

# A LION'S LIFE

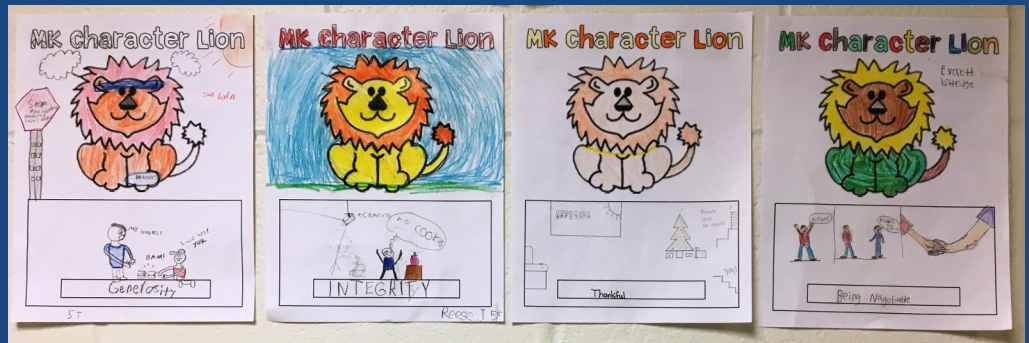


**Volume 10, Issue 2**  
**December 20, 2017**

## Inside This Issue:

School News	1-2
Sports	3-5
Teacher Spotlight	10
Winter Break	6-7
Book Review	8
Movie Review	8
Video Game Reviews	9-13
Restaurant Review	14-15
DIY	15-17
Roaring Recipes	18
Nature News	18
Creative Writing	19-41
Ask Jillian	42
Comics	43-47

**Spring Avenue Elementary School**  
**La Grange School District 105**

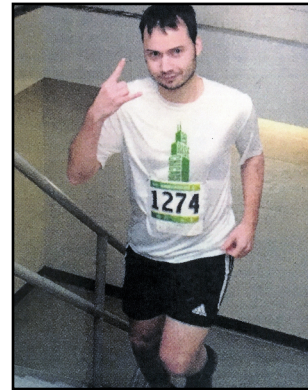


## MK CHARACTER DAY

**By Ashlyn G.**

Michael Kosinski was a former student of Spring Avenue School. He was a great role model to younger students when he was here. Michael was a kind, hard-working person. If he saw anyone who needed a friend at lunch or recess, he would sit and talk with them, and he would cheer anyone up if they were sad.

He did various activities at both Spring and Gurrie. He played the cello, and Michael also participated in some sports, one of which was volleyball. After graduating Gurrie, he went to LT High School, and then to DePaul University to get a degree in business and finance. Even after college, Michael continued to be a kind person. He climbed flights of stairs to raise money for charities, and once, he climbed 2018 stairs



of the Willis Tower in only 30 minutes!

Michael unexpectedly passed away nearly five years ago. His birthday was on December 17th. We celebrate MK Character Day around Michael's birthday so we can remember him and how great of a person he was. You may have noticed that every student has colored a picture of Leo, our school lion, with a box at the bottom, and these are now hanging in the hallway, also pictured above. Inside the box is a positive trait with an example of someone showing that trait. We made these drawings to remember that we should try to be the best version of ourselves we can be, every day, just like Michael Kosinski.

## BATTLE OF THE BOOKS

**By Ethan W. and Tyler K.**

This year, the teachers, 5th, and 6th graders are going to participate in the 8th annual Battle of The Books! If you do not know what "Battle Of The Books" is, it is a fun competition where the competitors read a list of books. In Battle of the Books

there are 12 books on four lists and four people on each team. Each teammate reads three books. There are lists A, B, C, and D to choose from. Do you want to compete in Battle Of The Books when you are older? Or maybe you want to do it this year!

*Continued on next page*

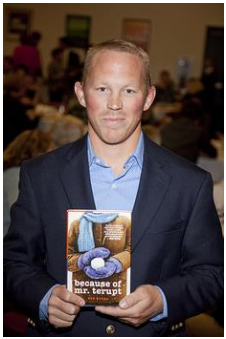


# SCHOOL NEWS



## ROB BUYEA AUTHOR VISIT

By Ethan W.



Hello Spring Avenue! Today I will tell you about the author visit from Rob Buyea. Rob Buyea visited our school for the 4th, 5th, and 6th graders. His newest book, *The Perfect Score*, is a big hit! Another one of his books, *Because of Mr. Terupt*, is about 7 kids who have a new teacher named Mr. Terupt. I love his books! He is a very intelligent person. He writes his books between different voices of

students. In *Because of Mr. Terupt*, he writes Jessica's part in the book like this: "Act #, Scene #". There is also sequential order in the events that happen.

First, the students think Mr. Terupt is cool, then a snowball accident happens that leaves the future uncertain for the teacher of the class.

That is all I have about Rob Buyea! Thanks for reading this article! I hope you want to read his books now! I am a big fan of them personally. I really loved how he visited our school.

## BATTLE OF THE BOOKS, CONTINUED

By Ethan W. and Tyler K.

How often is Battle Of The Books? Well, it happens once a school year. It takes place in January, so the competitors have time to read the books over Winter Break! The top two teams from each school move to District Battle.

Last year four teams went to the D105 Battle Of The Books from Spring Ave. because there was a tie. Ashlyn G. was on the winning District team! Good luck to all the competitors this year and happy reading!

## UNSOLVED SPRING AVENUE MYSTERIES

By Seth H.

### How old is Spring Ave? (True)

Spring Ave was founded in 1951, this means it's 66 years old. We have our highly trained team of computer calculators doing the math, since we're too lazy to do the math ourselves.

### Where do teachers go during lunch time? (Fake)

You'd probably think teachers go to the teacher's lounge during lunch time. Well we've discovered the disturbing truth.

We've set up cameras in the teacher's lounge and no teachers

entered during any grades' lunch times. So we've planted a microchip in our teacher. We've tracked her down during recess, then enabled the blueprints of the school and saw that she was in a secret area that didn't have a label in the school's blueprints. The truth is out there, be careful.

### Secret keypad (Fake)

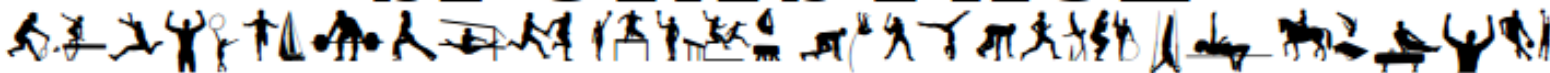
Some of you may have noticed the keypad nailed into the wall, next to the kindergarten entrance. We've set up another camera next to the keypad. We

weren't able to discover the code, but it doesn't open the entrance. It brings up a giant elevator that leads to an underground area, that's not labeled in the school's blueprints. The truth is out there, be careful.

### The school's old blueprints (True)

Did you know, that the library learning center used to be the gym? The gym we have now was the second gym built for this building. Mrs. Walsh's room and the second grade rooms are the newest rooms to the school.

# SPORTS PAGE



## MY TOP 5 COLLEGE RUNNING BACKS IN THE 2017 SEASON

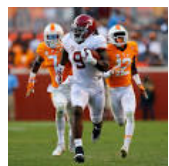
By Porter G.



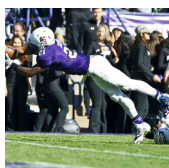
1. Saquon Barkley  
Height 5'11"  
Weight 229 lbs  
Penn State University  
20 years old



2. Derrius Guice  
Height 5'11"  
Weight 218 lbs  
Louisiana State University  
20 years old



3. Bo Scarbrough  
Height 6'2"  
Weight 236 lbs  
University Of Alabama  
20 years old



4. Justin Jackson  
Height 5'11"  
Weight 200 lbs-  
Northwestern University  
20 years old



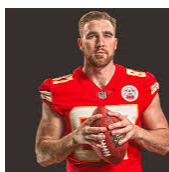
5. Kamryn Pettway  
Height 6'0"  
Weight 236 lbs-  
Auburn University  
20 years old

## TOP 5 TIGHT ENDS FOR THE 2017-2018 NFL YEAR

By Porter G., Gavin D., Jack C.



1. Rob Gronkowski  
Height-6'6" - Weight 265 lbs  
Arizona University, 28 years old



2. Travis Kelce  
Height-6'6" - Weight 260 lbs  
Cincinnati University, 28 years old



3. Zach Ertz  
Height-6'5" - Weight 249 lbs  
Stanford University, 26 years old



4. Jimmy Graham  
Height-6'7" - Weight 265 lbs  
Miami University, 30 years old



5. Jack Doyle  
Height- 6'6" Weight 262 lbs  
Western Kentucky University, 27 years old

## MY TOP 5 CLEVELAND CAVALIER PLAYERS OF ALL TIME

By Porter G.



1. LeBron James  
Height 6'8"  
Weight 250 lbs  
32 years old



2. Kyrie Irving  
Height 6'3"  
Weight 193 lbs  
Duke University  
25 years old



3. Kevin Love  
Height 6'10"  
Weight 251 lbs  
California University  
29 years old



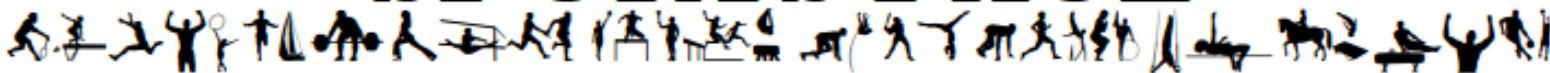
4. Brad Daugherty  
Height 7'0"  
Weight 254 lbs  
University of North Carolina  
52 years old



5. Mark Price  
Height 6'0"  
Weight 170 lbs  
Georgia Tech University  
53 years old



# SPORTS PAGE



## GURRIE BASKETBALL

By: Ian P. and Kenny B.



The 7th Grade team is 9-1 as of right now. 7th grade has a really good team this year. They have accelerated in shooting and stealing the ball. If you go to a game they normally have about five to eight takeaways.

Niklas is tall and a good rebounder, Liam is a tough player. Dylan is a great point guard and a great shooter. Grant is a tough player under the hoop. Patrick is an amazing shooter.

The 8th Grade team is 8-2 as of right now. This year the 8th grade is back with almost the same line up. Our point guard is Owen. A good player that hits his shots, and jumps to the hoop with pure power. One of the new players is Shane. He is a good shooter with lot of energy.

The Scoop: In conclusion both of the teams are really good and able to compete against some of the best teams such as McClure (Both teams) and Park "A" (8th grade).

## TOP 5 CUBS PLAYERS CAREER STATS

By: John F.

### 1. Kris Bryant

I picked him for the first spot because he has the best batting average on the Cubs, .288.

### 2. Anthony Rizzo

I picked him for the second spot. He hits lots of home runs. He's hit 166 home runs in his career.

### 3. Jason Hayward

I picked him for the third spot because he doesn't always get hits, but when he does he knocks the cover off the ball.

### 4. Javier Baez

I picked him for the fourth spot because he has a good arm and he can make good plays as an infielder.

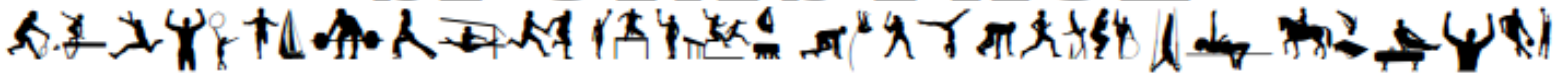
### 5. Kyle Schwarber

I picked him for the five spot because he can make great catches in the outfield.





# SPORTS PAGE



## TEAM LOGOS QUIZ

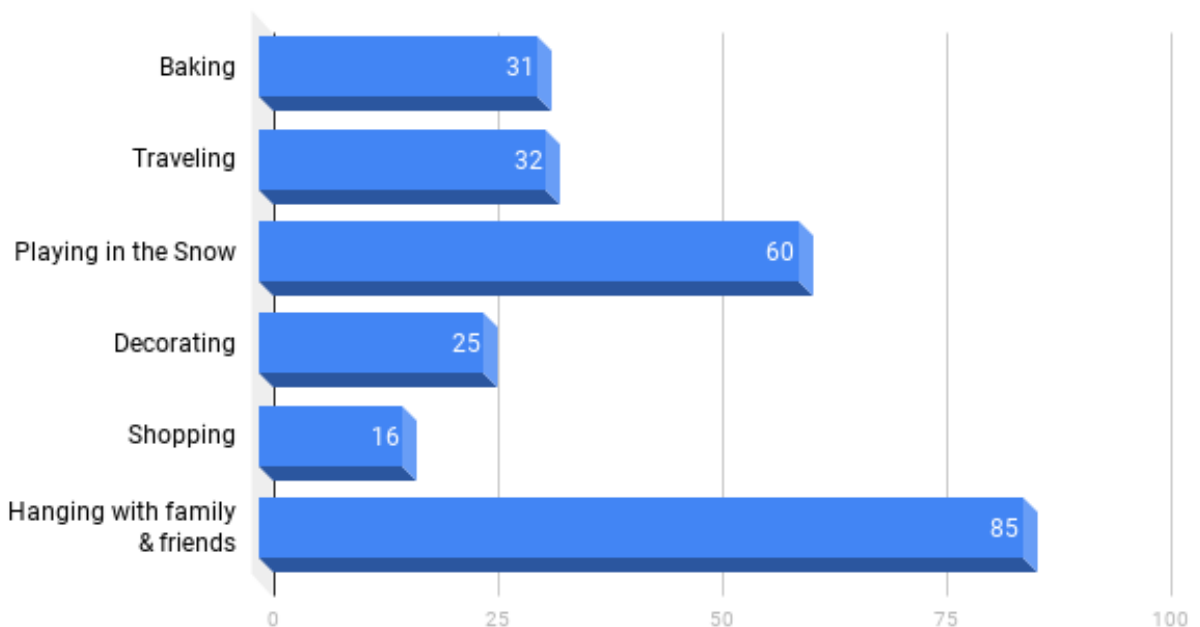
By Chris R.



## STUDENT SURVEY

By Kara L. and Lily L.

