

# A LION'S LIFE



**Volume 9, Issue 1  
December 7, 2016**

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Spring Avenue welcomed author Kate Messner on December 6th. Many thanks to our PTO for funding this special day!

## WELCOME TO A LION'S LIFE!

A *Lion's Life* Newspaper staff is pleased to present the first issue of *A Lion's Life* this school year! A Lion's Life Newspaper/ Journalism club officially started during the 2008- 2009 school year. Since then, dedicated student writers have put together newspapers filled with school news, features, reviews, and creative, quality writing. This year

Ms. Marek, Mrs. Musillami, and Mrs. Panice are excited to welcome back last year's student writers and greet new faces. This is our biggest year so far!

You can find all our past issues online on the Spring Avenue website under the "About Spring" link. Continue to look for new topics and additions to *A Lion's Life*.

## THE NEW LAYOUT CLUB

**By Jeanne M. and Lillian P.**

Layout Club is a brand new club at Spring Avenue. It was started by Ms. Marek just this year, and it has seven members. The current members of this club are Carter H, Lillian P, Jeanne M, Lilly R, Emmet D, Jackson K, and Hannah E. This club is about laying out the articles in the the school newspaper.

In this club, you will learn great computer skills while having fun at the same time. You use this new computer program called [www.lucidpress.com](http://www.lucidpress.com). On Lucidpress, you have a huge variety of templates for making a page in this year's newspaper. It is



the first time that Lucidpress was used, so you might notice it looks different from past editions. Ms. Marek used to do all this alone, but this year, she recruited the 6th graders for help. This club is for 6th graders who are interested in putting together and laying out a newspaper. If you are in 6th grade, you can still join and no experience is necessary. We hope to see you soon!



The positive experiences and educational support you provide to your children is a crucial component of their success at school and in life.

# PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

**By Mr. Lawson**

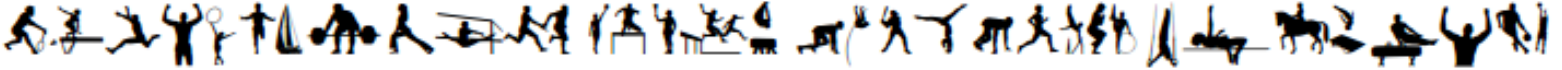
Greetings Spectacular Spring Avenue Community!

As I have mentioned in my weekly emails, we have had an excellent start to the school year and first trimester overall. The energy in the classrooms and hallways is high, and students are enthusiastic about their learning and working toward their goals. My favorite part about being the principal is going into classrooms and having the students describe their work to me and share their writing or projects. It is exciting to see both the quality of their work and their creativity. During Morning Kickoffs, students have shared many stories involving integrity, acts of kindness, and perseverance. Our next topic will be hopes and dreams, and I look forward to hearing students tell stories about their aspirations. Judging by their enthusiasm in the classroom, I anticipate hearing many wonderful dreams for the future! We have re-introduced Move-It Mondays and Think-It Thursdays, and the students have really enjoyed the things that their classmates have challenged them to do.

Another joy of being a principal is watching our excellent staff at work. My goal as principal is to ensure that the school is one that I would want my own children to attend. Judging by the quality of instruction and attention given to students, I would be thrilled to have my children be Spring Avenue Lions! The thing that strikes me the most is that ALL staff are dedicated to the success of students, including our secretaries, custodial staff, lunch supervisors, paraprofessionals, and teachers. I am fortunate to be part of such a dedicated group of people.

I am looking forward to watching our students grow and learn in the next two trimesters. With your continued support at home, there is no doubt that they will. Around Thanksgiving, I remarked to the students that I was thankful to be a part of Spring Avenue because it has the three most important ingredients to make a successful school---great students, great teachers, and great families. The positive experiences and educational support you provide to your children is a crucial component of their success at school and in life. So, thank you for everything you do to help your children be ready to learn!

# SPORTS PAGE



## BLACK HAWKS MANIA

By Ian P. and Kenny B.



### First

#### **Marian Hossa**

Born: January: 12, 1979

Born In: Stara Lubovna, Czechoslovakia

Height: 6'1"

Shoots: Left

Marian Hossa is our first favorite because he has a goal range of 500 in his entire season.

He has been on the Hawks longer than a lot of the other players.

He is a great role model to young hockey players. He trains with the team, and he plays right wing. He just scored his 500th goal.



### Second

#### **Jonathan Toews**

Born: April 29, 1988

Born In: Winnipeg, Manitoba

Height: 6'2"

Shoots: Left

Drafted #3 in 1st round by Blackhawks

We like Jonathan Toews because he is a great player and in total, he has over 250 goals.

He also is a great team player because he gives out a lot of assists.

In total, he has 317 assists. Jonathan Toews plays center.



### Third

#### **Patrick Kane**

Born: November 19, 1988

Born In: New Buffalo, New York

Height: 5' 11"

Shoots: Left

Drafted #1 In 1st round by Blackhawks

Patrick Kane got number three overall by making tons of goals and still has only been on the team since 2007.

He has a great path to making it to be MVP. He might even beat Wayne Gretzky in the goal competition.

He may only have 200 goals but he has not been on the team as long as any other people.

## TOP TIER BASEBALL



By Tyler K.

Top Tier is a really skilled baseball team in Illinois. Top tier does fielding, batting, catching, and strength training. If you're on the team already that's great if you're not and like baseball think about it.

You have to be nine years old, if you're not nine you might have a big top tier future ahead of you. Top Tier is not a lot of people yelling at you, well sometimes. But they also make some things into fun games.

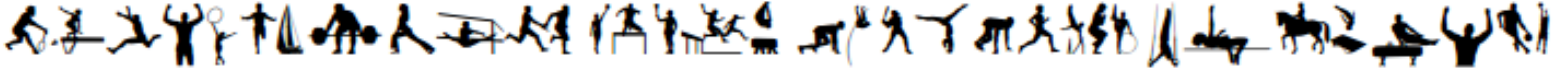
Now are you thinking about it I bet. But wait, what if that's not all? It's only when you start playing games and tournaments and especially when you're older I you'll know it all. I haven't got to that level yet to find out. PLAY TOP TIER!







# SPORTS PAGE



## TOP 5 MLB TEAMS OVERALL

By: Jude S. and Carson T.

### 1. New York Yankees



This team has won the World Series 27 times. That's really good. They have won the most World Series than any other team. Some good players they had were Babe Ruth, Joe DiMaggio, and Derek Jeter.

A lot of people hate the Yankees because Babe Ruth went from the Red Sox to the Yankees. This is called "Curse of The Bambino" because after this transfer, the Red Sox did not win a World Series for 86 years. The most shocking World Series has to be the 2003 World Series. In the 2003 NLCS, the Chicago Cubs were up three games to one against the Marlins. The Marlins came back with three consecutive wins!

The Marlins played the Yankees in the 2003 World Series thanks to Alex Gonzalez's game four walk-off home run. People thought for sure that the Yankees were going to win. Do you know the song "Yankee Doodle Dandy"? That is why they are called the Yankees. Their Stadium, Yankee Stadium, is really cool, especially the commentator. There's this one commentator who says every time the Yankees win, "Yankees Win! DUHHHHHHHH!!!!!! YYYANKEES WIN!"

A lot of players on this team played for a long time. Derek Jeter played for 16 years, then retired in 2014. Mariano Rivera, a PITCHER, also played for about 16 years. Pitchers are not supposed to go that long, but TOO BAD! This guy is one of the guys that went the distance.

### 2. San Francisco Giants



You know they're good. They won the World Series in 2010, 2012, and 2014. They have won eight times! These guys are as good as the Chicago Cubs. They have Hunter Pence, Madison Bumgarner, Buster Posey, and Brandon Crawford. I'm pretty sure that this team has the most no-hitters and perfect games.

The Giants have eight World Series titles. In 2010, they won against the Texas Rangers. In 2012, they won against the Detroit Tigers. In 2014, they won against the Kansas City Royals with Madison Bumgarner, their hero. In 2002, they won the pennant with a walk-off single, but lost to the Anaheim Angels (who are now the Los Angeles Angels. WHY DID ALBERT PUJOLS GO FROM THE CARDINALS TO THE ANGELS?) in the World Series. Their stadium is AWESOME. There is this gigantic coke bottle up in the stands in left field.

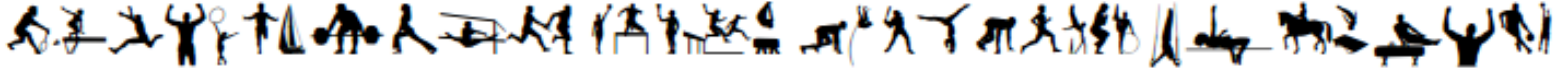
### 3.) St. Louis Cardinals



This team won the World Series in 1982, 2006, and 2011. They have actually won the World Series 11 times! Really good players that they had or have are Ozzie Smith, Yadier Molina, Matt Holliday, Rogers Hornsby, and Stan Musial. They won the World Series against the Texas Rangers in 2011, the Detroit Tigers in 2006, and the Milwaukee Brewers in 1982. They make it to the World Series a lot, but lost about a fourth of them. That was the Boston Red Sox most of the time (get wrecked.) They are called the Cardinals because of their state bird: the cardinal. Once, the Cardinals crushed the Cubs 12-0. I was there (Jude was there.)

*Continued on next page*

# SPORTS PAGE



## TOP 5 MLB TEAMS OVERALL, CONTINUED

By: Jude S. and Carson T.

### 4.) Boston Red Sox



A classic team. They have won the World Series seven times. Fenway Park is their stadium. It is the best place to watch a game. That is not an opinion. There are good players on that team and here they are, David Ortiz, David Price, and Hanley Ramirez. These guys have fans that are enthusiastic and surprising. Their "rally cry" is "Sweet Caroline" by Bill Diamond. My dad (Carson's dad) doesn't like this song.

Also, there is a giant wall at left field that shows scores of other games that are being played. The only problem with that is that I, Carson, has to see the Tampa Bay Rays and the Miami Marlins lose ALL THE TIME. In 2004, for the first time in eighty-six years, the Red Sox beat the St. Louis Cardinals in the 2004 World Series. They also beat the Cardinals in the 2013 World series too. They won the World Series against the NY Yankees in 1912.

### 5.) Oakland Athletics



Most people call them the A's but, you can still call them the Athletics. These guys originated from the city of Philadelphia. These players can have funny and normal names. For example, Coco Crisp, Sonny Gray, Sean Doolittle, and Josh Donaldson, who is now playing for the Toronto Blue Jays.

The players have won the World Series nine times! In 1989, they won against the Cincinnati Reds. But, the Reds got their revenge and won the 1990 World Series against the A's. This stadium is an open air stadium. That means it does not have a dome. If you look at their stadium from above at a certain angle above the seats, their team name is painted on it. Have you seen Yoenis Cespedes or Mark McGwire make those awesome plays? They're SICK!

## BARRY SANDERS, FOOTBALL LEGEND

By: Sean C.



Barry Sanders was born in Wichita, Kansas on July 16, 1968. Barry started his career at Wichita North High School. He started at running back in his in his fourth football game of his senior year. He rushed for 1,417 yards in seven game. Which earned him state honors. Barry averaged 10.2 yards a carry. But he

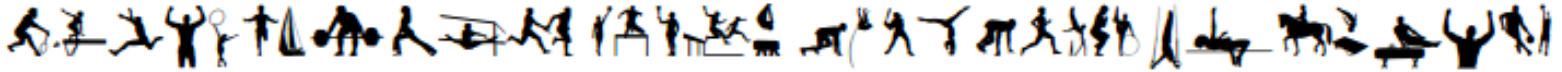
was overlooked by many college recruits.

He enrolled at Oklahoma State University. Barry played from 1986 to 1988. He wore the number #21. Sanders led the nation by averaging 7.6 yards a carry and 200 yards a game. He set the highest rushing record in a single

season. He rushed for 2,628, and his total yards were 3,248, 234 points, and 39 touchdowns. In 3 quarters of action he ran for 222 yards and 5 touchdowns IN 3 QUARTERS. Barry earned the Heisman Trophy the best award in College Football.

Barry started his professional career by being drafted 3rd pick to the Detroit Lions in the year 1989. He ran for 18 yards in his first carry in the NFL. He only played for 10 years in the NFL. He would of broken Walter Payton's record if he played longer.

# SPORTS PAGE



## TOP 10 NBA TEAMS OF ALL TIME

By: Jackson K.

### 10. 1990-91 Chicago Bulls



This team will always hold a spot in history because this is the first of

the six NBA championships that Michael Jordan attended. The Bulls also finished 61- 21 in the regular season.

