

NBMS POLARIS

2024 - 2025

Second Edition





TABLE OF CONTENTS

Polaris Staff.....	1
Staff Photos.....	2
Valentines Word Search.....	4
2025 Grammy Winners.....	5
How I Got Over Him.....	6
Weird Fun Facts.....	7
Political Prisoners.....	8
Fun Facts about NBMS.....	12
School Word Search.....	13
Frankenstories.....	14
The Mystery of the Missing School.....	18
National History Day.....	20
Blood on My Hands.....	22
Columbine High School Shooting.....	25
Evolving Technology and Nuclear Weapons....	26
Moontown: Capital of Humanity	28



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Legally Blonde.....	29
Spring Word Search.....	30
Jokes and Riddles.....	31
The Last Explorer.....	32
Short Story.....	33
Eternal Difference.....	34
Optimistic Science Stories.....	35
Poems.....	36
Have You Ever Wondered?.....	39
Spot the Difference	43
February Word Search.....	45
Spring Crossword.....	46
Spring Crossword 2.....	47
Survey Results.....	48
Lake Mirror Avenue.....	50
Name Survey.....	52

POLARIS STAFF



LEADERSHIP TEAM

TEACHER - Mr. Perlson

CLUB PRESIDENT - Sophie Lee (8th grade)

CLUB VICE PRESIDENT - Elly Metcalfe (8th grade)

CLUB SECRETARIES - Natalie Dickinson & Hannah Parrett (8th grade)

6TH GRADERS

Sophia Rozario

Aryana Lopez Blanco

Lulu Bolstad

7TH GRADERS

Serena Ventura

Minduni Pahathkumbura

Salma Absi

Aubrey Robinson

Sofia Morales

Olivia Morales

Neela Padgett

Macey Kosner

Abigail Park

Adriana Randriatahina

Zelda Snellgrove

8TH GRADERS

Lily Hoffman

Chloe Baczkowski

Mahika Pasad-

Kalpakis

Kalista Kezimana

Mimi Ly

STAFF PHOTOS



STAFF PHOTOS



Valentines Day WORD SEARCH



Find the Hidden Words

S	Y	L	A	T	A	R	R	O	W	R	Q
M	R	O	E	A	D	O	A	U	N	T	Y
S	A	V	C	M	D	A	A	N	C	R	D
F	R	E	P	H	D	O	C	C	L	R	N
D	U	E	T	D	O	O	H	L	E	N	A
I	B	D	B	P	I	C	T	H	R	N	C
P	E	E	O	T	R	R	O	S	U	D	D
U	F	N	T	R	N	I	O	L	T	G	M
C	V	T	H	A	D	T	C	K	A	R	A
P	V	A	L	E	N	T	I	N	E	T	V
A	V	S	R	A	D	Z	C	G	R	P	E
S	F	L	O	W	E	R	E	R	O	H	E

LOVE

CUPID

HUG

CHOCOLATE

FLOWER

CANDY

FEBURARY

ARROW

VALENTINE

2025 GRAMMY WINNERS

by Elly M

Not every award is listed here. Go to [this link](#) to see the complete list!

ALBUM OF THE YEAR:

COWBOY CARTER - Beyoncé

RECORD OF THE YEAR:

“Not Like Us” - Kendrick Lamar

SONG OF THE YEAR:

“Not Like Us” - Kendrick Lamar

BEST NEW ARTIST:

Chappell Roan

PRODUCER OF THE YEAR, NON-CLASSICAL:

Daniel Nigro

SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR, NON-CLASSICAL:

Amy Allen

BEST POP SOLO PERFORMANCE:

“Espresso” - Sabrina Carpenter

BEST POP DUO/GROUP PERFORMANCE:

“Die With A Smile” - Lady Gaga & Bruno Mars

BEST POP VOCAL ALBUM:

Short n’ Sweet - Sabrina Carpenter

BEST DANCE/ELECTRONIC ALBUM:

Brat - Charli xcx

BEST ROCK SONG:

“Broken Man” - Annie Clark

BEST ROCK ALBUM:

Hackney Diamonds - The Rolling Stones

BEST ALTERNATIVE MUSIC ALBUM:

All Born Screaming - St. Vincent

BEST R&B SONG:

“Saturn” - SZA

BEST R&B ALBUM:

11:11 (Deluxe) - Chris Brown

BEST RAP PERFORMANCE:

“Not Like Us” - Kendrick Lamar

BEST RAP SONG:

“Not Like Us” - Kendrick Lamar

BEST RAP ALBUM:

Alligator Bites Never Heal - Doechii

BEST COUNTRY SONG:

“The Architect” - Kacey Musgraves

BEST COUNTRY ALBUM:

COWBOY CARTER - Beyoncé

BEST LATIN POP ALBUM:

Las Mujeres Ya No Lloran - Shakira

BEST MUSIC VIDEO:

“Not Like Us” - Kendrick Lamar



How I Got Over Him...

