

# CityKidzWorld

Volume 11: Issue 40

Illustration by Alicja Jadczyk



**Short Stories Inside!**

**16 Writing and Art  
Challenges Inside:  
1st grade through  
High School**

**Writing Advice from a  
Guest Writer Inside**

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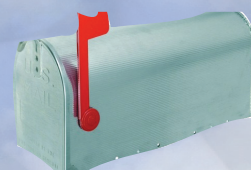
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# Lion

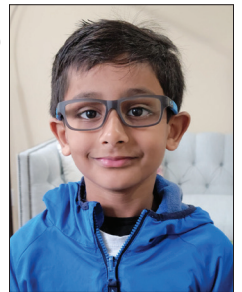


By Sarah Dharshini, kindergarten

## I Love London, England

By Ayaan Elisetty, 1st grade

I love London, England.  
My first reason is the London Eye is so COOL!  
The London Eye looks like an eye. My second  
reason is that Buckingham Palace is so stun-  
ning, mostly the queen.  
I think you should go to England.



## A Boy and His Sister

By Ayaan Elisetty, 1st grade

A boy had a sister. They had their lunch.  
Then they asked their parents, "Can we go outside?"  
They said, "Yes."  
And they went they ran through the leaves. Then they went home. The end.



# The Owl

By Harshil Garg, 2nd grade



One day, an owl was living on an evergreen tree. He was very hungry. It was snowing when he went hunting. He felt very cold one night. He was so cold that he couldn't even move his wing. He tried to scream for help, but no one could hear him. One day, he couldn't handle the cold and he got sick.

There was a fox who was watching him the whole entire time. He was very happy to see a sick owl because the owl wouldn't be able to escape when he tried to eat it. The fox was dreaming

about how tasty the owl would be.

The owl did not see that the fox was behind him. Then the fox leaped onto the owl. The fox did not see that there was a cliff. He missed the owl and fell. Days later, the owl felt better. Now the owl was ready to hunt for food.



Illustration by Sarah Baker

# Ronald's Beach Trip

By Neehanth Pannala, 2nd grade

Once upon a time, there lived a boy named Ronald. Ronald loved going to the beach. So, on a hot summer day, he asked his dad if he could go to the beach. His dad said, "Maybe tomorrow." He was bored and had nothing to do. He had a basketball hoop in his driveway, so he just played basketball. After a while, he went inside to watch TV. Then, his dad came and asked, "Ronald, what are you doing?" He replied, "Just watching TV." Then it was dinner time, and he was eating spaghetti and meatballs. He gobbled up his food and went to bed. He was so excited to go to the beach tomorrow. The next day, he reminded his dad that they were going to the beach.



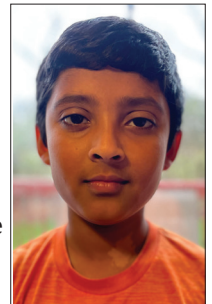
He had to wake up early so he could find a spot on the beach. He ate breakfast and packed his stuff. The beach they were going to was called Sandy Beach. When he got there and felt the sand, it was so hot and he felt like he was going to sink. Ronald put some sunscreen on and dashed to the water. A big wave came and almost sank

Ronald. He couldn't hear anything for a while, so he just played in the sand. He made a sandcastle, but then a wave came and knocked it over. Then he could hear again, so he went back in the water.

Finally, it was time for lunch. They had burgers and hot dogs. When they were done eating, Ronald went back in the water immediately. His dad rented surfboards, but he had to wait for them. A few minutes later, the surfboards came. There was a blue, a red, and a white surfboard. Since his favorite color was red, he picked the red surfboard. A big wave came and he surfed on it. He didn't want to go in the water after that, so he played Frisbee. He had to leave in a few minutes, so he made another sandcastle and continued playing Frisbee. Then it was time to go home, so they packed up and left.

Ronald had a great time. What a great day for Ronald.

Illustrations by Sarah Baker



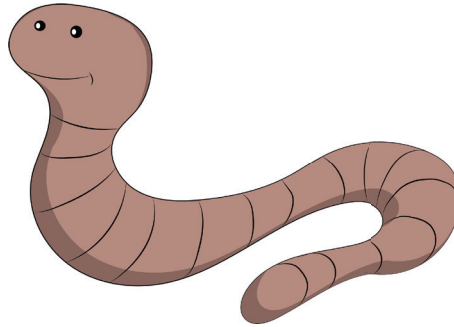
# Big Worm

By Lakshmi Pratheek Pavitala, 3rd grade

One day I saw a super, big earth worm.

I was so surprised that I was a little scared.  
It was as big as two full pencils.

From that day on I was afraid of worms. I would  
scream if I saw another one now.



# A Sunny Day Surprise

By Nikith kotikalapudi, 4th grade

It was a nice sunny day and the streets were full of people enjoying the weather. There I was standing on one of my neighborhood's streets, watching my brand new bike getting soaked with water balloons.

I told the person who got my bike soaked to play somewhere else.

"Why should I?" he asked

"Because you got my brand new bike soaked," I replied.

He shrugged and walked away.

Oh no! I thought. How will I get to my friend's house? Mom is busy and so is Dad.

"Ugh," I groaned, pushing my bike away.

When I got home, the doorbell rang.

"Ding, Dong!"

"Who is it?" I asked.

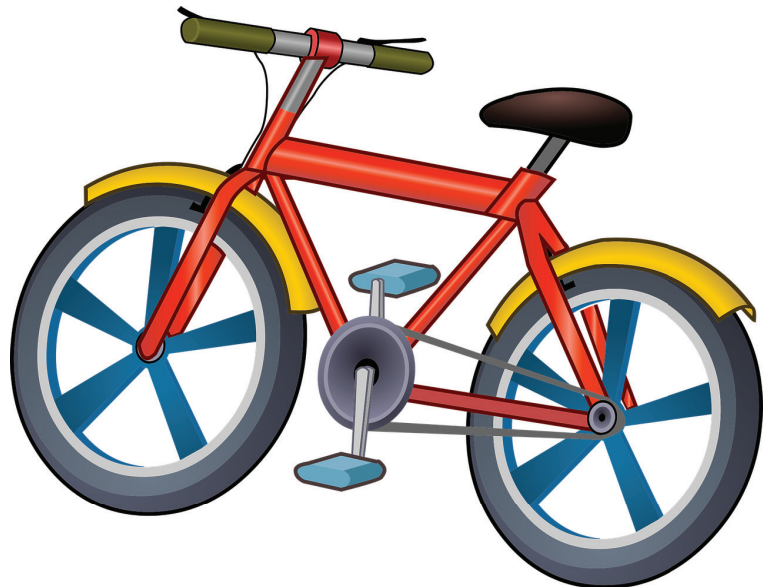
I opened the door and...

"SURPRISE!"

Everyone remembered, I thought.

"Thank you," I said with gratitude.

I cut the cake on the hot summer streets.



Think back to your experience in this most recent grade you attended. Write a reflection about what you learned in this grade and how you think it will impact you in your future.

(All grades - minimum 100 words, maximum 500 words)

Send your reflection to [editor@citykidzworld.com](mailto:editor@citykidzworld.com)

by August 1.





# Disney Here I Come...

By Nidhi Bhargav, 4th grade

"Grandpa, can you tell us a story?" said young Michel to his grandpa. He was staying with his grandpa and his siblings in a two-story house in Yate, England. Michel was the youngest of his siblings, so he still loved his grandpa's stories.

Grandpa laughed and began the story:

Once in a town called Yate lived a little 7-year-old boy named Nick. He had two siblings. The youngest was his brother named Liam, and they had an older sister named Sofia. All of them had a dream to go to Disney World, the land of magic. One day all of them asked their parents, but again, their dad said, "I am sorry kids, but your mom got fired, and I don't make too much money at my job."

Nick said, "Mom and Dad we can have a lemonade stand and a garage sale?"

The door opened right when Nick was talking, and Nick's siblings came running inside. They promised that they would listen to everything that the parents said. Finally, Nick's dad said that they could have their neighbors and all of the adults host the garage sale and the kids could work out the lemonade stand.

Sofia continued, "With all of the money that we raise, we could have everyone that helps also get tickets to go to Disney!" Finally, after a lot of convincing, Nick, Liam, and Sofia got their parents to put up posters around their neighborhood, and then they went to bed. The posters were asking others to volunteer to help out at a garage sale to raise money to go to Disney World.

Early in the morning, there was a knock at their door. Still half asleep, Nick went to open the door. Guess what? Standing right in front of him was a whole group of people holding up the posters and saying that they wanted to help with hosting the garage sale. Nick was so excited that he yelled back into the house, "Mum, can I have our karaoke microphone? And Dad, give me the biggest chair that we have in the house!"

He announced on his little karaoke microphone, "All of the kids, get in the house. All of the adults, go home and get the stuff that you want to sell and let's GO!" It was like being in a stampede of people running in all directions. Their mom and dad told Nick that not a lot of people were going to come to their house because they lived on



Illustration by Alicja Jadczał

a corner.

Then, all the kids had a vote on where to sell the lemonade, and they worked together to set up the lemonade stand. After 5-6 weeks of selling lemonade and having the garage sales, they made the money to afford a trip for everyone that wanted to go to Disney World.

Grandpa asked Michel, "Can you imagine how excited the kids were because their dream finally came true?"

Grandpa continued, "The kids were so excited that when they went to school, they could not stop talking about their upcoming Disney trip. They shared with their friends how hard all of them had worked to raise enough money to get to go to Disney. Liam started to cross out dates on the calendar every day until it was time to go. Finally, the day arrived, and they boarded the flight. They had a lot of fun at Disney World. They went on some rides more than once. They ate ice cream every day, and the kids got to meet their favorite Disney characters. The funny part of the story is that they also bought lemonade at Disney World."

"So you see Michel," said Grandpa, "If you work hard to accomplish what you really want, you will achieve it." He looked down and realized that Michel had fallen asleep. He said goodnight and went to his room thinking about the story. Michel had a dream that night that Nick was his best friend.

Click Here to  
Write a review on  
THIS Story!



# A Awesome Terrific Place

By Jiya Shah, 4h grade

Ahhhhhhhh! Whoosh! I feel like I am going to fall. I am going up and down and there are so many loop-de-loops. I am on the Harley Quinn ride at Six Flags in New Jersey. It is the best place to go whenever you have no plans. It's a great amusement park with a bunch of rides and roller coasters for different ages – even for 3 year olds! Now I think it's time to take a break from work and spend a whole day of fun there!

First of all, there are so many rides that it's so hard to choose one to even start with! You will want to do it all. There is Joker, Kingda Ka, Nitro, Skull Mountain, and so many more. For example, in Skull Mountain, it is so dark and it's also indoors. When the ride starts you go up, up, up and WHOOSH! You go down. You feel the tickling sensation in your stomach and it feels like you are going to fall. Another ride is the Skyscreamer. Once you are in the air, it's like you are flying. You can see literally everything from up there: mountains, lakes, and most of Six Flags. There are also rides for little kids too, like Cup And Saucer and Air Jumbo.

Rumble! Rumble! Oh no! Your stomach's growling and

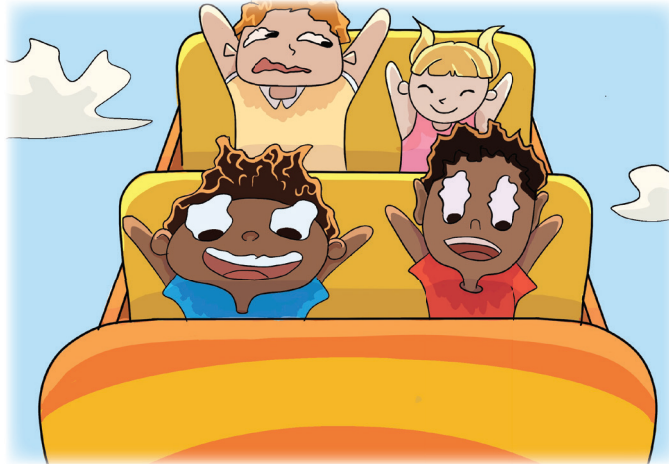
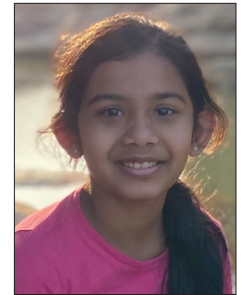


Illustration by Alicja Jadczyk



you need food. Well, don't worry, because there is plenty of food to eat at Six Flags. There is mac and cheese, french fries, pizza, and more. There are a bunch of drinks too (mainly sodas). Are you still hungry after

all that food? If you are, then get Dippin' Dots! There are so many flavors to choose from. Flavors like chocolate and flavors you haven't even tasted like banana split or bubblegum.