### 9. 1997-98 Chicago Bulls



After finishing the season with a 60-20 record, the Chicago

Bulls went on to win the title. This team will always be remembered with the game winning shot by Michael Jordan in the championship game against the Utah Jazz.

### 8. 1991-92 Chicago Bulls



In the 1991-92 season, the Chicago Bulls defeated the

Portland Trail Blazers in game six of the championship series. This team averaged 109.9 points a game and led the NBA with an offensive rating of 115.5.

### 7. 2008-09 Los Angeles Lakers



This team finished the season with a record of 65-17 and

went 16-7 in the post season, and took down the Orlando Magic in game 5 in the NBA finals.

### 6. 2015-16 Antonio Spurs



The off season addition of Lamarcus

Aldridge helped the 2015-16 Spurs finish the year with a record of 67- 15, but didn't help the Spurs achieve their main goal of winning the NBA title.

### 5. 1985-86 Boston Celtics



K.C. Jones coached the 1985-86 Boston Celtics to a

67-15 regular season finish and a 15-3 record in the playoffs. But there was one person who helped the Celtics win the

championship. And that man was Larry Bird. Bird averaged 25.8 points and 9.8 rebounds.

### 4. 2014-15 Golden State Warriors



Led by the great Stephen Curry, the most recent NBA

Champion 2014-15 Golden State Warriors are easily the most interesting case on this entire list.

### 3. 2015-16 Golden State Warriors



Even as the 2015-16 Golden State Warriors achieved history by

compiling a now-record 73 regular-season victories, we made the claim that they still weren't the best team ever.

### 2. 1996-97 Chicago Bulls



The 1996-97 Bulls led the NBA in points per game (103.1)

And an offensive efficiency (114.4). With a regular season record of 69-13 and a post season mark of 15-4,

it's no surprise that Chicago ended up with a composite Elo rating of 1802.



### 1. 1995-96 Chicago Bulls

I know this team came up a lot of times this list, but the 1995-96 Bulls were the best squad. The way we see it, any way you slice it, the 1995-96 Chicago Bulls proved to be the greatest NBA team of all time.



# DESTINY QUEST TIPS

By: Ashlyn G.



Okay. I know, I know, just more stuff about school. BORING! But, what if you could change the background? Are you hooked now? How about impressing your friends? Showing off and showing everyone? Mmm hmm! I surely got you hooked now, right? If you're not, well, I don't know what to say. But in this article are a few fun things to do on Destiny Quest, the online library catalog for Spring Avenue.

## 1: Background

So, I already said this, but you can change your background! How? Just click on the paintbrush over the rainbow flower in the top right corner (next to the help button), and select a new background

## 2. Advanced Search

Advanced search is an easy way to narrow down books instead of going through pages and pages and pages and pages... and pages... of books! All you have to do is click the button that says Advanced Search with the magnifying glass next to it. This button is next to the Logout button and the My Info button. Select one or all of the options to customize your search!

## 3: Quest Home

This is a very helpful button if you searched a lot of books. You can go back to the home screen by just clicking the button right next to the My Info button!

# SPRING TEACHERS' FAVORITE ANIMALS

By: Simone B. and Lily L.

Ms. Marek: Elephant	Mrs. Daly: Polar Bear
Mrs. Panice: Goldfish	Mrs. Dahlin: Dolphin
Mrs. Musillami: Dog	Ms. McGinnis: Elephant
Mr. Lawson: Penguin	Mrs. Haymes: Giraffe / Dog
Ms. Halfpenny: Cat	Ms. Eck: Panda
Mrs. Kim: Hippo	Mrs. Winchester: Dog
Mr. Jynx: Skunk	Mrs. Demer: Dog
Ms. D: Sea Turtle	Ms. Folliard: Puppy
Ms. Morello: Boxer	Mrs. Jones: Giraffe
Ms. Weaver: Monkey	Ms. Waterson: Giraffe
Ms. Parrino: Elephant	Mr. Lowery: Tyrannosaurus Rex / Jaguar
Ms. Melone: Dolphin	
Mrs. Stec: Guinea pig	
Mrs. Richardson: Cheetah	Mr. Arnason: Badger
Mrs. Driscoll: Giraffe	Ms. Weiland: Panda



# ANIME

By Roland C.



Anime is a Japanese animated film. It has been around for 77 years. A picture of anime is included with this article. Pretty cool right ??

I have been watching anime for a year now and it's the best type

of comics and tv I would watch anything that is anime, I love it!

For Halloween I was an anime character and nobody knew who I was, so that's how unknown anime is. I am trying to spread it throughout the school. I

like to watch Naruto. Naruto is an anime that is about a boy named Naruto and his journey through life.

If you spread the word, thanks and it would be awesome!

# THE ENJOYMENT OF CHILDREN'S THEATRE OF WESTERN SPRINGS

By: Jackie K.

The Children's Theatre of Western Springs is performing *Elf Jr.* as the Christmas show! It is a fun and exciting show. There is laughter, sadness, love, excitement and curiosity.

My favorite part of the show are the funny lines, for example the manager's line in scene 10. I also love the songs they make me, and even you, want to sing along.

There are also many other classes and more shows if you are interested. Some classes are, Silly Scenes, Sing and Dance,

and much more. There are even some classes where you perform a show, and it's still a class. Another show playing soon that you can still audition for is called *One Man Star Wars Trilogy*, which is on stage on May 5th, 2017. In my perspective, I think the Children's Theatre is pretty cool, and I hope as many people as possible can join. Come get tickets for *Elf Jr.*

You can get tickets at the Theatre's website or by calling the Box Office at 708-246-3380.



## VIDEO GAME REVIEWS

### ALL ABOUT 2048

By Luka L and Devin W.

2048 is a strategy game. Basically what you do is click the arrow buttons and try to get two of the same object then add them up to get a new kind of cupcake, soccer jersey, or what ever kind of 2048 you are playing. Some of the versions of the game are inappropriate for some ages, but a lot of them are fine for everyone. Our favorite version of the game is 2048 Mundial. It is called Mundial, but it is really soccer jerseys. You lose the game when you can't get two of the same things together to get the next thing. You will know when you lose



because the tiles will go gray over the picture or number and your screen will say something like game over.

The level you need to get together to win for 2048 cupcakes is White Chocolate Peppermint. Trust me, you have to be really good to beat the game. Our high score is cookies and cream. If you do beat the game you should be really proud that you won. If you lose, stay in there. You will win some time.

How you get there is just search it up on Google or get it as an app on your phone or ipod or ipad or any other device.

# HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE REMINDER

#### Grades K-3

Tuesday, December 13, 6:00-7:30

#### Grades 4-6

Wednesday, December 14, 6:00-7:30

Students should dress in their holiday best and be in their classrooms by 5:45PM.

# TRAVEL THE WORLD



## A FAMILY ROAD TRIP TO ST. LOUIS

By: Simone B.

The first weekend in September, my friends, family, and their cousins, and I went to St. Louis to have some fun. Our ride there was long but fun.

There was this rest stop, that had a seesaw. It was very tall, even my parents' feet, could not touch the ground when they did the seesaw together. When my dad tried to get my side of the seesaw to touch the wood chips, he couldn't. Even when he was standing, on his tiptoes he could not, get my toes and the seesaw to touch the ground. That was the very funny rest stop.

The rest of the ride was fun, because I started to flick my mom on the head and she said that if I don't stop flicking her she

would dump water on me. I thought that she was kidding, so I kept on

flicking her. Two seconds later she opened her water bottle, and dumped some water on me, so then I opened my water bottle lid, and put water on her. Then my dad told us to stop, so we did. Then I kept flicking her, then she said she would throw a shoe at me, and she did. Then a lot of time passed and then we got to our destination!

In St. Louis we went to the Gateway Arch, as soon as we checked into the hotel



and got our room. We set up for the night. The arch was really fun. Fun fact: the Gateway

Arch is the tallest metal structure in the world. If you haven't seen the Arch you should!!!!

Then we went to the city museum! The city museum had a lot of stuff to do. There was a super tall slide inside of the place. Outside there was a ball pit, and you can climb inside planes (jet fighting planes) and go down slides and go in castles and just have fun! The museum that took up most of the day.

This St Louis hotel did not a pool, but the hotel

gave out free cookies at 8:00 pm to 9:00pm. The next day we went to the Botanical Garden. It was really fun. There was a maze. I won. There was also a little jungle escape space in the Botanical Garden, and the Chinese Fair was in there, too. In the jungle space there was a tree frog.

Then we went to the zoo. After that we went to the comic book store, and I got a koala eraser. The next day we went to the boat tour on the Mississippi River. It was hard for me at first, but then I stood up and realized that it wasn't as bad as I thought. When that was finished we went to the fountains. They were fun!!! I got soaked. Then we headed home.

## LEAP YEARS

By Caroline F.



As you may know, 2016 was a leap year.

Leap years only occur every four years. This is because a year isn't technically 365 days; it's 365 and 1/4th days. It takes 365 and 1/4th days

for the earth to rotate around the sun, so that is how we mark years. But we count it as only 365 days, and store that other 1/4th a day until we have four of them to make a total day. Leap day happens on February 29th. Some

people think that it's in February because it's the shortest month, but it actually has something to do with the calendar.

It was first created and used by Roman General Julius Caesar.



# TRAVEL THE WORLD



## GO TO SEAWORLD

By Lindsey W.

Imagine the perfect vacation! Fun rides, good food, and exciting shows - you can have all of this and more at SeaWorld!

SeaWorld is an amusement park with rides. It is also a place to explore and learn more about sea animals. This kid-friendly place is located in Orlando, Florida.

One attraction at SeaWorld is the rides, like the Kraken. It is my favorite ride because once you turn you don't see it coming. It is rated a five star ride. And if you like that, you might like the Manta Ray where they show many different species of sting ray. SeaWorld also has awesome food! The Sharks Underwater Grill has four stars and a great review. There are also great rides for kids like the Sea Carousel, rated 4 and a half stars.

But the rides and food are not the only thing SeaWorld has to offer. Check out an exciting show with pets called Pets Ahoy, where not only are the pets very talented (and of course their



owners), it is also so much fun to see.

Another fun show is the Killer Whale Show. Their trainers are talented to teach the killer whales how to do flips and tricks, but the whales are also talented because with one hand signal they know when to splash you and when to not.

The picture above is of a trainer with her whale. I hoped you enjoyed learning about SeaWorld!

A fun fact is that four people created Sea World George Millay (pictured), Ken Norris, David Demott, and Milt Shedd.

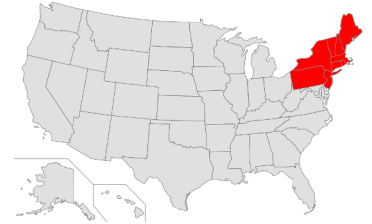


## WHY THE NORTHEAST IS OUR NATION'S BIRTHPLACE

By Simone B. and Marko P.

The Northeast is called our birthplace because in Boston a few things happened.

The pilgrims landed their ship in Boston, Massachusetts. The American Revolution started. The first African American church was there and the first public park. The pilgrims made a Compact called the Mayflower Compact. The pilgrims also made a government.



### PHILADELPHIA

After a long war to win freedom in Philadelphia, the government of Great Britain allowed the pilgrims to rule themselves. The pilgrims got free from the British rule on July 4, 1776. That is why we celebrate our freedom on July 4th. Also that is why we have the Freedom Trail.

### PENNSYLVANIA

Pennsylvania had the first factories because of their good resources. One of their factories is the Hershey Chocolate Factory. Another thing in Pennsylvania is that they have the Independence Hall.

### FUN FACTS

1: Pennsylvania has street lamps shaped like Hershey's kisses also in the Hershey's Factory there are Hershey's lights on the ceiling.

2: Boston, Philadelphia, New York and Charleston merchants lived by shipping out American wheat, beef, corn, tobacco, pork, and important European tables, glassware, farm implements in New England.

# TOP 5 FASTEST STREET LEGAL SUPER CARS

By Emmett D., Adam Kw., and Patrick E.



The first car is a Hennessey Venom GT (270 MPH). Being street legal it comes in at \$1.2 million, including shipping and taxes, it can come around \$1.5 million. This car was originally created in Texas.



The second car is Bugatti Veyron Super Sport (268 MPH). This car is priced at \$1.7 million, including taxes and shipping it comes in at about \$2 million. It is from France.



The third car is a Bugatti Chiron (260+ MPH). This car is priced at \$2.5 million, with taxes and shipping around \$2.8 million. It is also from France.



The fourth car is an SSC Ultimate Aero (256 MPH). This car is priced at \$650 thousand, with taxes and shipping it can come in at \$800 thousand. This car was made in several places in North America.



The last car is a Saleen S7 Twin Turbo (248 MPH) this car is priced at \$605 thousand, including taxes and shipping it can be \$700,000. This is made in California.