By : *Sophia Rozario*

CHAPTER 1: THIS REALLY IS THE END.

"Look. It's just not working out with you and me, you're always busy and after all these years I've thought about and I always liked Jamie better"

I didn't know what hurt most, the fact that he was throwing away seven years together or that he liked my best friend.

I'm Autumn and up until just now I had a boyfriend. Levi was everything to me and for a minute, I even thought I was going to be Mrs. Adidas but I guess nothing lasts forever. I didn't know what to do, there was rage boiling in me, mixed with the sudden urge to rip his head off and on top of all that trying not to sob like a three year old. "Umm Autumn, you ok?" he asked

This guy!

"No ! I'm not ok! You really want to throw away seven years together and date my best friend!"

"Whoa, I never said I wanted to date her but if you're open to it-"

"I can't believe you! How long has this been going on? How long have you wanted this?!" I yelled, we were at a restaurant and it wasn't long before people started to stare and give looks.

"So I guess that's it, we're done" I said, I walked out of the restaurant with tears overflowing my eyes. I tried my hardest to not cry but what good would that do?

As soon as I got out of the restaurant I took a cab and went home. At this point I didn't know what to do, Levi and I moved in together so I thought the best thing I could do was pack up and leave.

CHAPTER 2: MY NEW LIFE

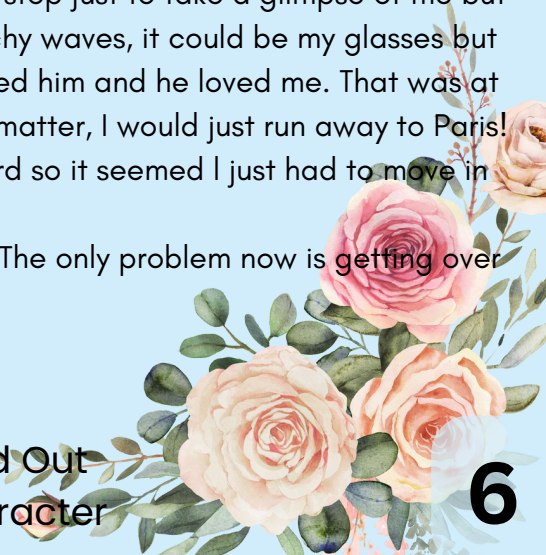
When people look at me they think that I must have guys lining up at my doorstep just to take a glimpse of me but no. I don't know if it's my chocolate brown eyes or my long light brown beachy waves, it could be my glasses but then again. Levi and I had met in college and I was 20, ever since then I loved him and he loved me. That was at least what I thought until he saw it fit to rip out my heart and run it over! No matter, I would just run away to Paris!

Halfway through planning, I had to make a change of plans. I couldn't afford so it seemed I just had to move in with my sister.

April was kind enough to let her little sister move in after a drastic breakup. The only problem now is getting over the guy I loved with all my heart...




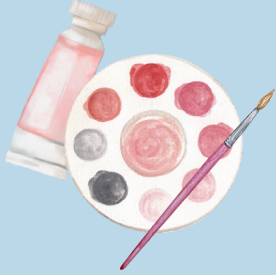

To Be Continued...

Read The Next Edition Of Polaris To Find Out
What Happens To Our Heartbroken Character



WEIRD FUN FACTS

by Elly M

1. A cloud weighs about 1 million tonnes
2. Identical twins don't have the same fingerprints
3. Time moves slower for smaller animals than for larger ones
4. Once, a chicken lived for 18 months without a head
5. Snails have tiny teeth on their tongues 
6. Bananas are slightly radioactive
7. The happiest country on Earth is Finland
8. Your nails grow faster when it's hot outside 
9. Lightning is 5 times hotter than the Sun
10. In a group of 23 people, it is most likely that two will share a birthday
11. You burn 400-500 calories a day just by thinking
12. Canada has over 60% of the world's lakes 
13. 90% of humans on Earth live in the northern hemisphere
14. Australia is wider than the moon
15. Falling to the center of the Earth would take 19 minutes
16. The script for "The Terminator" was sold for \$1
17. To improve their skin, people once ate arsenic
18. In 2004, Neil Armstrong's hair was sold for \$3,000
19. The world's longest concert was 453 hours long 
20. Japan has one vending machine per 40 people
21. McDonald's once sold bubblegum-flavored broccoli
22. Frida Khalo painted 55 self-portraits throughout her career
23. Clownfish are born male and can become female later in life
24. Watermelon is 92% water 
25. Ketchup used to be sold as medicine

Sources:

<https://www.sciencefocus.com/science/fun-facts>

<https://www.today.com/life/inspiration/interesting-facts-rcna130243>

Political Prisoners and Torture through the Eyes of North Korea.