Six Flags is awesome--no, it's terrific! There are so many rides there, and lots of food too. Sometimes you can't even go around the whole Six Flags even if you leave late at night. That's how big it is. Can you believe it? Even now, I still have more rides that I haven't even ridden yet. I feel like I am in a whole new world there. It's like I am in my own wonderland! Don't you agree? I can't wait to go there for another adventure!

# If I lived in a Snow Globe...

By Sakina Hassan, 4th grade

If I lived in a snow globe, I would live in a Hogwarts Quidditch Pitch snowglobe! I would watch Harry practice on his broom, Nimbus 2000! He needs to practice all that he can to beat the Slytherin team, with the lead of Malfoy. Malfoy and his team have Nimbus 2001. Woah!

You know how Hermione and Ron aren't in Quidditch? Well, in my snow globe they are! As you can see, Ron got knocked over the heavy bludger while practicing!



# Julia's Adventure

By Aarya Gaidhani, 4th grade

Julia woke up early: 6:00 am sharp. She went to the bathroom and brushed her teeth until they were pearly white. She made her breakfast: pancakes—sweet and fluffy pancakes. Julia was adventurous and loved exploring.

Every day of exploring was more exciting than the last.



Today she was going to explore a cave in the forest. Julia was very excited because this was her first time spelunking.

As soon as she finished eating her food, she filled up Max's food bowl. Max was Julia's pet dog. He was her companion. He went everywhere with her.



After she finished feeding Max, Julia wore her favorite exploring clothes: a striped t-shirt and black leggings. She then got Max ready in his favorite harness. They went through the forest, hearing the sounds of birds that Max whined at.



A few minutes later, they reached the cave. Julia wore her spelunking hat. It was very simple: a gray hat like a building hat except with a light on the top. She also clipped a little light to Max's harness. They walked in, admiring all the walls as all were different from each other. They saw other people coming in and out. As they went further in, they heard a different noise like a squeak.



Max started growling, but just then, something flew past them, then another and another. They were bats! Max started barking while they ran back to the front. Once they got back to the front, Julia decided to go home. It had been a day for them, and so they went home and waited for their next adventure.



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# Babysitting Cupid

By Lipi Kothavade, 5th grade



BRING! BRING!

"Mia! Can you get it? I have to head out to pick up Ana!" called Mareena, who was heavily tanned and more muscular than you would expect for someone her age.

"Yes Ina, I'll get it!" was heard from some distinct corner of the Moon Watch Treehouse.

"Hello. Artemia Sirence from Moon Watch Babysitting speaking."

"Hi. I'd like to schedule an appointment for my son."

It was the new neighbor who she had run into last weekend!

"All right. Provide the name and time, and I'll see what I can do."

"My name is Audrey Loraks. My son's name is Hunter Loraks, and I'm looking for a 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. slot. I'd like to have two of you, please. My son can be quite a handful at times."

She had looked down at Artemia as if she were superior, with her perfect bun and flawless porcelain skin.

"Give me a moment."

As she thought about Audrey's request, she knew that Mareena and Diana would be just right for the job. They balanced each other out perfectly, and together they could deal with the most unruly of children.

She checked the schedule on the bulletin board. Perfect. The twins were both free at that time!

"Mareena and Diana Florence can be there."

"That's great! Thank you! Bye!"

"Bye! Moon Watch out!"

## Later that day, at 4:00 p.m.

DING! DONG! DING! DONG!

The door burst open! A tall lady in a glittery, gold gown was standing there looking exhausted.

"Thank GOODNESS you're here! I'm late!"

The twins glanced at each other with a look that said, Who is this lady, and why does she look like she wants to push us into the house, lock the door, and run as far as she can? Suddenly the lady, who they had now figured was Audrey, slapped the keys into Mareena's hand, jumped into the expensive-looking car parked outside, and sped off.

The girls walked inside and looked around.

Despite the lady's swift exit and hasty

appearance, the house was immaculate.

The floor sparkled, and the furniture practically gleamed.

In a soft voice, Diana asked, "Where is the little one we're supposed to be watching?" Her teal locks swung into her face as she whipped her head around and pushed her glasses further up on her face.

Seemingly out of nowhere, a chubby baby appeared on the ground behind them. In her plaid, turtle neck dress, and high velvet heeled boots, Mareena spun on her heel and scooped the baby up from under his arms.

The baby, Hunter, was dressed in a bright red shirt and gray shorts. He had curly auburn hair sticking up all over his head. He pounded his chubby fists together, stuck his little head in the air, and wailed. He bobbed over to the door and kicked it with his chubby feet in a show of defiance.

"He has a lot of energy. I can tell. We're taking him to the park," announced Mareena, forever taking the lead.

## At the park

As they strolled the grounds of Evergreen Fair Park, Hunter stopped in the middle of the field where he had fought to be let down, and they had discovered he could, in fact, walk. He promptly sat down and started bawling his eyes out. For at least 10 minutes, the twins took turns trying to pick him, and getting him to start walking. All of a sudden he froze. His tears stopped coming, his feet stopped kicking, and his hands stopped punching. His eyes drifted to a lady jogging nearby, in a bright blue jumpsuit and frizzy red hair, she looked normal. Then she hugged a tree. "What the-" Diana started.

"All right, this little one is going home. Now," Mareena whisper-shouted.

When they eventually got to his house, he tumbled into his little crib, and started snoring. His thumb drifted to

Cupid *con't* on page 10



## Cupid *con't* from page 9

his mouth, and he hugged his blanket like his life depended on it.

Two hours later, Audrey returned, and the twins were "allowed" to go home. When they arrived, they called a meeting of the Moon Watch and discussed the strange events of the day. Eventually, they came to the conclusion that the lady they had seen was just an oddball, and it was simply a coincidence.

The next day (after Audrey called again) Artemia and Donatella were headed to the Lorak's. After the happenings of the day before, they were prepared and ready for anything. Or so they thought.

After Audrey left in the same hurried manner, this time in a cheetah print dress and 4-inch heels, they stepped into the house as Hunter appeared in the same odd manner. Nowhere one second, right behind them the next.

"Hunter, today we are going to teach you to do a backflip!" claimed Artemia.

"Um, Mia, he's like, 4," mumbled Donatella.

"UGHHHH! SO WHAT?! OKAY FINE! DON'T GIVE ME THAT LOOK! JEEZ!" Artemia whined.

So they ended up taking him to the front yard, where they then proceeded to teach him to catch a ball, despite Artemia repeatedly trying to make him do a backflip.

Then two people walked by. The first one was walking a dog, looking bored. Hunter stuck his tongue out at her, and she started hugging and kissing the dog. Artemia and Donatella exchanged glances of confusion. Then, the second person walked by with a flower in his pocket, jogging around the block. At him, Hunter sneezed. Then the man took out the flower and rang the nearest doorbell with a

goofy look on his face.

### In the treehouse

They all got together and did some research.

"This is too suspicious. What's going on?" said Dona.

As they researched, the only thing they found that matched all the criteria was that Hunter was Cupid. But no. He couldn't be.

"I'm going to talk to him."

Artemia hopped on her bike and drove off.

When she got there, his mom wasn't home. She walked up to him and confronted him. All of a sudden, Hunter began to speak.

"Yes, I am. But it's not my fault. Every time I feel a strong emotion, it just happens. I can't control it. But don't worry. I'm moving tomorrow."

And with that, he disappeared.

They never saw him again. There were a few news reports every once in a while about a baby who could teleport or make people fall in love, but that was it. Hunter was never to be seen again. At least not by these four girls.



Write a letter to yourself to read in 10 years.

What do you think you'll be doing when looking back at this letter? Make some predictions to see where you think you'll be and what you'll learn along the way.

(All grades - minimum 100 words, maximum 500 words Send your letter to  
editor@citykidzworld.com  
by August 1.)



# The Cooking Fever

By Param Shah , 5th grade



One day, Dan found an old, ripped cookbook in his dusty, old treehouse. He got down from his treehouse and asked his mother, "Can I go to Ida's house?"

Mom answered, "Okay, just be back before supper." He didn't have a second to lose. It was already 4:00 p.m. and supper was at 7:00 p.m. He told Ida, "Look at this cookbook."

Ida replied, "That looks like a book picked up from the trash."

Dan responded, "I know right?" Later on, Ben came over.

When Ben saw the book, he had a different opinion. He thought the book was from ancient times. Then, something peculiar happened. The book flipped through the pages by itself, and then it stopped at a recipe called "Investigator Ice Cream". This ice cream called for vanilla thyme. They went to the store, but they didn't find it. But, they knew one place they could go to. It was the Odd Shop. They couldn't believe that it was actually there. They thought it was not even a thing! So, they bought vanilla thyme. Then, they started heading home. They discussed how they were going to make the ice cream, but before they could, Dan had to ask his mom something. Dan asked, "Is magic dangerous?"

His mom replied, "It is very odd, so it probably is."

Dan ignored her and said, "What is the worst thing that'll happen?" So, he got all of the supplies and for some reason, he got a portable stove for Christmas, so he used that. Next, he called Ben and Ida over. Later on, they started making the ice cream. They added the vanilla thyme. For some reason, the ice cream turned out to be perfect, even though this was their first time. But when they were about to eat it, their hands moved right to left.

"Stop, who is doing that?" Dan yelled.

"Ida and I aren't doing it," Ben said.

"Then who is doing it?" Dan replied.

"It must be magic," Ben yelled. They all chucked their ice cream like a rock. Ben and Dan didn't want to touch the ice cream ever again, but for some reason, Ida thought it was fun. So, she secretly took the cookbook and put it in her backpack. Ida snuck out of her treehouse and ran home. She went to the kitchen and got everything ready. She had always wanted to fly. Then, the book flipped through the pages until it stopped on "Fly Fried Chicken".



Illustration by Sarah Baker

"Yes, this is the one!" Ida exclaimed. She started frying the chicken when suddenly, she and the ingredients started floating up and up until she reached space. "Aaaahhhhh!" Ida screamed. "Don't panic," she whispered to herself. Dan and Ben went to search for Ida. They looked in her house and found the cookbook on the kitchen counter.

"Ida must have made a recipe," Ben exclaimed. The book flipped the pages until it stopped at the same recipe that Ida made.

"Ida must be in space, look at the holes in the ceiling!" Dan said in shock.

"I have an idea," Ben stated. They looked and looked for a gravity spell, but they didn't need to do all that work, because the book just flipped by itself. The recipe was called "Gravity Grapes". Luckily, Ida's mother had grapes in her yard. All they needed was a pinch of salt.

"Look! It says, 'You must think about the thing or person you want to bring down,'" Ben stated.

"So, I must think about Ida," Dan replied. Dan tried to think about Ida, but he couldn't. Then Ben started doing things that Ida did, and that made Dan think of Ida. Ida came crashing down.

"You saved me! You are the best friends ever," Ida said in shock.

Ben said, "We have to cook one more."

"Why?" Dan replied. Ben flipped to the recipe "Banishing Beans".

"We have to put the book into the banishing realm," Dan said seriously. They made the beans and opened the realm.

"This is it, bye cookbook," Ida said. Dan chucked the book in and closed the portal. The book moved on to another three kids, and the journey began for them.