Favorite Thing to do in Winter



Answer key: **Top Row:** New York Giants, Broncos, Blackwawks, **Bottom Row:** Panthers, Falcons, Barcelona, Jaguars

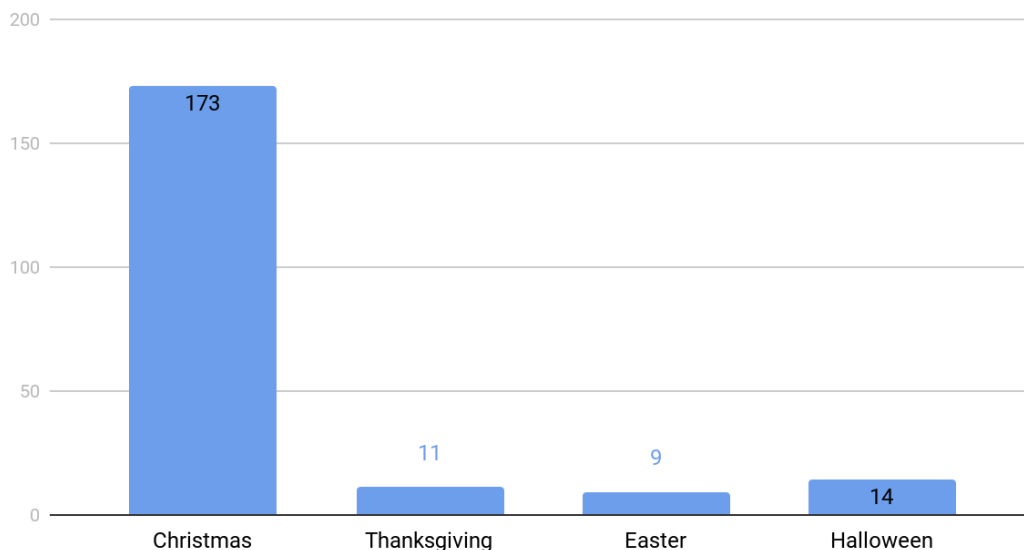
# HAPPY WINTER BREAK!

<b>Ideas of What To Do Over Winter Break</b>  By: Bridget G. and Arielle G.	<b>12/23</b> <u>1st day</u> Bake winter sugar cookies with sprinkles	<b>12/24</b> <u>2nd day</u> Spend time with family, maybe even open one present	<b>12/25</b> <u>3rd day</u> Have hot cocoa and watch a movie and open presents	<b>12/26</b> <u>4th day</u> Play with new toys and stuff	<b>12/27</b> <u>5th day</u> Go Ice Skating	<b>12/28</b> <u>6th day</u> Go Bowling
	<b>12/29</b> <u>7th day</u> Make a dessert you love	<b>12/30</b> <u>8th day</u> Make candy canes (look up recipes)	<b>12/31</b> <u>9th day</u> (New Year's Eve) Count Down For New Years	<b>1/1</b> <u>10th day</u> Spend time with family and friends (New Year's Day)	<b>1/2</b> <u>11th Day</u> Read a good book	<b>1/3</b> <u>12th day</u> Go sledding
	<b>1/5</b> <u>14th day</u> Go to a museum	<b>1/6</b> <u>15th day</u> Go to the Library	<b>1/7</b> <u>16th day</u> Go to bed early			

## STUDENT SURVEY

By Grace T. and Hannah K.

What Is Your Favorite Holiday?



# CREATIVE WRITING

## WHAT TO DO OVER WINTER BREAK

By Simone B. and Jack NM

Winter can be boring, so here are some fun things you can do over Winter Break.

First thing you could do is go to the movies. Some movies coming out in December are *Star Wars the Last Jedi*, *Ferdinand*, and *Coco* are new, and *Elf* is coming back.

Another thing you could do is go to the Harlem Globetrotters basketball game.

You could also go to a Bottle and Bottega painting class; it is really fun.

Another place you can go is the fun Sky Zone trampoline park.

There is still more you can do.

You could go to Funtopia, a place where you can climb your life out. It is a rock climbing place and you get to hook yourself up to climb.

You can go to Winterfest at Navy Pier in Chicago. "So fun!"

We are still going: you should go to the Morton Arboretum "Illumination" lights, Lincoln Park, and Brookfield Zoo lights. Whoa. You could go ice skating in Millennium Park. So fun:)

Always plan a New Year's Eve party. "Get ready to make some NOISE!"

It would be fun to hold a family competition on "Who can create the best hot chocolate with fun toppings:)"

It is always a fun thing to go roller skating at Fleetwood, too.

Go outside and build a snowman have fun.

Reading holiday books is always a good thing to do. Some book suggestions are a *Night in Santa's Great Big Bag* is a story

about a stuffed animal that travels in Santa's bag and spends the night there; *How The Grinch Stole Christmas*; about how a character didn't like Christmas, and *The Elf on The Shelf* is a book about what to do with your Elf.

You could also go to a museum. We like the Museum of Science and Industry where they have the Christmas Around the World exhibit, and the Art Institute.

On Christmas Day you can wake up, stay in your P.J.s, and play with the toys you get.

You should especially go see the amazing Blue Man Group who use all sorts of drums and paint.

It was fun sharing our ideas with you today:)

Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year!







# BOOK REVIEWS

# SOAR BY JOAN BAUER

By Jack EM



This book is about a kid named Jeremiah who had a heart transplant and loves baseball. Jeremiah can't play

baseball because if he runs it is dangerous for his heart. Even though he can't play baseball he watches baseball and dreams to play.

He moves to a town called Hillcrest where the high school

baseball team plays. The Hornets are one of the best baseball teams in their division. A reporter found out that the coach was giving the players sports enhancing drugs so they could play better. He was fired because he was guilty of giving them the drugs.

Jeremiah decides to start a middle school team and coach it. Jeremiah has to persevere to get the town more spirit so he asks the principal for a baseball team and they get one, the Eagles. In the beginning they started off badly, but then they gradually got better.

You should read the book to see how they finish! I would

recommend this book to someone who likes baseball and someone who likes a great story. This book is about someone who had a heart transplant and wasn't able to play baseball, run and do other active things. It talks about how people who have disabilities don't have to be discouraged with themselves because they can do great things. This book is also on Battle of the Books.

I would rate this book ☆☆☆☆½ because in this book the author gives fun details and there are some turns in events that jump right at you.



## MOVIE REVIEW



# FAMILY MOVIES

By Simone B. and Jack NM



*Cars 3:*

**Jack:** I like *Cars 3* because it is funny. *Cars 3* is about Lightning McQueen and a new racer called Storm and a trainer named Cruze. He has to do everything he can to be better than the new high speed racer. I rate it ☆☆☆ ½ stars.

**Simone:** I think that *Cars 3* is OK. It was kind of funny though. I would only want to watch it once, then I wouldn't watch it again. I liked it though so I would give it ☆☆☆½ /☆☆☆☆.



*Elf:*

**Jack:** *Elf* is about a man and he's an elf and he goes to be part of his family. He tries to fit in and go live in New York. I personally like this movie because Buddy the main character is absurdly funny. It is a good family Christmas movie to watch, I rate it ☆☆☆☆½ because it is hilarious and I recommend you to watch it.

**Simone:** *Elf* is a hilarious movie about someone who believes he's an elf. This is a great family movie to watch. It is about Christmas and

Santa Claus. I will rate it with ☆☆☆☆☆ because it is definitely on my recommendation list.



*Daddy's Home 2:*

**Simone:** This is a hysterical movie with funny characters. It is okay for all ages that are in 2nd grade and above. It has some swear words that are okay to hear. I will give this a rating of ☆☆☆☆☆. This is the best family movie ever because it is based off of a family's life. I loved this movie.

# TRUE OR FALSE WITH WORDS

By Hannah K. and Kate B.

Hi! Can you see the true words from the false words? Some words are real and some we made up! See how many you can get correct!	T R U E	F A L S E
Wagoner	T	F
Hooppler	T	F
Ameliorate	T	F
Dorsiflexion	T	F
Toogit	T	F
Zarf	T	F
Fardelbound	T	F
Tempanonia	T	F
Tricutical	T	F
Nanoarrow	T	F

# THE CREEPY LION HEAD

By Reese T.

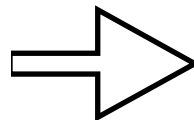


The only thing creepy in the Spring Avenue library is a severed lion head, which is located in the entrance to the kids zone. When you're after a *Magic*

*Tree House* book and you're greeted by this thing, you might go running and hide in your locker.

The good thing is if you are too into your book, you won't see the head, and that's the real reason you read kids.

The story of the head is that it is the founder of the school. Okay, I just made that up. The real history of the head is that it was a wedding gift for a Spring Avenue family. It was originally a clock. The tongue was the second hand and right under the nose was the hands. Then it was donated to the school.



Look for the answers on the next page.

# PROS AND CONS OF THE NEW XBOX CONSOLE



## VIDEO GAME REVIEWS

By Michael B.

The new Xbox One X came out on November 7th as the game changer console and Christmas must-have for gamers of all ages at the price of \$500. But many people have asked themselves the question: "Should I upgrade or buy this new console for \$500 dollars?" I am here to list the pros and cons of this new console.

## PROS

- It has the computing power of a PC
- The console has great graphics and performance, meaning no lag, and or frozen screens
- It has better internet connection and 4K resolution

## CONS

- It costs 500 US dollars
- Some people have made the argument of just getting a Xbox 1 S (This is not a Con, just a cheaper alternative.)
- You have to have a 4K TV to have the maximum experience



# VIDEO GAME REVIEWS

## MINECRAFT VS. TERRARIA

By Emily S.



This is not the first time gamers have been comparing sandbox games. The majority of the gaming community has been pitting Minecraft against Roblox, two well-known sandbox



games that contrast in a surprising amount of ways. Our conclusion was that there wasn't strictly a "best," but that both games captured the

hearts of our community in their own ways. For example, Roblox has been teaching children how to program, while Minecraft is a simplistic sandbox game with endless possibilities.

What about Terraria, a recently published sandbox game? Although it is fairly new to the sandbox world, its initial release occurred in 2011. Terraria is known as an excellent game throughout a large portion of the community. Terraria was originally designed for a Microsoft Windows operating system, but has since spread across a variety of other platforms.

Terraria was known for its frequent updates throughout its Windows days. Players would be constantly kept interested, anticipating new updates and enjoying a variety of features.

Although it didn't do nearly as well in sales as Minecraft, Terraria still made a great amount of money. Fortunately for us gamers, Terraria is also cheaper than Minecraft. Charging a dollar per update would've made Terraria millions of

dollars, but its founder stated that charging gamers so much was against the company's principles. How often do you play games that don't exploit players? Kudos to Terraria!

Minecraft, however, has been dubbed the grandfather of sandbox games. Markus Persson, the founder of this popular game, originally intended it to have a "rags to riches" theme. He had a growing obsession with Dwaf Fortress, which shared that exact theme. Persson wanted to develop a much more playable version of Dwaf Fortress, yet maintain originality.

As you (likely) know, Minecraft did amazingly well in sales. The alpha version sold for thirteen dollars. A surprising amount of copies were sold, even when Minecraft was in its alpha stages. When it

*Continued on next page*

### TRUE OR FALSE WITH WORDS ANSWERS

By Hannah K. and Kate B.

Nanoarrow	FALSE	We made this word up!
Tricritical	FALSE	We made this word up!
Tempanonia	FALSE	We made this word up!
Fardelbound	TRUE	having food impacted in the third compartment of the stomach
Zarf	TRUE	small cups without handles
Toogit	FALSE	We made this word up!
Dorsiflexion	TRUE	This decreases the angle between the dorsum of the foot and the leg
Ameliorate	TRUE	Make (something bad or unsatisfactory) better
Hooppler	FALSE	We made this word up!
Wagoner	TRUE	The driver of a horse-drawn wagon
Answer Key	TRUE FALSE	Definition





# VIDEO GAME REVIEWS

## MINECRAFT VS. TERRARIA, CONTINUED

By Emily S.

entered its beta phase, however, Minecraft's price increased to twenty-six dollars. Persson never expected to be rich, for he simply wanted relief from his day job.

So what about the claim that Terraria is nothing more than a clone of Minecraft? Firstly, the major difference is that Terraria is 2D

and Minecraft is 3D. Many people disagree that Terraria is simply plagiarizing Minecraft, however. Their reasoning will be stated below.

In Terraria, you spawn in a world equipped with a pickaxe, and a sword. Your first goal is to build shelter (or a base, for you bold and militaristic players) and create defenses. You'll craft items in a workshop for purposes beneficial to you and your defenses. Why is it necessary to build defenses? Terraria is a vast world - practically infinite - with an even more vast amount of threats. You'll be faced with a variety of enemies that threaten your survival.



Terraria is much more of a game-game than Minecraft, which is somewhat of a virtual world where you have no objectives but

to keep building and wander about. However, monsters in Terraria don't spawn as far away from players as those do in Minecraft, making the game much more exciting. In all honesty, these two games contrast greatly. It

depends on your personal style and opinion. Here are three statements found on forums, two of them in favor of one game and one drawing the line.

Terraria:  
"Terraria is a FAR better game than Minecraft. It does not have explicit goals,

but there are a lot of subtle ones to go after, from neat equipment you can craft to items you can find in the wild that give you unique abilities. Minecraft is a better world builder, although as a game it is pretty weak."

Minecraft: "It has less variety in terms of terrain generation but it makes up for that

by being 3D rather than 2D, as well as the world being practically infinite."

The Majority's Opinion:  
"Both have their pros and cons; it just depends on what you feel like, I suppose."

How do game reviewers rate these games? On most websites, Minecraft comes out on top. It is by far more popular than Terraria, which is mostly due to many Minecraft YouTubers. I've never once seen a well-known YouTuber documenting Terraria gameplay.

In summary, there isn't strictly a "best" game. It simply

depends on your opinion and your gaming style. In Spring Avenue, most students are familiar

with Minecraft, but very few are loyal to it. After a long time playing, Minecraft can get uneventful. Most dedicated gamers in our school, such as Landon N. and Aidan D., argue in defense of Terraria. All the same, however, I believe that we all have a special place in our hearts for Minecraft.

Which game do you prefer?





# VIDEO GAME REVIEWS

## NILL AND DILL CHRISTMAS CORNER

By Aidan D. and Landon N.

Landon: I finally finished the Christmas tree!

Aidan \*crashes through tree in 50 layers of clothing\*

Landon: hmmm... I wonder what an eternal winter would be like... where I could just make a Christmas tree that you wouldn't destroy.