By Natalie Dickinson

There are an estimated one million political prisoners worldwide held in 65 different countries.[1] Of those prisoners, only a fragment are imprisoned in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. However, many Western countries berate North Korea in theory when in practice, they do the same; they incarcerate people who break the laws of their nation and generally compromise the safety of the nation and their people. North Korea strongly believes that this committee should not second guess the careful national security and judicial calculations that countries must make when determining whether to imprison dangerous people. Each country, as a matter of national sovereignty and self-determination, must, by necessity, have the freedom to determine which people pose a danger to its society based on its unique understanding of its cultural and political values.

Instead of invading the sovereignty of any nation, this committee should focus on the overall expectation that political prisoners should be cared for based on their country's laws. Many countries such as the United States believe that they are more humane in their efforts, when "[i]mprisonment rates [in the U.S. and other English-speaking countries] are higher than in Western Europe, sentences are often long and disproportionately severe, many prisons are enormous (sometimes thousands of inmates), conditions are often squalid, and services and programs are usually sparse." [13] Other countries also keep prisoners in restrictive and harsh conditions, ranging from Norway's restorative justice system to Rwanda's overcrowded prisons that result in half a dozen deaths a day.[12]

The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea acknowledges that it currently has an estimated 80,000 to 120,000 political prisoners, however, this represents a significant decrease from the decade before, with 150,000 to 200,000 prisoners.[11] These prisoners pose a danger to North Korea’s way of life because they have engaged in actions such as crossing the border or undermining North Korea by praising South Korean culture. Camp 14 or Kacheon is a political prison camp with a capacity for 15,000 prisoners, some of whom are part of the “three generations of punishment” policy for being related to someone suspected of a crime against the state. These policies allow for the complete safety of all citizens in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.

While the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (like many other nations) does have political prisoners, it also has ratified several human rights treaties. The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea has passed multiple treaties focusing on the rights of prisoners; the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) to name a few.[6] These treaties show how North Korea has worked towards better living conditions for those guilty of committing severe crimes.

Also, the United Nations has a treaty, called the UN Convention Against Torture (CAT), which is an international agreement that serves as a foundation to fight against torture.[5] The Democratic People's Republic of Korea has not ratified this yet, because the definition of torture is too general, and therefore poses the problem of over half of all countries being recognized to practice torture with the current CAT definition. The United Nations also has principles for the treatment of prisoners; all prisoners should be treated with respect, there should be no discrimination allowed amongst prisoners, prisoners should have access to health services, and all prisoners have the right to partake in cultural activities.[6] Although the UN has made diligent efforts to combat torture, it is still carried out in 141 countries worldwide with the current definition.[9]

The DPRK recognizes the desire of the committee to reach a global understanding on the issue of the treatment of political prisoners and supports the creation of a small set of guidelines or best practices for the treatment of political prisoners based on foundational United Nations proclamations on human rights. However, any resolution must make clear that these principles are aspirational and should recognize that individual countries must have the flexibility to make their determinations based on the circumstances of a given case. A one-size-fits-all strait jacket for prisoner treatment will not fit any nation and will not enable nations to adjust to emergencies and ensure their countries remain safe.

To the extent of the committee's power, The Democratic People's Republic of Korea proposes an oversight program. North Korea strongly believes that target countries must be empowered to choose which country within the committee will inspect their facilities and check for any human rights violations. This would allow for an appropriate level of transparency of the country's detention facilities while not limiting their sovereignty and respecting their cultural and political values. The Supreme Leader believes that this is the best solution for all involved. By implementing this, the overall condition of political prisoners worldwide will improve significantly. Without the cooperation of many different countries together to reach a common goal, the world will not be as safe as it should be.

The conditions under which political prisoners are held is an ongoing discussion that the United Nations must hold as a whole. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea believes that political prisoners are kept in the necessary conditions to atone for their crimes. The leader of the Worker's Party of Korea is open to negotiation on the topic of the treatment and prison conditions of political prisoners and will make sure that justice is served to those who break national law.



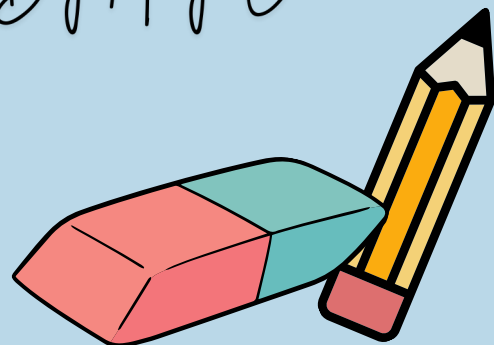
Fun Facts About NBMS!