Write a story using the words below:

1. profit
2. rose
3. dentist
4. posh
5. mansion
6. promise
7. deer
8. grazing



**Deadline: August 1**  
Submit to [editor@citykidzworld.com](mailto:editor@citykidzworld.com)

**Students must include the following with their submissions: Name, Grade, City, State, Photo**

## Picture Prompt Writing Challenge

Write a story using the picture below as at least one of the settings. (All Grades) 400 to 600 words



City Kidz World magazine Challenges:

**Deadline:** August 1

Submit to [editor@citykidzworld.com](mailto:editor@citykidzworld.com)

Students must include the following with their submissions: Name, Grade, City, State, Photo



# An Analysis of the 2020 Election

By Kanishk Mogha , 6th grade

## THE ELECTION OF 2020

The presidential election of 2020 was held on November 3rd; however, due to mail-in ballots, the election could not be called until November 7th. Due to COVID-19, the traditional method of voting was replaced by mail-in ballots. Counting these ballots (especially in large cities) proved to be a bigger challenge than Congress thought.

The two main candidates were Donald J. Trump and Joe Biden. The vice presidents of Joe Biden and Donald Trump were Kamala Harris and Mike Pence from the Democratic and Republican parties respectively.

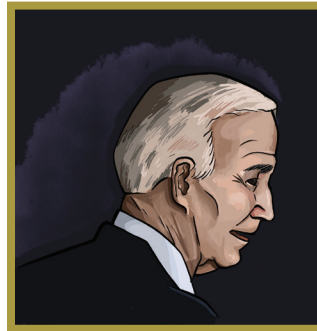
Both of them thought they would win the election in a landslide. However, there are lawsuits on the validity of the presidential election results. Trump has not conceded yet in hopes that he will be the next president. It is yet to be seen who will become the next president next year.

The expectations of the executive branch under a Biden administration would likely be the same as an Obama administration. His latest secretary picks are from the Obama administration, among them the notable John Kerry. Donald Trump's policy was based on nationalism.

Biden won and flipped several Republican states. Democrats were handed a royal flush with the coronavirus pandemic; however, they could only flip one Senate seat and lost six House seats. This means that because

of a conservative majority court and Republican control of the Senate, they can block every bill that Biden proposes. In essence, this win might mean nothing for the Democrats.

Whatever the case, the tensions in this country are growing out of control, and if we don't unite, we will lose our title of the greatest country on earth. A country is like every family: outsiders take advantage when family members fight. I feel we should unite and put our differences aside.



Illustrations by Alicja Jadczyk

City Kidz World magazine Challenge Alert  
Submit a winter landscape drawing or painting.  
(All grades)

Deadline: August 1

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Include your photo to go next to your story.



By Kanishk Mogha, 6th grade

# The Snap



I think that the movie Avengers: Infinity War is a very good movie because it is a movie with amazing features. In this essay, I will only be focusing on three parts, which are the amazing graphics in this movie, the nice cliffhanger to keep us on our feet, and the emotional parts of the film. This is because these are really important parts of the film that allow us to love this film in a way that we don't love other films. The film is also able to use the previous Marvel films to stand out, as it is the product of a franchise that has been going for the past ten years, and it finally explains the whole deal with the Infinity Stones and Thanos. One reason why I think Avengers: Infinity War is a really good film is that the graphics in the film are amazing and can be described only as amazing. From the hairs of all of the animals and Doctor Strange's mystic magic as the Sorcerer Supreme, to the ability of the graphic designers to make even the stuff that is animated look real, the movie's graphics are great. Along with the graphics, the sound is also amazing. They chose realistic noises to make the sounds for the things that don't exist, such as Thanos's metal snap with his metal glove as well as the sound lining up with the characters' mouths. The cliffhanger in the film gave us something to wonder about and theorize about what was going to happen next, such as who was going to survive as well as what might happen after all of the films. When the film was completely over, it made us line up at the movie theaters to see the next film, Avengers: Endgame. It also allowed for Stage Three in the Marvel Cinematic Universe to come to an end and allowed for Stage Four to begin. Finally, the amount of emotion in the film is insane. We feel sad during the death scenes. We can also understand the emotions of the characters in this film without being told how they are feeling.

The first reason why I think that Avengers: Infinity War in the Marvel Cinematic Universe is a very very good movie is that the graphics in the film are really good. My first example of this is that Thanos looks very real, especially his purple skin. The second reason why I think this



Illustration by Alicja Jadczyk



Illustration by Sarah Baker

is that all of the fight scenes in the movie look super real, such as the end where the banging is happening to the air. This means the graphics team managed to edit it so that the skin is moving with the green screen in the background in such a way that the hits look like they are actually hitting Thanos's skin with the gun. This also means that the design team spent

some time designing a fake space gun as well as making the skin look like it's actually bleeding when it isn't. All of the animated faces such as Thanos's and Rocket Raccoon's look super real. Even though it is computer-generated graphics, it looks very real. Finally, the graphics for Doctor Strange's magic look super real. For example, when he goes to explore the multiverse while hovering and using the Time Stone while also twisting his head, he looks like he is actually conducting magic with the Time Stone. In reality, he is probably just shaking his head around and sitting on a chair. This shows that the graphics team for this film is really amazing at editing. This also seems to show that in this film, the graphics are great because of the editing. The graphics team is really great because they make everything seem so real. Another example of this is

the beating of Thanos and Thanos in general, as well as his blood. One more example again is Doctor Strange and all of his magic, such as when he goes into the multiverse looking at the different realities while twitching his head on a chair to conduct his magic.

The second reason why I think Avengers: Infinity War is a very good film is that it left us with a good cliffhanger. The ending left us biting our nails and made us very anxious about the next film, Avengers: Endgame. One reason



The Snap *con't on page 20*

# Hermione Granger, A Person to Look Up To

By Esha Desai, 6th grade

“Some people want it to happen, some wish it to happen, others make it happen” -Michael Jordan.

In the story Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone by J.K. Rowling, Hermione is a Muggle-born who becomes friends with Harry Potter and Ron Weasley. Harry finds out that there is a secret about the Sorcerer's Stone, and the trio finds out that their own teacher betrayed them to Voldemort. In Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, Hermione is hard-working and smart.

One example of Hermione being hardworking is on page 105:

“Are you sure that's a real spell?” the girl said. “Well, it's not very good, is it? I've tried a few simple spells just for practice and it's all worked for me. Nobody in my family's magic at all... I was ever so pleased, of course, I mean, it's the very best school of witchcraft there is...I have learned all our course books by heart, of course, I just hope it will be enough--I'm Hermione Granger by the way...”

This shows that she is hardworking because she memorized all eight books. Another example of Hermione being hardworking is when the book says, “By the end of the lesson, only Hermione Granger had made any difference to her match; Professor McGonagall showed the class how it had gone all silver and pointy and gave Hermione a rare smile”. Professor McGonagall is very strict, and Hermione was the only one to make the match turn into a needle. It's clear how much studying she did before she came to Hogwarts.

Hermione is also very smart, because on page 286 she says: “Of course not,... ‘Everything we need is here on this paper. Seven bottles: three are poison; two are wine; one will get us safely through the black fire, and one will get us back through the purple.’ ‘But how do we know which



Illustration by Alicja Jadczyk

lose Gryffindor if you're caught, and you're bound to be. It's really very selfish of you.” This suggests that she has a strong understanding of what's right and what's wrong and also tries to explain it to other people. It is clear to see how smart she is, and not just in school.

Throughout the series, Hermione shows Outstanding OWLs and makes use of what's around her. Many people learn from her not just to be smart, but also to be kind and helpful. She has many skills and achievements, such as making the first portable waterproof fires, being the co-founder of Dumbledore's army, getting 10 Outstanding OWLs, destroying one Horcrux, fighting in the battle of Hogwarts, and being a member of the department for the regulations and control of magical creatures. She is a role model to many people all over the world. Even though some people might say she is just naturally smart, that is clearly not true because she spent many hours trying to learn all about wizarding before she even entered Hogwarts. To be successful, you always need to put in the work for it.

to drink?’ ‘Give me a minute.’ Hermione read the paper several times. Then she walked up and down the line of bottles, muttering to herself and pointing at them. At last, she clapped her hands. ‘Got it,’ she said. “The smallest bottle will get us through the black fire--toward the Stone.”

Here, she took a big risk that could get her and her friend killed. But, she did not step down from the puzzle and found the correct bottle. This shows that even when other people can't make sense of tough riddles, Hermione can solve them in a few minutes. One more piece of evidence that supports this is when she says, “--and you mustn't go wandering around the school at night, think of the points you'll



# Outdoor Learning in the United Kingdom

**M**y name is Shannon Davis. After teaching around the world for 10 years, both primary and secondary education, becoming a vice principal and a special needs coordinator, I realised the education system as a whole was not working for children and educators who don't fit into a prescribed box, so I quit and built my own system.



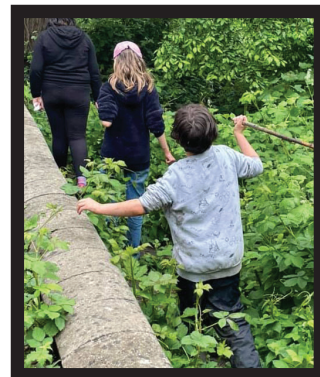
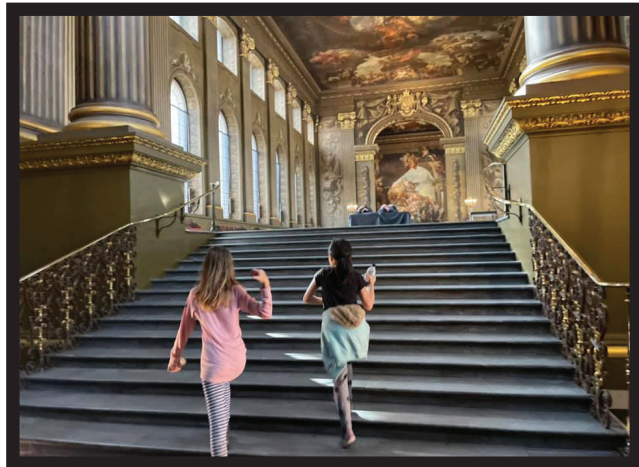
of education is an enquiry based learning theory that has its basis on problem solving situations on their own past experiences and confidence building.

I am now going into my third year where I have built a forest school in southeast London: children learn all day outside and do nature-based exploration, offer group classes such as world history and philosophy and also teach math, English and science for ages 5 - 16.

I am extremely proud of what I have built and proud of the students who have come on this journey with me. We are exploring the world together and learning so much.

My partner and I embarked on a journey to build a system that works for all children, regardless of need, interest or ability. Thus, Student Discovery Learning was born and became a bespoke learning alternative to mainstream education. Individualised and child-centred learning is the base of our ethos. Children are active leaders in their learning.

Student Discovery Learning is an ethos of education where children and adult learning is guided through discovery and exploration. This type





# My New Passion For Snooker

By Arthur, age 11

In snooker, you have to concentrate hard. It's a game where technically, you have to be perfect in order to become a professional. The game has evolved over the years. For example, players don't smoke and drink alcohol while they're playing. The general standard is higher than ever before and there is more money in the sport, which attracts more competitors.

Why do I like snooker you may be wondering? I like potting balls consistently; on a full-sized table it feels exciting, and I like how strategic it is.

I discovered the game when I started to play pool. When I searched online for pool,

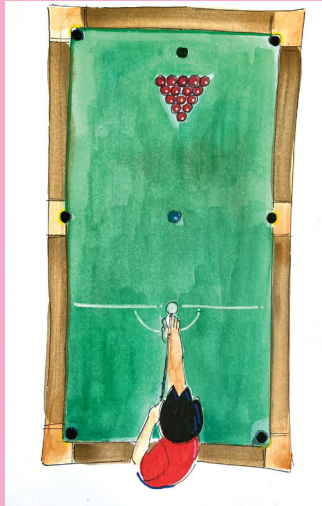


Illustration by Sarah Baker



I found snooker. I was fascinated and I could watch it for hours. However, I would prefer to be playing for hours in a snooker hall rather than watching it online!

My favorite player is the Irish-Italian Ronnie O'Sullivan. I like how he doesn't stop potting balls, how exceptional his positional play is, and how he once tried to find inner peace through Buddhism. He went to a Buddhist center in Bethnal Green and learned about things Buddhists do such as meditation. I think that helped with his performance.