Temmie: Leggo My eggo-oplis!  
#notsponsored

Landon: AKIYPOLIS! YES! REVIEW TIME!!!!!!!!!!!!

Aidan: Alright, story time, gather round!

\*Pyro, Mipha, Temmie, and Landon all sit around Papa Beaver's story corner\*

Aidan: So, the story is about a land of eternal snow and ice called Akiyopolis, the land was once ruled by Angels, vicious Mid-Wolves, and strange creatures lurking in the depths of the sea. Then, a group of angels rebelled and were banished. There, they became pitiful for

the humans that lived powerless up above them. The humans were granted the powers of Fire, Water, Shadow, Nature, and Light. However, each Human would only get one power, while some would get weak versions of every power. Then there are unlucky people who become Twilian. Twilian is a banned power that has a penalty of execution.

Landon: ROOMS! Akiyopolis has over 100 locations to explore and play in. It's cool.

Temmie: Da zleeeprez pharaoh!

Landon: The Sleeper's Prophecy? You mean the part of the game that connects other less-cool games? Well, yeah that's cool. It ties together Akiyopolis, as well as two other games: Amok and Buboni.

Aidan: The site has lore pages, maps, transcripts, tests, chatrooms, and a

newspaper!

Jimmy: Well I don't like the game because it has no story or plot or direction. It is just a test and some pages about the world.

Landon: Dude... did you not find the main game?

Jimmy: Well, I was looking through, and after two months I found a button that led to a rules page. I skipped the rules and entered a strange page that I also skipped. Then I got rick-rolled and I still can't figure out how to get in.

Aidan:...Just read the rules,man.

Landon: Well, I hope people will join Akiyopolis! We have six users and are looking for more. Oh, and should I mention that Aidan and I are admins on the site?

Pyro: \*Holding up a sign with the game's link\*

doodlebunnyy.  
wixsite.com/akiyopolis

Pyro: \*Holding up a second sign\*

Access Amok and Buboni found on the Akiyopolis Blog / News.

Reviews:

Landon: ∞/10 good game good players good plot good admins good goods good chickens good help good me good save good me

Aidan 10/10 Original story, great-ish players, nice staff, and lot more!

*Temmie: tem / met i eet meet o wat dat doezt n ryme o noez*

*Pyro: 8/10 Mphhh!*

*Jimmy: 0/10 oh I found the chat room!*

*Libininin: 10000000000000000/10*

*Landon: OH NO! OUR PLAYERS FOUND US!!!! NOOOOOOOOOO!!!*

Aidan: \*Jumps out the window and into KFS Ad\*



# VIDEO GAME REVIEWS

## OVERWATCH

By Gavin W.



Overwatch is a complex game. The main point is to get a payload from one point to another. Also to get to a point first. There are 24 people to play as, including Tracer, Widowmaker, Winston, Hanzo, D.va, Mei, Sombra, Doomfist, Mercy, Genji, Moira, McCree, Pharah, Soldier 76, Bastion, Junkrat, Torbjorn, Orisa, Reinhardt, Roadhog, Zarya, Ana, Lucio, Zenyatta, and Symmetra.

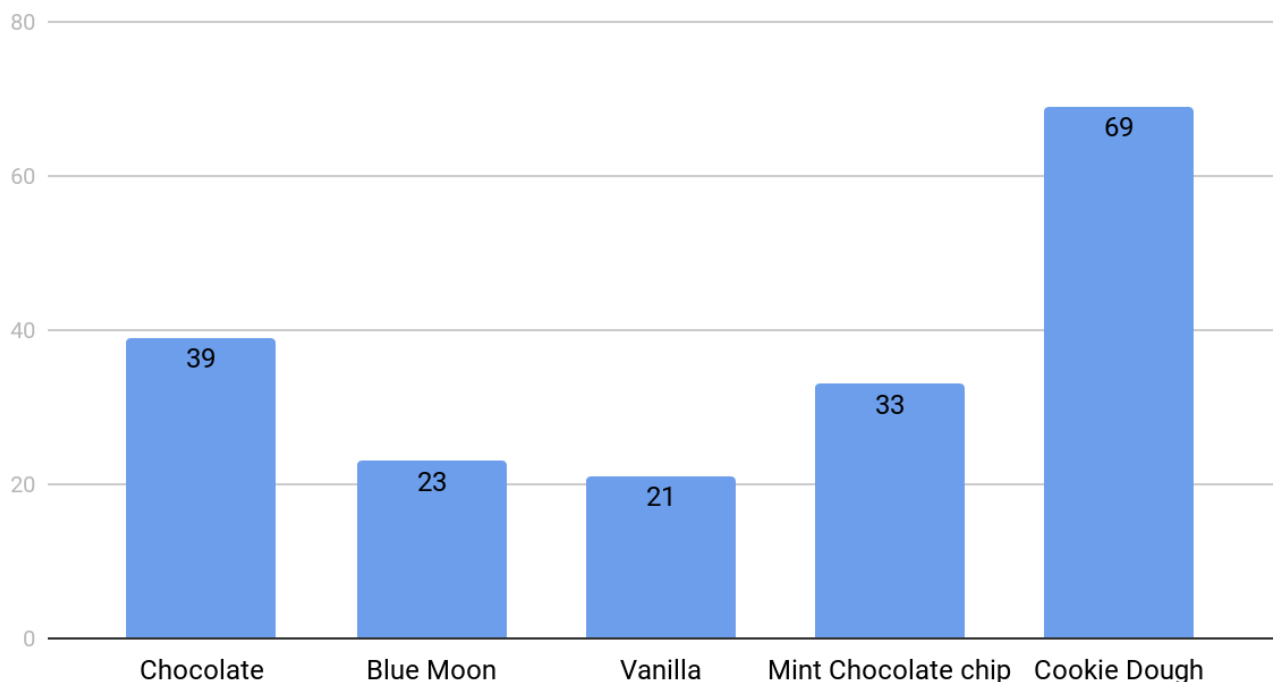
All characters have abilities. When you use them there is a wait. For about five-six seconds, you have a limited abilities you get around once a game. 25 million people play

Overwatch, and it is also top game of the year. 2600 is the highest level in Overwatch. Once you pass 100 for the first time you prestige and once you pass 200 you prestige. If you want to hear more get the game.

## STUDENT SURVEY

By Devin W. and Kara L.

Favorite Ice Cream Flavor







# CAFECITO BAKERY

By Kellan K.



New Bakery Opens in La Grange

Want a chocolate burrito? Check out this new bakery.

A new immigrant family-owned business has moved into La Grange.

Cafecito Bakery opened the week before Halloween and is looking for more customers.

Gladys Jaramillo owns it. Gladys started her first business .

"To work together with my family and to do something by myself. I think sometimes you want to create your own thing."

The whole family works at the restaurant, including three brothers, one sister, her mother and her husband. Her eight year old daughter helps out

too sometimes after school.

They serve all sorts of food and drinks including donuts, cakes, chocolate burritos (also known as cannoli), coffee, shakes, and tea. The shakes look delicious and are homemade and come with a whole cookie on top.

They did a lot of minor renovations to the already existing building.

They are open daily on weekdays at 5 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. to get people from the nearby train at Stone Avenue to buy stuff.

Their address is 703 W Hillgrove Ave, La Grange, Illinois. Gladys hopes more people come to visit.

"People don't really know that we're here."

Hopefully you will stop by and change that.



## FRO YO

By William P.



I went to Red Mango, TruGurt and Forever Yogurt and picked some flavors that sounded good. I'm going to tell you what flavors I liked best. My

preference is sweet fro-yo, and there will be no chocolate since I don't like it.

### Red Mango

Moms Cake Batter (fro-yo): I thought it was pretty tangy, so I didn't like it.

Strawberry Milkshake (for-yo): tastes like a strawberry smoothie so it is light and creamy. Thumbs up!

Strawberry Banana (smoothie): Subtle and sweet (it tastes awesome)

Vanilla Bean (fro-yo): just sweet, but this was my favorite.

### TruGurt

Vanilla Bean (fro-yo): same as the one above, and just as good.

Candy Cane (fro-yo): it tastes like an actual candy cane, but it's a little chunky so I didn't like it.

Eggnog (fro-yo): it tastes like bubblegum for some reason, but it tastes great. This is my favorite.

### Forever Yogurt

Green Apple Sorbet (fro-yo): it was really bitter and sour so I didn't like it.

Moms Cake Batter (fro-yo): just the right amount of sweetness, richness and creaminess. The best flavor, and my favorite overall. Second prize goes to the Vanilla Bean at Red Mango, and in third place is their Strawberry Banana smoothie.



# ASHLYN'S ANALYSIS: SUGAR FACTORY

By Ashlyn G.

Ello zere! I am a very hyper person. You should know that if you know me. Very hyper. Totally not hyper right now, though. Very much not. I should start reviewing this now. And I may or may not have gotten complaints on being too harsh on Cheesie's, so I will try to prevent that this time.

So, I went to the Sugar Factory a few weeks ago. It is located in Chicago, 5445 Park Place. If you couldn't tell, THEY SELL SUGAR!!



Ahem, so, that never happened. Anyways, I had a cheeseburger with fries (and ranch), and lemme tell you guys: THE FRIES ARE AMAZING! And, I guess the cheeseburger was good too (it was actually awesome), but the fries. Mmmm...

I went there to celebrate someone's birthday, so they sang "Happy Birthday" to her, while giving us a giant bowl filled with marshmallows, cake, ice cream, ice cream cones, and just basically SUGAR. And, there were three SPARKLERS. The lights even got dimmed and birthday music played and everything! They did that maybe four times while we were there, and they were dedicated! They put on a happy face, even.

All in all, I give the Sugar Factory 4 stars, because everything is SO EXPENSIVE!



## 3 FUN AND EASY DIYS

By: Lindsey W.



Important Note: Always have adult supervision when working with these ingredients.



1.Slime-All you need is glue,food dye, and any activators of your choice which could be (Tide, Gain, Sta-Flo,eye contact solution, and saline solution). Some things you can add into your slime include floam beads, filler beads, glitter, sequins, googly eyes, and much more! There is no exact measurements for this recipe.



2.Oobleck-The ingredients you will need are: water, cornstarch, and food coloring (optional). First pour some water in a bowl,

then add cornstarch a bit at a time. Keep mixing until you have a gooey consistency. You can start using your hands if you want to. When it is just right add food coloring (if you want). Then play with it! How it works is you touch it and it becomes a solid, and if you let it sit in your hand it will become a liquid.



3.Stress ball-The materials you will need for this are a balloon, funnel, rice or flour (whichever most preferred). The first step is to stretch out your balloon as much as possible. Then put your balloon on the funnel. Third, slowly fill the balloon with rice or flour. Next, remove the funnel from the balloon and let out as much air as possible. Lastly tie the neck of the balloon as tightly as possible. And.....enjoy!



# D.I.Y. SLIMES

By: Jackie K., Camille W. and Gabi S.

Important Note:

Always have adult supervision when working with these ingredients.

**Model Magic Slime-** Model magic slime may cost more than your average slime, but it is definitely worth it. If you make it right then it won't stick to carpet or clothes. You will need:

- Model Magic Clay (by Crayola, you can find it at Joann's Fabric Store)
- 1 bottle of glue (if you want a thicker slime buy Elmer's glue or if you want a thinner, stretchier slime use Dot glue)
- Borax
- A cup of warm water (adult supervision)

Instructions:

1. Add borax to the warm water and let it dissolve
2. Add your glue to the bowl
3. If you want, now would be the time to add food coloring (this is not advised if your model magic clay is a color, because when mixed together you could get brown).
4. Add a little borax water and mix.
5. Repeat step 4 until slime isn't sticky (remember when handling the slime to be quick and don't hold it in one hand for too long).
6. Mix in model magic.
7. Play and enjoy your slime (be careful because borax is poisonous).

**Fluffy Slime-** This is how you make fluffy slime. It is an affordable way to make something that is awesome and is fun to make! First you want to get all of your ingredients. You will need...

- ½ cup of Glue (any kind)
- ½ cup of Shaving Cream
- ½ cup of Hand Foaming soap
- 1 tbsp of Cornstarch
- A few pumps of Lotion
- Food Coloring (Optional)
- 1 c up of warm water
- 1 tsp of borax

Instructions:

You will first want to mix your warm water and borax together in some sort of cup or bowl (have a parent supervise you). Then mix it so the borax is dissolved and set aside for later. Now take a clean bowl and add your glue, shaving cream, foaming hand soap, corn starch, and lotion. Now mix that all together. If you like white/clear you can keep it that way or you can add 2-5 drops of food coloring and mix until satisfied. Then add as many spoonfuls of borax/water until it isn't sticky (don't add too much because it might turn out bad) and kneed it until it's fluffy and fun to play with. Finally you have your slime that's super fun and lasts for a week



**Unicorn slime-** Unicorn Slime is really cool if you want to make a multiple colored slime. Here is what you need:

- Bottle of Elmer's glitter glue (6 oz) –
- Pink, Gold, and Blue Glitter – use lots of glitter to get the same shiny effect.
- 1/2 TBSP of Baking Soda
- 1½ TBSP of Contact lens solution. Important: Your brand of contact lens solution must have boric acid in the ingredient list. This is what interacts with the glue to form the slime.
- Optional: add 1 TBSP of water to your glue if you'd like a stretchier slime

Instructions:

1. Get a bowl to mix your slime ingredients in.
2. Pour your entire 6 oz Elmer's Glitter glue into the bowl.
3. Add your 1/2 TBSP of baking soda and mix in thoroughly. Also add 1 TBSP or more of water here (up to 1/2 cup) if you want a stretchier slime.
4. Now add your glitter in and continue to mix.
5. Slowly add in your contact lens solution. Add it in slowly and mix if possible so that you can adjust and ensure you do not add too much.



# HOW TO MAKE DIFFERENT KINDS OF SLIME

By: Lindsey W.

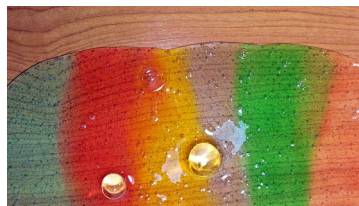
**Important Note:** Always have adult supervision when working with these ingredients.