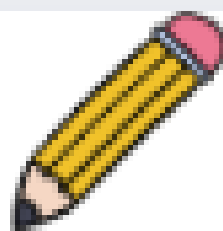


- 1. It is ranked #11 in Maryland Middle schools.*
- 2. It is ranked #4 in Montgomery County Public Middle Schools.*
- 3. The math proficiency is 46%*
- 4. The reading proficiency is 73%*
- 5. There are roughly 1,110 students in NBMS*
- 6. There are about 66 full time teachers*



By: Amy L

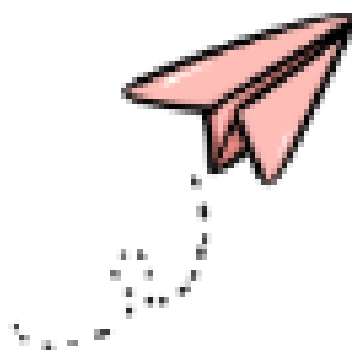




School word search!

L	N	U	V	Y	P	W	I	B	N	J	O	F	W
R	F	H	A	U	J	H	B	I	N	D	E	R	L
A	K	X	H	I	I	F	U	Z	M	Y	A	V	X
Z	N	B	I	B	O	O	K	S	R	U	E	Y	V
H	B	K	G	P	E	N	C	I	L	S	W	T	L
W	C	S	H	X	E	F	Q	P	T	I	U	F	O
P	U	Y	L	F	H	X	E	V	E	B	N	R	C
A	V	H	I	O	M	V	T	R	U	N	Q	I	K
P	P	F	G	D	M	A	R	K	E	R	S	E	E
E	M	L	H	M	F	W	Y	A	G	O	R	N	R
R	Y	G	T	B	A	C	K	P	A	C	K	D	S
T	N	P	E	I	Q	Q	B	Y	Z	L	J	S	K
N	T	H	R	S	Y	Y	H	B	L	N	M	Q	O
P	F	C	S	Q	D	E	D	A	L	O	R	V	Q

Backpack
Highlighters
Pencils
Books
Pens
Binder
Markers
Friends
Paper
Lockers



By: Amy J



FRANKENSTORIES

Frankenstories is a live online game where participants each write part of a story based on a picture and a prompt. Players then anonymously vote on whose work should be added to the story. More rounds are played, and each winning piece of the story is added on to the previous pieces. The last round is completed in the same fashion, but for the title instead.

The Writer's Club has played three games of Frankenstories and is excited to share our stories with you!



PROMPT:

Write like this is about an invisible monster



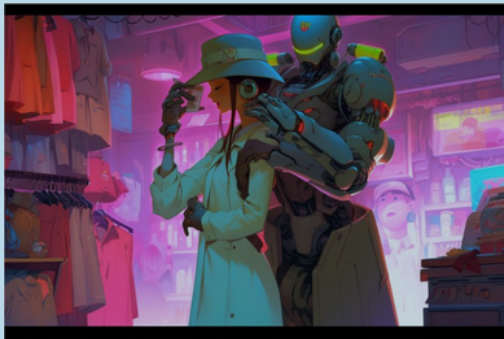
The Wisps of the Hollow Village

Steps. Foggy steps nearing my ghost town. It's dim here in this late evening. Everyone has shut their doors, feelings of acceptance, of inner horror pitting in the hearts of those who live in this town.

All the trees drooped, all the people sagged, and all the houses leaned; this was not a paradise.

I glanced out the window and saw a boat gliding across the water, sending ripples from shore to shore. That must be a newcomer on the boat, as everyone else here knows not to go out at night. There are creatures that lurk in the mist—some that we are aware of and some that remain unknown.

They are always watching, these creatures. With spiny bones and empty sockets where their eyes used to be, they haunt us forever. Soon, this foolish sailor will come to understand what we all see—these creatures are not merely visiting or passing through. They are here to stay.



PROMPT:

Write like one of them is a bodyguard



My Robot, My Lover. (愛してます)

He protects me through the darkest of the times. Through murder with blood and bones. I've always had him there, I can never die. I can live forever if no one kills me. I am immortal.

The immortality is harsh sometimes. A robot has no feelings, no life. No soul. And through protection, he is like blood. He changes me. I have a soul, but I can't ever seem to find it. I am lonely, lifeless. A statue of a human.

Immortality, to some may seem like a dream. What they don't tell you is that you see everyone around you drift away. No matter what you never do.

I never get to see my family again. Ever. They're dead. But their robot, human-looking robot, has been there for me. Always. I almost owe him my life, if I was mortal. Sometimes I wish I was... This robot brings me feelings.

He make me feel thing I never thought I would. I want to do things with him Ive never want to do before. But he doesn't feel the same way. He is a robot. I am a girl. But eventually it will just be me and him. And I will make him love me. Or else...