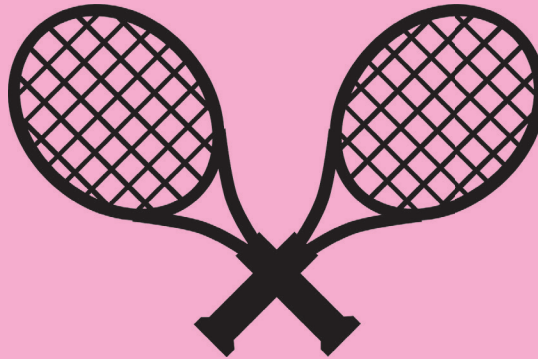
# Covid Craziiness Hit the Tennis Arena in Australia

By Arthur, age 11

Novak Djokovic, the world's number one ranked tennis player, has created drama, anger, and support due to an argument over his visa shown at the border control of Melbourne's airport. When Djokovic arrived at the Melbourne airport, he was stopped at border control due to apparently not having the right paperwork to enter the country. What had happened? Well, the State of Victoria and the Australian Tennis Federation had given him a medical exemption to enter the country. However, because of the different rules between the state and federal governments, border control decided he didn't have the right information to get an exemption.

Novak eventually ended up having to stay in an immigration center with not very good conditions. After that, the story developed every day and was difficult to follow. He won a court case to stay in the country and keep the visa. Then it was discovered that he didn't quarantine when he had COVID-19 in Serbia before traveling to Australia, and he also lied on his form about whether or not he had traveled 2 weeks before entering Australia. The government overturned the verdict and canceled his visa again. Djokovic and his team fought this decision, but they lost their appeal, and he was deported.

I found this all annoying because I just love tennis, and



I wanted to watch him in the Australian Open. Even though I was disappointed that he did not participate in the Australian Open, I think he was treated fairly because you shouldn't lie on your official paperwork. When I watched the Australian Open Final, I was disappointed that Nadal won, because I was supporting Medvedev.

Djokovic was able to play in the Dubai Tennis Championships in February. Djokovic said in an interview that he is willing to pay the price for not being vaccinated and therefore not being allowed to participate in lots of major tournaments. He explained that he puts his body first before winning tournaments. I think this will impact his future career because if he can't attend major tournaments, he can't win them and become the greatest player of all time. He has won 20 Grand Slams. Due to winning the Australian Open, Nadal has now won 21 Grand Slams. I feel sad that Djokovic might be stopped from being the best, but it shows his ego doesn't take over his personal beliefs.

A sports company such as Adidas should design face-masks for athletes. If they wanted to wear them while playing, they could, and it would not impact their abilities to perform. This would be an ingenious compromise for those who don't want to have the vaccine but still want to play.



# "Know thy self, know thy enemy. A thousand battles, a thousand victories." -Sun Tzu



By Victor, age 13



Illustration by Sarah Baker

Sun Tzu was a Chinese general, military strategist, writer, and philosopher who lived in the Eastern Zhou period of ancient China. He was born around 544 B.C. He likely died in 496 B.C., making him 47-48 years old when he died.

Sun Tzu is revered in Chinese and East Asian culture as a legendary historical and military figure.

Sun Tzu wrote a book called *The Art of War*. His work has been praised and employed in East Asian warfare since its composition. During the twentieth century, *The Art of War* grew in popularity and saw practical use in Western society as well.

The book contains a detailed explanation and analysis of the 5th century Chinese military, from weapons and strategy to rank and discipline. Sun Tzu also stressed the importance of intelligence operatives and espionage to the war effort.

The book was translated into French and published in 1772. A partial translation into English was attempted by British officer Everard Ferguson Calthrop in 1905. In 1988, the book was translated by Thomas Cleary, and this has become one of the more notable translations.

"Supreme excellence consists in breaking the enemy's resistance without fighting."

## The Reality of Virtual Reality

By Victor, age 13

The Oculus Quest 2 is a virtual reality headset that was released on May 21, 2019. It is a standalone device that can run games and software wirelessly under an Android-based operating system.

It is quite fun to use as it has a lot of games and apps. It also gives you a different viewing perspective where you can see the game directly, and it feels as though you're in the game or application as opposed to looking at a TV or computer screen from a distance.

One of the top 3 best-selling games for Oculus is *Beat Saber*. According to Meta Quest (where you purchase the game) "*Beat Saber* is a unique VR rhythm game where your goal is to slash the beats (represented by small cubes) as they are coming at you. Every beat indicates which saber you need to use and also the direction you

need to match." There are 15,286 reviews on the website. Most of them are positive; however, a common complaint is that the game isn't cross-buy. This means that if you have it on a computer, you have to rebuy it for the Oculus device, which isn't ideal because people should not have to pay twice for the same game. *Beat Saber* costs £22.99.

There are also free experiences you can download. The most popular at the moment is *Spider-Man Homecoming*, which is based on the 2017 film. It is a fun first-person look inside the world of the superhero Spider-Man.



Write about a time you were surprised by something you didn't expect, like a surprise party or someone being kind by passing it forward. Include how this made you feel.

All ages: 100 to 400 words

Send your reflection to [editor@citykidzworld.com](mailto:editor@citykidzworld.com)

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# Ice Switch

By Jola Elegbe, 6th grade



## The week before the championship

Harper Connors had broken her foot, and this is how it happened. Harper loved to play ice hockey, and her team was going to Washington, D.C to practice just before their championship game. It was winter, so people were giving out hot cocoa at the ice rink, and most of her team members decided to bring it on the ice. Evidently, one of her teammates named Charles poured some hot cocoa on the ice. Harper, not knowing that he poured it, slipped, and all her body weight landed on her ankle (she was in skates). When she tried to get up, she cried in pain. "Oh no," she thought. "I carry the team on my shoulders, now what do I do?"

She didn't have much time to think about it because the next thing she knew, her coach was calling the ambulance while her friends Lanie and Kylie were carrying her to the bench. At the hospital, Harper was told that she had to wear a cast for a month. At first, she accepted it, until she realized that the championship was only a week away.

After Harper's fall Harper knew that she couldn't play, but she had also worked too hard to just not participate in the championships. She needed to do something. She needed someone that looked like her, someone that could skate and could get a goal or three. She decided to think of people that fit those three needs. The only person she could think of was Paige, her twin sister. Paige was not going to like that idea at all. She was a figure skater and was Harper's main competition, so she would be great on the ice. The only problem was that Paige was hard to convince because she hated, and I mean hated, switcheroos. Harper was going to have to be the most convincing person in order to get her on board. Harper thought there needed to be something in it for Paige, otherwise she wouldn't say yes. Harper decided that she would do her laundry for a week and then told Paige. Paige ended up wanting 50 bucks for



Illustration by Sarah Baker

the switcheroo. It was the best deal she'd give Harper. Then it was time to get Operation Ice Switch up and running.

## The Switch

Paige was blackmailing her with their secret, so it was time to take some drastic measures. It was time to make the switch. The next day was the championship. Harper believed that Paige was ready to win, but they had a tiny problem. They had to convince the coach that Paige was Harper. This was going to be hard because they might be twins, but they were opposites. Paige told the coach that she got better and was ready to play. He was so desperate that he didn't ask how she got better quickly. In the end, they won, but Paige's tactics and Harper's tactics were different. The next week, the real Harper got better and was playing. She thought she could get away with it, until the coach came up to her after practice and said, "I know your secret." She got so nervous she felt like she was going to pee on herself. He continued, "Don't be nervous, but I know that you and your sister ... do figure skating." Harper was so relieved she felt her sweating stop. Then she agreed and said, "Yes, that's my secret."



Think about something you've wanted FOREVER. Write a persuasive essay to the person who is the gatekeeper of this item and convince them to get it for you. Grades 3rd - 12th.

Send your writing to [editor@citykidzworld.com](mailto:editor@citykidzworld.com)

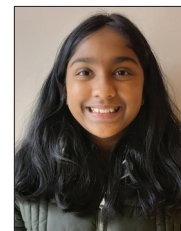
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# Why is Syrup Sticky?

By Spoorthi Kumbam, 5th grade



You might be wondering: why is syrup sticky? Why can't it just be solid? Well, today I will be telling you everything about it. The first reason syrup is sticky is because water and sugar are both sticky. The second reason is because water and sugar have different molecules in them. The last reason is because there is just the right amount of liquid.

The first reason syrup is sticky is because water and sugar are both sticky. However, it's at a molecular level. This is because they both have tiny power-ups in them that act like magnets! These magnets go around the atoms because of the opposite charge. This is why water and sugar molecules stick together to form something else. Water molecules form to make drops while sugar molecules form to make crystals. However, on an everyday basis, they aren't sticky.



The second reason syrup is sticky is because water and sugar have different molecules in them. Water is made out of H<sub>2</sub>O molecules. These are really small particles. They're so small that they can slide past each other. This pattern allows water to flow. It makes it easy to transfer the water from one surface to the other, and it's not sticky at all. When sugar touches the water, the sugar molecules let go of each other and eventually attach to the H<sub>2</sub>O. Only if there is a lot of sugar do the molecules just clump together. This is because there are so many molecules in them that the particles cannot detach easily. H<sub>2</sub>O's can, because there are way less molecules. "We have found that there is so much sugar in water that it just combines and sticks." (Why). So, they are telling us that instead, the sugar just clumps up. This is the main reason why syrup is sticky.

The third reason syrup is sticky is because there is just the right amount of liquid. Water is a liquid, so it flows well enough. There is not too much liquid and not too much sugar. It's the right ratio. This still lets it stick to your skin or clothes. A good example is Elmer's Glue. It works basically the same way, but glue has a huge amount of molecules that can form super long chains. That's what makes it stick for a long amount of time to anything.

In conclusion, syrup has a lot of unique properties to it. It's really cool water, and there are different things water and sugar can do. What's in them is also cool. Like I said, it is similar to glue. In fact, you can try to use syrup as glue, but maybe not glue as syrup.

## In text citations

"Why is Syrup sticky?" Youtube, 24 August 2017, <https://newsela.com/videos/ckltm8ed0001k3g5siwh6bi7t>. Accessed 24 August 2017.

"Sign in." Newsela, [newsela.com/videos/ckltm8ed0001k3g5siwh6bi7t](https://newsela.com/videos/ckltm8ed0001k3g5siwh6bi7t).

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## The Snap *con't from page 14*

for this is that it allowed the fans to make theories about what would happen in the next film, such as who would survive and who would die. Also, this film set up the next stage of the Marvel Cinematic Universe because the Infinity Stones and Thanos were no longer major plot points. This meant that something new could come up in the following films. The final reason why I think the cliffhanger was good was that it allowed for the next film, Avengers: Endgame, to have the spotlight and give us closure on character deaths such as that of Gamora. Gamora's death allowed for us to see who Thanos really was by diving deeper into other characters that were previously pretty vague and that we really did not care about. This film also allows for us to see the emotions in other characters who were not too deeply explored. It showed us some of the character connections that we didn't really see in previous films, because other than the main characters, other characters had not been explored too deeply in the past. As you can see, this shows that the cliffhanger in this film was very good, as it gave us something to

make us bite our nails.

The final reason why I think Avengers: Infinity War is a good film is actually a couple of different reasons. First, the writing in the film is amazing, as well as the fact that it ends Stage 3 of the Marvel Cinematic Universe. For example, at the beginning of the film, the writing is used to describe what is going on. We understand how Thor is feeling at the start of the film. It also managed to end Stage 3 of the Marvel Cinematic Universe with something to wait on and make us wonder who the next villain will be in Stage 4. The emotions in this film are also amazing. For example, when Peter Parker disappears, we can see the emotions in Tony Stark. Another example is when Thanos snaps his fingers and half the universe disappears. Again, we can see the emotions in Tony Stark when Peter Parker disappears. Also, when Thanos sacrifices Gamora for the Soul Stone, we can see the emotions in him.

In conclusion, I have shown in this essay why I think that Avengers: Infinity War is a very good film. I have stated three reasons why I think that it is a very good film.



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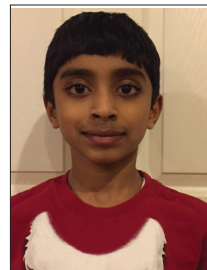
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# Is Fishing Good or Not?