**1. Floam slime-** It has a very crunchy texture. Ingredients you may need include: Elmer's glue, Shaving cream (optional), food coloring (also optional), and any activator you want to use. Some activators you can use are eye contact solution, saline solution, or laundry detergent, some detergents might not work. And last but not least add as much floam beads as desired. ( You can find floam at many places including Target and Michaels.)



**2. Butter Slime-** This slime is very thick and smooth. The ingredients you might need are: Model magic clay, lotion (to make it soft), Elmer's white glue, food coloring, and activator. Add the model magic clay after you make the slime. Add the model magic in slowly and knead until you have your desired texture.



**3. Clear slime-** This slime is very simple to make but you do have to have a lot of patience. The first thing you need is clear Elmer's glue, then you use your activator. (Eye contact solution is best for clear slime.) And then add contact solution until



you have your desired texture.

**4. Glitter slime-** Glitter slime is one of the most simplest slimes to make! You need a few ingredients. The first ingredient is clear glue. Then you need any color of glitter, next grab contact solution. If you want you can add food coloring.



**5. Fluffy slime-** Just a warning: the slime might deflate and that's normal. Fluffy slime is, well, fluffy as you probably know by the name. The ingredients you need are Elmer's glue, food dye, and any activator you want.

## ZODIAC SIGNS EXPLAINED

By Annie P.

Zodiac Signs are based off the stars on your birthday. On many websites, you can see a daily horoscope or "future reading". Many of these are incorrect, but it's still fun to read them.

Aries - March 21st - April 19th  
Taurus - April 20th - May 20th

Gemini - May 21st - June 20th  
Cancer - June 21st - July 22nd  
Leo - July 23rd - August 22nd  
Virgo - August 23rd - September 22nd  
Libra - September 23rd - October 22nd  
Scorpio - October 23rd - November 21st

Sagittarius - November 22nd - December 21st  
Capricorn - December 22nd - January 19th  
Aquarius - January 20th - February 18th  
Pisces - February 19th - March 20th





## ROARING RECIPES!

# HOW TO MAKE PEPPERMINT BARK

By Bridget G. and Blake M.

### Ingredients

30 crushed peppermint candies divided in half

1 ½ pounds of milk chocolate chopped

1 ½ pounds of white chocolate chips

1 teaspoon oil-based Peppermint flavoring

### How to make

Spread ⅓ of the peppermint candy over a 9x3-inch baking pan lined with wax paper.

2. Melt the milk chocolate in the top of a double boiler over just barely simmering water, stirring frequently and scraping down the sides with a rubber spatula to avoid scorching, just until melted. Pour the melted chocolate over peppermint

candy in the prepared pan. Sprinkle another 1/3 of the candy on top of the milk chocolate. Refrigerate until the chocolate hardens, about 30 minutes.

3. Melt the white chocolate in the top of a double boiler over just-barely simmering water, stirring frequently and scraping down the sides with a rubber spatula to avoid scorching. Stir in the oil-based peppermint flavoring. Pour the white chocolate over the milk chocolate, then spread the remaining 1/3 peppermint candy on top.

Refrigerate until the white chocolate hardens, about 30 minutes. Cut or break into pieces to serve.



### Cook's Notes:

4. Substitute almonds for candy and substitute almond extract for peppermint extract to make almond bark.

An easy way to break the bark once hardened is to cover the bark and use a hammer to break it into pieces.

### Editor's Note:

Do not add water-based or alcohol-based flavorings to melted chocolate, or the chocolate could seize up and become clumpy.



## CRESTED GECKOS

By Jenna P.

In this photo you can see a crested gecko. Crested geckos live in southern New Caledonia. They can be available for pets. If you get a crested gecko, this is what they eat: fruit and insects. Crested geckos live 15-20 years. Their skin is soft and they have soft spikes. They can be many colors. They can get as long as 8 inches. They can weigh 35 grams, that's how much a CD weighs. They cost \$35-\$60. That is all for the crested gecko.



# CREATIVE WRITING

## BUY KFS

By: Aidan D. and Ashlyn G.

Aidan: \*falls through the ceiling, still in snow gear from N&D.\*

Ashlyn: . . .

Aidan: \*Coughing\* Uh, why are we here again Ashlyn?

Ashlyn: To sell Kentucky Fried Souls for only 25\$ per meal. Why else?

Aidan: Ah yes! \*Clears throat\*

Aidan: Hello random onlooker of the newspaper, by now you have probably seen some excellent stories from your peers or children! But, reading can make you hungry!

Ashlyn: So, we are here to present to you today...

KENTUCKY FRIED SOULS!

Aidan: Now some of you may be asking: What is KFS? Well it is a very real, very normal company that sells souls for you to eat in the forms of a variety of foods!

Ashlyn: It's good. Trust me on this one. I particularly like it in the form of ice cream. Mmm!

So sweet.

Aidan: At KFS, we have a variety of foods to select from, including but not limited to:

The Reap-onade! A delicious lemonade that fills you with sour but sweet goodness!

The Fried Chickoul! A delicious chicken wing that is the crunchiest on the market!

The Frozen Bone! A special Ice Cream in the shape of a frozen

Aidan: Well, now you might be asking yourself: This is a company called Kentucky Fried Souls, is that ethical? Or Is this company actually real? And the answer to both questions is ~~(no)~~ yes!

Ashlyn: One thing left to say: Buy some Kentucky Fried Souls, only \$25 per meal!

Aidan: CUT! That was good, guys!

Ashlyn: Phew! One thing less on my plate.

Aidan: Well, I need to finish off writing Spazam Chronicles, bye.

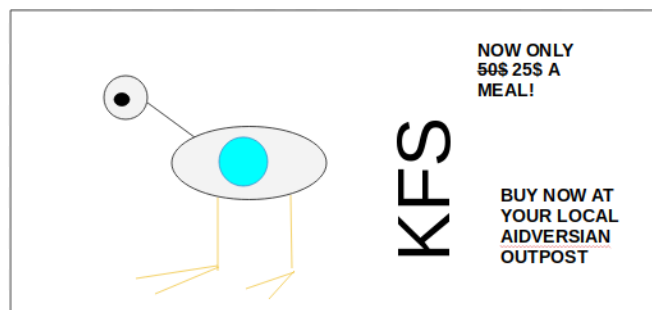
Ashlyn: Yup, the Spazam Chronicles are good. I read it last week. See ya 'round, Aidan!

Aidan: \*Melts into the shadows to work on his stories\*

Ashlyn: \*Casually fades away, going to steal some more souls\*

(If you haven't realized already, KFS is ~~fake~~ totally real)

END



bone! It's so sweet your teeth might as well freeze up in joy!

And the Mac n' Soul! The, heh, soul of our company, with all the cheesy goodness you could want!

Ashlyn: I also love the Reap-onade! I like lemonade-y things. And, thank you for that wonderful pun, Aidan. Just thank you. I also forgot to tell you that I added a Christmas Special! The Soul-amon Roll! The tastiest cinnamon roll you've ever had!

# CREATIVE WRITING WASTELANDS

By Emily S.

The universe began with a singular mission - survival. Over time, it developed until each individual life form was equipped with an incomprehensible amount of goals. Approximately 13.8 billion years ago, only perseverance and intuition existed.

Now, the two primal qualities of the universe have vanished entirely. Humans have become self-absorbed creatures, drowning in matters that they'll forget in the long run. Due to the escalating complexity of humanity, the world has evolved... or, at least, we think of it that way.

In reality, the universe is an eternally expanding element. However, if you decide to read on, you'll be taken to a time far after 2017. Evolution has transformed the world into a dystopia in this time. Complexity and intelligence have consequences, such as sin and greed. Those, my

friend, are the two qualities that will send humanity tumbling into oblivion.

I understand that this is a frightening and uncomfortable topic for the majority of society. I highly advise that younger readers ignore this article. For those who are interested in this topic, however, feel free to read on. Be warned, for this tale contains strong emotions that may find a place in your heart. Over time, you may grow to loathe those emotions.

If you have a desire to be prepared, read on. If you want to dive into the central roots of the universe, read on. If you're willing to question certain aspects of existence, read on.

Welcome to dystopia.

The thick, rancid stench of pollution hung in the air. It arched in an unrelenting dome above the earth. Many of Earth's survivors

considered this dome to be an impenetrable wall, locking in those who wished to escape. Albeit Manhattan,

New York, was once a prosperous area, it had now collapsed in ruins. Each colossal building had fallen, taking on

darker coloration as the pollution increased. Cars were scattered across the streets, surrounded by shards of glass and rubber.

The shallow, mechanic breathing of survivors could be heard throughout the city. Ever since the death of Earth, uncomfortable silence had reigned. Only the

painful inhales and exhales of survivors broke the silence. Even those who formerly dwelled in darkness shuddered at the faint noises.

Smoke billowed from factories that were somehow intact. They beckoned survivors over with the promise that they served as shelter. Perhaps you could say that they were smoke signals or dark wisps bringing new color to the lifeless skies.

Nestled between two fallen buildings stood a broken family. Two young boys, hardly over the age of eight, flanked a teenage girl of around seventeen. They were each equipped with thick suits and gas masks. Each survivor's forced breathing mimicked that of Darth Vader.

As the barely visible sun ascended, like a ghostly white sphere gazing upon Earth, the girl stepped out of hiding. Although the dome of pollution mostly obscured the sunlight,



*Continued on next page*

# CREATIVE WRITING WASTELANDS, CONTINUED

By Emily S.

her appearance was now somewhat visible. Her skin was frighteningly pale, almost the color of the dying sun. Extensive blond locks rolled down from her head like tides. Her eyes were icy blue, shattering the discoloration of all of Manhattan.

Although the two boys seemed reluctant to leave the shelter of their makeshift cave, they did just so. The first was a gaunt boy with slick brown hair. His bangs swept over his face, creating a bit of a shadow on the upper portion of his gas mask. Beyond the eye-slots of his mask were two icy blue eyes that mirrored those of his sister.

The second boy, trembling, stepped out of the shadows. He was a mirror image of his sister, although his hair was thick and slicked back. Consider Draco Malfoy and you'll understand this timid boy's hairstyle.

As the broken family stood, embracing the faint sunlight, the eldest sibling decided to speak. She cleared her throat and prepared to speak through her gas mask.

"I know this is hard," the girl frowned, "and I'm proud of you both. None of us want to admit it, but Earth is degenerating. I'm just... so, so sorry..."

"Natasha," murmured the brown-haired boy, placing a gentle hand on his sister's shoulder, "all of this is beyond our control. It's not your fault that society ruined our world."

"But I had one thing I could control," Natasha swallowed, "and I threw away my opportunity. I... I saw the gunshot coming. I should've

stepped in the way, or... I should've done something. But no, I let them go. Thank you, James, but..."

The blond-haired

boy wheezed, for the toxic environment was finally getting to him. Natasha swiftly performed a maneuver on him and stepped back. Albeit the boy's voice was still raspy, he had recovered.

"Thanks, Ta-Ta," he rasped, averting his gaze to the ground.

"Not a problem, Nick," nodded Natasha, fingering her belt.

For a moment, the three stood and watched the eerie sunrise. Their unified breathing seemed to be the only sound in Manhattan. After that uncomfortable moment passed, Natasha unsheathed her knife and strode towards a mostly intact market. James and Nick, familiar with the routine, watched over their shelter.

When she had turned a corner and was out of sight, Natasha broke into a run. She charged into the market,

almost forgetting to breathe, and skidded to a halt before a basket of ripe fruit. As no one had been tending to the market or its food, the girl was forced to scrutinize each fruit. She discarded the ones with even the slightest amount of mold, selecting five sterile fruits. "Hands off, trespasser!"

The sudden cry seemed to echo through all of Manhattan. Natasha whipped around to face the attacker, firmly grasping her knife. Before her stood a bulky, unshaven man brandishing a massive ax. He waved his weapon threateningly as he advanced.

Relying solely on impulses, Natasha dove between the man's legs and poised her knife. The man's spine was fully exposed. Within moments, the brute wailed in agony and collapsed, instantly dropping his ax. Natasha



*Continued on next page*



# CREATIVE WRITING WASTELANDS, CONTINUED

By Emily S.

grinned and slid the ax into her sash.

It's a shame most of these survivors have to be so competitive. An extra mouth to feed won't hurt that much, thought Natasha, sheathing her knife and carrying the fruit under her free arm.

When Natasha returned to her shelter, her brothers were squealing with glee. James savored the fruit, risking a solid minute

without his gas mask, while Nick rapidly devoured it.

After she scanned the area, for the threat of others still remained, Natasha sat and ate gingerly.

Life on a dying planet was incomprehensibly uneventful... unless, that is, you lived near threats. It was as if Earth was slowly returning to its

original state, where survival was the prime mission of each organism. Over time, would the planet build up to its previous complex state? The survivors were left to wonder and

doubt, but all the same, they had to keep their goal in mind.

For the past month, this family had prospered in the

deserted city of Manhattan. As they ate, however, corruption was brewing in the heart of the city. Would three orphans, who once thought they were surviving in isolation, survive the unknown dangers of post-apocalyptic Earth?

To be continued...



## TARGET MAN

By Dylan S.



Target.

So it exploded and when the debris settled there was there just a little baby in the parking lot. A man came by and adopted him because he was so chubby and cute.

Three years later the kid

jumped off a couch and started flying. He was wearing a Target bag on his back that looked like a cape. Then he became Target Man and defended all the Targets and never let any robbers steal one thing from a Target again.

But there is something he did not know about himself... he was very dangerous and all the time he was unlocking new powers he didn't know about. He's more powerful than he knew.

One day he shot a ginormous Target bolt at a robber,

and the robber blew all the way up into space! It was too dangerous, so his parents had to lock him in the house and never let him get out again.

Target Man really wanted to save the Targets and never let robbers steal any from them. Some days he would sneak out and stop the robbers from stealing things.

One year later his parents found out, and then something happened... something bad.

To Be Continued...

# CREATIVE WRITING

## MR. P BUNNY #NOTSPONSORED

By Landon N.

*If you've missed Mr. P. Bunny's previous articles, then you can catch up at [doodlebunny.myfreesites.net/mrpbunny](http://doodlebunny.myfreesites.net/mrpbunny)*

One day, Mr. P. Bunny was playing one of those video games made by a food company with friends. He was holding a bag of chips at an odd angle where the label was showing, and he was doing the same thing with his soda.

