know they can be weird sometimes. But if you really think about it... It'll hopefully change the way you think about the world. Doesn't your view of spiders changes when you discover they actually used to be a mortal weaver cursed with deadly pride?

So thanks for reading, and I hoped you enjoyed our little visit to Ancient Greece.

Glossary

Aegis: A shield, or sometimes cloak Athena has that radiates fear and power. On it is pictured the head of Medusa.

Perseus: The hero who slayed Medusa, a super ugly monster with snakes for hair.

Athens: A city in Greece.

Trojan War: A fierce war between the Greeks and Trojans. You may recognize it from the story of the Trojan Horse.

Odysseus: A hero who fought in the Trojan War, best known for his journey sailing home which took, like, forever.

Iko: One of Zeus' poor lovers. She was transformed into a cow in an attempt to hide from Hera, which failed.

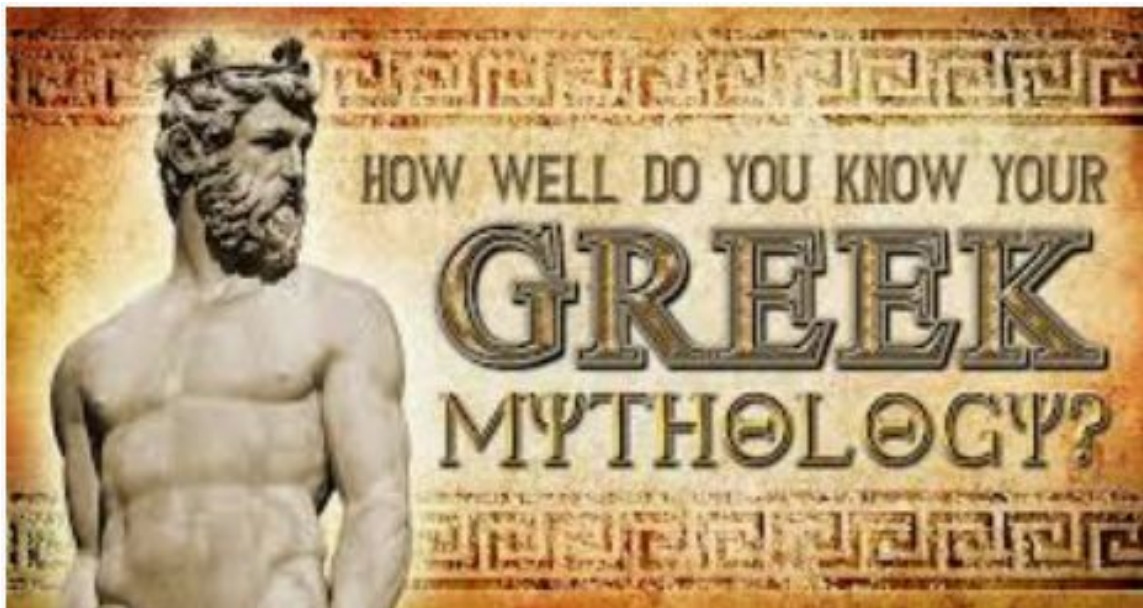
Dionysus: The god of wine. The Greeks had way too much time on their hands.

Hephaestus: The god of blacksmiths and forges.

Aphrodite: The goddess of love and beauty.

Otis and Ephialtes: Two twin giants. Known as the Aloadae.

Chariot: A Greek "car" pulled by horses.



CADUCEUS inc.

Daniel Luce and Emree Olszewski



AT CADUCEUS INC. WE WILL WRITE ABOUT MANY MYTHOLOGIES, INCLUDING ROMAN AND GREEK. EACH OURS PUBLICATION WILL HIGHLIGHT A HERO, ALONG WITH TWO MONSTERS OF THE TIME. THE MONSTERS AND THE HEROS WILL USUALLY BE RELATED IN SOME WAY. WE WILL LIST FACTS, AND AMAZING THINGS THE HERO DID. SOMETIMES WE WILL ADD BONUS THINGS ABOUT OTHER IDEAS FROM MYTHOLOGY.

HERO OF THE PUBLICATION IS ...HERACLES/HERCULES!

THE 12 LABORS OF HERACLES/HERCULES:

- 1. THE NEMEAN LION**
- 2. KILL THE HYDRA**
- 3. CAPTURE THE CERYNEIAN**
- 4. KILL THE GIANT ERYMANTHIAN BOAR**
- 5. CLEAN OUT THE AUGEAN STABLES**
- 6. SCARE AWAY THE DEADLY STYMPHALIAN BIRDS**
- 7. FETCH THE FAMOUS WILD BULL OF CRETE**
- 8. BRING BACK THE MAN-EATING MARES OF DIOMEDES**
- 9. STEAL THE BELT OF HIPPOLYTA**
- 10. FETCH THE CATTLE OF GERYON**
- 11. TAKE THE APPLES OF HERA**
- 12. CAPTURE CERBERUS**

IF YOU WANT TO LEARN MORE, CLICK THE LINK HERE: [WHAT THE 12 LABORS ARE WEBSITE](#)

- FUN FACT: HIS WIFE ACCIDENTLY KILLED HIM, MEGARA**
- HERACLES/HERCULES COMPETED WITH THE RIVER GOD, ACHEOLUS, FOR MEGARA. HE CUT OF ACHEOLUS'S HORN AND IT TURNED INTO THE FIRST CORNUCOPIA.**

STORYTIME: THE WRATH OF HERA

ONCE UPON A TIME, HERA WAS SITTING IN THE MESS HALL OF MOUNT OLYMPUS. ZEUS, HER HUSBAND, WALKED BY.