By Srikar Kakarla, 6th grade



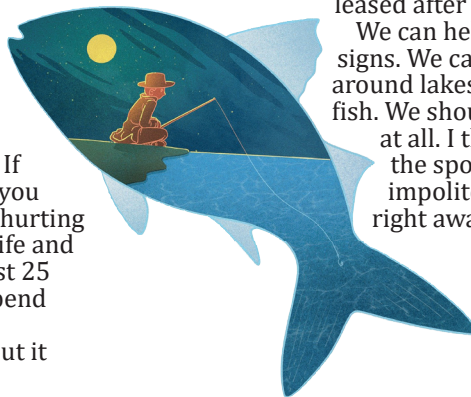
**F**ishing is no good thing at all. Whether it is for food or just for the fun of it, fishing is one of the cruelest things happening to animals. It is a very cruel thing. You may think that we aren't hurting the animal when we fish it for a quick 10 seconds, except that quick ten seconds could hurt an animal. Even worse, it could kill it.

Fish do feel pain. As you know, fish can't breathe outside of the water. When they get pulled out with a fishhook, they begin to suffocate. Their swim bladders could rupture because of the sudden change in pressure. The fish do feel pain when they get fished out of the water. Once they get out of the water, they can't breathe, and they die. Even after all these comments saying that fish feel pain while being fished, that is sport: a sport. If you were feeling pain from someone else for fun, you wouldn't like it. You would feel mad that they are hurting you for fun. There is a major difference between life and fun. Sport fishers are responsible for killing almost 25 percent of overfished saltwater species. People spend billions of dollars on this so-called hobby.

In sport fishing people catch the fish and then put it

back in the water. They might do it quickly, but in just a few seconds they could die. Like I said, their swim bladders rupture because of the sudden pressure change. This makes many fish permanently damaged for their life. Fish can also lose a lot of oxygen, which makes them vulnerable to disease. It is said that almost 43 percent of fish die after being caught and released after six days.

We can help by putting up no fishing signs. We can also try to put fences around lakes so fishing people can't fish. We should not be cruel to animals at all. I think that eating fish, and the sport of catching fish is very impolite and should be stopped right away.



# Is Cloning Good Or Not?

By Srikar Kakarla, 6th grade

Did you know that in 1996 scientists cloned a sheep? The sheep's name was Dolly. But first, what is cloning? Cloning is when something duplicates itself. That is what happened to sheep Dolly. It is called the Cloned Sheep because it was cloned. More than 26 years later, people still don't agree that humans should not be cloned. However, over the years, many animals have been cloned. I think that cloning humans should not clone humans. Nobody should interfere with the formation of life. Nobody should do it artificially.

Firstly, it risks the possibility of faster aging. When cloning, they use older cells to create other cells, meaning a person could die at age 10 because it has the DNA of a 94-year-old man.

Secondly, it interferes with nature. Nothing living should ever be made artificially. If done wrong, it could cause a whole domino effect. If people are modified to be smarter than one and another, the average society will be kicked out of smart jobs. That is the same with animals. If animals get smarter, they will know where to go to get food, while the cloned animals, not knowing much, may starve because they didn't get to eat anything.

Thirdly, it can bring forth a reduced sense of individual-



ity. Right now, you are one out of eight billion people. You are not even the same as the person you are the closest with. If clones come, you literally have the same personality. This makes you feel sad because there is some person out there who is the same as you.

Fourthly, it has seen a lot of failure. Over 90% cloning attempts have been labeled as failure. It is also a very risky thing to do. The chances of success are also very rare. Overall, I don't think that humans should be cloned. This is not just it, but there are also more reasons why cloning should not be done, not even to animals and not to humans either.

Cloning should not be a thing based on the reason I gave. I think that technology is advancing very quickly. But I think that right now at this point, cloning is not a safe activity to do.



# Journalistic Writing Challenges

Grades 5th - 12th



**1.Tech-Check:** Pick your favorite piece of new technology and write an informed review. Remember to check out other tech websites to see what they're publishing to make sure your Tech-Check is timely. (400 to 500 words)

**2.Participatory Feature:** Connect with someone in your camp, neighborhood or favorite summer activity program and ask them for an interview. Write up a feature of this person and how they stand out in your community. HINT: Use Zoom to help connect you for convenient timing. (400 to 500 words)

**3.Hometown Feature:** People have strong ties to the neighborhoods where they grow up. Write a feature about your hometown. Include some of the best spots, including restaurants, activities, and landmarks that people visiting may be interested in checking out. (400 to 500 words)

**4.Photojournal:** Take a trip around your hometown or favorite vacation spot. Snap photos of the things happening around you. Submit your photos along with clearly outlined captions, showcasing the featured location. (400 to 500 words)

**5.Foodie Review:** Before heading to a new restaurant, people love checking out foodie reviews. Think of your favorite—or least favorite—spot to grab a bite and write a review about why someone should check it out or not. (400 to 500 words)

**6.Movie/Book Review:** Watch a new movie or read a book. Then, write your informed opinion on it. Remember to include a notice in the intro if you include spoilers. Want to make it more challenging? Try not to include the spoilers so everyone can enjoy your review.(400 to 500 words)

**7.Op-ed:** A longer, informed piece of writing in a newspaper is typically in the form of op-eds. Think of some of the hot topics currently in the media and do a little digging. Write your opinion on the topic, and be sure to back it up with #facts. (400 to 500 words)

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**Submit your writing or photo with the following:**

- 1.Name of writer
- 2.Grade
- 3.City, State
- 4.Photo of the writer

Writing must be typed, photos or images must be jpeg, jpg, or png files



# The New Kid



Illustration by Sarah Baker

By Sai Charan, 7th grade

The school bus in the morning was always the most dangerous place in the world, and being the first stop didn't make it any better. He had to face the apes at stop two, the squealers at stop five, and finally, the hairy gorillas at stop seven. After stop 10, they would go to school and once again, Adam would have survived the lightning storm. If he were lucky and no one sat next to him, his best friend Oliver would be able to sit next to him. Oliver got on at the tenth stop, and even if the two friends could sit next to each other, they would have only 7 minutes and 32 seconds to talk, which was indeed not much. Once at their school, John Bell Clerkley Middle School, they had only one class period together: science. Every day was pretty much

the same, until the day everything changed.

On Tuesday, October 26, there was a new child, a seventh grader like Adam, who called himself Jonah. He was at the first stop with Adam. Once Adam made eye contact, Jonah just started spouting out his life story: how his father got transferred, how he was the best at ice hockey on his old team, how he had never moved before, how his house was bigger, and basically everything else about himself. He stopped talking only to breathe every few minutes! This guy seemed like a train wreck, so Adam





## New *con't* from page 24

decided to take Jonah under his wing. He really needed it. Adam looked at Jonah's schedule, and sure enough, they had all the same classes at all the same times with all the same teachers. It was time to start the first day with 'the new kid'.

### **Period One**

U.S. History was always a bore, but it was easy. Adam had never struggled in the class, but it seemed like Jonah really did. He was asking questions every ten seconds, and not even good questions. Thanks to those questions, Mrs. Miller couldn't even finish half of what she had planned for that day, and there was some fun stuff at the end!

### **Period Two**

Finally, science! He could sit with his best friend and talk about the terrible first period he had, but because of the new student, the whole class had to shuffle seating arrangements. Adam ended up on the other side of the room from his best friend, but with his luck, also right next to Jonah. This day was getting worse and worse.

### **Period Three**

Adam loved math. It came quite easy to him, and he rather enjoyed the subject. Jonah was acting like a know-it-all, even though he could not even solve the easiest problems. His excuse: "I didn't know we had to use the formula this way."

### **Period Four**

Band was the worst period yet. Jonah played the flute like Adam, but he was literally the worst flute player ever. Mr. Tuffet was patient with him, but Adam wasn't. The flute part sounded sublime at measure 12, but they kept redoing measure 11 with a 'tricky' rhythm because Jonah could not play it. It was TORTURE playing the same thing over and over, and when Jonah was finally able to play it, class was over.

### **Period Five and Six**

ILA is two periods long. This meant it was the longest Adam had to sit with Jonah, because obviously, Jonah was seated right next to him. Oliver was lucky to be in GT ILA without such a nuisance. In those two periods, Jonah was one of the most infuriating humans Adam had ever met. He asked millions of questions, millions more in the form of follow-up questions, and used up all the class time. In the end, the daily assignment was changed to homework along with the actual homework.

### **Lunch**

Jonah just had to sit next to Adam, and in between him and Oliver too. Just my luck, Adam thought. Jonah went

on and on and on and on and on and--you get the idea. While talking, Jonah also spat on Adam's lunch. He didn't eat, threw his lunch in the garbage, and wasted Adam's free period. Oh well, there was still the hockey meet.

### **Period Seven**

Spanish class was always fun, even if it was challenging. But with Jonah... not so much. He was actually GOOD at Spanish, but was rubbing it in Adam's face. The boasting would not end until the end of class. Since Period 8 was the same for them, it continued in the hallways.

### **Period Eight**

P.E. was the best way to blow off the stresses of the day. But not with Jonah. For the activity, everyone had to choose a partner, and Jonah forced Adam to choose him. He was left with no option and had to suffer through the period with Jonah.

### **After School**

That's right, it did not end there. At the hockey meet, they announced a new member. That new member was obviously Jonah. He was obviously terrible at hockey and was a terrible addition to the Raging Raccoons. He would obviously ruin their chances of going to the finals this year. The meet was finally over, and he could finally escape Jonah.

### **New Neighbors**

Adam went home, and his mother said that they had some new neighbors, which obviously meant-- "Adam! Guess what? We're neighbors! Now we can hang out every day!"

With a sigh, Adam managed to muster a "Yay." But at that moment, Oliver walked into the house. The three went to Adam's room, had some hot chocolate, and actually enjoyed themselves.

*To be continued in a future edition!*



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# Book Reviews



## My Side of the Mountain

By Aadrita Choudhury, 7th grade

"My Side of the Mountain," classical American literature, is highly tied into the themes of nature and independence.

Jean Craighead George has written a captivating story about Sam Train, a typical boy from 1950s New York. Tired of living in a cramped apartment with eight siblings, Sam runs away to the Catskills.

It seems like an immature stunt (the first night did not go well), but Sam was forced to adapt. In the end, Sam's dad finds him, but Sam chooses to stay in the wilderness. I suppose it's okay to seem irrational as long as you have a rough plan.

## To Kill A Mockingbird

By Aadrita Choudhury, 7th grade

"To Kill A Mockingbird" is a novel that has preceded decades of critics and remains at the top of American literature. Harper Lee set it in the Great Depression era.

That time period also heavily oppressed Black Americans. The novel is told from the perspective of Scout Finch, a young, innocent, naive girl who lives with her father, a lawyer, and her brother. The climax is when Atticus, her father, chooses to defend a Black man for an alleged case of rape.

This leads Scout and her brother to grow closer to the Black community. The man, Tom Robinson, is innocent, which Atticus proves with immense factual evidence. However, the town and time period is extremely opinionated, ignorant, and racist, so Tom is judged guilty. In the first few chapters, Scout stated that killing a mockingbird is a sin. I think it represents how Scout, a child, was robbed of her innocence while witnessing a devastating case.

## Walk Two Moons

By Aadrita Choudhury, 7th grade **Spolier Alert!**

I sat for 10 minutes in utter silence after I finished the book "Walk Two Moons." It's mind-boggling. Sharon Creech has heaped layers and layers of intricate thought into "Walk Two Moons."

The story is built around a lot of people but narrated by an eleven-year-old girl named "Sal", short for Salamanca. Sal's mother left her and her father a few months ago, and Sal met her father's new love, Mrs. Cadaver. However, Sal's thoughts are more inspired by Mrs. Cadaver's neighbor, Phoebe. Phoebe had a lot in her life, including sudden shock when her mother revealed a long-hidden brother. Back to Sal now.

Sal was traveling with her grandparents across the country, but her grandma had a stroke, and she drove alone to find her mother. In the end, she learned that her mother had died in a bus accident, with the only survivor being: Mrs. Cadaver.