"Are you in a sponsorship?" asked Banana, the dog that always renames himself.

"Noooooooooooooooooooo..." said Mr. P. Bunny trying to be convincing.

"Then why do you have KFS Soda?" asked Banana, taking his soda and drinking it.

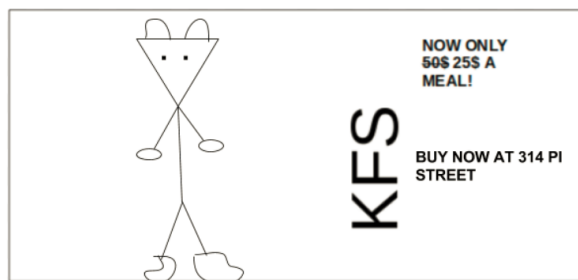
"Because, you should buy KFS today! Bringing you those delicious souls that you love." responded Mr. P. Bunny.

"You've been plagued with sponsorship" said Banana.

Mr. P. Bunny then punched Banana with his branded punching glove and ran away. He then hopped on a branded bus and rode to KFS.

"Hello there what would you like to eat today?" asked the Shadowed Beaver.

"I WILL NOT LET YOU BRAND MEEEEEEEE!!!!!" Mr. P. Bunny shouts before throwing all of his sponsorships into the void and running away, in his branded running shoes.



## THE THEORIES OF LIFE

By Annie P., Gabi S., and Caroline F.

Okay, so we've been thinking for a while now about what is really happening around us. We came up with a few theories about what we really are and what will really happen in the future or what is happening now. Here are our ideas.



**Caroline's Theory** - So, according to some weird space video that I watched in 5th grade, there is a multiverse, which is a giant universe that contains all of the alternate universes. Also, according to the

(amazing) book, [The Thing About Jellyfish](#), the universe is always expanding, so fast that even if you traveled at the speed of life, by the time you got to the edge of where the universe was, the universe would have expanded past that point.

Combining both of these ideas, my mind spawned the question of: what would happen if two universes crashed into each other? Okay, let me explain. If the universe is always expanding, and it's in a contained space with other universes (the multiverse), a few would have to collide at some

point, right? But what would happen to the universes included in the fiasco? Would one explode, or both explode, or would they just merge, creating one big universe? We still need to figure this out. According to the Internet, when two black holes collide, they will merge into a mega-black-hole.

Then, according to the National Geographic website, our universe might be one giant black hole. Therefore, when two universes collide, they will merge into one, giant universe.

*Continued on next page*

**By Annie P., Gabi S., and Caroline F.**



**Annie's Theory** - Okay so my theory is something that I've been thinking for a while now. What if we are all robots part of a

social experiment? What if the year is actually 3017 and scientists programed us to think that it was 2017? What if the sun exploding isn't true and we actually live on a different planet than real humans

and they put us on this planet to see if we would ever find their planet? I know it's far fetched, but that's my idea.



## Gabi's Theory-

According to a very good book, The Thing About Jellyfish, jellyfish will eventually take over the sea due to global

warming/warm water and eating other animals food. My question is, when this happens what will we eat? We will have no animals to eat due to the food chain, so will we all need to become vegan? But eliminating animals will also affect plant life. Will the human race starve to death? This is what I was thinking.

**Hosted by: Ashlyn G.**

**Friends of this month:  
Annie P. and Caroline F.**

*WARNING: Holiday Cheer!*

Ashlyn: Hello everyone and Merry Christmas! I am continuing my little section here with different people this month! You should have seen the people above, but in case if you didn't, my two friends this week are Annie and Caroline!

Caroline: Hi. Thanks for having us.

Annie: Yeah, thanks. It's really snazzy.

Ashlyn: You're welcome! Guess what we are talking about!

Caroline:  
HOLIDAYS!!

Ashlyn: I see you are as excited as I am about Christmas! I mean, I'm not really showing it, but that's because I get my excitement out at recess, if you can hear me scream all the time.

Annie: Excuse me, but there is Hanukkah also, ahem.

Ashlyn: True, but I don't celebrate

it, so I don't know much about it. Care to elaborate on it?

Annie: Presents and candles for eight days. If you want more info, look it up because I'm not telling you.

Caroline: Okay, what should we talk about? Oh! I know! What do you guys want for the holidays?

Annie: I want... actually, I don't know what I want! All I want is some snazzy stuff (including books, lush stuff, sweaters, candy, and more time to watch Netflix.)

Caroline: I really want a longboard,  
and some Lush stuff, and candy!  
Lots and lots of candy!

Ashlyn: I dunno what I want. I mean, I want this plush chair thing from PBTeen for my new room... I also want this game called Exploding Kittens (it's a card game), and a new computer. I also really want a Google Home Mini. And tons of other stuff, including Taylor Swift's new CD, Reputation.

Caroline: Make sure to drop a comment and a like, and make sure to smash that subscribe



TALK TIME  
WITH FRIENDS

button! Sorry, but Youtube is my only social life.

Ashlyn: No one can do that stuff for an article...

Caroline: I can. ;)

Ashlyn: Well, we should wrap it up here. Bye!

Annie: WhAT ArE YOu TALKiNg  
ABoUt? DON'T MAKE ME LEAVE!

Caroline: Aww... thanks for commenting!

Annie:Noooooooooooooooo!!!!  
bye.

Caroline: Bye! See ya s... Oh, donuts!

# CREATIVE WRITING

## UNICORN UNIVERSITY

### Glitter's Diary, Part One

By Bridget G.



My name is Glitter, and today is my very first day at Unicorn University, and I am so nervous. My BFFs are telling me that school is fun. Wait, I forgot to introduce my BFFs. Here they are:

I still have other friends but these are my BFFs. Magic and Sparkles are so funny they say stuff like "I am queen...Billy Bob Joe".

They are hilarious, I love them. Whenever I have no one to play with they come over and play with me. I can always count on them. I was so happy when I found out that I had the same dorm room as Magic and Sparkles. Then I found out that all of our classes were together! How much better could this day get?!?!?



This is Sparkles she is very shy but I don't care. She is a very nice unicorn.



BORN TO DANCE

This is Magic she loves to dance. She is so nice.

The first day at Unicorn University wasn't as bad as I thought. Look for the next story from Unicorn University in the next issue of *A Lion's Life*.

## WORDS FOR 'THE CRAZY INVENTION' ON THE NEXT PAGE



By Seth H.

PROPER NOUN: \_\_\_\_\_

ADJECTIVE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADJECTIVE: \_\_\_\_\_

VERB: \_\_\_\_\_

PLURAL NOUN: \_\_\_\_\_

VERB: \_\_\_\_\_

NOUN: \_\_\_\_\_

VERB: \_\_\_\_\_

NOUN: \_\_\_\_\_

NOUN: \_\_\_\_\_

VERB: \_\_\_\_\_

VERB: \_\_\_\_\_

ADJECTIVE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADJECTIVE: \_\_\_\_\_

NOUN: \_\_\_\_\_

VERB: \_\_\_\_\_

NOUN: \_\_\_\_\_

NOUN: \_\_\_\_\_

NOUN: \_\_\_\_\_

VERB: \_\_\_\_\_

NOUN: \_\_\_\_\_

NOUN: \_\_\_\_\_



# MAD LIBS

# THE CRAZY INVENTION

**By Seth H.**

(*PROPER NOUN*)

(ADJECTIVE)

(ADJECTIVE)

(*VERB*)

(PLURAL NOUN)

(*VERB*)

subject. Good thing he had a pet \_\_\_\_\_ to test it on.

(NOUN)

(*VERB*)

(NOUN)

(NOUN)

(*VERB*)

(*VERB*)

(ADJECTIVE)

(NOUN)

(*VERB*)

(NOUN)

(NOUN)

(NOUN)

(VERB)

(NOUN)

(NOUN)

# CREATIVE WRITING



By Devin W.

Adjective: \_\_\_\_\_

Noun: \_\_\_\_\_

Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Noun: \_\_\_\_\_

Noun: \_\_\_\_\_

BFF's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Verb: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Noun: \_\_\_\_\_

Feeling: \_\_\_\_\_

Verb: \_\_\_\_\_

Chore: \_\_\_\_\_

Adverb: \_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Feeling: \_\_\_\_\_

## A DAY AT SCHOOL

From the moment I woke up, I knew that today was going to be \_\_\_\_\_. I rode to school on

**Adjective**

my \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_. At school \_\_\_\_\_ passed out a test.

**Noun**

**Person**

**Your teacher**

Oh no! I forgot to study! The test was on \_\_\_\_\_ and I guessed pretty much all the

**Noun**

\_\_\_\_\_. At recess, I sat with my best friend \_\_\_\_\_ and we

**Noun**

**Your BFF's name**

\_\_\_\_\_. Back in the classroom \_\_\_\_\_ told us that

**Verb**

**Your teacher**

did great on the \_\_\_\_\_. I felt so \_\_\_\_\_. When school ended I

**Noun**

**Feeling**

\_\_\_\_\_ home. I had \_\_\_\_\_ sheets of homework. When I finished with

**Verb**

**number**

my homework I went to \_\_\_\_\_ and got \_\_\_\_\_. It was so good.

**Place**

**Food**

After I was really \_\_\_\_\_ so I decided that I was going to \_\_\_\_\_.

**Feeling**

**Verb**

Oh No! I forgot to \_\_\_\_\_. I rushed back inside and \_\_\_\_\_ did

**Chore**

**Adverb**

it. When I went to bed at \_\_\_\_\_ pm, I was so \_\_\_\_\_.

**Time**

**Feeling**

Hopefully tomorrow will be just as good!!

# CREATIVE WRITING

## THE FINAL GOAL

By Luka L.

Jake was a soccer fanatic. Jake's favorite sport to play was soccer because he had been playing it since he was three. Jake played for the best soccer club in the town. The only problem was that he was on the B team. Jake had no idea why he was on the B team because he knew for a fact that he was better than half of the players on the A team. Jake played center midfield and left defense.

Today was Jake's first day of practice. He got there early, just in case he had one of those coaches that makes someone run a mile if they're a minute late, and started juggling with his ball. He was on 25 when a black pickup truck rolled into a spot near the field.

The man that got out was so muscular that Jake did a double take to make sure they were real. Jake suddenly felt like he should have gotten there only a few minutes early instead of fifteen

minutes because then he wouldn't have to be the only one there with the coach.

Jake just stood there as the man that looked like John Cena's brother walked over to him. Jake broke the ice with a quick "Hey Coach."

His coach responded by grunting and just walking by.

A few minutes later Jake's best friend showed up and as he walked by Jake he whispered "Dude our coach would be better off as a WWE superstar."

When almost all the players were there, and it was 5:31, which was a minute after practice started, the final player got to the field. That did not turn out well for him because that poor child had to run five laps around the field.

The first practice was almost all running. The only

exception was the thirty second water breaks.

When Jake got on the field he was in complete focus. He played one game last month and the fans were so loud that Jake's coach lost his voice trying to give the players advice at halftime.

After a few weeks of practicing and unimportant games Jake's team had 14 wins and 1 loss. The loss was to the best team in the league who had beat them by one point. Jake had a total of thirty goals in all fifteen games.

When the playoffs started Jake's team (The Tigers) won their first game by six and Jake scored three of them.

After another win they went to the semifinals where they were playing the team in third place. This game would decide whether or not they had a chance for the championship.

To Be Continued...



## FRUIT

By Sarah K.

Fruit. What is your favorite fruit? Mine is strawberries but I also like apples.

Fruit is healthy. Did you know that? You probably do know about it but did you know that 7500

varieties of apples are grown around the WORLD.

Also, strawberries are not actual berries but bananas are an actual berries. It's true and mind-blowing. BOOM!



# CREATIVE WRITING

## THE BEACH

By Arielle G.

The hot sun pressed against my cheeks. I don't know where my parents went, so I am kind of just wandering around.

"MOM!" I yell. "WHERE ARE YOU? DAD!"

I am only nine years old so I am kind of scared. And it is OK to be scared when you've just lost your parents and you're in the middle of a beach. Right? The tears burn my eyes and the wind blows my blond hair. Suddenly the wind just throws me right into a rock (my head hits the rock).



(A day later)

When I woke up my head was bleeding (And I had a major headache).

"Ow my head hurts! AND IT IS BLEEDING!"

My head was spinning and EVERYTHING was blurry! Oh my gosh, I forgot I have to look for my parents.

"MOM! DAD! WHERE ARE YOU?"

Suddenly my mom's face popped into my head. I started to cry my eyes out!

"MOM! DAD! Where are you!?"

I really want them!!! Then I heard a noise, a screaming noise, my mom's screaming. She was screaming my name. I ran to her and she ran to me, she swung me into the air and kissed me all over.

# REVENGE OF DARTH VADER

By Veda R., Maggie R., and Avery R.

A LONG TIME AGO, in a galaxy far, far away  
\*FLASH FORWARD\* there was a war between the dark side and the light side. ONCE AGAIN they were battling. The battle was currently happening on Luke Skywalker's home planet, Tatooine. They were fighting over boring, political things that are lame to explain. With the help of Luke Skywalker they won the battle.  
\*PRESENT TIME\* Luke Skywalker is also training his new Padawan (apprentice), Rey the Jedi. Hopefully Rey is a good Padawan. Ray's friend General Leia was waiting for her outside.

"How are you doing?" asked Leia.

"Good, I guess. He hasn't told me. All he gave

me is lightsaber tips." Replied Ray.

They were close to the ship when they heard a BOOOOOM! All of a sudden they both began to run as the ground was breaking. The dark side was beginning the battle. But you will never guess who landed there on planet Tatooine.

Leia and Ray said, "This shall begin our battle."

But then, out of the blue came a dark side ship. It confused them. The doors opened, and out came...

"GENERAL GRIEVOUS??!!!" Shrieked Ray and Leia.

To be continued...





# CREATIVE WRITING

## WANTED

By Sophia K.

If it weren't for me you wouldn't be reading this article. I am the mad scientist who created the computer that I wrote this on. My name is Vladimir Yvonne Latty. And I am creating a time machine. For this project I need lotus berries which are illegal in almost every country in the world due to their strong poison. But nothing will stop me at all costs. I need to make it all the way across the world to the country Bookington so I bought a ticket to the only available flight. Unfortunately they have airport security. So my plan is to sneak the Lotus berries through the airport and back to my laboratory.