PROMPT:
Write like they are forming a
secret alliance



Our Supreme Lord and Leader: Kim Jong Un

"AAAHHHHHHHHHH" I said then he tapped my shoulder.
"DO YOU WANT TO BE MY FRIEND?" he asked with the nicest voice. I thought he was going to kill me, but little did I know Brian was annoyingly nice.

"What?" I paused, dumbfounded. "No, I don't want to be your friend,
you're ugly and you live with rats"

Brian frowned. "Aw, please?"

"No! Go away!" That's when Brian got angry.

He started to walk toward me, stomping hard and harder with each
step " AAAHHHH!!!" I screamed. "GETT AWAYYY!!!"

I began to run as fast as I could but it felt like I was not moving.

"HHHH"

I began to pant like a dog. As I turned my head to look, I didn't see
him. I sigh out of relief, then I turn my head and say

"Gosh finally he is gone"

"I'm never gone" he says, appearing before me.

"AHHHH" I scream.

"For I am the supreme leader, kim jong un"

"You are not Kim Jong Un" I laugh

"Yes I am" he says as he morphs into Kim Jong Un. "Now as my
famous quote goes, 'the only thing to fear is fear itself'"

"That's not your quote," I respond

"I am the supreme leader, every good thing ever said was once said
by me," he responds. "But there is one more thing you should fear-
me. Because I am going to nuke the US."

"WHEN?" I yell

"Now," he responds

BOOOM

The Mystery Of the Missing School

By- Minduni Pahathkumbura & Salma Absi

Chapter One

A Surprising Moment

It was a lovely autumn day. I stepped out of my house and was ready to walk to school. The wind was twirling and brushing my hair. The air smelt fresh, & colorful leaves were falling. It was like a leaf rain. I was heading toward my best friend Salma's house. She lives in Leaf Fall Dr. I live in Maple Dr. "Aahhh... A wonderful day to walk to school." I told myself. I really like the sound of crunching leaves as I walk. As I arrived at my friend's house I knocked on the front door. Salma burst out. She was so excited to walk with me today because it was not just the start of school, there was a halloween party at school. We were dressed up in costumes and we arranged to go trick-or-treating around the block with our whole class. I was dressed as an explorer and Salma was dressed as an explorer too. My best friend and I wore matching costumes. We were happily crunching leaves as we walked. Finally we arrived at school. "Funny..." I said. "It is very quiet." I said to my friend. "It is usually buzzing with children and noise. When we came close to the school, the school was not there. We stood stunned at the scene that the school was not there. There was no child or teacher in sight. We panicked a little. There was no one there to tell, the people inside the school had gone too. We had to do something about this problem.

My friend Salma insisted that we should call the police. But I said no, they would not believe us and would not even come to look because we are children. Probably they would not trust children about this.

It was time to act fast. “I smell something.” I said. “What, Is it food? I don’t smell anything.” Salma asked. “No, would you please stop thinking everything is food. I meant that I smell an idea. Isn’t there a phrase like that.? I smell an idea?” I said. “Whatever.” My friend said.... “What is your idea.?” “My idea is that we be detectives. Da da daaa!. Detective Minduni and Detective Salma . How about that?” I asked. “Seriously... Actually that is the best idea I ever heard. Let's do this.” Said Salma. So I pulled out two magnifying glasses and two notebooks so we could find some clues and write them down. “After we find some clues and write them down, let’s meet here, okay?” I said looking at Salma with a serious face. “Okay.” Said Salma. Off we went to find some clues. I had hope that we might find where the school went. We went around the place where the school was. There was complete soil on the place where the school was. I saw tiny creatures crawling. I wrote that down in my notebook. Also I noticed that there was no soil over the place where the school was.. It was a hole in the ground!! It almost looked like a portal. Probably because it was. And the creatures that I mentioned were not tiny creatures at all, they were live animals that I could just see through. There were trees and I even saw a waterfall. This was definitely very mysterious indeed. I could just not believe my very own eyes. I ran to find my friend Salma.

**IF YOU WANT TO READ ONLINE CLICK
HERE!**



National History Day

By Serena Ventura and Olivia Morales



What is NHD?

Every year Global Humanities students work—either together or alone—on a project that lasts from October to January. This year due several factors students were given only from November to December to work in class on a topic of their choosing. There are five main categories to choose from all with the option of working with a group or going at it solo: Website, Exhibit, Documentary, Performance and Paper (this category was only for individuals—groups couldn't do this category). The project essentially was to choose one of these categories and try to inform people of the topic that the student chose. For example, if they chose the Civil War, they might create a performance reenactment of some important moments. Separating the groups from the individuals, their projects were all judged based on their compliance with the requirements (Properly annotated, under the word count, etc.) as well as their work itself. Every category would have a winner that would advance to the next round, county. NHD competition goes up all the way to national level. The winner would get a grand prize of \$1000, and if their project was especially good, they could get special prizes ranging from \$250 to \$10,000.