Everything loops around. However, Sal wonders a lot about a reverse Pandora's box, where there are many good things and only one bad thing. Humans often build myths to cope with life's shocks, and the story shows how it is dangerous if we don't.

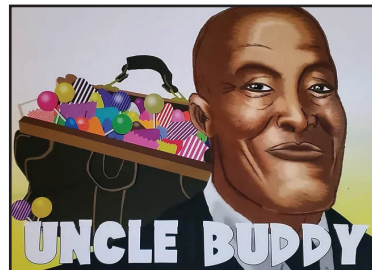
## Feature Review: Uncle Buddy

By City Kidz World Writing Studio

Uncle Buddy is a warm story that will invoke great family memories for children of their uncles or any favorite relatives. Kindness, love, and attention are the themes of this story. The main character, Uncle Buddy, is a great role model for any reader: young or old.

The illustrations, done by Jeffrey VanDyke, are also amazing, using vivid colors, and depicting the fun times of the uncle and the children wonderfully.

In addition to the story, the book includes excellent questions to prompt thinking and test comprehension



in young readers. This is a must-have book written by professional educator and writer Georgia Ann Moss.



# Suddenly in the Park

By Advait Vemireddy, 9th grade



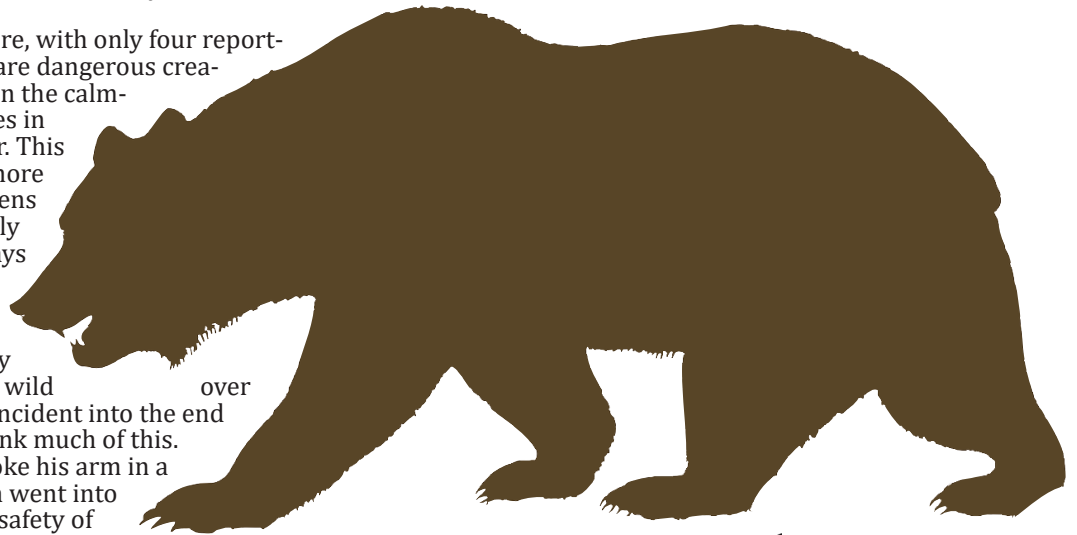
John, a tall, pensive teen, was walking through the park with his hands in his pocket, head down, kicking rocks. This is what he did frequently after school in the spring. Spring: that time when school is nearly over, but yet there are so many homework assignments and tests topped off with lectures from boring teachers. He thought he saw something dart out of the bushes to his right side, so he stopped walking, heart racing. The newspaper had been reporting sightings for the last week. He laughed, thinking it was his imagination, when suddenly, there was a rabid bear.

Rabies in bears is quite rare, with only four reported cases since 1999. Bears are dangerous creatures, and rabies makes even the calmest of animals violent. Rabies in bears is a recipe for disaster. This made the discovery much more shocking after a group of teens was attacked by an unusually aggressive bear only two days ago. Bears were common in this part of Virginia, but not once in the town's history was anyone attacked by one. The news outlets went wild over the news, turning this one incident into the end of the world. John didn't think much of this. When Simon's neighbor broke his arm in a bicycling accident, the town went into a full-blown panic over the safety of bike lanes.

Unlike most people, John did not carry a weapon to protect himself. This decision would prove to be very bad. Walking to his friend's house, John didn't think that anything would happen. Sneaking behind in the bushes next to him was a 600 pound American black bear. Fear set in, paralyzing John. Not having a weapon on him, he had no idea what to do. He knew he could not outrun it, but if

he stood there, he would for sure be attacked.

Bang! Gunshots were fired. John's father was behind him with a hunting rifle in his hand. John had made fun of his father for being over cautious. The bear was lying on the ground in pain. John's father walked up to the bear, said a prayer, and then fired one last round into the bear's head.



[Click Here to Write a review on THIS Story!](#)



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# The Race

By Viswanath S. Nagarajan, 9th grade

“Come on guys! Keep going, keep going! You’re almost there!” Coach Troy said. Sophia and I were coming close to the finish line. We both were biking really, really fast. We finally made it to the finish line. Our time: 9:17:01. We had to bike a mile around the track. Our time just kept increasing and increasing. My sister and I had ridden as fast as 5:30:00. We were fine at first, but then after a day or two, we just kept slowing down.

Our coach, Troy Reinburger, was also our father. He was the best cyclist of all time until he suffered from an injury. His leg was paralyzed and he couldn’t ride a bike anymore. My father was very famous in the old days. He was the world’s fastest biker. However, the disappearance of my father caused people to forget about him. Someone else took his title. Later, when we were around 10 years old, we were entered into multiple competitions. The competitors were me and my sister. It was always a relay.

Sophia and I were a great duo. She was the smartest girl in school, and I was the most athletic boy in school. Everybody loved us. My mom was a famous cook for a cooking channel. Her name was Maria Reinburger. However, she went into hiding and retired. Now, my dad is a mechanical engineer and my mother is a nurse. Sophia said, “Reyhaan, our time has increased again. What do we do?”

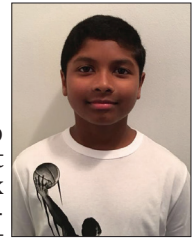
I stared into my sister’s eyes as if I was looking deeply into her soul. Actually, I was just tired of her talking and was waiting for her to be quiet. Not only was she the smartest girl in school, she was also the most talkative girl. Whenever somebody needed help, she kept on talking. However, she does have a point. How long are we going to let our time increase and increase day by day? I started to think of how we could improve.

I then drank some water. My legs were the problem because I couldn’t move faster on my bike. I started to plan. I finally got the solution. My solution was to sleep for a little while and rethink in the morning. My dad then burst into our rooms and said, “We are going to the gym!” I was so frightened; it was like the door had just exploded. My sister just climbed out of bed as if nothing happened. She walked like a grandma and went to the bathroom to brush her teeth.

We were both ready to go to the gym. When we arrived, we came upon the recumbent bike where we could train our legs. We both got on and it felt like we were actually riding a real bike on the track. We then pedaled for the finish line. Our time: 6:37:02! That was really fast! After that, our father said, “We will keep coming here for practice, and then once you beat the five-minute mark we will start to practice on real bikes. Our next competition is held next month on February 1st. I expect good results.” I was worried that there wasn’t a lot of time. How long were we going to keep training on this bike?



Illustration by Alicja Jadczał



I started to stretch a lot at five o’clock in the morning and kept stretching until my dad came and said we are going to go back to the gym. You know, we should have one at home. My lazy sister got up from her bed and went to the bathroom. This time she kept on looking at me, surprised, and was walking backward. Finally, she hit her head on the wall with a squeak and said, “Oof!” It sounded like a Roblox character.

Our father came by and said, “Time to go!” We kept this daily routine as always. Our time kept decreasing and decreasing by 30 seconds each day. It was cool! Finally, the last day of our time was 4:30:09! It was our best record yet! We then started to train on our bicycles, but we only had a week left before the competition. How are we ever going to practice?

My father said, “Breathe, and you will do great. Don’t worry about the time we have till the competition. Just think about the time you need for this race. Got it?” We agreed.

“Three, two, one, go!”

We took off like race cars. We both challenged each other, trying to achieve the time we needed.

I thought of my father’s words, and I pedaled very fast.

We then made our fastest time yet! 3:30:06!

That was the fastest time we ever thought we would get!

My father said, “Great job!”

We kept practicing and practicing at this consistent tempo. Finally, it was the day of the competition. My sister and I were loading on the starting lines at the track. I was on one side, and my sister was on the other. The gun shot in the air as I went faster and faster. People were awed by my speed. I then passed the baton to my sister. She then took off like a phoenix. She went really fast to the finish line. Finally, she reached the finish line, and the time was magnificent! The time: 2:30:01!

The commentator said, “World record! Sophia and Reyhaan Reinburger have broken the world record! Spectacular!” Sophia, my family, and I all came to the award ceremony together. Not only did the fame go to me and Sophia, but also back to our father. Even though he was forgotten for many years, he came back from the depths not alone. Sometimes it takes a team to win it. I was very impressed. We were famous in school and everybody loved us because we broke the world record. My sister and I were competing against each other as well. I won sometimes and my sister won sometimes. We were equal. However, we mainly finished in ties. We were happy about it. I wonder when our next race is?



# Farmer



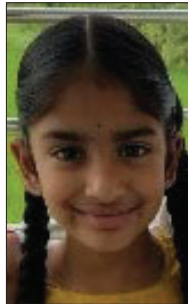
Illustration by Alicja Jadczyk

By Varnika Ravi, 7th grade

After a long winter, the farmer hitched up the plow and started to plow the fields. The farmer's name was Mr. Greg. He was a nice, generous man, and he liked to share his things. He would let the kids come into his farm and taste each vegetable and fruit, but he would never let anyone touch his white roses in his garden in front of his house. He used those roses to win the "Best Garden of the Year" competitions. There were two other competitors.

They were named Mrs. Julie and Mr. John. Mrs. Julie grew cacties (short for multiple cacti) while Mr. John grew beautiful sunflowers. Every year when the competition was held, Mr. Greg always won, and with every win came a prize. The prize was fresh and fertile soil. It stunk a lot.

One day, when a detective was walking by, she saw an angry Mr. Greg. When he was angry, he talked in Spanish. It turned out that two weeks before the competition, he had to go to a wedding. So, the detective said that she would put a sprinkler on the roses with a timer set for the times 4:30 to 5:30. After two weeks had passed, Mr. Greg went storming over to the detective's house and started



yelling that the garden was overflowing with water.

When they went to check the garden, they saw that the sprinkler was still running. Mr. Greg said he knew who did it and he said it was Mr. John, but the detective stopped him, because she and Mr. John were out golfing at those times.

Then Mr. Greg said it was Mrs. Julie, but the detective said that when she and Mr. John were leaving the golf course at 5:30, they saw Mrs. Julie leaving the hospital, as she was a doctor. Then, the detective realized she knew who did it. She went to her friend and asked if the detective's friend's friend (Ava) had gone to Mr. Greg's garden. She said yes. The detective said that it was Ava. That was because when Ava was going to pick strawberries from the farm, the sprinklers were still on, so she went and turned them off.

After she finished picking the strawberries, the sprinklers wouldn't turn on again because it was past 5:30. She tried very hard to turn them back on. She set the timer to 48 hours of watering. Then, Mr. Greg understood, and they went to Ava to ask her to say sorry. She said sorry, and everyone helped to scoop the excess water out. Even though that disaster happened, he still won the contest.



# Misinformation and Social Media

By Sanjit Kakarla, 9th grade

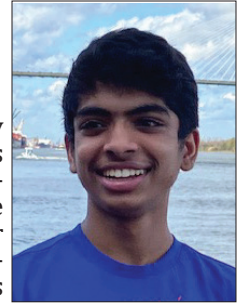
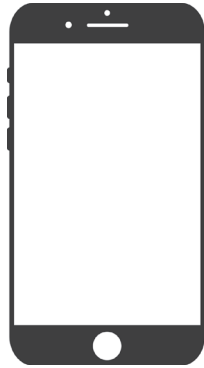
**M**isinformation is false or inaccurate information that is deliberately intended to deceive other people. Recently, a massive amount of misinformation has been spreading on social media.