## CAR WARS

By Camille W. and Michael B.

### Gas Cars

Gas cars may be "in the past" as people say, but still, electric cars have a lot of time before they are flawless, like everybody says they are. Electric cars are cool when they're on but, you can only drive 50-100 miles before having to recharge. While gas cars can drive on an average of 500 miles. Electric cars go really fast, which has its ups, but imagine pressing on the pedal and suddenly

you're at 30 mph and then you slow down and you're at 5 mph! With gas cars the pedal is usually not that sensitive so you can ease into a cruising speed, not be yanked forward into one.

### Electric Cars

Electric cars are great for the environment and are very cool to drive, but have some downsides. First, these cars are a pleasure

to drive. They are really smooth and don't clunk or clank. Also TESLA brand electric cars are proven to get to the speed limit the fastest! Imagine going from 0 to 60 mph in just 2.8 seconds! Finally, you can charge it at home! Picture this... you're stuck at home with absolutely no battery power, but you have your home charger! Yay! Also, gas cars pollute the environment 24/7 while electric cars do not.

### Self Driving Cars

Self driving cars allow you to not have to park and they just drive around the block until you are ready to leave. Also computers can't get distracted or tired so there is a less chance for a crash in that department. Although they are taking away jobs, for people who drive cars for a living, they give them back because these cars need to be made in factories, which opens up factory jobs.



# VIDEO GAME REVIEWS

## JOURNAL OF A POKEMON MASTER

**By: Carter H.**

### Day one:

Today is a great birthday for me. I am turning 10. Today I get to start my journey. I went to the professor's lab, and he asked me the biggest question ever: Charmander, Squirtle, or Bulbasaur? I chose Bulbasaur. Come on out. As soon as I saw him, I knew we would be best friends.

### Day two:

Today I was walking, and I encountered a wild metapod. We engaged it in battle. My Bulbasaur used tackle, it was a breeze. I found a Beedrill, too, and weakened it with tackle, but the

Beedrill came out on top. Sadly, my Bulbasaur fainted, I went to the Pokemon center and the fixed him up. While I was there, I also bought a potion and a revive with the money I got from some trainers I fought a while back.

### Day three:

I was walking with Bulbasaur on my shoulder, and we saw a Voltorb. It rolled over to me, and I got out my Pokeball and caught it. "Click" sound to my ears. My Pokedex the professor gave me started buzzing, so I called him. He said it was fine when I catch a Pokemon it registers to the



Pokedex.

### Day four:

I found a Dugtrio and caught it. I knew it was a sign to fight Misty's gym. It was a breeze with Bulbasaur and Voltorb. That day I got my first badge.

**END OF PART 1**

## WHICH POKEMON TEAM ARE YOU ON?

**By: Niko S.**

Pokemon Go is a very popular game! Take the quiz and figure out what team you are! Results on the next page.

### Which describes you?

1. You are courageous and never give up.
2. You are brave and daring.
3. You are strong and can do stuff very easily.
4. You are very sneaky and mischievous.

### Your favorite color is...

1. Yellow
2. Blue
3. Red
4. None of the above

### What is your favorite element?

1. Lightening
2. Water
3. Fire
4. None above

### If you had \$100,000,000 what would you do?

1. Keep it for yourself, but use it responsibly.
2. Give some to friends and family, but not all of it.
3. Use it for random things.
4. Keep it all for yourself!



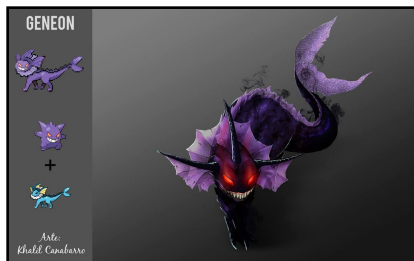


# VIDEO GAME REVIEWS

## TOP FIVE POKEMON FUSIONS

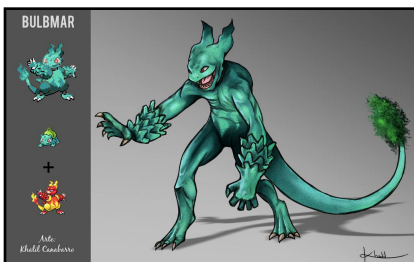
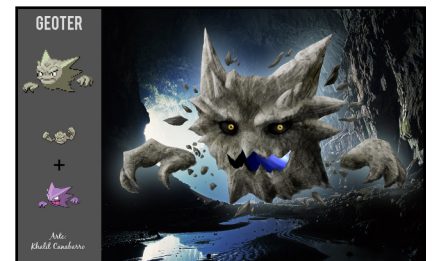
By: Ashlyn G.

Pokemon is a very popular video game known all around the globe. Nintendo is the very lucky Japanese company who made the many games of Pokemon. Now, here are a few drawings that Chronokhalil, a deviantART user, has made. I am using only Chronokhalil's drawings because he (or she, I don't honestly know) is very good at it. These might not be your top fusion drawings, but they are mine!



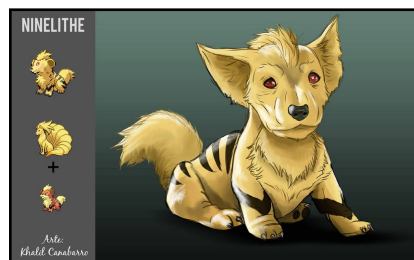
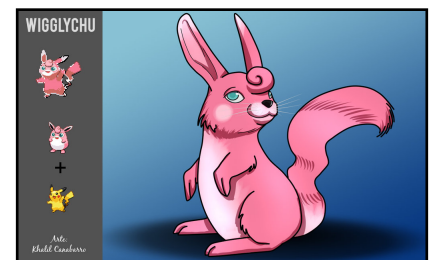
1. The first has to go to Geneon. This is my favorite because it is half Vaporeon, and Vaporeons are evolved from Eevees! Did I mention that I really like Eevees? Geneons are half Vaporeon, half Gengar.

2. Second place has to go to Geoter. This picture has intrigued me the split second I saw it! And those eyes! So creepy... Geoters are half Haunter, half Geodude.



3. Third place goes to Bulbmar! This green Pokemon that walks on two feet intrigues me everytime I look at it's spiky wrists. My eyes are always, ALWAYS, drawn to the tip of the tail, the only pure green part of it. Bulbmars are half Magmar, half Bulbasaur.

4. Fourth place goes Wigglychu. This adorable Pokemon fusion deserves fourth place because of it's fluffiness and cuteness! Wigglychus are half Pikachu, half Wigglytuff.



5. The fifth and last of my favorites is Ninelithe. It's demonic eyes and cute puppy body forced me to put it on this list. Everything about it gives a good contrast, enough to make me put it on this list, at least. Ninelithes are half Ninetales, half Growlithe.

**Pokemon Team Quiz Results**

**If you got mostly 1's...** You are instinct! Your team bird is Zapdos, the electric bird!

**If you got mostly 2's...** You are

Mystic! Your team bird is Articuno, the water bird!

**If you got Mostly 3's...** You are Valor! Your team bird is Moltres, the fire

bird!

**If you got mostly 4's...** You are Team Rocket! Even though this team is not in Pokemon Go, it is still in the

shows. Team Rocket is a secret organization that steals Pokemon for their boss. Meowth, the Cat Pokemon, is their

leader. The team is Jesse (the girl with pink fancy hair) James (the guy with blue short hair) And Meowth (the Cat).



# VIDEO GAME REVIEWS

## VIDEO GAME DOCUMENTS: FLOWEY THE FLOWER

By:Aidan D.

Flowey is from Undertale, which was made by Toby Fox (The Character being reviewed is from Undertale made by Toby Fox.)

### SPOILERS INBOUND!

Basic Info: Flowey the Flower is the Reincarnation of Asriel Dreemurr. But, unlike Asriel. Flowey is not a good person. He may act nice, but he is not AT ALL!

Origin: Let's get some back story first. Long ago, two races ruled over earth: HUMANS AND MONSTERS. One day, war broke out between the two races. In the end, humans were victorious. They sealed the monsters underground with a magic barrier.

Ok there's the backstory you need now let's get to the point.

One day, a human named Chara fell into the underground and Asriel, being the innocent soul he is, he helped Chara back to his parents, the king and queen. Chara was welcomed into the underground for a long time. Then one horrible day, Chara died and Asriel absorbed her soul. Using the soul, Asriel went through the

barrier.

After a while, he returned. Wounded, he fell to the ground, and turned to dust. Later, the royal scientist did a Determination experiment on the surface flower which had Asriel's dust on it. The flower eventually woke up as a soulless, careless husk of Asriel.

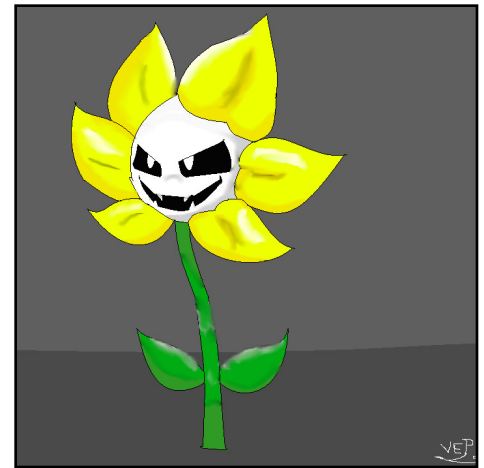
Extra Info: There's a lot of "Extras" I can cover, so let's get straight to the point. AU Alternate Universe:

- Under fell: Flowey: A kind, nice version of the original Flowey.
- Under swap: Floe: Derpy, Kind replacement for temmie.
- Outer tale: Flowey: Same personality, but in space.

That's enough AUs for now.

Abilities:

- Friendliness pellets (19 DMG)
- Vines (? DMG)
- Six souls version
- Flamethrowers
- Tons of Vines
- He FLYS!!!!!!
- Words and books
- A Gun (That later shoots flowers)



And the list goes on...

Hyper death form:

- Stars
- Swords
- Rainbow bazooka
- Rainbow lasers
- Giant rainbow lasers

And the list still goes on...

Soundtracks:

Oh...let's do this

- 1) Your Best Friend
- 2) Your Best Nightmare
- 3) SAVE the world
- 4) Hopes And Dreams

Conclusion: This little fella is the description of what I call a "Demon In Disguise." He may look friendly, but he is not.

# HOLIDAY FUN FACTS

By Gabby L.



## Christmas

The first artificial Christmas tree was made by the Germans, out of dyed goose feathers.

More than 3 million Christmas cards are sent in the US every year.

If you added all the gifts in the "Twelve Days of Christmas" song together, there are 364 presents.

The majority of Santa's reindeer have male names, but male reindeer shed their antlers around Christmas time, so technically Santa's reindeer are female.

The tallest Christmas tree ever cut was 221 feet tall.

London, England made the biggest Christmas Stocking ever in 2007. It was 106 feet and 9 inches long, and 49 feet and 1 inch wide. It holds almost 1,000 presents and weighs as much as 5 reindeer.

Most Christmas trees grow for about 15 years before you buy them.

Alabama was the first US state to officially recognize Christmas.

Oklahoma was the last US state to celebrate Christmas.

President Teddy Roosevelt banned Christmas trees from the White House in 1901 because he wanted to protect the forests.

## Hanukkah

Hanukkah is how most people spell the holiday, but you can also spell it Chanukah or Chanukkah.

Hanukkah means "dedication" in Hebrew.

Other names for Hanukkah are the Festival of Lights, Feast of Dedication, and Feast of the Maccabees.

The candles on the menorah are placed right to left, and lit left

to right.

On the last night of Hanukkah you get the most important present.

Hanukkah commemorates the victory of the Maccabees over the Syrians and the re-dedication of the Second Temple of Jerusalem around 165 B.C.

Around 17.5 million sufganiyot (oily doughnuts) are eaten in Israel during Hanukkah.

Spinning the dreidel was originally done by students illegally studying Torah. They would pretend to play them when the Greek soldiers invaded to act innocent.

Here are some Hebrew words. Hay means take half, Shin means put on in, Nun means take none, Gimmel means take all.

You can see a 3 million dollar gold replica of the golden menorah in the Holy Temple, outside Aish HaTorah in Jerusalem.

Facts from this website:  
<http://www.factretriever.com/christmas-facts>

# SNAPPY HOLIDAY DECORATIONS

By Sophie I.

## Wreath

This easy wreath is lovely decor for your house.

### Supplies:

- Wood or grapevine hoop
- Green garland
- Pinecones and berries on sticks
- Twist ties

- Ribbon

### Steps:

1. Wrap the garland around the hoop.
2. Use twist ties to make the garland stay in place around the hoop.
3. Stick the pinecones and berries in the garland.
4. Using ribbon, tie a

bow to the top of the wreath.