Winners

Everybody did a fantastic job in NHD this year! These are the first place winners in each section.

Paper- "First Documented Person to Surgically Transition: Lili Elbe" Made by Beatrice Shelton.

Individual Documentary- "The Tuskegee Experiment" Made by Trey Scott.

Group Documentary- "Title IX" Made by Stella Hohimer & Arianna Martinez.

Group Performance- "Eyes from the Outside of Chernobyl" Made by Audrey Cooper & Lillian Scouler.

Individual Website- "History of the French Revolution and the New Ideas it Brought" Made by Kouki Moriya.

National History Day

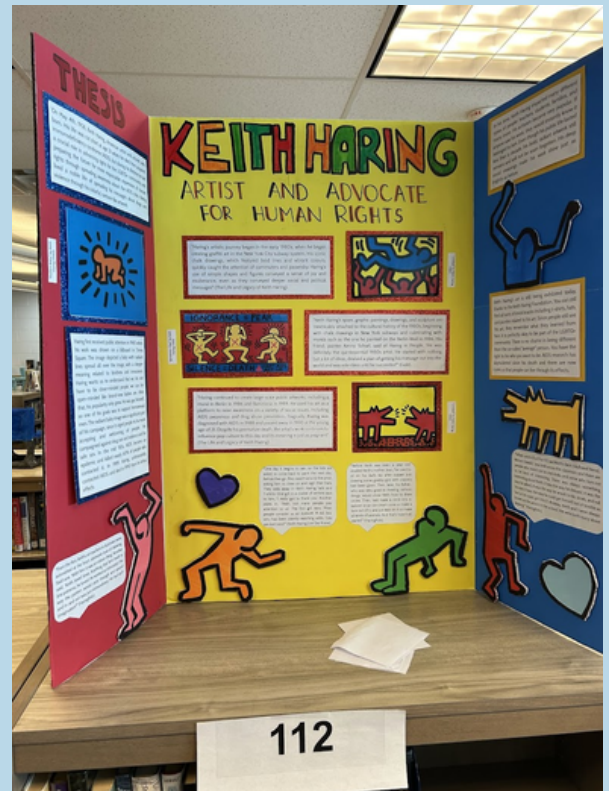
By Serena Ventura and Olivia Morales

Group Website- "The Trail of Tears: The Walk that Changed Native American History Forever" Made by Sarah Jaigirdar & Charlotte Kim.

Individual Exhibit- "The Nanjing Massacre" Made by Sophia Morris.

Group Exhibit- "The Lost Souls of Korea of the Japanese occupation" Made by Amina Hollis, Evelyn Liu, Birce Onal, and Emma Yi

Congratulations everybody!



Junior Individual Exhibit: Keith Haring: Artist and Advocate of Human Rights by Benjamin Wuchenin (2nd place)



Junior Individual Exhibit: The Nanjing Massacre by Sophia Morris (1st place)

Special Thank you to...

Mrs. Lunsford

The Judges

Andrea Speaks, Kearney Blandamer, David Roberts, Nicolette Woods, Paul Lutchenkov, Amanda Kaiser, Eric Kling, Krysti Grace, Tracy Haag, Sarada Jasti Currie, Tasha Steimer, and Stephen Lorenz
the parents and families

and of course
the students who participated

BLOOD ON MY HANDS

Elly M & Sophie L

CHAPTER 1

Kayce

Ow. My head.

Groaning, I slowly brought my palm up to my forehead. My head was pounding so hard that each beat sent another wave of pain through my body. I felt like my skull was splitting apart.

One excruciatingly painful wave erupted from my head, making me suck in my breath. What the heck was I doing earlier? What did I do to my head? As I struggled to remember what had happened, my brain slowly registered that I was lying down on some sort of hard surface. Where was I? I blinked several times, trying to adjust to the sudden light that came into my vision. Once my eyesight focused, I realized that I was staring up at the night sky, dark clouds hovering above me. Huh? Was I outside?

I sat up slowly, trying not to exacerbate my headache. I was indeed sitting down on a hard concrete surface. And I was outside. Brown, crunchy leaves were scattered around where I was lying down, and I reached up to brush dirt off of my hair.

I paused. Looking closer at my fingers, I could see dried blood under my fingernails. What was I doing earlier? I still couldn't remember. Looking around, I realized where I was. I was behind a bar that my fiance, Valor, and I go to every weekend. There was a kind of a back alley where the bartender kept the trash bins; that's where I was. Weird. How did I end up here? Was I at the bar? And why can't I remember anything?

Temporarily forgetting about my headache, I stood up too fast, causing more waves of pain to explode from my head. Ugh. I almost immediately slumped back down into a sitting position, and my hand hit something behind me. I twisted around and glanced down at it.