A controversial issue currently is if social media companies have the ability to restrict Americans from creating and spreading misinformation on the platforms. Many argue that this issue has to do with the First Amendment of the Constitution. Others say that it actually has nothing to do with the Constitution of the United States. The First Amendment says that Congress cannot make any laws that restrict free speech, press, religion, petition, and the ability to assemble in the nation. This argument has to do with the free speech element of the First Amendment, and free speech is the idea that individuals can articulate their ideas and opinions without fearing censorship or legal sanctions.

The debate on whether social media companies can restrict misinformation has two different arguments. The first argument is that Americans can be restricted from spreading misinformation on social media by social media companies. This side thinks that social media platforms must first identify misinformation and punish those who spread incorrect information.

People who spread misinformation should be banned from the social media platform and face severe consequences for their actions according to this side of the debate. The other side of the debate is that Americans should not be restricted from spreading misinformation on social media. This side makes arguments citing the First Amendment saying that the First Amendment in the Constitution gives all Americans the right to free speech. This would mean that all Americans have the right to say whatever they want on social media without facing consequences. Americans may spread misinformation, however, an entity such as a social media company cannot do anything about it. In recent years with the number of social media users rising, this debate has been becoming more and more relevant and controversial.

I believe that Americans should be restricted from spreading misinformation on social media because of the effect misinformation has on society. The First Amendment in the Constitution on freedom of speech applies to the government, however, it doesn't exactly apply to all of these private social media companies. These private social



media companies are not owned by the government so these companies must be able to identify false information and take action against those who spread the information. After understanding the effects of misinformation, social media companies should make their own decisions in regards to whether or not they should handle misinformation. However, these companies shouldn't be required; they should make an effort to handle misinformation but there is no real way for the government or an entity to force social media companies to prevent misinformation from flowing on these sites. However, these companies should certainly feel encouraged to restrict misinformation.

In order to understand why misinformation should be restricted, it's important to understand the negative effects of misinformation in the first place. Well, what are the negative effects of misinformation? Misinformation online has the potential to subvert and hurt the democracy of the United States. Anyone with access to the internet

can post untrue, exaggerated, inflammatory, and extremist content that can affect others. Misinformation, conspiracy theories, hate speech, and calls to violence on the internet can result in detrimental consequences such as real-world violence which includes riots and insurrections. Misinformation can also result in injury or even death in some cases.

People may make harmful and dangerous decisions based on false information they see on social media that could potentially hurt them severely. Misinformation can also undermine public health campaigns. Misinformation spread on social media related to COVID-19 can also have a detrimental effect on people. According to a Congressional Research Service report about misinformation and content moderation on social media, misinformation related to COVID-19 that spreads via social media can be harmful to public health and can make it much harder for the public to accept a vaccination. Exposure to misinformation about COVID-19 prevents and demotivates individuals from trying to find beneficial health information about the virus. This is a clear example of how misinformation on social media can be harmful in today's world.

Social media companies must do their part to restrict misinformation. However, how can these companies make efforts to remove false information from their platforms? They can start off by having systems in place to identify false information. These companies must restrict the misinformation and prevent other users from seeing the misinformation. In order to prevent a user from creating or

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*People may make harmful and dangerous decisions based on false information they see on social media...*

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**Social** *con't on page 34*



# The World You Know Is Wrong

By Advait Vemireddy, 9th grade

The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon is an American staple filled with bad jokes, celebrity interviews, and dim-witted strangers. In one episode, the crew took to the streets with a map to see how many people knew the size of Greenland. The most common comparison made was to the size of Africa. The alarming nature of this was only offset by the jokes that followed. Africa is 14 times larger than Greenland! The source of this fallacy is the incorrect maps we use. The maps we use increase Eurocentrism, and it is high time to change this.

The basis for our modern maps is the Mercator projection. This map was created to preserve angles to the detriment of size. This trade-off led to the increased perception of the importance of Europe, due to its central location. In an article published by the University of St. Andrews, Dr. Bernhard Struck explained that maps inherently serve the agenda of the creator. A 2019 study found that Africa was the most underestimated continent in terms of size, while Europe was the most overestimated.

In light of the distortions of the Mercator projection, a move to compromise projections (one example being the Winkel Tripel) has occurred. These maps have shifted the Mercator map to reduce distortions. The Winkel Tripel map is one of the most widely used maps; however, even with low distortion, it faces a plethora of problems.

The Goldberg-Gott score is an indicator of a map's dis-

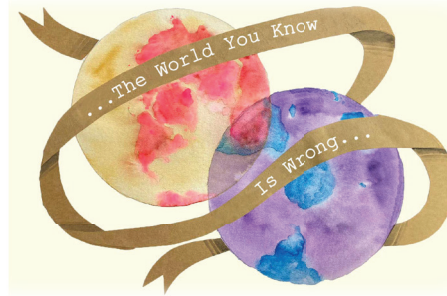


Illustration by Sarah Baker

tortion. The lower the score, the better. The Mercator scores an 8.296, while the Winkel Tripel scores a 4.563. Conventional single-sided maps have reached their lowest distortion.

The Goldberg-Gott projection is the most accurate map to date, scoring a 0.881. This unique map contains two sides, one for the Northern and one for the Southern hemispheres. The distance between two places is never off by more than 22%. Critics of this map complain that it being double-sided is a drawback, but in reality, it is the best feature. This feature eliminates cuts and continents flow over the edge. Like with a globe, you can't see the entire map at once, but to see the other side, you simply need to flip it.

Being double-sided provides one other advantage: no side is on top. Being above is associated with being better. Ancient Muslim cartographers used to put South on top to place Mecca above the rest of the Islamic world. The same philosophy applied to European cartographers. The Goldberg-Gott projection puts no hemisphere on top, thus no spatial bias exists. No one is above the rest.

The shaping of maps is the shaping of minds. Every map ever made is made with intent, so let's stop using Eurocentric world maps and embrace one that shows the world as it is.

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# This Hurts!



Illustration by Alicja Jadczyk

By Niharika Banerjee, 11th grade

On the night of the Thompsonville Township High School Theater Department's closing performance of *Almost, Maine*, Lucy Angelica Marquez was nowhere to be found. This was an issue because she played Marvalyn in Scene 3 ("This Hurts") and Scene 1 was already coming to a close.

Head Stage Manager Gina Peters, who took her job very seriously (some might even say too seriously), seemed to be the only one panicking. Assistant Stage Manager Gary Williams, who never seemed to assist in much of anything, was standing around aimlessly when Gina approached him.

"Marvalyn is missing," she told him shortly. You never could trust a girl like Lucy; she was always running off somewhere.

It took Gary about a minute to recall who played Marvalyn.

"Lucy? But her scene's coming up!"

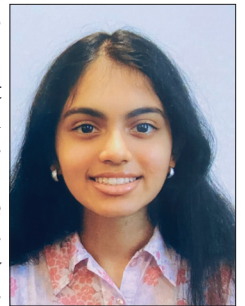
"I know," Gina said icily, trying not to lose her temper or succumb to panic.

"Do we have an understudy?" asked Gary stupidly.

"Have you even been present at any of our rehearsals? What do you think?" Gina snapped, leaving without waiting for a response.

Her steps grew angrier as she stormed into one of the empty dressing rooms. How dare Lucy destroy this play, just like she destroyed everything else. Gina huffed angrily and pulled out her phone. Her phone had Lucy's number, of course. There had been a time when she had clicked on that number almost every day and spent hours in her little pink bedroom in the Thompsonville suburbs calling Lucy and telling her every mundane detail of her existence. That was until Lucy met Nico Rodriguez.

As a conmatter of fact, Lucy Angelica Marquez was with the same Nico Rodriguez at that very moment. Because the setting of *Almost, Maine* was wintery, the costume depart-



## Hurt *con't* from page 33

ment was filled with various winter apparel, of which Lucy had stolen a coat and scarf, put it on top of her Marvalyn "costume" (which was really just a flannel and jeans), and slipped away from Thompsonville High in order to meet Nico, who was waiting in his car outside.

Lucy's reasons for not wanting to perform during Almost, Maine's closing night varied from wanting to cause her ex-best friend Gina a shock, to the fact that Lucy hated theater because her mother had forced her into it (her mother, being a failed actress, assumed that Lucy would live out her dreams), to the fact that if she didn't perform in the play, she would have an uninterrupted five hours with Nico, whom her mother did not let her go on dates with. Nico had driven Lucy to the Thompsonville Park Ice Skating Rink, which was as empty as it could be at this time of night, but as Lucy began to lace up her skates, her phone rang. Lucy was not exactly sure why she picked up.

"Where are you?" Gina's voice was loaded with anger and panic.

"Skating," Lucy said absently, looking up at the inky black

sky.

"We're on Scene 2," Gina bit out, trying with all her might to keep her calm. "You need to come back."

"No can do Gina," Lucy said, keeping her voice level. "I'm having too good of a time right now." She could feel Gina seething on the other end of the line.

"Why are you doing this, Lucy?" Lucy could detect a tinge of desperation in Gina's tone. "You're ruining everything."

"No, you ruined everything when you tattled to my mom about Nico. You're a fool if you think I'll do anything you say." With shaking hands, Lucy hung up the phone.

Gina stared dumbfoundedly at her cell phone. She had "tattled" to Mrs. Marquez hoping that Lucy's mother would prevent her from dating that deadbeat Nico, not that it had worked. She had her (ex) friend's best interests at heart!

Gina looked up into the mirror in front of her, deflated. She studied her reflection carefully: her button nose, her too-small mouth, her limp brown hair. She knew all of Marvalyn's lines, of course. She could easily play her.

By telling Mrs. Marquez about Lucy's relationship, Gina had really just wanted to stop covering for her best friend's stupidity all the time.

## Social *con't* from page 31

spreading misinformation again, social media companies must punish users who are spreading misinformation with either a temporary or long-term ban from the platform based on the potential severity of the misinformation. After an attack or incident, social media companies can promote accurate police or government accounts during an attack, post a warning at the top of trending feeds that informs users about the unreliability of initial accounts of an incident, and have systems that restrict the visibility of trending misinformation about an incident after something is determined. Social media platforms can also hire an editorial team to remove blatant misinformation from trending searches as well as introduce a feature for users to report misinformation.

There are a lot of tools social media companies can use to restrict misinformation and these companies must use these strategies to help society from getting false information. With so many people who depend on only social media for daily news, companies must make an effort to provide these people with accurate news so that the people are properly informed.

In conclusion, social media platforms should be able to

restrict Americans from creating and spreading misinformation. Although the First Amendment of the Constitution gives all Americans the right to free speech, social media platforms are private organizations that are not owned by the government. Therefore, these platforms have the right to prevent misinformation by punishing those who do spread false information.

It's also extremely important to realize the effect of misinformation on society. Misinformation has the potential to subvert democracy, create injury or death, undermine public health campaigns, and fire up riots and insurrections. As a result, social media platforms should do their best to combat misinformation to protect our society by identifying misinformation, restricting false information, and punishing those who are spreading false information.

Finally, think about how you would feel if you followed a piece of false information on social media and made a decision that had the possibility of harming you. Would you want to be able to see that kind of false information on social media? Or would you want social media platforms to do the right thing and restrict misinformation created and spread?

**History Buffs:** Research your favorite point in history and write a research-based piece on how this part of history can inform us today. Grades 5th - 12th.

Send your story to [editor@citykidzworld.com](mailto:editor@citykidzworld.com) by August 1.