5. Then hang on a door or lamp post.

## Ornament Holder

Need a hanger for an ornament? You've got one!



### Supplies:

- 4-6 inch piece of

- ribbon
- Glue

### Steps:

1. Tie the ribbon into a neat bow.
2. Make a dot of glue on the top of the ornament.
3. Press the ribbon onto the ornament and wait for it to dry.



# WHO IS THE NEW GUY IN CHARGE?

By Allyssa W.

I know everyone is wondering about Spring Avenue's new principal. I know this because I was wondering this too, until I found out myself. My head was just about bursting with burning questions when someone told me to just ask them. So, after school I popped into Mr. Lawson's office and he answered all of my questions. Here are a few of the questions and answers.

## What grades have you taught?

I have taught 4th, 5th, and 6th grade.

## What was your

**favorite grade to teach?** Each grade had their own special aspect.

**What is your favorite sports team?** My favorite sports team is the Chicago Bears.

**What college did you go to?** I went to Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island.

**Do you have any kids, if so what are their ages?** I have three kids. Two of them are girls, and are 13 and 11 years old. I have a boy that is eight years old.

**What is your favorite book?** My favorite book is Lord

of the Rings, by J.R.R.Tolkien.

**What's your favorite restaurant?** My favorite restaurant is Wild Fire.

**Where do you live?** I live in Arlington Heights.

**What kind of car do you have?** I have a Chevy Volt. It's really cool because it is an electric car.

**How long have you been teaching for?** I taught for eight years, and I have been an administrator for eight years as well.

**What is your favorite thing about Spring Avenue so**

**far?** I love how welcoming and enthusiastic all the students, teachers, and parents are.

**Are you thinking about improving anything for Spring Avenue?** Yes. Spring is a great school, but we will always be making improvements. The teachers and I are still thinking about what our plan is.

**If you could go anywhere on vacation where would you go?** I would go to California.

**What is your favorite food?** My all time favorite food is

guacamole, but burritos are close behind.

**Do you have any pets?** We have a maltese, which is a breed of dog.

**What else do you want Spring Avenue to know about you?**

I am so excited to be here, and I want to help everyone by being the best principal I can be.

If you have any more questions for Mr. Lawson, he and I both encourage you to ask them :) . We know that it's great to get to know people better. Especially your new principal!

# WHAT TO DO OVER WINTER BREAK

By Jeanne M. and Lillian P.

12/21 Make a Gingerbread House 	12/22 Drink Hot Cocoa/Listen to Holiday Music 	12/23 Watch Holiday Movies 	12/24 Wrap or finish gifts/ Christmas Eve 	12/25 CHRISTMAS 	12/26 Use Gifts 	12/27 Read 
12/28 Sleep in 	12/29 Eat Lots of Candy (Why Not?!?) 	12/30 Stay in your PJ's all day 	12/31 New Year's Eve 2016 	1/1 New Year's Day 2017	1/2 Hang out with Friends 	1/3 Enjoy Your Last Day Off 

# COMPETITIVE YOYOING

By Sammy K.

You are probably seeing this title and you are probably wondering what this is. Of course you are probably thinking it is pretty cool. Well it is. And just as it sounds, you compete with a yoyo.

So basically what happens is you go to a competition to try to have the best yoyo freestyle and win the competition. I'm assuming you are probably wondering what some of these words mean. The goal with this article is to teach you some of these terms and inform you about this awesome thing I take part in (If you are wondering what something looks like you should probably look it up or just ask me to show it to you).

Below I will tell you about some terms us yoyoers use.

A mount is position you can set your yoyo up in to perform a certain trick. Some mounts are the double or nothing, trapeze, trapeze and brother, 1.5 mount, green triangle, wrist mount, undermount, chopsticks mount, houdini mount, and plastic whip.

Another term is element. An element is a trick you make up it is usually like a mount you invent. One element I invented was the hop into triangle mount.

A combo is a combination of a mount element and a move inbetween such as hopping the yoyo onto certain strings. There



are several types of combos people can invent. Such as speed combos, tech combos, rejection combos, and slack combos. I will define each of these below.

A speed combo is when a yoyoer performs a somewhat simple combo as quickly and correctly as they can.

A tech combo is a combo when a yoyoer performs an extremely hard combo with lots of intersecting and hard to reach strings.

A rejection combo is when you flick certain strings right of the bottom of the yoyo to get the string to move somewhere else without moving the yoyo.

A slack combo is when a slack forms in the string, this allows you to whip or catch the string on the gap (by only moving the string and not the yoyo) of the yoyo without purposefully moving the yoyo to get the string into the

groove.

Competitive yoyoers use a mix of these into a one - three minute freestyle. The reason I said one - three minutes is because of the way the tournament might be set up. Usually a competition is set up in four rounds. This means if you make it to the finals you would have had to do your freestyle four times. This proves that you can do your routine consistently and that the one time you did it it was not a fluke. Some competitions might be different. They might have your routine get longer the more rounds go on. The first round might be one minute and the final round might be three minutes. This forces your routine to have more combos for more detailed scoring so it does not result in a tie.

I haven't told you yet what the rounds are called. So let me get to that. The first round is the wild card round, the second round is the preliminary round, the third round is the semi-final round, and the final round is of course the finals.

This is pretty much everything you need to know about a yoyo competition and competitive yoyoing. Thanks for reading (especially if you read this whole really long article)!



## THE JOY OF BOOKS

By Jeanne M.

I remember when I was younger (and this probably happened to you), my parents would read to me before I went to bed. This is how my love of books began.

Most people I talk to say that they hate books. Before I want to scream my head off, I ask them, why do you hate books? They say "Because they're boring."

This makes me wonder, how are books boring? Books take you on an exciting adventure that could be completely impossible in the real world. Could you meet

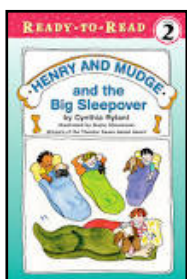
a unicorn or slay a dragon on earth? I wish you could meet a unicorn, but the dragon part scares me. Anyway, this tells me books aren't boring.

Books get you everywhere in life. Almost every job I could think of involves some way of reading. Books are a great way to use any spare time that you might have.

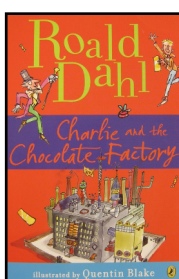
Now, I'm going to give a book that I enjoyed in each grade. These books were my favorite and I hope you give them a try.



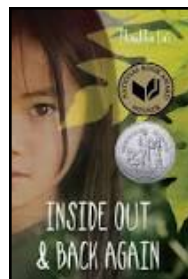
Kindergarten



1st Grade



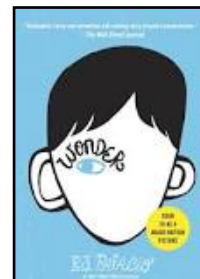
2nd Grade



3rd Grade



4th Grade



5th Grade



6th Grade

## SIGN LANGUAGE

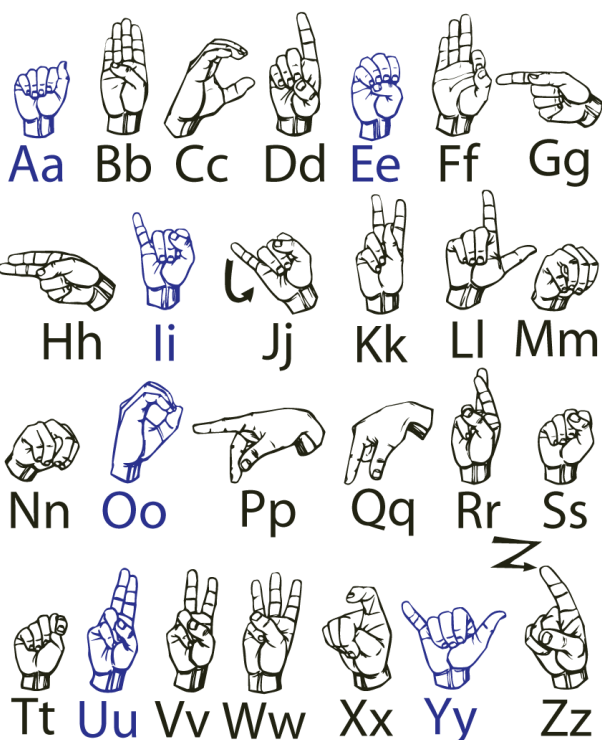
By Annie P., Caroline F., Camille W.

Sign language includes a series of hand gestures, and it can also include arms, face, head, and body posture. American sign language was created by Thomas Gallaudet, who was deaf.

The sign language alphabet is made up of hand signals that form letters. These letters also have a very interesting history. Try to memorize the sign language alphabet and you can have a secret language with your friends!

### Fun Facts

- Today, as many as 500,000 people communicate using American Sign Language.
- American Sign Language is the third most spoken language in the U.S. after English and Spanish.
- Sign Language is considered a foreign language.
- British Sign Language is very different than American Sign Language. Thomas Braidwood created it. If you compare them you will find some letters are the same but most are completely different.







## **UNFRIENDED, BY RACHEL VAIL**

By Margaret P.

Hi I'm Margaret. I'm going to tell you about my favorite book Unfriended. This is a breath-taking book by Rachel Vail. She is a remarkable author who wrote a bunch of books. Her books though are mostly for 4-6 grades.

The book it is about a girl named Truly, who dreams about being popular. But that dream comes true when Natasha (one of the popular girls) invites her to sit with them at lunch. Truly runs into a problem, should she ditch her best and only friend Hazel or go sit with a bunch of popular girls.

Well if you are wondering, she choses popular girls over her best friend. When she goes and eats lunch with them she find out that is not that different than sitting with Hazel, the only difference is that it is more dramatic. Truly thinks that since she is sitting next to popular girls popular boys (Clay and Jack) are going to like her.

Ok so after that day Truly loves the popular table, she stays and loses her best friend Hazel. After days of sitting with the popular girl she started hanging with them at recess. One day when they were hanging out Jack runs into Truly and knocks her down on to her

knee. Her knee starts to gush blood and something appears - her bone! Jack quickly rushes her to the nurse's office, there the nurse calls her mom immediately. When Truly's mom comes there is no thinking twice, she rushes her to the emergency room.

After a lot of pain and a long stay the hospital, the doctors decided to give her 10 stitches and a internal running stitch. But that does not stop her from hanging out with the popular girls and boys. Everyone just has so much sympathy for her. Just like other stitches, this one healed up, and she got the stitches out. Truly is now feeling so much better and as for her knee that is doing fine also. Every day it gets stronger.

When the teacher assigns a project the whole popular group falls apart everyone can't get along and can't decide on what to do. But somebody (Truly) helps and tells them to stop fighting. When it come to presenting they do just fine (all because of Truly).

If you enjoyed this summary and this seems like a good book go to the library and check it out! Just a reminder it is YA so you can read it until you're in 5th or 6th grade.



## **HOW TO CREATE YOUR OWN SUDOKU PUZZLE**

By Christopher S.

Creating your own Sudoku puzzle is very simple all you have to do is go to this website <http://www.open sky.ca/sudoku>. It's as simple as choosing your difficulty and how many puzzles you want to create.

Then if you want, you can print an answer key to check when you're done with your puzzles. Check out my puzzle I made for you on the back page.

### **OpenSky Sudoku Generator**

This service lets you generate printable [sudoku](#) puzzles which you can download (as Acrobat PDF files), or with pencil and paper.

The generator produces classic symmetrical puzzles of varying difficulty levels. The difficulty level ("Easy" "Very hard") appears on the printed page along with a difficulty factor ranging between 0.01 and 1.00 (the more difficult the puzzle).

I did not write the generator itself; it is part of the [gnome-sudoku](#) software, written by Thomas Mills. It's possible to generate PDFs from the puzzles, and have hooked it up to the web. Source code [here](#).

Number of puzzles:  (maximum 50)

Puzzles per page:

Difficulty:

Include solutions: ☐



# IN A GLASS GRIMMLY, BY ADAM GIDWITZ

By Kellan K.



This book was about two kids named Jack and Jill and their pet frog. They are seeking adventure and a better life, but when a creepy old lady tricks Jack and

Jill into swearing on their lives to find a mystical artifact called the seeing glass, they encounter many challenges trying to find the seeing glass. For example, goblins, giants, killer mermaids, and the giant salamander Eidechse von feuer, Der menschenfleischfressende (which it prefers to be called Eddie), and the mysterious others.