It was a shoe; some sort of a beat-up Nike dunk. I felt like I remembered that shoe from somewhere, but my memory was still clouded...

I looked up at the rest of the alley behind me, and almost fell unconscious again from complete shock.

It wasn't just a shoe. It was a shoe that was connected to a leg. And that leg was connected to a body.

A *dead* body. And its chest was covered in blood.

Screaming, I scrambled up onto my feet, backed up a couple of steps, and stared down at the body in horror.

Oh my god.

It was Marianne. Oh my god, was it really Marianne?

Marianne was dead. And I was just lying next to her.

This is bad. This is bad. This is really bad. I am so done for...

Oh my god. I killed Marianne. It made sense, didn't it? I was lying next to her, with blood crusted under my fingernails. And I couldn't remember anything, so I couldn't prove that I didn't kill her.

Stumbling backwards, I made my way to the end of the alley, leaning against the wall and catching my breath. Wait. I can't just leave the dead body here. Someone will find it and immediately blame me. But I didn't want to go back to the body either...

But I had to.

Taking a deep breath, I headed back to the spot where I had woken up, grimacing when I saw the body again. *Don't think too much about it, Kayce. You gotta hide the body.*

Sudden sharp pains shot through my skull, making me groan and bend over as I clutched my head in agony. My mind was internally screaming in pain.

Come on, Kayce, stand up. Hide the body.

I forced myself to straighten up enough for me to see Marianne. Marianne's body. Marianne's body... because I murdered her...

KAYCE. Stop thinking.

Crouching down, I reached out and grabbed Marianne's ankles, trying not to think too much about what I was doing. I dragged her behind a pile of brown autumn leaves when the pain in my head spiked up again, making me stagger away. I closed my eyes, trying to clear the throbbing in my skull. After a couple of moments, something suddenly came to me. A scene unfolded in my head. It was fuzzy at first, but gradually got clearer...

I was staring down at my hands, squeezing them into fists then unfurling them again.

Squeeze. Unfurl. Squeeze. Unfurl.

Hot anger pooled behind my eyes, burning in my throat and then swirling in my stomach. I could feel my rage building up, swelling, and getting hotter until it was so scalding I felt like tearing my hair out of my skull. Someone did this to me. Someone had enraged me so much that I was about to explode.

Explode.

In 3...

2...

1...

1...

1?

Darkness crept into the corners of my eyes, slowly spreading across until I had completely blacked out. I couldn't think anymore. I just felt so sleepy...

Woah.

That memory was from earlier today, I was sure of it. Blinking my eyes open, the pain in my head started to subside. I racked my brain once again, trying to figure out what had happened earlier and why I was so angry. Nothing came. I guess my anger is the only thing I remember.

I looked back down at Marianne, then immediately regretted it as my eyes took in the blood stains drying on her torso. Maybe she was the one I was angry at. That would explain why I had murdered her.

I felt like screaming. Why couldn't I remember anything? My hands flew to my scalp and I tugged at my hair, feeling frustrated and confused. The pain in my head had started again.

I was about to continue covering the body up when a sudden voice at the end of the alleyway made me jump in surprise.

“Kayce?”

**GO TO THE ONLINE EDITION (ON THE NBMS WEBSITE)
TO READ THE REST OF THE STORY:**

[link](#)

Columbine High School Shooting

By Natalie Dickinson

On April 20, 1999, Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold arrived at Columbine High School wearing black trench coats. Under their coats, they were carrying a variety of weapons such as assault rifles, sawed-off shotguns, handguns, and homemade grenades. At 11:15 they opened fire in the school's parking lot, shooting multiple students. Next, the shooters made their way into the school's cafeteria where one of them tossed a pipe bomb into the room. After going around the school attacking multiple parts of the building they went to the library and one of them shouted, "All jocks stand up! We're going to kill every one of you." 20 minutes after the shooting started, the police arrived and at around noon and ambulances began transporting wounded students to hospitals as the parking lot filled with bomb teams, SWAT teams, fire trucks, and paramedic units. Then finally at 12:30, the shooting stopped after the shooters took their own lives in the school's library. In the end, the shooters killed fourteen students, including themselves, and one teacher. This shooting was a major turning point in the US because it raised awareness and influenced other acts of violence and resulted in the development of better security measures.

Evolving Technology and Nuclear Weapons Through the Eyes of Honduras

By: Natalie Dickinson and Lily Ella Hoffman

The advancement of technology plays a vital role in the development of humanity. Technology is responsible for crucial improvement steps throughout history that propel society forward, and we must continue to advance it. While technology is essential there are two sides to it. Nuclear weapons are responsible for the deaths of almost 34 million people and if not obliterated, could end up possibly annihilating 4% of the global population. However, they can stop or win a war.