"THE GOD OF THUNDER IS GOING NOW!" HE SAID AS HE WALKED OUT OF THE MIGHTY MOUNT OLYMPUS. HERA LOOKED OUT HER BALCONY AND SAW ZEUS IN DISGUISE HAVING AN AFFAIR WITH A MORTAL PRINCESS.

"OH, COME ON, IT'S ONLY BEEN A WEEK SINCE LAST TIME!" SHE YELLED, AND THUNDER ROLLED. "I WILL CURSE THIS PRINCESS'S LIFE! HER CHILD SHALL DO IMPOSSIBLE TASKS! HAHAAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA!"

EVENTUALLY, THE PRINCESS'S HUSBAND CAME BACK WHEN ZEUS WAS GONE.

"I'M BACK FROM WAR!" HER HUSBAND SAID.

"BUT YOU JUST SAID YOU WERE BACK A FEW MINUTES AGO ! THEN YOU LEFT!"

“HUH? I DON’T THINK THAT WAS me,” HE RESPONDED.

REALIZING SHE HAD JUST MADE A HUGE MISTAKE, THE PRINCESS SAID, “THAT WASN’T MY HUSBAND? WHOOPS!”

EVENTUALLY, SHE HAD TWO BABIES. ONE WAS PUNY AND THE OTHER WAS SUPER STRONG. THE STRONG ONE BECAME HERACLES, AN ANCIENT GREEK AND ROMAN HERO!

THE MONSTERS OF THE PUBLICATION ARE : HYDRA AND THE Nemean LION

THE HYDRA AND Nemean LION ARE RELATED TO HERACLES BECAUSE HE FOUGHT BOTH OF THESE MONSTERS IN MYTHOLOGY.

HYDRA FACTS:

- **THE HYDRA WAS A FIERCE MONSTER, EACH TIME A HEAD WAS CUT OFF TWO MORE GREW BACK IN ITS PLACE.**
- **HERACLES HAD TO CUT OFF THE HEADS AND BURN THEM WITH HELP FROM HIS NEPHEW.**

Nemean LION FACTS:

1. **THE Nemean LION'S FUR WAS STRONGER THAN STEEL.**
2. **HERCULES WORE THE SKIN OF THE MIGHTY LION AND IT PROTECTED HIM COUNTLESS TIMES.**

GLOSSARY OF GODS IN THIS ISSUE:

HERA: GREEK GODDESS OF MARRIAGE, PEACOCKS AND COWS; ROMAN FORM: JUNO

HERACLES: GREEK GOD/HERO, GUARDIAN OF THE PILLARS OF HERCULES; ROMAN FORM: HERCULES

HERCULES: ROMAN GOD/HERO, GUARDIAN OF THE PILLARS OF HERCULES; ROMAN FORM: HERACLES

JUNO: ROMAN GODDESS OF MARRIAGE, PEACOCKS AND COWS; GREEK FORM: HERA

JUPITER: ROMAN GOD OF LIGHTNING AND THE SKY, KING OF THE GODS; GREEK FORM: ZEUS

ZEUS: GREEK GOD OF LIGHTNING AND THE SKY, KING OF THE GODS; ROMAN FORM: JUPITER

Memes!!!

AREA 51 MEMES

Selected by: Brandon Polomsky & Malec Jirari



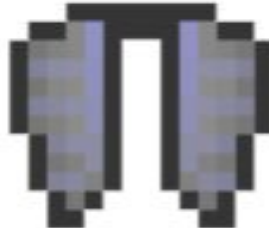
**Me when i find
hand sanitizer that
kills 100% of
germs in Area 51**



Oh yeah



Ocean=Good



How I'm getting
in area 51



How I'm leaving



Guys remember to place torches
around Area 51 so more guards
don't spawn



How I'm pulling
up to Area 51



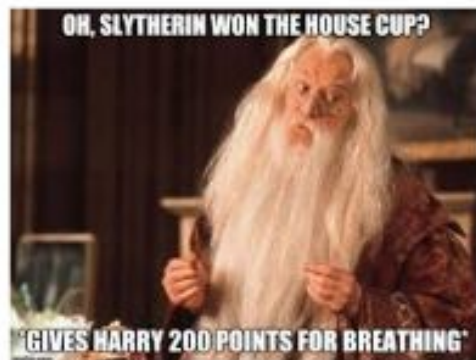
How I'm leaving

Funny Memes for Harry Potter Fans

Selected by Evelina Glusauskas



More Harry Potter Memes on the next page too!



HERMIONE LOOKS SO
EVIL WHEN SHE SET
SNAPE ON FIRE, I CAN'T