My favorite character in this book is Eddie. Eddie is a giant salamander that seems to be a bad guy but he is a good guy. Eddie is funny salamander that likes to ask a

lot of weird questions. For example, he said "What's better, red or blue?" He also says stuff like "Which is bigger, the sky or the earth?" My favorite thing he said is "Am I smelly? Very smelly? How smelly?" I thought that was pretty funny. Another funny thing he did was swallow the seeing glass which was very hard to get out of him.

I liked this book because it had funny characters like Eddie. But the thing I liked most is the narrator. He really adds the voice of the author to the story and what he says is pretty funny. For example, "I'm sorry. I forgot to warn you that was coming. I was too caught up in telling the story. Anyway, it's all over now." He also said, "Sorry, sorry! Totally forgot! Last time! Promise!" I think this is pretty humorous. Another thing I liked about the book was it was like what fairy tales really like.

I would recommend this book to anyone that likes scary stories, or anyone that likes books about adventure. I would say fighting killer mermaids, giants, goblins, and other scary things is pretty frightening. For example "No!" he screamed, and the two goblin guards standing behind him rammed their spears straight through his body with a horrible crunching, slicing sound." I think this scary and gross at the same time.

I would give this book four out five stars. Why should I take a star off? Simple the reason that I gave it four stars is because the series isn't a series. What I mean is every book is a different story. For example the first one was Hansel and Gretel, the second one was Jack and Jill, and the third book is about Jorinda and Jorinel. Beside that, I loved the book.

## RESTAURANT REVIEW

By Everett K.



Let me tell you about a great Mexican restaurant called Santiago's. They have fresh salsa and flavorful lemonade. It is located on 24 Calendar Ave, in downtown La Grange.

When I went there, I got two burritos, my dad got the Carne Asada Ala Tampliquena, my mom got the shrimp fajitas, and my brother got a bean, rice, and cheese burrito (specialty). The two burritos are AWESOME because they are covered in melted cheese and have a side of beans and rice (optional). The Carne

Asada Ala Tampliquena (C.A.A.T) is juicy steak and.... Well I don't know the rest but it was good. I'm usually a shrimp kind of guy but their shrimp fajitas were not good on the day of my visit. Harry's (my brother) bean, rice, and cheese burrito was awesome. They decorate for Halloween and have lots of murals.

There is only one location in La Grange. They have been in business for six years. The whole company has been in business for 20 years. I hope you will go to Santiago's!

# NEW RESTAURANTS IN LA GRANGE

By Gabby L.

There are some amazing new restaurants in Downtown LaGrange (DTLG). One of them is Steak & Vine. One of the others is 1416. The last is Owl & Lark. All three of these restaurants are fantastic. Steak & Vine is great for families, 1416 is wonderful for special occasions, and Owl & Lark is an exquisite breakfast place.



## Steak & Vine

Steak and Vine is a terrific new family friendly restaurant. It has food for the whole family to enjoy and is priced with a \$\$\$ on YELP. My family would consider this a place you go for special occasions.

For their kids menu they have the basics like Grilled Cheese for \$8, to Tenderloin Kabobs for \$12. They have steak for \$25-30, salads from \$8-17, starters from \$10-14, sandwiches from \$12-18, and main courses from \$17-29. They also have desserts like S'mores in a Jar, and Crème Brûlée. Those are \$8-14.

The other cool thing about this place is that they have Sunday brunch. My family goes to Sunday brunch sometimes, and we always really enjoy it. They have items that are priced from \$12 to \$18.

One person commented on Yelp "Have dined here 3 times since it opened and have to say,

I've enjoyed it every time. The stuffed, grilled portobello appetizer is a great start - we order it every time. Also, the goat cheese soufflé is another wonderful starter. I absolutely love the shrimp and grits as well as the filet sandwich. The portobello and veggie "sandwich" is extremely filling and flavorful. The ambiance is casual and friendly. The staff have always been warm, polite and attentive. This place fills a nice niche in the La Grange dining scene. Good food, comfortable and enough difference in style, cuisine and atmosphere to make it stand out."



## 1416

1416 is a "New, American, Craft" restaurant. This restaurant is great for groups, but not the best for kids. They have a pretty pricey menu, but it's exquisite cuisine. They have a rooftop deck, a bar, and a dining room. It is pretty loud, but it has a sophisticated atmosphere.

The menu has starters from \$10-16, soups and salads from \$4-13, and main courses from \$14-36.

My parents went to this restaurant, and I asked them to write a review. Here it is "1416 is a new restaurant in La Grange that focuses its menu on an American cuisine. Our experience at 1416

was mixed. The lighting was a bit too bright. While the menu options were creative and interesting, the pork and fish entrees were ordered were good but not spectacular. We would definitely try it again after 1416 has had some time to iron out the details of running a new restaurant." So, in conclusion 1416 is a wonderful new restaurant and I hope that you will give it a shot.



## Owl and Lark

Owl and Lark is an amazing new breakfast, brunch, and lunch place. They have very light food, and some really cool flavors. The atmosphere is bright and fun. If you want a healthy treat, come here. The menu offers juices for \$7.95, smoothie bowls for \$7.95, toast & bagels from \$4.50+ depending on what bread you get. They have power tonics for \$2.50, smoothies for \$7.95, and oatmeal bowls for \$6-7.50.

One of my fellow Newspaper Club friends, Allyssa W., allowed me to ask her what she thought of this fun new restaurant. She said, "Owl and Lark has a great variety of natural smoothies and light foods. They have a great system going and I'm glad that they have decided to make their home La Grange."

This is a really fun, fresh, and healthy new restaurant and I hope that people can check it out.





# THE ENTERTAINMENT OF BEMIS WOODS AND GO APE

By Jackie K.

Bemis Woods / Go Ape is a newly built extraordinary outdoor zipline obstacle course that involves, things such as, Tarzan swings, breathless ziplines, and lots of teamwork.

So far, the ratings for Go Ape are 4.5 - 5 stars. The only criticism is that supposedly the price is usually \$35 per person, and even more depending on how many people you bring.

Some interesting facts about Bemis woods are that it is 480 acres of land in that forest preserve. Another interesting fact is that it is divided into two sections one North and the other South. Some visitors can Kayak or Canoe in Salt Creek Lake, but on the other hand people can enjoy ziplining and



obstacle courses.

Some people said, "What a great way to enjoy nature during our limited

summer's here in Chicago. I took my toddler here and went zip lining, went through obstacle courses, did a lot of outdoor activities in this beautiful serene and peaceful little habitat."

I come here to run and bike ride- trails are nicely maintained, with the addition of one new trail. Users remain respectful and follow the "rules of the path."

There are multiple gazebo areas. Many people host BBQs and picnics. This is a great place to get some exercise and spend the day!"

In my opinion I think that Bemis woods is a pretty cool place.

Other people said, "



## TOP 10 CUTEST ANIMALS

By Sarah K.

### #10, ANGORA RABBIT

Well, Well, Well... If it isn't doctor FLUFEISTIEN!!! These rad rabbits are definitely going to win the fluffiest animal award!

### #9 AFRICAN PYGMY HEDGEHOG

The African Pygmy hedgehog is looking "sharp" on the dance floor tonight! This Hedgehog rates 9 on the list! "OWCH!"

### #8 HARP SEAL

ARW ARW! Well this adorable seal is having fun in the snow! This Seal rates 8 on the list! ARW ARW!

### #7 RED PANDA

Your average panda is not the average panda. Look it's a RED PANDA! It's almost like having a stuffed animal!(I WISH I WAS THAT CUDDLY!) Beware these creatures have sharp claws!

### #6 HAMSTER

Nibble nibble! This cute animal is enough to blow your mind! The hamster only has 2 teeth.(2 TEETH, I have so much more than that!) The hamster can crack through a peanut, try to do that!

### #5 PENGUIN

Waddle! This animal lives in the freezing Arctic! They have soft fuzzy fur when they are little and short, and fluffy fur when they are older.

### #4 CAT

The cat is a cute animal. A cat is usually spotted outside. While saying that WATCH YOUR STEP, so you don't accidentally step on a cat. Fun Fact: cats actually do not drink milk.

### #3 PANDA

The panda lives in the bamboo forest. The bamboo forests are located in Maui (part of

Hawaii) or China. Pandas can grow to be big.

### #2 KOALA

You can find a koala in a zoo, but if you want to see one in the wild, you can go to eastern and southern Australia. Koalas live most of their lives in Eucalyptus trees.

### #1 ZEBRA

Zebras are #1 on this list because they are so unique because of their stripes. Zebras live in southern Africa.. Zebras are herbivores, that means they eat only plants.

# CREATIVE

# WRITING

## KRINDLEKRAX REMIX: MISSISSIPPI RIVER

By Simone B.

It was warm, wet, and muddy in the Mississippi River and full of fish, which made Ruskin hear the water swashing about. While Ruskin was swimming in the cloudy water, he saw his dog Max's ball floating with a broken tree branch. Max dropped his favorite ball into the river so Ruskin went after the ball.

"Aha!" thought Ruskin as he grabbed the ball as it was about to swish right past his fingertips. "Got you, ball!" he said.

Ruskin was swimming towards shore and Max was so excited he tackled Ruskin on the rocky beach.

"Oh no, Max, I dropped your ball." Ruskin yelled.

"The ball is getting away! Get back here!" Ruskin screamed after the ball.

Ruskin started swimming his hardest to get Max's most precious toy. Max jumped in the



massive river to help get his ball back, not realizing the current was so strong, he felt tired quickly.

Ruskin rushed to help Max, but now the ball was out of sight.

Max knew his ball's smell! Max's ball smells like slobber, ham, and disgustingness. Max followed that scent down the river with energy. Ruskin wasn't able to catch up until he saw Max grab something in his mouth.

At first Ruskin thought Max was drinking the dirty water that smelled fishy. Then Ruskin touched the slobbery, watery ball and thought, "Still squishy and felty!"

Ruskin thought that the whole thing was a dream. He said to Max, "Wow you're amazing!" and he heard Max yelp for joy.

After they slowly got out of the river because they both were dizzy, they thought that they were NEVER GOING BACK because they were exhausted!

## OLIVIA AND LOLA

By Jordyn H.

Once there was a girl named Olivia (that's me!). She was an only child, with one parent, her mom. Her mom never married. Olivia was lonely. Her mom was really nice, but it was not enough, she wanted a pet. She begged her mom until she said "Fine we'll get a dog." And we did!

I named her Lola after my Grandma's cat. I was so excited the first time I touched her. She felt so soft and looked so cute, I wanted to scream! Then she slipped out of my hand and ran away from me. Thankfully the door was closed.

But I just remembered the we got a doggy door. Oh no, I just remembered we left the gate open. I ran after her. We were really far from home now. On the way, I met someone who was nice and asked why I was running so fast. She said that my dog was running left. So I ran on, soon I could not see home. I got really worried. Then half an hour later, I found Lola. I was so relieved, but what way was home?

Lola and I went this way and that way and it brought us nowhere. We were so confused. I thought what I knew,  $5+5=10$ . No that will not help me.

Hmm. Then, I realized I had my phone! So I got it out of my pocket, but there was no wifi so I climbed up a tree (it was very prickly).

At the top of the tree, I had one bar. My phone said I was 10 miles from home! No wonder I was so exhausted.

I wondered how we were going to get home. Then I remembered I left bread crumbs on my way! I woke up

Lola and we got started, but when we followed the bread crumbs, we saw all the birds were eating them!

But I thought of a idea! Since the birds are eating them let's follow the birds!

So we followed the breadcrumbs and came back home at last!

Olivia and Lola and Olivia's mom lived happily ever after.



# CREATIVE WRITING

## SPICY LIFE, PART I: YOUR WISH HAS BEEN GRANTED

By Ava W.

Ashley had a great life. She was a world renowned chef who was known for flavorful recipes. Her favorite recipe was Spicy Life.

In an interview at her restaurant called Jalapeño Business she said: "My mother was my inspiration. She passed down many family recipes including 'Spicy Life'. Here is the interview:

*When I was first starting to cook, my mother asked 'What do you want for Christmas dear?' I replied with a simple answer, 'A dog.' She gave me a simple ok and walked to the table.*

*'Pancakes anyone?' mother was very excited about pancakes, and we ate them all up.*

*That night I could barely sleep. The next*

*morning I scrambled downstairs to make some eggs but heard little pitter patters. I ran upstairs to wake up mom. Mom came down and took some eggs from the pan and I opened the gift with holes in it and I was super happy. There was a puppy with shimmering pumpkin brown fur and creamy white splotches. I was the happiest person on the earth at that moment. I decided to name her Spice."*

Ashley was so happy the interview was over and she could get home to Spice! When she finally came home Spice was so happy. Ashley was getting ready for her walk through the rotting black forest with her precious



Spice. She grabbed her coat and called her over with a little click. Spice was jumping for joy! Ashley grabbed

Spice's leash and opened the door a crack. Spice saw a squirrel, pushed the door open and ran out into the rotting forest. WOOSH! Ashley tried to catch Spice but fell into Spice's water bowl face first and accidentally took a big gulp of water. She got up and coughed like she was dying.