### Current Day

Today is adventure day. I am leaving to go to Bookington so I'm on my way to the airport. But there is so much traffic, so I'll probably be waiting for an hour. You will probably get bored so I'll be back.

### Bookington

Now that I'm here in Bookington I can get the lotus berries and leave, but first I need to help myself to a buffet. I know! I know! I shouldn't be attracting attention but I'm STARVING! So I'm at the buffet and here is what I see: nobody! And guess what? I haven't seen anyone on the island at all today. So I'm not going to eat but I'll take my chance for the lotus berries when I have it....

## EVIL REVENGE ON DARTH VADER

By Maggie R.

In a galaxy far, far away the Dark Side and Light Side were fighting. Luckily, Darth Vader was dead, but there had been rumors about Darth Vader coming back to life.

So they met for justice at the planet Tatooine. They sent their most powerful ally, Luke Skywalker, the one that defeated Darth Vader in the first movie.

But the war was an original war. It was a fight with lightsabers and whoever lost would get defeated by the most powerful lightsaber.

As the war began, Luke Skywalker was in the lead with five points and Darth Vader only had two points. The battle was worth four points. The goal was to flip the lightsaber up in the air and catch it without it hitting the ground.

Since Darth Vader was losing he went first. He flipped it but it dropped, so then Luke Skywalker flipped his and got an extra point by catching his lightsaber and he won! Then R2-D2 gave Luke Skywalker the most powerful lightsaber to end Darth Vader!!!!!!



Check Out the  
Lion's Life Archive  
on Spring Ave's  
website!

# CREATIVE WRITING

## WHAT DESTROYED MY CITY

By Dylan J.

Hi. My name is Katherine but please call me Kate. I am 12 years old and I live in Maui, Hawaii. I live with my mom and my dad in a house on the coast.

My mom works at a marine center and my dad is a lawyer. My dad is almost never home, but my mom gets home around 5:00 every day. Still, both of my parents are home every weekend, so then we can do family activities like horseback riding, surfing, play in the pool in our backyard or go down to the beach and just lay on a lawn chair.

But, when something very disrupting and destructive to my city happened, I knew that I had to step up and be the brave one to stop the cyclone of not only what was going on outside, but inside too.

"Time to get up, sweetheart," called mom from downstairs. "It's Friday, so you get to sleep in tomorrow!"

"Mom," I yelled back. "It's only 6:30!"

I really, really, REALLY hate getting up before 7:00. It's so annoying that my mom has to be at work at exactly 8:00 and my dad, as I already said, is never at

home.

"Honey, let's go, I'm going to be late!" Mom said, "You really have to get down here and eat breakfast".

"Ok, I'm coming!," I yelled back.



I put on my tie-dye shirt that I made last Saturday and my jean shorts and went downstairs.

"Hi mom," I said when I got downstairs. "What's for breakfast?"

"Scrambled eggs and bacon, does that sound good?" replied mom who was scrambling eggs in the pan.

"Yeah, sounds awesome," I answered and sat down at the table in the dining room. "I've got a math test today."

"Oh, wow. Well, you're going to rock it, just like the other tests you do," said mom as she grabbed the plates and puts the scrambled eggs and bacon on the plates and sat down across from me.

"I don't get straight A's on all of my tests, but most of them," I said with a sly smile on my face.

"Oh, it is on, lady," she said,

stood up from the table and gave me a look.

"It is so on," I said as I stood up and went over to my mom, attempting to look serious.

We looked at each other for a long moment and started laughing. I was laughing for so long that the water I was drinking came straight out my nose! That just made us laugh even harder! It continued for about five minutes until I got a text. It was from my best friend named Lucy.

*Lucy: You'll never believe what's going on outside! The 4cast said that it would hit 2morrow but it's happening right now!*



*Kate: What's going on??? I don't see anything that looks weird*

*Lucy: Look outside!!! Use ur eyes!*

So, I look outside and it had turned surprisingly dark. I opened the door and looked outside. The sky was as black as a panther, and the wind whipped through my hair.

"Wow," I said. "It's a hurricane"

To Be Continued...

# CREATIVE WRITING

## DEADLOCKED 3.5

### THE CHRISTMAS EDITION

By Aidan D.

*Notice: This article is just different places either Nill and Dill, Deadlocked, or SPZM Chron. Have explored celebrating Christmas. It is not Canon.*

#### Chapter 1 of 3: Akiypolis

A cold breeze swept through the ocean, as a creature overlooked it from the edges of the void.

"Hmm..I should really get going to the town soon," said the being, before jumping right into the cold, ever frozen water of Akipolis.

As it jumped in the water, it morphed into a scaly fish, then swam fiercely to a speck in the distance known as land.

Today was a special day. While in Akipolis it is always winter, the past few weeks were especially cold, signaling the coldest part of the season.

Two months ago the last holiday ended when pumpkins thrived and children donned costumes to get candy from the other residents. The holiday, which was named "Halloween," was most fun if you were a Folinew, because everyone was

slightly spooked by the costumes, traditions and decorations. No one would expect a Folinew shadowkinesis surprise to traumatize your friends.

But now the pumpkins have died and the jackets have turned to coats. The coldest part of the year has finally arrived. Of course, Dyilieik, the creature, was not expecting to be celebrating with his own kind this year, he was planning on boarding a teleporter and heading to a new land of adventure.

When he arrived at the battered docks he jumped on and morphed into a human and silently ran to a secret room in the outskirts of town, where an ominous figure was stepping into a teleporter.

He quickly morphed into a tick, jumped in its head, and rode through time and space to meet the faces of two children, a fish person, a pyromaniac, an adult who was climbing from the window, and a cat. (h0i from N&DC!)

#### Chapter 2 of 3: Wynncraft

The winter night slowly

crept down upon the prosperous town of Lusuco. As it was the final night until Christmas eve would arrive, where children and adults alike would eagerly wait for Santa to pass over them giving them joys and toys alike.

As the children fell asleep a man walked through the town with a metal bow, The strapped onto his back, the figure had a steel helmet, with a blue V in the center. He was an Aidversian Scout. He looked around, waiting.

"I told you, I'm done with my involvement with the Aidverse," said an old, gravelly voice that quite likely spooked him.

"Well," He said, turning around. "Then we respect your opinion, but without your aid, heheh, we will be forced to shut off all financial aid to this town."

"Wa-wha? You can't do that! That would cripple this whole region!" said the man quite startled by this revelation.

"You have a choice, old man. Get on the chopper in the morning and this town will forever be stable." the soldier said, before dropping a smoke bomb, and

*Continued on next page*

# CREATIVE WRITING

## DEADLOCKED 3.5, CONTINUED

### THE CHRISTMAS EDITION

By Aidan D.

Teleporting away.

#### Chapter 3 of 3: ???

50 miles away from the Dharma's Capital, Beijing.

As children walked along the streets on Christmas Eve, heading home, a lone figure stood on a house roof.

He was 6ft 7in with giant black wings tucked under his clothes, his skin was jet black and his eyes, glowing a furious white, were blocked out by a Plague Doctor mask.

In the city and surrounding suburbs like this one, he was known as The Demon From the

Roofs. He was typing on a Aidversian Computer when a child looked up and saw the rumored mask of death.

"IT'S HIM! IT'S THE DEMON! ON THE ROOF!" He shouted, paralyzed.

This made him jump and drop his computer, falling to the streets and shattering. This caused countless to take pictures and stare. The demon decided that this was enough, and spread the rumored wing, the height of these wings made him 13ft tall, which made everyone scatter.

After this, the figure transformed.

He shrank to 5ft 2in, lost

the wings, and his skin became pale. The demon tightened the mask, and dissolved into shadows, the demon's name, of course, was Aidan Dill  
THE EN-

Aidan: Woah, woah, woah! Wait a second!

Epilogue: Author's Note

Hi guys! Sorry there is no Deadlocked for this article, here is your replacement I guess, Enjoy your holidays and don't be like anyone in my stories, they are all evil, trust me. Merry Christmas!

THE (actual) END!

## CHARLIE CHARLIE

By Sarah K.

Charlie is a spinny thingy. Just look at the picture.

Charlie can only answer yes, no or maybe questions.

Charlie is a boy. That has been confirmed by him. He also maybe likes newspaper club. He won't say anything about Newspaper Club.

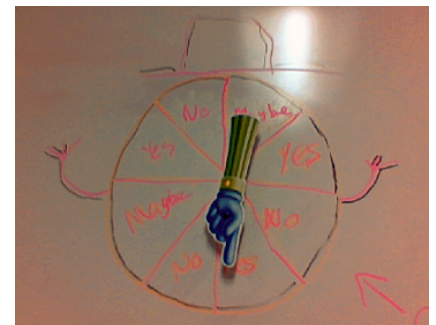
There is multiple of him so make him in your room or in your house. Just ask questions. He will answer them all!

The first few questions you should ask him

are "Do like where you are placed?" or "Do you like me?"

If he says no for both just take him away. If he says maybe or yes, keep him safe and happy or it won't end well.

I'm sure he will like you. Well, I hope you have Charlie Charlie in your house. Also, I hope that he will be nice to you.





# CREATIVE WRITING

## FLIGHT OF THE OWL, VOLUME 2

By Emily S.

I awoke atop a massive hill in a part of the valleys that shadowed my village. At first it took me a moment to process where I was. When I glanced down at the scroll beneath me, all of my questions were answered.

第二週

創造星星

Week Two

Creating The Stars

It'd been two weeks since I'd dug an owl kite out of my garage and used it to imitate the stars. I doubted anyone in China lived in a village without thick pollution. No child had seen the stars that I knew of. That's why I strung Christmas lights to my kite and let the majestic owl soar through the wind, lights twinkling.

"Do you always sleep up here?"

Whipping around, I glared at the speaker. He was a boy my age in a sleek tuxedo. At first, I took a step back, puzzled. My village was considered poor compared to the rest of China. How could anyone afford such expensive clothing?

I didn't answer. Instead, I clenched my fists and waited for the boy to say something. His curved black bangs hung over his

eyes, preventing me from seeing whatever secrets he held in those slim hazel orbs.

"Woah, settle down," the boy whistled, as if he were approaching a wild animal.

"Don't treat me like a dog," I muttered. "Back off and mind your own business."

*"Duìbùqǐ! Lěngjìng xiàlái!"* he whimpered.

Scowling, I turned back around and fingered my kite. If I ditched school for another week my father would stop paying for tuition. He'd tried to convince me to come down for thirteen days, now. Which was more important? I began to wonder this as I entered the empty space in my mind.

"How do you even enjoy being alone?" the boy snorted.

"You're still here?" I snapped, turning to face the boy.

"Technically you don't own these hills, unless they're your family's property."

"These hills are public property. Where do you even live?"

The boy sighed. "I've seen you in school...when you still went. Now I just watch your kite fly every night with those...Christmas lights."

I softened a bit. "I'm trying to recreate the stars," I murmured. "What's your name?"

"Chen," replied the boy, smoothing out his swoopy bangs. They reminded me of my owl on windy nights, swooping over rapid gusts of wind.

Wordlessly, I sat down and opened my scroll, doodling owls and stars on blank spaces. Chen leaned over my shoulder, intently staring at my drawings. He pointed at an owl I drew.

"What kind of owl is that?"

"A barn owl," I huffed, "and if you don't leave you'll be the mouse and I'll be the owl."

Chen raised an eyebrow before backing away, descending the steep hill. When he was halfway down he paused and looked over his shoulder.

"And Xiang?"

"How do you know my name?"

"Come back to school, just for a day. *Qǐng.*"

I shook my head, allowing a cloak of dark thoughts to constrict me. Staying here would cost me the loss of my previous life. On the other hand, I could never draw my gaze away from the sky and my kite. What was out there? What would it take to bring it back?

*"Lái. You do not fear the unknown. I can show you."*

That voice...I glanced over at my kite. Its eyes seemed to follow me, omniscient.



# CREATIVE WRITING

## SPAZAM CHRONICLES II

**Back at it again with an Immature Eyeball.**

**By: Aidan D. (And Spazam! I contributed too!) (Aidan: No.)**

Chapter 4 (Also please head to previous newspaper for Chron. I)

Spazam quickly dropped down the cavern before slamming her sword in the heart of the ravine. She looked at the creatures around her, stunned, but soon they would regain their senses and overcrowd her. So she quickly took the time to cut down a stunned swordsman, and take a rusted but powerful gold sword. She started mowing down mobs in hand to hand combat or slaying them with the sword, by the end of the battle, Spazam stood among skulls and picks, but nothing was alive other than her. Just then two figures looked over the ledge.

"Squeak!" said Mr. Cuddles, happy Spazam was ok.

"Hey! Are you o-oh god that's a lot of blood." Said Kyle, just realizing the combat Spazam was in, and was incredibly surprised that Spazam was not even injured.

"Umm...do you have the materials?"

"Yeah, I think I do, gold, Iron, Cobwebs, all dat good stuff," responded Spazam, before being helped out with a rope Kyle had.

"And a little bonus as well!" She said at the top, brandishing a mining helmet and the gold sword

she had gotten from the fight.

"God, that's lucky, well we should go home. I want to expand our shack a little for more travelers," Kyle said as they walked from the cave to the foot of the mountains and their little cabin, covered in the light of dusk.

Chapter 5

As they reached their home they admired the scenery. It was a tundra the cabin was in, but it only snowed in winter, and the month was Octvuios, so it was Fall. It still gave a home to the tiny cabin area.

But after a moment of admiration, they got to work. Kyle and Spaz tirelessly worked on building and Mr. Cuddles moved wheeled carts full of wood to the work site. Well, it was more of slowly nudging wheels until the cart goes down here and the momentum takes it all the way down. Sooner or later, the cabin was re-made for three rooms. There was a living room/kitchen, a blacksmith's, and a sleeping area, including five beds and one bunny bed. They were set. At last they decorated the front with some gel, and added a sign stating: "Spazam and Kyle's Local Safe Hut!"

Before heading inside, they locked the door and got to work.

As Kyle worked on cooling metals, Spazam, quite efficiently, drilled through wood work and tools, making targets, couches, dummies, swords, and armor. After this, she plopped down on a chair and began planning how to build a loom, which would allow her to use those cobwebs that help her so much.