# Poem

Illustration by Sarah Baker

By Nimeesh Sharma, 9th grade

You've been around since before you were born,  
You've recorded in your vast archives, every moment  
From the biggest of bangs to the final explosion  
And beyond

You are the greatest warrior  
In seconds, people are born and people will die,  
You wait for no one, and  
No one waits for you

There is no mystery with an unknown answer,  
All is known, and none can hide  
You're the only thing  
Marking differences from the ancients to us

The unbiased judge, the innocent bystander,  
Watching those suffer, and those succeed,  
All indifferent, mere references  
In your endless traverse

As strong as time is coveted,  
Bringing about the birth of the universe,  
To the end of it,  
And beyond  
Watching wishes,  
"Faster than wind",

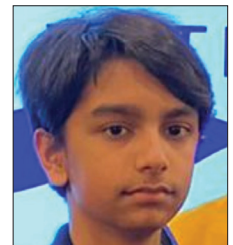
Cease and desist,  
And arouse  
You've seen the world divide,  
Time and time again,  
On the opinions or the beliefs  
Tormenting all with incessant pain

Yet you know the hidden truth,  
All the pain, it's all in vain,  
Difference in just semblance  
All is same beyond the veil

Dawn to dusk, rise or fall  
Joy or sorrow  
You have seen it all  
Today and tomorrow

You serve them most  
Who perseveres utmost  
Those who learn and adopt  
Get up and rise to the top

Nothing can keep time at bay,  
The more you go  
The more you're gone  
The more you take away



# A Write of Passage

Guest Writer: Luis Freire, Rutgers University

This is an examination of the more common writing challenges faced by many college students. The first section covers the problems students encounter and suggests ways to eliminate them. The second section gives a set of options for composing an essay.

“What the learner needs to do is not only to learn from the teacher or role model how to understand what she has to do and the way to do it, but to become able to acquire for herself the skill that the teacher has, rather than acquiring it as a matter of routine.” (Intelligent Virtue, Julia Annas)

There are plenty of ways to enhance the learning experience through writing. Initially, the readings should provide an ample source of information to begin thinking constructively about the topic in particular and the world in general. The college campus is the best place to explore since it provides resources such as libraries and professionals in their field. Next, the courses will guide your thinking into the direction of intellectual growth and can serve as a starting point for finding creative ways to develop clear and thought-provoking analysis in written form. Lastly, fellow classmates will, to varying degrees, instill a passion for discovery and intuition that will resound in your writing.

The main obstacle to completing a writing assignment is being unfamiliar with the subject or relating to the material. In addition, students are primarily inexperienced writers. The most practical approach for clarifying and simplifying the question is to check the meaning or background of the topic being questioned. The best way to accomplish this is by using a standard dictionary or an extensive encyclopedia. This should eliminate any lingering doubt or minimize the complexity of the requirement.

Once momentum has been achieved, there are likely to be times when the pace slows due to repetitiveness or disorientation. This is when another reference text can help to spur a new idea or expression. For example, a thesaurus contains terms that mean the same thing as the word you are using but in a different context. At the very least, it can help you reconsider your current stance in a way that may steer your writing closer to completion.

These reference books are necessary at the beginning of the writing assignment. They

enable the student to explore an unfamiliar or complex question, to gather information to include in the final draft, and to arrange categories of discussion in written form.

As a starting point, the section above provides direction on establishing patterns or revealing gaps in the student’s knowledge about a given field of study. A student usually attempts to write a report, an essay, or a research manuscript with little more than his desk, some paper, the course textbook, and a pencil. Although it is often more than others have to start with, it is still only about a third of what is used by top performing students.

An experienced teacher will suggest that the students read all types of publications in order to become knowledgeable with their writing assignment. Some good sources of information or details are newspapers, magazines, and novels. The reason periodicals are a good source of

knowledge is that they provide the essentials in a concise format, often with a graphical representation of more complicated theories and facts and added commentary by credible sources in the profession. A novel by a prolific author or expert is another way to understand the overall structure of the topic you are going to write about in a more insightful and congenial manner.

The reference books listed earlier are vital for understanding the terms and concepts that will inevitably arise in newspapers, magazines, and academic journals. The novel can be useful in showing the student the various styles that are used for effectively relating information to an audience in one form or another. Of course, the student will not immediately know to turn to these sources without having first been reminded to do so by a parent, teacher, or coach. In the absence of such, the student is left to seek the advice from peers or role models portrayed in the media or those they encounter throughout the daily routine. For the reluctant student, there are people and places they can turn to to help meet the deadline.

After the writing is stable, it is advisable to review, examine, and question the content, the structure, and the accuracy of the material. The student can more than likely spot obvious errors of grammar, vague phrasing, or inadequate content. At times, the teacher can provide some level of support but will not cover the entire assignment due



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*There are plenty of ways to enhance the learning experience through writing.*

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Passage *con't on page 37*

## Passage *con't* from page 36

to time constraints. Still, some students are left to rely on other school administrators that may be more willing to take a closer look: a different teacher, a librarian, a coach, a senior student, or other members of an academic community.

Once the initial difficulty has been addressed, there are still many more hurdles to confront. At this point, the writing can be completed by using any number of strategies. The following section covers several ways to make progress when all other methods have faltered. Over time, some will prove more useful than others and may not be required as the writer matures or as alternative means of writing present themselves.

Once all of these factors have been set in motion, the student is ready to begin the actual writing assignment. Begin by interpreting the question to the point where a sensible attempt can be made at setting your stance on the matter, supplying examples from reliable sources, and including opposing viewpoints in order to make a well-rounded and less narrow argument.

The best way to go about this is to closely examine the question in its entirety. Then begin to read (or re-read) the text, sentence by sentence and paragraph by paragraph, until there is a viable connection between the question, reading material, and your own interpretation. Somewhere within the pages of text and the wording of the inquiry is one, if not more, related themes upon which to form the basis of a thesis along with corresponding topics and subtopics. Once this is underway, you can begin to write.

Another part of the process is to sketch an outline of your position within the question, including the claims you will make to convince the audience that your view is relevant and how you intend to incorporate the counterargument into your conclusion. The outline will serve to organize the information you will use in the body paragraphs. A thorough outline will facilitate the writing of the assignment because it is an efficient instrument for maintaining relevant information and for managing the flow of reasoning and analysis within the writing.

This is necessary for generating ideas and connections between the question and the reading in an orderly but concise manner. The outline serves as a mechanism for preserving the draft in all phases of composition and revision. The planning supported by an outline will save time, boost your grade, and when done carefully will prove valuable in other disciplines. It is the instrument that propels the writing forward by keeping thoughts clear and organized. In essence, the outline exists as a framework that lends itself to translating the writer's perspective and comprehension. It is an apparatus no different than a wireframe used as a basis for the design of a consumer product. In complementary disciplines, it goes by another moniker: stenciling. Therefore, in the writing profession,

it is practical for tracing the pattern behind the finished product without being burdened by the intricacies of the full development or production cycle.

The next part of the procedure requires creating a rough draft of how the writing will be presented. Oddly enough, this means writing without regard to many of the standard grammatical rules nor the actual requirement of the question by gathering thoughts and arranging them in a less stringent format. When the student needs to make progress, this method of free-writing helps to focus on the main idea as well as a preliminary order of subtopics that must be addressed without being burdened by the intricacies of grammar or conventions, at least initially. Of course, the drafting process will involve many cycles of success or failure, but the end result is always clear and consistent writing in a more forgiving manner. Be aware that leaving out the drafting portion will be reflected in the final grade.

After several iterations, the outline will stabilize to the point where external sources will be required in order to develop and expand the writing beyond the limitations of the course or the student. The first place to look for information is in the course itself and the discussions that emanate from class. It is the main place where crucial judgments can be made regarding what to include and what to omit in the final draft. During this phase, make good use of your campus or public library; it is replete with a variety of publications and librarians who can offer useful advice on how to navigate the seemingly endless supply of research articles, publications, and textbooks.

Once all primary and intermediary drafting portions have been completed, it is beneficial to read the draft again in order to check for errors that have been overlooked. If possible, this should be done by a person other than the student. What makes sense to the author may not be readily apparent or compelling to another person.

As a final step in the drafting process, it may be worthwhile to read the assigned text once again, followed by reading the written response to the text soon thereafter. Although tedious and time-consuming, it could serve a dual purpose: first, to realign the student's work with the textual source, and second, to force a proofreading phase which may provide further motivation to identify and eliminate any lingering syntactical, grammatical, or thematic inconsistencies. The greater the number of intermediary steps preceding the final draft, the stronger and more transparent the conveyance of the argument.

All in all, it's important to examine the question closely and establish connections between it and the required reading while you are reading (and re-reading) the text. Next, it's necessary to build an outline to organize your ideas and keep yourself focused on the prompt. This is an especially important skill that will carry over into other courses.

The researching of additional material is another essen-

## Passage *con't* on page 38



## Passage *con't from page 37*

tial aspect of your writing in all college courses. Make use of the resources available to you, specifically a database or a librarian, to make this a much less daunting experience. Always leave time for editing and redrafting to make sure that the final result is polished and cogent.

Aside from all the previous recommendations, there are other minor details that are indispensable for most written assignments. The introduction paragraph is the best place to capture the attention and interest of the audience. It is usually the place where the main argument of the essay can be found as well as a map of the entire essay. The body paragraphs are used to describe all the relevant information in an organized and thorough manner in order to guide the reader along from the minor points, to all the pertinent facts, and through to any potential implications stemming from the analysis. The conclusion paragraph can typically perform three functions: review the important claims of the essay in a more confident tone, reiterate one of the many points made in the preceding paragraphs to greater effect, or launch a unique theme arising from the preceding discussion that the reader can explore to further their curiosity or knowledge.

The majority of students who enroll in a college English course are under pressure to comprehend a reading, interpret a related inquiry to that reading, and produce an individually written response in return for a grade. This alone may not seem sufficient cause for sudden and inexplicable hesitance, but when we consider that students often have math, science, history, and other course requirements to deal with simultaneously, taking the time to read critically and write a coherent essay seems justifiably difficult, if not impossible. Aside from finding time to complete assignments, the reading is often obscure in both content and author. Another challenge is becoming accustomed to a professor's unique teaching style. It is much more likely that time constraints, content difficulty, and issues with class structure or instruction style are the real obstacles to performing well in English courses rather than any sort of personal inadequacy.

There are many disruptions and distractions standing

in the way of completing a college degree and beginning the ensuing career. There are people that will impact decisions, books that will shape and reshape thinking, and events marking the ups and downs of education. This is most apparent in the English courses taken and the writing assignments that must be completed through the school years. The textbook may not be the most entertaining or inspiring book ever read or studied. The vast majority of the time, the professor is a knowledgeable source for the course material, but that doesn't necessarily guarantee that your experience will be optimal. Of course, people inside and outside the classroom will place unreasonable burdens and overwhelming demands upon even the most resilient students.

So, visit the libraries and read additional books related to the writing topic. Consider making an appointment with the professor or counselor to seek their advice about ways to excel in the course and throughout college. Make it a point to study together with as many classmates as time and commitments will allow in order to have a place to present ideas, test your thesis, or to kindle an early literary voice. There is no better time than the present to retrace the successful path of a famous writer that you always admired as a child in order to help you overcome any personal struggles or obstacles with the writing course.

In conclusion, it takes an entire array of people, places, and provisions to start and end a writing assignment and to verify that the writing is worthy of a high score or of any attention at all. As demonstrated throughout this essay, an excellent essay goes through a lengthy process of pre-writing, writing, and rewriting. Adhering to this results in flawless writing which, in turn, is often indicative of clear thinking achieved through extensive, rigorous, and laborious effort. The strongest writers know how to communicate a topic and how to convey related information to the intended audience. Through effective use of topic insight, they make things easy to understand; things are put in layman terms, so to speak. These are the distinctive qualities of a competent writer. The person who remains focused on this approach will be rewarded with the ability to implement their writing technique independently, precisely, or eventually at will.

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# Interns



**Kristen Woodruff**

**Copy Editor**

Kristen Woodruff studied Marketing at Butler University and graduated in 2021. She has always had a passion for reading and recently decided to pursue a career in editing. She hopes to one day work for a major publishing company and is currently working towards that goal.



**Alicja Jadczyk**

**Illustrator**

My name is Alicja Jadczyk and I'm a fresh starting artist from Poland. My biggest interests are concept art and illustrations. In my works I experiment with many different styles – cartoony, punk, or even realistic ones. I love creating new characters or environments. In my free time I like reading comic books and watching cartoons.



**Sarah Baker**

**Illustrator**

I am an illustrator and visual development artist based in sunny southern California. With an extensive background in traditional mediums, I love creating whimsical drawings and magical worlds using both pen and computer. I take inspiration from historical anecdotes and strange folklore, approaching art like a wonderful puzzle to solve.

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# Congratulations to all the Writers and Artists this issue!