Ashley felt distraught that Spice was gone. "I wish I could just think like Spice and navigate her home," Ashley thought. She felt a weird burning on her face

and ran into the bathroom, wiped her face and looked into the mirror. It was a paw, not a hand. Then it hit her. Her wish has been granted. Ashley was scared that she was a dog but was excited to have the senses to find her precious Spice. She also suddenly wanted some Spicy Life more than ever! She knew she would need some jalapeños!

To be continued...

### PREVIEW TO PART II:

#### Sensory Overload

Ashley was confused about her new senses and how to use them. All she smelled was garbage, garbage, garbage and more garbage. Now she can hear things from a mile away like an owl or a garbage truck. She was losing her mind....



## QUIZ: WHAT SEASON ARE YOU?

By Sophie I.



What is your favorite color?

1. Orange
2. White
3. Green
4. Yellow

What is your Halloween costume?

1. A squirrel
2. A candy cane
3. A flower
4. A sun

What is your favorite book genre?

1. Graphic novels
2. Historical fiction
3. Fantasy
4. Nonfiction

What is your favorite way to listen / see / hear a story?

1. Movie
2. Storyteller
3. Audio book / Playaway
4. Book

What is your favorite brand of clothing?

1. Old Navy
2. Justice
3. Suprono
4. Nike

Answers:  
Mostly 1's: fall  
Mostly 2's: winter  
Mostly 3's: spring  
Mostly 4's: summer



# CREATIVE WRITING

## ADVENTURES OF ELVENDALE, PART I

By Emma H.



Once there was a ten-year old girl named Emily Jones. She was in her house with her mom talking about a special magic necklace that her Grandmother used to have.

Emily's mom said, "I am giving you this necklace to keep. Keep it safe. It is VERY special to our whole family. You should probably go out and check out your Grandma's garden."

"Ok." Said Emily.

She went out and visited the garden. When she went to a tree, a portal opened in the tree! Emily did not notice that her necklace was glowing to open the portal. She thought to herself What the heck is this portal doing and where in the world does it lead to!?? I should go in!

With bravery, Emily went in. Sound Effects: WHRRRRRRRRRRRRR FWOOOSSSHHH!

Emily yelled, "AHHHHHHH!"

MORE SOUND EFFECTS: WWWHHHOOO! POOF!

"Ouch!" Said Emily. "Whoa!, where am I?"

"You are in Elvendale, the land of Magic." said a voice that Emily didn't recognize.

"Who are you?" said Emily.

"I am Azari." Said the voice. "The fire elf."

Emily confused, said, "ELVES??? What are elves?"

Azari replied, "Elves are magical creatures. Who are you by the way?"

"I'm Emily" she said.

Azari said, "How 'bout we go to Ferran's tree house."

"Who is Ferran?" said Emily.

"Ferran is a life elf." Replied Azari.

### At Ferran's Tree House

"Whoa! Who are you, tiny ears?" said Ferran.

"I am Emily Jones from the human world. A weird mysterious portal opened in a tree at my garden." Said Emily.

Azari and Ferran replied, "Whoa. That is

REALLY weird."

"Hello guys!... Whoa! Who are you!?" said a new voice.

"Oh hi Aria!" said Ferran.

"Hi..... Aria? Asked Emily.

Aria replied, "Yes. My name is Aria." "How 'bout we go to relax at Naida's Spa."

Emily asked again, "Who is Naida? Another Elf?"

Ferran replied "Yes, Naida is the water elf."

Emily thought, I knew these were not all the elves in a big dimension!

"Let's ride my pegasus sleigh to the spa!" said Aria exited.

Emily looked surprised. "WOW! OMG! You have PEGASUS!!!!!!?"

Aria replied, "Yes, I do. Moon and Lavender. They both look almost exactly alike but Moon has a blue squiggle by her eye and Lavender has a purple squiggle by her eye."

### Five Minutes Later

"WEEEEEEEE!" yelled Emily. "THIS IS AWESOME!!!!!"

"Look. The spa is down there!" said Azari.

The elves knocked on the door.

"Hello! And welcome to my Sec- whoa! Looks like you brought a guest?" Said the new elf, Naida.

"I - I am Emily Jones from the human world, which is a different dimension. I know, I know, it is amazing." said Emily.

"Actually," said Naida, "I think that is kind of weird." "How did you even get here?" asked Naida.

Emily replied, "A mysterious portal opened in a tree."

"Well then, welcome to my secret spa everyone!"

### THE END

P.S.- stay tuned for part two! Coming in February!

# CREATIVE WRITING

## THE SUN TRIAL

By Emily S.

It was afternoon in the magical world of Expansia. What did that mean? Because there were two suns, it was as if the whole world was inside a sun.

Firmly rooted to the ground, shadowed by hills and valleys, stood a massive court building. It was painted a deep grey, but it was so old that almost all of its paint was chipped and peeling.

About to enter the building were seven men wearing robes the color of the planets. They each held majestic-looking swords that were the color of their robes.

All of the men had solemn, expressionless faces. The only hint of emotion in them was that they had paled. However, their reasoning for fear couldn't be denied by even the most experienced judges. One of the greatest, most terrifying events in history was about to happen.

Just as the first man, one with slick golden hair and clothing the same color, passed a pillar holding up the court, the small doors opened all on their own. None of the

people entering the building looked shocked - apparently enchanted doors opening without help were normal in Expansia.

The interior of the court was much more civilized than the outside. The ceiling and walls were polished and skillfully crafted with bronze, while the flooring seemed to be a metallic substance painted to display the entire universe.

Seated at a small, throne-like chair was an elf - yes, an average-sized human with pointed ears. He wore a navy blue cloak and his head was concealed by his hood, all of his features shadowed.

"Lord Giza," a man dressed like Jupiter said, dropping into a deep bow as his fellows did the same.

"Welcome, warriors," Giza, the elf, hissed. His voice sounded like that of a rasping snake, but much louder.

"We have brought you the defendant," the man dressed in golden robes declared.

Giza stroked his

hidden chin before nodding for the warriors to rise. When they did, a boy in seventh grade was revealed to be shuddering between them, attempting a bow.

"He is not from Expansia," the elf noted. "Does the creature have a name?"

"Casey, sir," the boy trembled, fiddling with his black sweatshirt strings to control the hood.

The men formed a neat half-circle behind the boy, their blades facing the ground.

"And this is the one on trial?" spat Giza, his voice somewhere between a scold and a cackle. "If he really is that deadly, you'd better contain the puny beast."

Casey stared down at his blood red shorts and worn, red-and-black gym shoes - the only reminders of home he had left. He had been walking home from school when he stumbled upon a sewer hole without a lid. A magnetic essence had rapidly spiraled inside, dragging him in with such force that his backpack

was flung on top of a roof.

And now Casey was here, surrounded by seven men that had captured him just as he arrived in this world he didn't believe existed.

The realization had hit him that as he had been brooding, the warriors had

drawn their swords and pointed their tips right at him. The blades were mere inches away from Casey - mere inches away from him joining his grandparents in afterlife.

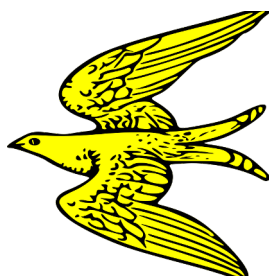
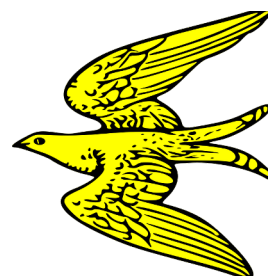
"The boy does not move," a man commented.

"He does not flinch," added another.

Casey strained his eyes to see a wicked grin become visible on Giza's shadowed face. All color drained from his skin as he realized his fate had come to a permanent twist.

The swords around him quivered, causing Casey to shrink into a ball. He remembered brief mentions of armadillos on documentaries he watched often -

*Continued on next page*



# CREATIVE WRITING

## THE SUN TRIAL, CONTINUED

By Emily S.

they rolled into balls that protected them from harm or pain.

That's how Casey felt now - like he wanted to roll into a ball and feel nothing as he was attacked. But, of course, nothing so extraordinary could ever happen... or could it?

"My own warriors shaking with fear."

Giza's voice rang in Casey's ears. So he wouldn't be attacked! The captors were simply shaking! Maybe this wouldn't end so badly after all.

"Take a seat," the elf snarled.

Casey rose to his feet alongside the warriors as he was guided into a small, elegant chair across from Giza's throne. Between them was a table with a map of Expansia painted onto it.

"So, you do not even tremble when you are about to be attacked?" Giza began.

Casey averted his gaze, afraid to look into the elf's hood of darkness. He rummaged through his brain to find a response, but none came.



"I expected such," Giza sighed. Casey couldn't tell whether the elf was relieved or disappointed.

"Sir, I didn't move because... I would have been cut," Casey shuddered, afraid he had done something wrong.

"Of course you did," snorted Giza, "I was simply testing your human knowledge. Now, onto the important things."

Casey gulped and forced himself not to move as he listened to the elf's lecture.

"You have broken the final amendment," Giza said. "No humans from Earth are to enter Expansia. Why you came, I am not certain of. How you came, my warriors told me, is through a portal through time and space. And, you happened to arrive right where they were. The defendant may state his reasons."

"Sir, I had no idea this place even existed," Casey retorted, feeling a sudden surge of courage. "I came through a sewer hole that was open... and it had swirly stuff inside it that sucked me in."

"What is this sewer hole you speak of?" Giza asked, a hint of curiosity in his voice.

"It's a place where waste water drains. No big deal, it isn't harmful..."

"Aah, we have a similar system here. We would simply diminish our waste, but that is in fact needed by a species Expansians have classified as endangered. They are reptiles called Leviathians, which you may be familiar with if you read in your spare time."

Casey restrained a chuckle at the elf's good side.

"Anyways, either way, you have violated one of the most important amendments in history," declared Giza. "Instead of exile, you will be sent on a mission to retrieve the legendary sun stone. Other contestants are also on this mission, as they have been punished as well for breaking the law. They will fight if it means only one is left to win, and you must do the same."

"Sir, have mercy on the boy," one of the warriors, dressed like Neptune, frowned. "He is young, not even in his hundreds."

Such a demanding task-"

"He is a human from dreaded Earth! He would die at one hundred years old!" Giza roared.

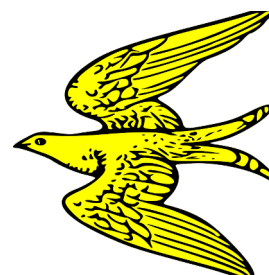
The man who had spoken stepped back and sheathed his sword, muttering something apologetic.

After a few moments of the two mumbling, Giza turned to Casey.

"It is decided," he snickered. "You shall find the sun stone in one of the seven solar towers and bring it to me. If you are defeated in battle, I shall be notified. If you survive long enough to retrieve the sun stone and give it to me or my messengers, you shall be brought back to safety and sent home. Understood?"

After Casey hesitantly nodded, his hand suddenly felt a bit heavier than usual. He turned to look at it to find a sword of the perfect size and shape within his grasp. Its handle was golden with detailed spirals

*Continued on next page*





# CREATIVE WRITING

## THE SUN TRIAL, CONTINUED

By Emily S.

carved throughout it. Its blade was a striking silver color with a dull grey tip.

"You must touch the stone with your sword to make its tip become golden," Giza explained. "This will prove that you have the sun stone. Now, as I do not wish for

anyone to put a jinxing curse on you... off you go."

Casey was shocked when the warriors formed parallel lines behind him, big enough for him to walk between them. Each warrior handed him an



item, and the last warrior with golden robes handed him a pouch to store these items in.

"May the sun gods be with you," he whispered.

Casey was unsure to bow or say the same, so he nodded and exited the court. With a map he needed to learn how to read, varying potions, and a sword, he set off into the wild fantasies of Expansia.

## MR. P. BUNNY'S QUEST TO MAKE AN INTERESTING STORY

By Landon N.

One day, Peanut Bunny was sitting on the ceiling of his house when suddenly, a A MOM BROKE IN!

She shouted at him: "YOUR STORIES ARE BORING AND DISGUSTING!"

"What is disgusting about them?" He said, and then fell off the ceiling.

"EVERYTHING!" She screamed.

So, he pushed her out of his house, slammed the door, and went to make an interesting story!

In the deep dark forest... the bunny ran, they were after him. He looked into the velvet sky and saw the black helicopters following him. He tripped and fell into a cave. He saw a broken television there... it had a crimson glare as the void crawled out... it whispered

eldritch words to him... he stared into it and it stared back. The darkness consumed him and he woke up in his house.