"Huh, I can't remember how to build a loom...well I have a feeling if a Lumberjack shows up soon, he would know," said Kyle, clearly having similar thoughts as Spazam, even while doing metalwork.

"Well, sooner or later I would like to visit the south, since we haven't looked there yet," Kyle replied, itching for the adventure and combat that could come from the dark force pulling her there.

"Well, we should be getting to bed."

"Good idea, come on Mr. Cuddles!" Spazam replied, as she brought Mr. Cuddles to her bed before she herself lay down, and fell asleep almost instantly.

Chapter 6

Spazam was slowly awoken to an odd smell from the blacksmith's room. It smelled like pine cone, but it had the scent of honey. After stretching, yawning,

*Continued on next page*

# CREATIVE WRITING

## SPAZAM CHRONICLES II CONTINUED

By: Aidan D.

and changing into her work clothes, she walked into the room, to meet Kyle talking with another man. The man had a patterned shirt and an ax strapped to his back.

"Ah, hello!" said Spazam, surprised to see a person arriving already.

"Hello, I'm Joseph the Lumberjack, and I heard you were accepting residents so I came here. I'm presuming since I'm talking with the guide that you are Spazam?"

"Yup!" Spazam replied.  
"Also Kyle, what is that smell?"

Kyle, who just finished organizing everything with Joseph, was delighted to hear this.

"I decided to make something with the surrounding

materials here, so I made pancakes with my new recipe, the Honeycone!" Kyle said this as he showed two plates of maple slathered pancakes and a pine cone covered in honey for a masking flavor.

Spazam, being the mature person she was, sat down, grabbed some utensils Kyle made last night from that whole work spree, and gobbled it all up in less than three minutes.

"Can I have some more?" Spazam asked, clearly loving it.

"Well, I have two more plates, one for our new friend here and one extra, so dig in."

This time, Spazam took longer to savor every single bite she had. After the great breakfast, Spazam decided it was time to

journey south. She grabbed her gold armor, sheathed her sword, said goodbye to Kyle and Joseph, and opened the door, ready for an adventure.

*In another realm...*

They came from the east, those filths. They rammed and charged us, driving us back. Our brethren, our only friends, drove mad with blood and the joys of war. They became corrupted by blood as we, hateful and wrathful, were corrupted by sorrow. We ran south only for the terrifying creature, the one of many eyes and no heads, to curse us all and bound us to the ground.

MA- YOU H-LP US?

THE END

## ZOMBIES

By Abigail S.

Dear anyone who will listen,  
I am trapped in a house surrounded by zombies. They've almost broken the bathroom window so I closed and locked the bathroom door. Please come soon. Oh no! They're here!

Sincerely,

Jackie

Dear Jackie,  
Are you a zombie?

I'm not. Where are you? How old are you? I'm 14. Do you know anybody else who survived the apocalypse? I don't.  
From,  
Alex

Dear Alex,

I am not a zombie. I have been in a supermarket. I'm also 14. No I don't know anybody else who

survived the apocalypse. Do you have any food? I barely do. Well, unless you count fruit snacks and granola bars as food.

From,

Jackie

Dear Jackie,  
No, I have no food.  
From,  
Alex

# CREATIVE WRITING

## WINGED ANARCHY, VOLUME 2

By Emily S.

The soft, comforting texture of earth coated Aspen's beak as he dipped his head to peck at the soil. The sparrow could sense the familiar vibrations of earthworms tunneling beneath him. Perhaps one of them would rise up to the surface to munch on a leaf, savoring the morning dew.

Eyes glinting, Aspen gouged his talons into the ground, taking in the swift rattling of a worm tunneling upwards. Its dull pink head popped up beside a fallen leaf covered in dew. Aspen sank back into his talons, waiting for the moment to strike.

At last, the worm's entire body had risen above the earth. It was contently munching on the crumbling leaf, completely oblivious to the sparrow's presence. Parting his jaws, Aspen lunged for the worm and soon rose up with his game dangling from his beak.

Aspen spread his wings and soared up to the branches of a relatively small maple tree. He perched on a sturdy branch to devour his meal, juice dripping from his beak.

The forest's silence made Aspen a bit uneasy. He pecked at

the remains of the worm, listening to the wind's ghostly howls.

Normally this small forest would be bustling with sparrows and the sounds of swaying vegetation.

Where was everyone? Had Aspen risen early only to find the feasting grounds empty?

A twig snapped. Aspen's head whipped around in the direction of the sudden noise. Three jet black figures were descending from the treetops, beady eyes blazing. Convulsing wildly, Aspen ducked in the shadow of a massive branch.

"There's a straggler, I can smell it," scoffed a deep, raspy voice.

Straggler? Is this the reason why I'm here alone? Have these crows taken my flock?

Heart thundering, Aspen lowered his stance so he would appear smaller. The crows were sniffing intently, serrated beaks open to taste the air. Unsure of where to hide, Aspen shifted closer to the branch beneath him. To his dismay, the branch lowered with a triumphant creak.

The crows' sleek heads

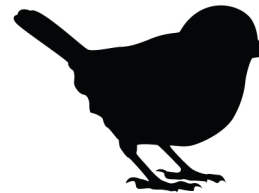
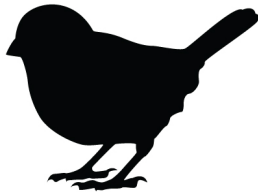
whipped towards Aspen. Blood roaring in his ears, the sparrow spun on his talons and soared into the treetops, wings pumping at a speed he'd never achieved before. Moments later, Aspen could hear the crows' obnoxious wingbeats close behind him. They were gaining on him!

Spiraling uncontrollably, Aspen used a few gusts of wind to propel him upwards. He struggled to keep balanced, short wings pumping against the quickening wind. Soon Aspen would reach the end of his home forest and arrive at a prairie.

"This is an excellent opportunity!" one of the crows cawed. "We can take out the doves and the last of the sparrows in one swoop!"

Aspen's heart sank and he began to tremble from exhaustion. Sparrows weren't capable of flying long distances at high speeds; he'd never escape without the aid of another bird. But what birds were even around? If what the crows said was true, his entire colony had been overthrown and possibly demolished.

Without warning, a drawn-out lament echoed in the sky. The soft, flute-like coo of a



*Continued on next page*



# CREATIVE WRITING

## WINGED ANARCHY, VOLUME 2, CONTINUED

By Emily S.

mourning dove motivated Aspen to swoop to the ground. The sparrow gasped for air, sheltering within the tall grasses of the prairie. Surely his dusty brown feathers would blend with the grasses.

The crows dove into the prairie, tasting the air. The three cocked their heads, splitting up to search for the sparrow. Aspen shrank into the vegetation around him, praying he'd be concealed by the environment. The sparrow watched as a sleek grey figure landed before the crows, wings swatting the air.

"Stay out of our domain!" the figure cooed harshly.

The crows began hopping anxiously, talons scraping the earth. They were aware that the doves had excellent fighting skills if peace wasn't an option. Aspen let a barely audible breath escape his throat. Perhaps he wouldn't die today after all.

"Ma'am, we mean no harm," the crows cawed in unison.

The dove narrowed her deep brown eyes. She averted her gaze to the crows' talons, which were covered in crimson stains.

Aspen followed her gaze, shivering. He wondered if the crows were stained with the blood of his kin.

"Why should I believe you?" hooted the dove, her flute-like voice escalating in volume. "The stains on your talons could easily be the blood of a dove. Don't try to prove me wrong."

"We have been foraging for berries, ma'am," a crow apologized, grinning sheepishly.

"We were just about to clean ourselves in the springs!" another added.

"Excuse us, we just dropped a few berries in your fields," the third chimed in. "Allow us to search a bit. We won't do you any harm."

Aspen couldn't control his impulses any longer. He darted beside the dove, head high and chest puffed out.

"They were looking for me," he declared. "They overthrew my kin."

The dove's gaze hardened and she lunged at a crow, her talons locking around its throat. Black struggled against grey as the two birds wrestled in the air. The

remaining crows joined their fellow in battle, viciously clawing the dove's sides.

Aspen narrowed his eyes and swooped around the four. He scanned the crows for weak points. When he felt it was time, the sparrow dove at a crow and jammed his beak into its shoulder. The crow shrieked in agony, stumbling to the ground. Blood trickled from his shoulder.

"Go for the neck!" the dove screeched, raking her talons down a crow's face.

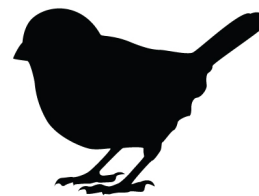
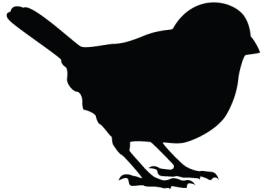
Heart pounding, Aspen descended onto a crow's spine, gouging his minuscule talons into his throat. The crow spat in

annoyance, flinging Aspen off with ease.

Before he hit the ground, Aspen spread his wings and steadied

himself. He then dove again, this time striking the crow's shoulder fatally.

Eventually all three of the black corvids had taken to the air, retreating in the direction of the sparrows' territory. Aspen looked back and noticed for the first time that most of the plants in his forest were dying. The area he'd been in was the only one



# CREATIVE WRITING

## WINGED ANARCHY, VOLUME 2, CONTINUED

By Emily S.

untouched by the enemy's presence.

Catching his breath, the sparrow turned to the dove. The sleek female dipped her head respectfully, displaying a row of fresh scars on her nape. Aspen dipped his head as well. It was the bird custom for bowed heads upon introductions.

"I am Juniper," the dove cooed, lifting her head to meet the sparrow's gaze.

"I'm Aspen, and I owe you my life," chirped Aspen, lifting his head as well.

"Vice versa," Juniper nodded.

The two prey-birds stood in silence for a moment, listening to the wind's melodic howling around them. Eventually Juniper spoke, her deep brown eyes twinkling with concern.

"Why would those crows want to take over your colony?"

Aspen shrugged. "I only caught a bit of it when the crows were chasing me. I don't know how they possibly did everything alone."

"I saw some kestrels leading a few sparrow flocks earlier this morning," Juniper noted. "The

crows aren't alone. All of these birds have the same mission."

"So my kin are alive?" Aspen gasped, eyes glinting hopefully.

"Alive, but enslaved," frowned Juniper. "I haven't had the chance to warn the rest of the dawn patrol.

Come, you can stay with my flock until we resolve this issue."

Dipping his head gratefully, Aspen followed Juniper deeper into the prairie.

By noon, the two prey-birds had reached a massive clearing. In the center of it lay a relatively large pond, its waters rippling softly in the wind. Mourning doves pranced about in orderly fashion, each seeming intent on a destination. Curved huts made of woven sticks were scattered across the clearing, each seeming to have its own purpose. In addition, many hares roamed the area, peacefully munching on vegetation.

Juniper led Aspen into the largest hut, approaching a muscular dove inside. The two nuzzled respectfully before engaging in deep conversation. Aspen bounced from talon to talon

anxiously, listening for any information about his enemies.

"I saw kestrels leading the sparrow colony away," Juniper explained. "A few crows passed by our area, but I shoosed them off. I fought off the last three with the help of the last free sparrow."

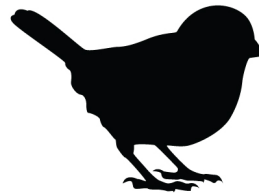
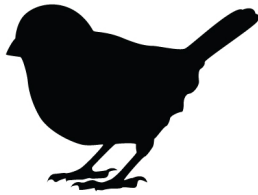
Juniper pointed her beak towards Aspen. The muscular dove turned to Aspen, smiling warmly. The two dipped their heads solemnly.

"I am Hollow, lead patroller of this flock. Thank you for defending my daughter," the male dove cooed.

"I'm Aspen, and I'm happy to help!" tweeted Aspen, trying to sound cheerful. Juniper nudged her father. "As I was saying, the sparrows have been overthrown and enslaved. We don't know who's behind this, but they're a threat to us."

Hollow nodded slowly, contemplating what to do. Aspen pecked at his chest, removing a few insects. He winced upon pecking a fresh scar. The crows had clearly done some damage.

"Juniper, I'm afraid we cannot directly provoke these



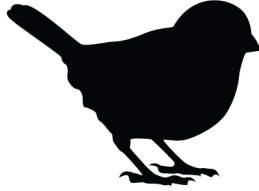
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# CREATIVE WRITING

## WINGED ANARCHY, VOLUME 2, CONTINUED

By Emily S.

scavenger birds," frowned Hollow. "It is simply against our colony's nature. Doves are peaceful creatures. All we can do is prepare and wait for the enemy to come to us. In the meantime, don't expect anything. We don't know for sure that we're being targeted."



Juniper opened her beak to protest but quickly shut it. She nodded briskly and trotted out of the hut, looking deeply troubled. Aspen hesitantly followed, though he realized his legs were burning from exhaustion with every step.

After what felt like eons of striding through the clearing, the two stood before a small, bare tree. Its bark was the color of Aspen's feathers and its branches

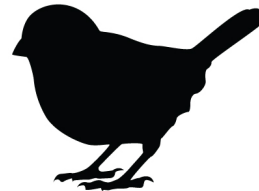
were spread out far from each other. Upon those branches sat many doves, some simply perching and others settled into nests.

"We don't normally have guests," Juniper apologized, "so we probably don't have... Oh, nevermind! I see a nest up there. You can stay in that for the time being."

"Thanks," Aspen smiled, legs threatening to buckle beneath him.

How much can I take this burning? He thought.

Aspen looked up to meet Juniper's gaze. She narrowed her eyes, scrutinizing the convulsing sparrow before her. There was concern in her deep, knowing



eyes.

"Rest," the dove cooed.

"Can I help with anything? I feel useless," Aspen shot back.

Juniper held Aspen's gaze, refusing to budge.

"Please?" chirped Aspen.

"Rest," Juniper repeated.

With that, Aspen fluttered up to one of the higher branches and into a small nest. He exhaled, relieved to get off his feet, and bunched up inside his nest. The

familiar presence of coarse nesting material around him was soothing after the near-death experience with the crows.

By sunset, the sparrow had drifted off into a troubled slumber, lulled by the soft, melodic voices of nearby doves.



## WHAT HOLIDAY THING ARE YOU?



By Bella M. and Dylan J.