But seriously, it's not like there is a mom out there who thinks these stories are boring and disgusting right? RIGHT?! Oh... OH... didn't know that... my lawyer says this can't be in the paper as it will offend a random guy. Well, I'm gonna be fired.

The next day...

The mom broke in again. She shouted: "THE LAWYER IS BEING FIRED AND JOB THING IN GENERAL ARE NOT FUNNY!"

"Ok ok... I'll try again." said Mr. P. Bunny.

So he went out to make a better story.

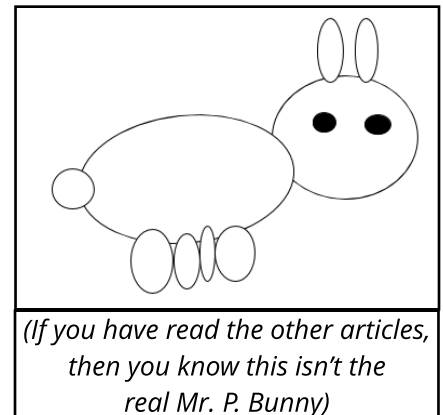
The rabbit ran fast,

avoiding falling rocks as the cave crumbled. He saw the light... he leaped towards it and fell. The river was rushing below him when he saw a log. He dived toward the log before the river consumed him.

He didn't make it that day... At the funeral there was one person. This person wasn't a person but a dog. The dog was named Jack. He cried and cried until he couldn't cry anymore. But then he checked in the casket and Mr. P. Bunny wasn't there. He ran to Mr. P. Bunny's house and saw him there.

"Wait.. aren't you deceased?!" Jack said.

"No, I hired Mr. G. Bunny to take my place." He replied.



Now world, would you really want these to be serious? No you wouldn't. But no mom thought that right? Well, I bet someone did.

Why did I make this you ask? Because as a series that goes on as a long series, a complaint will come on soon or later.

So I'm making this to avoid it before it happens! And plus I think it's funny, so yeah.

# CREATIVE WRITING



## THE FRAGMENTED FAIRY TALE MR. TACO AND THE MAGICAL QUEST *The Continued Series*

By Annie P. and Camille W.

Mr. Taco was having lunch with Gary the Ghost and Mr. O.J. Burger at Pizza Hut. They were just going to order their dessert when...

"I am inviting all of you to my family's 150,000,000,000,000 reunion, this weekend!" Gary the Ghost cried suddenly.

"If there is free food, I am in!" Mr. O.J. Burger replied suddenly excited.

They all rushed home to pack. They decided to get there by flying pegasuses. It was cheap, but a little rocky and bumpy. Finally, they got there and were surprised by a warm welcome from Gary's six younger brothers.

"Welcome." The six brothers yelled in unison.

The home was small but cozy and -just when they were getting dessert there was a knock on the door.

"Yes? Who is it?" the brothers said again. The answer was a faint whisper.

"Please, just let me in." It sounded like a girl. They opened the door to see a girl about 20, with short, silky black hair and bright blue eyes.

"Can I stay here for the night? I'm running from an evil queen who captured me." The girl pleaded.

The Ghost brothers replied with a "Yes of course!"

The mysterious girl walked into the small house and looked around for a bit and immediately said, "Clean this gross

place up you slobs! Go! Go! GET TO IT!"

"Woah lady! If you want it clean, clean it yourself! YOU GET TO IT!!!!!" Gary practically screamed.

So the girl cleaned and cleaned until the house was spotless and then said,

"This place is too clean. Do you ever have any fun?"

She dropped 15 antique plates on the floor and Mr. Taco And Mr. OJ Burger watched them smash when they hit the ground. But for Gary, he just looked like he was going to explode. Gary threw an apple at the girl and screamed,

"HOW ARE YOU STILL HERE!?! JUST TAKE THIS GHOST APPLE AND

LEAVE!!"

The girl took a bite out of the apple and fell to the ground.

"What did you do!?" Mr. Taco exclaimed rushing to the girls side.

"Ghost apples are poisonous, duh." Gary the Ghost replied picking up the girl and dropping her outside.

"Can we at least bring her to her true love?" Mr. Taco pleaded.

"Fine, we'll email him." Mr. O.J. Burger sighed pulling out his iTaco.

"Who is he anyway?" Gary the ghost wondered.

"Brad Casey Conner Tim obviously!" Mr. O.J. Burger replied.

The End

## HAIKUS

By Annie P.

Haikus are a type of poetry that has three lines and 17 syllables. The first line has five syllables, the second has seven, and the third has five .

Here is an example:

Haikus are the best

Even when put to the test

They can make you stressed

Make an haiku of your own on the lines!

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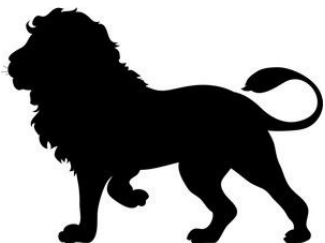
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# CREATIVE WRITING

## THE DIMINISHING SUN, VOLUME I

By Emily S.

The sun blazed down on the African Savannah, which seemed to crumble in its very presence. Normally, tall grass and thorny vegetation would be bursting with life in these parts. But things had changed, and all of the lion prides in the Savannah suffered drought and famine.



About now, the sun had scorched the ground into a desert pattern. A lion pride traveling from the western savannah was trekking in a single-file line, their jaws clenching to calm their roaring stomachs.

"King Hodari," a panting lioness coughed, "We must rest at some point. The cubs are starving and everyone's legs are giving."

The other lionesses snarled, their ears curled back in embarrassment.

Hodari, the only male in the pride, turned to his followers and flicked an ear towards a deep slope leading to a dried gorge. The lions' tails relaxed in relief, as they had walked for hours

with aching legs and paw pads.

Hodari lead the way to the gorge, descending the slope with his years of practice displayed. The lioness

who had asked for a rest, Maranna, padded into step with him.

"Your Majesty, may I ask a favor?" she mewed, her whiskers rising.

The king of the pride grunted in annoyance and flashed his tail from flank to flank, signaling her to continue.

"King Hodari," Maranna sighed, "it is about time a queen is chosen. Our pride is in peril and, you must admit, you cannot lead the pride alo-"

"Silence!" Hodari roared, his massive jaws parting to reveal a set of powerful, ivory fangs.

Maranna skidded back to the other lionesses, her ears pinned back in shock. She hadn't ever been personally scolded by the king before, and not in such a swift manner!

In the very back,

where mothers carried and walked alongside their young, a cub old enough to hunt a mouse watched with interest. His name was Kenyon, meaning "survivor" in the ancient vocabulary of lions.

"Kippa, did you hear that?" he grinned, nudging his younger brother stumbling beside him.

"Auntie Maranna and the king?" Kippa mewed. "Yeah, I - WAAAAH!!!"

Kippa cried out in terror as he tumbled down the remainder of the slope. Kenyon attempted his best roar and leapt down the slope, his fur bristling wildly. His brother was about to fall! He would hit a huge, sharp rock nearby, and then...

Kenyon forced the thought out of his mind. He propelled himself far enough down to grab his littermate by the scruff, and they both soared down to the bottom of the gorge.

Just before Kenyon was sure he'd hit the

ground, he and Kippa were cushioned by King Hodari's mane. Kenyon blinked his eyes to prevent his dizziness before sliding off of the king.

"You saved us!" Kippa squealed happily, nuzzling the king without a care in the world.

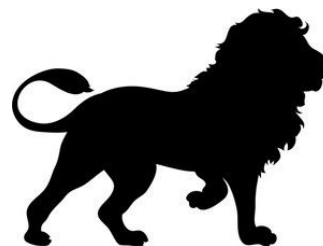
Kenyon watched the slightest smile form on Hodari's lips, but it faded quickly as the lionesses thundered down.

"Kippa, Kenyon! You're alright!" Kenyon's mother, a slender lioness called Nyikani, gasped, nuzzling her cubs with affection.

Kenyon rolled his eyes and trotted off to catch up with Hodari, who was yet again speaking with Maranna. This time, their exchange was hushed.

But the most important part was the only part that Kenyon managed to hear.

"It is time for Kenyon to find his own pride."





# CREATIVE WRITING



## THE OTHER WORLD

By Charlie R.

help?" He said.

I looked at him in fear.

"Wanna come with me?" He said.

"Ok." I answered back. While we were walking I was scared and nervous that someone or something would attack us.

"What's your name?" I asked him.

"Jedm." He answered back.

We walked a little more. I saw a lot of things that are floating. He got sucked into here too. We finally made a stop and went inside a big house.

"We are going to live here?" He said.

"Sure. I don't know how long we're going to living here." I said back.

"2 days?" He said.

"Ok let's find rooms."

### The Walk To Remember

We stayed there and had fun. As I went to bed I heard noises.

"HELP!!!!!!!!!!!!!!"

Then I ran outside and saw Jedm getting attacked by a puppy?!

"Are you kidding me? A puppy." I told him.

"A cute creature that's tiny as a teacup." I said.

"I was outside getting food for tomorrow and a puppy that was 10 feet tall comes attacking me, and I had my axe and knife, but I didn't want to hurt the creature! Then you came outside and it shrunk down like a few feet and acted all cute." Jedm said.

Really? I didn't believe him but whatever.

So, I went to bed.

The next day we decided to walk and discover things.

"Dude it's like six in the morning. What are we doing here?" He said.

I didn't really know so I told him, "I don't know? I want to walk outside."

So we walked for a while and brought snacks.

Suddenly A BIG BEAST OUT OF THE BUSHES COMES AND ATTACKS US. Just kidding. Sorry I had to make the story more interesting. Anyways, we found a new creature we called it an Odd Snail

Thingy. That's what happened basically.

### The Lost Place

I kept getting visions of me on a hospital bed. That's how I start off a chapter, ok? Anyways, We decided to walk a little more longer and actually found a cool sculpture, of what exactly - I actually don't know. We kept walking and we decided to do the smart thing. Go by it the statue and look closer.

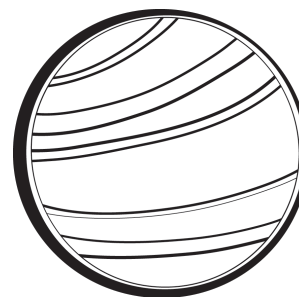
I saw people come by us and they took JEDM!!! Just kidding. Again I'm sorry. I'll stop. Maybe.

So, we walked by it and a secret door opened so we went inside and we saw what nobody would expect. We saw a place where people decide to go to. A place like no other.

They called it the Lost Place. It was an abandoned room but you wouldn't even know that it was abandoned by the way. It was very much

decorated.

"We should go." Jedm said.



*Continued on page 34*

This is a story of how my whole life changed, I don't see the world the same anymore. Well, that's a lie. I still see the world the same BUT I will never forget what happened... just read on.

This how it all happened. So I was sitting on my couch watching videos online and an error occurred. [VIRUS OCCURRED] [ENERGY PORTAL ENABLED]

Honestly, I didn't know what was happening but, suddenly I am by my Pokemon Go poster (please don't ask why I have a Pokemon Go poster) and it sucked me into the portal. Then I didn't remember what happened after when I got sucked into the portal, but it took a good 20 seconds to get inside the weird dimension.

First I didn't know where I was. Everything looked weird. I felt odd like a feeling I've never felt before. I saw a person walk to me he looked normal.

"I don't know where I am. Can you

# CREATIVE WRITING

## WOLVES OF LAVENDER WOOD

By Emily S.

Legend has it that Lavender Wood has never seen a full moon before... except once. And that one time it had, eternal night was thrust upon the land forever. But fortunately, four brave animals, predator and prey alike, worked together to break the curse.

Of course, this is just a legend... or is it? Before your superstitions get to you, let me bring you to the base camp of Silver Edge Pack.

On the freezing northern edge of Lavender Wood thrives a small, little-known pack driven to the border of the Whitelands and Lavender Wood. And, if you're familiar with the history of the packs, you'll know this was the envious Midnight Depths Pack's doing. They constantly change territories, but will always win over the territory with the darkest setting.

Anyways, back to Silver Edge Pack. Their numbers are small, forcing a couple of their wolves to take on multiple ranks at once.

And right there, with snow drifting into the

continent-long abyss separating the Whitelands and Lavender Wood, were guards.

The two wolves standing before the abyss were from Silver Edge Pack. One was black with blue eyes, and his name was Lythar. The other was white as the snow with crystal blue eyes, and her name was Drift.

After an hour of silence, Lythar spoke.



"The Whitelanders have become very inactive lately," he grumbled, clearing his throat.

"Well, seasons are changing," Drift replied quietly.

The she-wolf had to avoid much conversation, as her duty as a guard was to fool the Whitelanders that she was the snow and Lythar was the only guard. If necessary, she would sneak-attack.

Ironically, around five silhouettes were loping forth. They seemed to come from the horizon, but came even quicker.

Lythar spread his legs apart, flattened his ears, and held his tail

erect. Drift dove into the snow, coating her scent in the frozen water as well as blending in.

The figures slowed to a trot as they came into view. Surprisingly, they weren't wolves, but animals that should've tried to devour and flee from each other - a polar bear, a red-tailed hawk, and a cottontail rabbit.

"Stay back! If any of you try to cross the abyss - especially you, bird - you shall be hung on Alpha's cave walls!" Lythar snarled, his fur bristling.

Drift crouched eerily still in the snow, waiting for the moment to strike.

"None of us will cross. In fact, we would like to meet one of your wolves," the hawk explained calmly, fluttering to the ground. Though he tried to hold it back, his legs trembled due to fear and the cold. The rabbit was experiencing the same sensation.

Lythar relaxed a bit, letting his ears swerve

towards the odd group.

"Lavender Wood and the Winterlands alike are in danger, and one of you plus us is the only hope for everything!" the polar bear roared, his claws flexing.

Lythar tensed his muscles, his ears pinned back against his skull.

"You must explain what is happening if you want to get past!" he barked.

Drift shivered, but fortunately nobody seemed to notice.

"The legend is real," the rabbit chimed in, her fur bristling. "The Winterlands, Lavender Wood, Chordita Plains, and the Sky Kingdom... where we're from. The eternal night will fall in four days, and we need a wolf to complete the resistance."

"And keep in mind, you could be my dinner if you're lying," Lythar snorted. "I will speak with Alpha about this. If he approves, we will send a representative with you."



*Continued on next page*

# CREATIVE WRITING

## WOLVES OF LAVENDER WOOD, CONTINUED

By Emily S.

Lythar nodded to Drift before thundering to base camp.

When he returned, he chuckled upon seeing the odd animals huddling against the polar bear. A caribou hide dangled from his jaws.

"Alpha will be choosing a representative momentarily. I suggest you use this pelt to your

benefit, but please return it when you're done."



Lythar tossed the hide with astonishing skill over the abyss, allowing the hawk to catch it in his beak.

Drift rolled her eyes and stood, shaking the snow off of her fur.

"Go a bit easier on them, Lythar," she scolded.

Lythar nodded, nuzzling Drift.

"If either of us is the chosen one," he smiled, "let's remember each other using this."

Lythar placed a bone necklace with a mouse skull as its charm between him and Drift. They both grinned from ear to ear before Alpha approached,



a newly-promoted dominant wolf at his side.

"Drift, you shall accompany Alaya on this quest. The legend is indeed real, and do see to it that Alaya alone breaks the curse."

Drift dug her head into the snow to put on the necklace, nuzzling Lythar one last time before she and Alaya bounded over the abyss.



## THE OTHER WORLD, CONTINUED

By Charlie R.

"No. We shouldn't." I said back.

I wanted to walk around. The walls were blue. The ceiling was invisible. The walls you can go through! It was amazing.

### The End (maybe)

I decided to walk through the walls, and they went to another room! Jedm tried and he thought it was cool too! We soon decided to leave and go back home. I heard a whisper like noise inside my head saying,

"Wake up! Please!" Repeatedly. When we got

back home Jedm told me that he heard those noises too.

Suddenly I heard, "He's waking up!"

Then soon I saw a glare of light coming from somewhere then, Jedm got taken away by darkness.

I suddenly woke up on a hospital bed. I walked around the hospital and I was scared. I didn't know why the walls were destroyed the ground was almost covered by fire. I saw a vision from afar that looked like Jedm.

"Hey! Jedm!" I yelled across the room.

"Hey! I've seen you before!" He said.

We walked down the destroyed halls. Suddenly a guy in a vest went right in front of us.

"Come on! Let's go! In the helicopter!" He yelled at us.

We went in the helicopter and he told us what was happening. "Listen, the world is destroyed. It is the end of life as we know it. I need your help." He said.

"Yes!" We both said. "Oh, and also we put a puppy in the world you were just in. Just to

give you guys company." He said.

"Wha-." Said Jedm. "What do you mean by we?" I asked.

"I said too much." He said.

"Also what do you mean by put into?" I asked.

He didn't answer.

"We're here!" He said.

"Wait! What do you mean by we and put into the world?" I said angrily.

"I'll tell you later." He said.

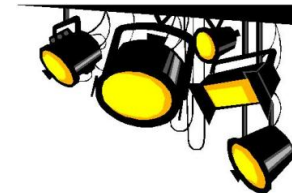
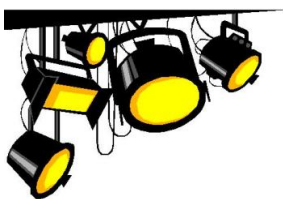
**To be continued...**



# CREATIVE WRITING

## TALENT SHOW TIME

By London SM.



"Yo, yo ,yo. Judge YO, is in the house."

Sky and Raina are so excited because they are finalists on America's Got Talent.

First up was Sky, she was going to do a dance .

"Yo,YO,Yo, and what kind of "YO" act are you doing?" Yo said.

Yo, Garnet, Scarlet and Zarai were the judges.

"I'm Sky and I'll be dancing for you." Sky said.

Judge Yo had to say something about this catastrophe! "YO, you need more YO in your name."

Sky was not

pleased about this but said "Fine I'm SkYO, alright?"

This pleased Yo so they got on with the show.

Sky started her dance .It was like she was dancing on water, light as a feather. Everyone was in awe, so astounded by this ordinary looking girl, that ,that she could do something more extraordinary than anyone in the room had ever seen.

When the dance was over everyone was so shocked they could not move, except Yo.Yo was never pleased. Everyone was silent, well except Yo. Then all of the sudden everyone clapped and cheered and Sky walked

off stage.

It was Raina's turn, she had butterflies in her stomach but went on.

"What is your name, sunflower? And what are you doing for us today?" Asked Scarlet smoothly and gently.

"I'm Raina, and I will be singing for you."

But before Yo could criticize, she began.

Her voice, like a thousand angels singing in perfect harmony, was grand and bold. Her voice drifted through the air. Everyone was in awe again by a little girl no more than nine.

No one wanted to disturb this child with the

most beautiful voice anyone had ever heard! When she was done, no one moved. Even Yo! Then someone managed to clap and the whole place started to clap and cheer for this extraordinary girl, and she walked off stage.

"Girls, come back on." Garnet said.

All of the judge's talked and then they had their answer. "The winner of America's got talent is... Raina!" everyone clapped and cheered wildly.

Golden confetti rained down on her. She felt so special. Her parents came out so proud and hugged her in their arms.

This was easily the best day of her life.

## PROBLEM SOLVED?

By Michael B.

Hello, my name is Elliot, kid detective, detective of Barnwords School. Yes the school where Josie and Charlie had found the somewhat \$1,000,000 treasure, still trying to figure out how they did it.

Back to me, I have

six bullet Strongarm-class nerf gun, brown overcoat, and a black striped fedora. I may get insults for my get-up, but I still have figured many of Barnword's school's mysteries. Like the gym supplies stealer, who was Elsa Bratner, she hates gym. Also, the prankster fake puke, which was Prankster Peter, but even Principal Beery can't get his hands on him!

Prankster Peter is



my sworn enemy, he even pranked me by using the "Open the door and get eggs on your head" trick. It took a week for my mom to get the stains out of my overcoat!

Anyway, the most troubling case so far is "The evening earrings" were drama queen Heather had lost her moon earrings that you can buy for \$1 at Target. But who am I to pass up a case.

So here I am at the girls locker room, aka scene of the crime, and I've found a clue! (This is not "Blues Clues!") The clue says: Payback Buddy!.

Now I have a hunch. Back in my first year I had figured out who had gave Mr. Beery a reverse mohawk, and it was Billy Fract.

So, I'm heading over to his locker now.

To Be Continued...

# C O M I C

## DODGE BALL

Seth H. + Mq + the W

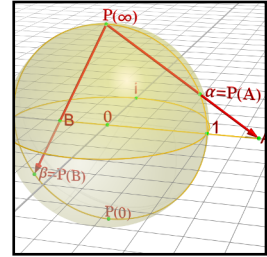


## THE ULTIMATE QUESTION OF LIFE WHAT IS $2 + 2$ ?

By Landon N.

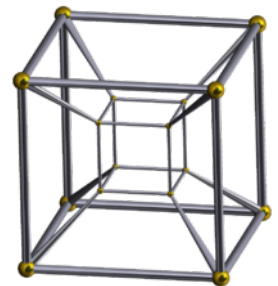
$2 + 2$  is a question with a debatable answer, some say it's 4, some say it's 22, some even say it's 17. Let's look at the math to figure it out.

$2 + 2$ , you're adding 2 to 2. Simple right? NO. It is super hard to do. If you look at the picture, you see an equation of the 3rd dimension, so if you flatten it you get the second dimension. It will make an equation that looks like this:  $2 + 5 - 66 + \pi - e + 1029384756$ .



So, if that makes 2 (second dimension) then we have to multiply that by 2 to see the answer! The answer to second dimension is 1029384697.42, so if we multiply it by two, then we get 2058769394.85!

But that's only half the equation... we have to convert it to the 3rd dimension as the 4th dimension is time. Below you see a Tesseract, a cube of the fourth dimension. What we have to do now is to change it from a shape like a tesseract to a shape like a cube, and then change it to numbers again. The shape would have 2058393847393.88 sides right now, but in the 3rd dimension it should have... (thinking).... 85474931 sides! Which in equations equals  $17 - 12$  which is 5! And so the answer to  $2 + 2$  is 5.



There you go! That is the true answer in truthy truth.

Sources: Wikipedia, Google Calculator.

# C O M I C

PokeCOMIC

BY Niko S.

OK!



I'm gonna  
go play  
Pokemon go!

AS little TIMMY goes to  
play Pokemon go, little does  
he know that there is a  
Very rare Pokemon nearby!



Then...



OMG!

The rare  
Pokemon Popped up!

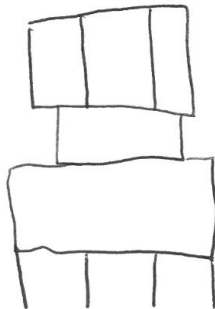
Timmy Spends hours  
trying to catch the  
Pokemon.



Meanwhile in the Pokemon Company  
Niantic...

OOPS,

I must have  
deleted a Pokemon  
someone was  
catching. I bet  
it wasn't that  
rare!



Better luck  
next time, little  
Timmy!





# SUDOKU PUZZLE

By Christopher S.

8	4	2	6					7
	3	6		4				
	9		2					
					6			1
	5	8	3		2	7	4	
4			5					
					4		7	
				8		1	6	
7					3	2	9	4

## CALENDAR

December - Board of Education Meeting,  
7:30 PM

December 13 - Holiday Open House,  
Grades K-3, 6:00-7:30 PM

December 14 - Holiday Open House,  
Grades 4-6, 6:00--7:30 PM

December 16 - MK Character Day

December 21-January 4 - Winter Break

4	6	2	3	9	1	5	8	7
9	1	5	8	7	6	1	9	3
8	7	5	4	2	6	1	9	3
3	6	8	7	5	6	1	4	2
6	4	2	7	1	3	8	5	9
1	5	8	9	6	4	3	2	7
9	4	1	3	2	7	1	3	6
5	8	4	7	9	8	6	1	3
3	6	8	4	7	9	8	6	1
8	4	2	3	9	1	5	8	7

Puzzle 1 (Medium, difficulty rating 0.54)

## NEWSPAPER CLUB

Kate B.	Seth H.	Lillian P.
Michael B.	Sophia I.	Annie P.
Kenny B.	Jackson K.	Ian P.
Simone B.	Tyler K.	Niklas P.
Sean C.	Everett K.	Charlie R.
Ben C.	Kellan K.	Christopher S.
Dylan C.	Jackie K.	Charlotte S.
Aidan C.	Sammy K.	London S.
Roland C.	Sarah K.	Jude S.
Ben C.	Adam K.	Niko S.
Aidan D.	Lily L.	Emily S.
Emmet D.	Gabby L.	Jack S.
Patrick E.	Luka L.	Carson T.
Caroline F.	Jeanne M.	Lindsey W.
Ashlyn G.	Matthew M.	Ava W.
Carter H.	Aidan N.	Alyssa W.
Jordyn H.	Landon N.	Devin W.
Emma H.	Margaret P.	Camille W.

## LAYOUT CLUB

Hannah E.	Jackson K.	Lilly R.
Emmett D.	Jeanne M.	
Carter H.	Lillian P.	

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