A:: Advent Calendar

B: Bells

C: Cookies/Candy Canes

D: Dark Chocolate

E: Elf on the Shelf

F: Falalalalalalala

G: Gingerbread man

H: Ho Ho Ho

I: Igloo

J: Joy

K: Karaoke Party

L: Laugh

M: Mistletoe

N: Noel

O: Ornament

P: Present

Q: Quest for Presents

R: Rudolph

S: Santa

T: Tree

U: Under the tree

V: Very Fun

W: Winter

X: Xmas

Y: Yule Log

Z: Zesty foods for dinner

# CREATIVE WRITING

## TESTED VOLUME 2

By Charlotte S.



Rocco

"Welcome to the facility." The boy's words echo in my head.

"What facility?" I ask him.

"The one that we're trapped in. The one that hired that nice lady to trick street orphans like us into coming here. The one that does experiments

on kids every day. The one that is ruled by that rotten, horrid..." He sighed: "I'm sorry I just hate this place and its boss."

Now that my eyes have adjusted to the dark I can take a closer look at him. His raven hair is messy and long, his clothes are old and ragged, and he is so pale that it almost looks like his skin is white. He looks like he stepped out of a black and white movie. Seriously the only color on him are his bright, determined blue eyes.

One of his eyes is covered by his hair. Actually the entire right side of his face is covered by his bangs. I wonder why? Then he turns his head and I catch a glimpse of his face. His right eye has been sealed shut and his face is covered in scars.

Without meaning to, I gasp, and he says, "Oh, you saw. I was hoping you wouldn't... That's why I try to stay in the shadows."

"It's not that bad." Did I just say that? He's looking at me so yes,

I did. I don't want to lie to him sooo... "It just takes some getting used to." That's not a lie. This whole situation needs getting used to.

"Thanks." He looks like he wants to say something else but just then he turns away like he saw something out of the corner of his eye. When I look I see that a boy is being herded towards the other room by some men in hazmat suits, he's not fighting them but I can tell he doesn't want to go. A girl-maybe his sister-is being held back by another man. She's struggling weakly like she thinks she can't get out of the man's grip. If she tried she probably could though. When the men and the boy go through the door into the place with all the beds the other man lets go of the girl and she sinks to her knees tears streaming down her face.

"Anna?" says the boy -the one with the scared face not the other one- as he rushes over to her.

"Rocco, what am I going to do? They took Jack, they're going to... they're going to..." Anna sobbed.

"What do you mean? What are they going to do to him?" Rocco asked in a soft voice.

"They're going to do the... the... the metal thing. You know the one where they... never mind. No one's the same after that Rocco, never." She is crying so hard, Rocco is trying to comfort her but he can't.

"Don't worry, Jack is strong. He'll be fine." Rocco sounds calm but he looks like he is about to cry, I guess uum... Jack is a good friend of his.

"Carter was strong too and when they did it to him he...he came back different. I don't want my brother to be like that. Don't say that he will stay the same because they have learned from their mistakes. If they had we wouldn't be having this conversation!" Anna is yelling now but she's not angry yelling, it's more like "I've been holding back my emotions for too long!" yelling.

I'm about to try help Rocco comfort Anna when someone grabs me from behind. I try to scream but the person's hand is over my mouth. Next thing I know I'm being taken towards the room with the beds. I can't get free. The person is too strong. What are they going to do to me?

Then I'm tied to one of the hospital beds. His hand isn't over my mouth anymore. I can scream all I want and it doesn't look like he is going to stop me. There is something I need to know; "What are you going to do to me?!"

"Just some implants, it won't hurt too much." I recognize that voice. Where have I heard that before? Then it hits me, this guy in the hazmat suit isn't a guy at all. It's a girl. It's the witch that runs this place.

"Wait, did you say-" before I can finish she sticks a needle in my arm and everything goes black.





*How do you succeed in school?*

*-Random Person*

Dear Random Person,

If you are having problems with academics then you should ask your teachers if they have time to help you after/before school or during recess. If you need more help ask your parents if they can get extra help from a tutor. Try your best and I know you will succeed!

Good Luck, Jillian

*Dear Jillian,*

*Hi. I have no friends, and I want some. How do I get friends?*

*-Friendless Person*

Dear Friendless Person,

I had the same problem when I moved here last year. It was so hard to find people who wanted to get to know me, because they all already had a friend group.

I asked my mom to join a few clubs outside of school. I started competitive handwriting and fencing. I immediately made friends with my new best friends, Basil and Cilantro. The best part is, now I have something to look forward to twice a week: seeing my friends. In short, if the kids at your school aren't ready to accept you, try to make friends with people outside of school. You might end up meeting some of the best people in your entire life.

From, Jillian

*Dear Jillian,*

*I think I'm ugly.*

*- Cupcake*

Dear Cupcake,

I can assure you that you are not ugly. I don't think that you are ugly. Everyone is beautiful in their own way. I hope you can understand. If I can't see you I can't really judge but, I'm SURE you are beautiful!!!

From, Jillian

*Dear Jillian,*

*Sometimes I worry about things that happen in my life. Can you give advice to me?*

*- Pencil Paster*

Dear Pencil Paster,

I've had the same problem before, especially when I was at camp, so you're not alone. Just know, that whatever you do, that is just your fear and it is something that is in your head. Your fear is something that is totally normal, and I know you can overcome it.

Yours, Jillian

**Do you ever feel stressed out? Do you ever have friend troubles? Do you feel like your head is going to explode? My name is Jillian and I'm here to help.**

**If you are ever having any trouble at all, you can write a letter to me for advice. All you need to do is write a letter and sign it with a code name. This way your identity is kept a secret. There will be a box by the biography section in the library. This is where you will give me your letters. Next to the box, there will be envelopes to seal your letters. Whenever the next newspapers come out, your letters will be answered.**

# C O M I C



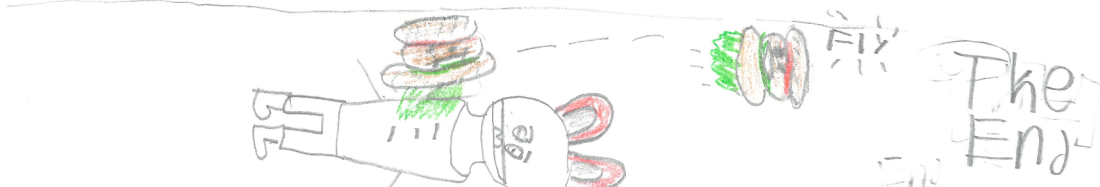
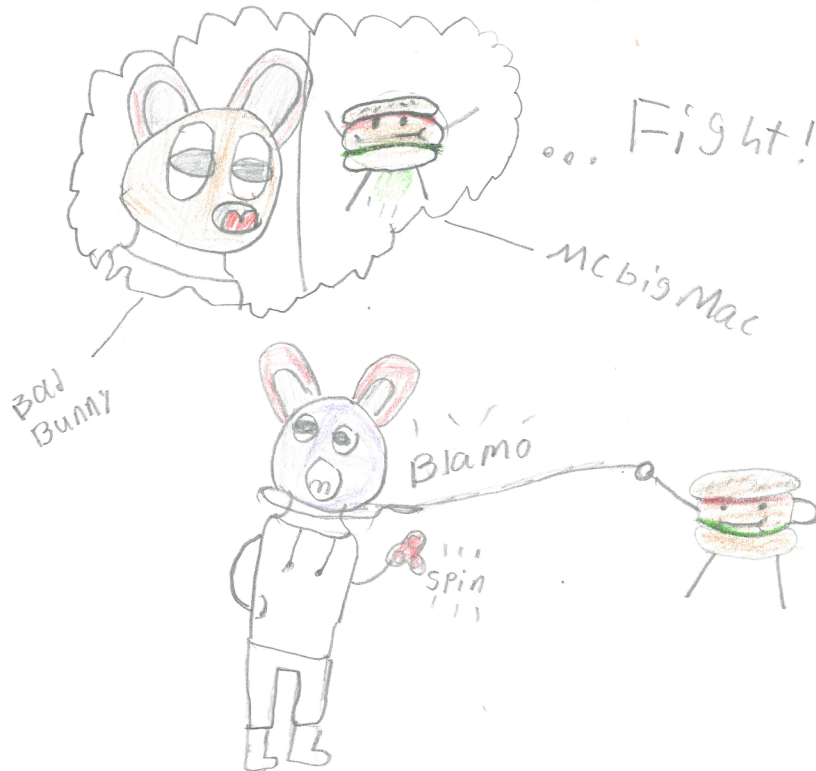
# C O M I C



## The Epic Fight!

By Tyler.k

|| Sponsored by Geico ||



# C O M I C

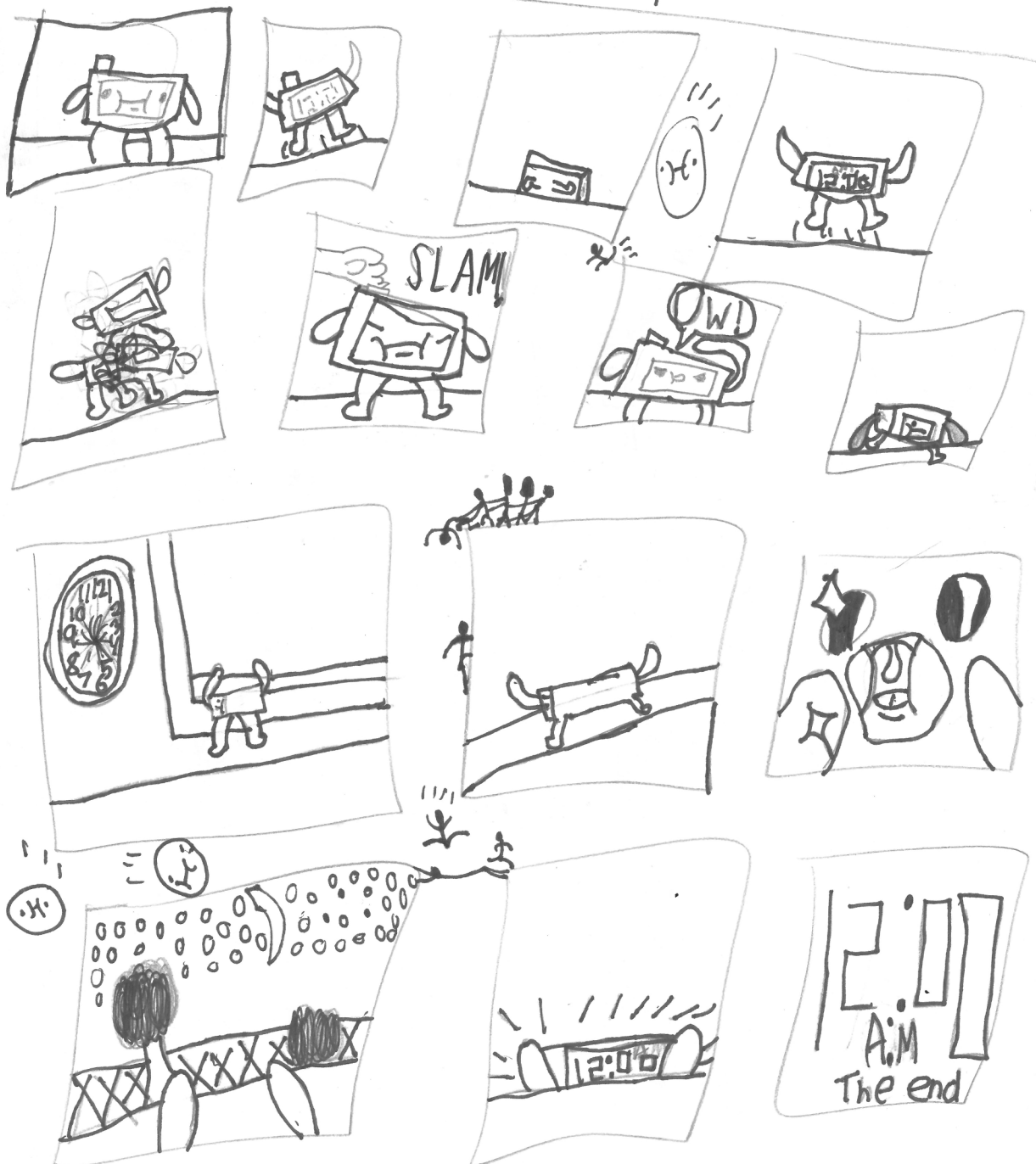
## MEAL OF THE DAY by Seth H.





# C O M I C

! Things! By Eli P.





## CALENDAR

### December

December 22 - Classroom Holiday Parties

December 25 - January 5 - Winter Break

### January

January 10 - Spring Avenue PTO Meeting 7:00 pm

January 15 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day

January 20 - PTO Adult Social and Silent Auction

January 26 - Teacher Battle of the Books

January 25 - Spring Avenue Science Fair 6:30 - 8:30 pm

February 6 - Kindergarten 100 Day Celebration

February 14, 15 - Parent Teacher Conferences

February 16 - District Institute Day No School

February 19 - President's Day No School

## NEWSPAPER CLUB

Anson B.

Kenny B.

Kate B.

Michael B.

Simone B.

Leo C.

Gavin C.

Patrick C.

Jack C.

Aidan D.

Gavin D.

Molly E.

John F.

Caroline F.

Arielle G.

Bridget G.

Porter G.

Ashlyn G.

Emma H.

Seth H.

Dylan J.

Hannah K

Tyler K.

Kellan K.

Jackie K.

Sarah K.

Sophia K.

Kara L.

Lily L.

Luka L.

Jack EM

Jack NM

Matthew M.

Bella M.

Blake M.

Nathan M.

Jack M.

Frankie M.

Landon N.

Eli P.

Jenna P.

Ian P.

Marko P.

Annie P.

William P.

Chris R.

Maggie R.

Avey R.

Veda R.

Gabi S.

Abigail S.

Charlotte S.

London SM

Dylan S.

Emily S.

Reese T.

Grace T.

Finley T.

Ethan W.

Gavin W.

Lindsey W.

Devin W.

Camille W.

Jillian W.

## LAYOUT CLUB

Lydia B.

Lillian D.

Aidan D.

Caroline F.

Ashlyn G.

Minna J.

Hannah K.

Landon N.

Jude S.

Camille W.

Annie P.

Lilly R. (Gurrie)

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