As a poorer country, Honduras is trying to develop by embracing new technology that could help other developing countries worldwide, but the evolution of nuclear weapons is not benefiting the world, it's destroying it. Our goal is to embrace technology to promote our economy and support the growth of our country. We are improving many aspects of our digital world such as telecommunications and software development. While the growth of our country is dependent on technology we have also taken measures to stop the use of nuclear weapons.

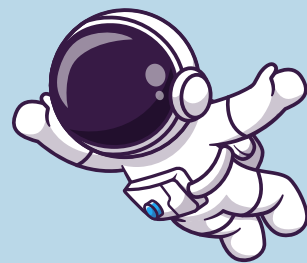
In recent years, significant efforts have been made to help the disarmament of nuclear weapons, such as the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), an agreement our nation has signed as a proactive step to eliminate nuclear arms. In addition, a coalition of 25 countries has also signed the International Partnership for Nuclear Disarmament Verification (IPNDV) to support nuclear disarmament initiatives. The UN also has goals for evolving technology by defining how its systems will support robotics, artificial intelligence, and biotechnology, as they hold incredible promise for the advancement of human welfare. Honduras has also adopted evolving technologies and used them in public service and health care, as well as expanding the internet to rural areas.

To stop the spread of nuclear weapons, we must limit their use and establish rules for them. While these could vary between countries, some limits that could be put into effect could be how many nuclear weapons a country can have. Another could be limiting the importation of nuclear weapons or imposing a higher tax on them, which could, over time, reduce the spread of nuclear weapons. An alternate solution is to use technology to our advantage. We could propose other ways to test nuclear weapons by using technology to replicate them or by finding more humane ways to handle conflict. To find funding for this we can turn to organizations such as The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) which has already been ratified by 73 countries and won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2017.

The world needs technology and its evolution is vital for the development of mankind. Technology discoveries have helped our country as well as many others; without them, we can't move forward. However, evolving technology isn't nuclear weapons. It isn't the death or murder of innocent people. Nuclear weapons aren't the way to win a war or end a conflict. Nuclear weapons are another word for manslaughter. Supporting nuclear weapons is supporting the mass killing of innocent lives.

MOON TOWN: CAPITAL OF HUMANITY

BY LULU BOLSTAD



The year 2137, and two astronauts shot up through the atmosphere as millions watched, on a mission that would change the lives of humanity forever.

Mia squealed, looking through the window of the International Space Station. In her hand she held a tube of cake paste. It was squirting out of her hand in excitement.

“Oops. Want some tube cake?” She brushed her dark brown curls off of her face.

“I’ll pass.” Said Mathew, a disgusted expression on his face. He wasn’t as excited as he thought he would be. “I’m not really into paste-food. I prefer something solid.”

Mia frowned, her excitement fading away as she realized she was stuck in space with this hummer. “Well get used to it. It’s gonna be a long time before we get more of that.”

Mathew rolled his eyes, and from the corner of his blue eyes he saw a red, blinking button. He walked, I mean, floated over to it and brought it down to eyelevel.

“Uhh, Mia.” He turned his head to face her, flipping his sandy-brown hair out of the way.

“What’s this?”

“Hmm?” She looked over from slurping up the pink liquid from the tube of cake. “What’s what?”

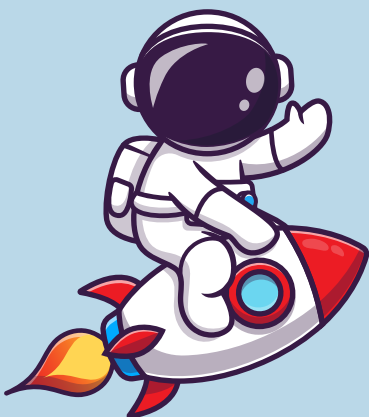
“This little button. What’s it mean?”

She gasped and floated over as fast as she could. She pressed some buttons, and soon, the whole world was looking into the space station. Back on earth, every billboard, Cell phone, and computer was playing a live video from the ISS.

“Peoples of the Earth.” She sounded serious, and her brown eyes looked directly into the screen. “An asteroid is set to hit earth in three days. We will contact NASA and try to evacuate everyone to.. The moon. In three days, please start packing up your belongings. More news will come soon. Stay safe.”

To Be Continued

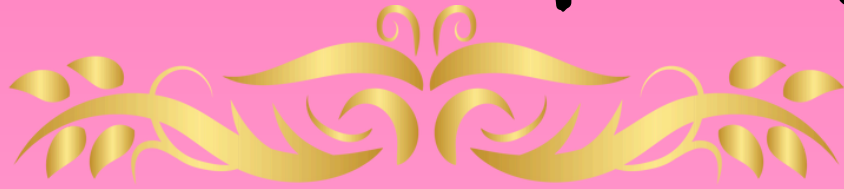
Read the Next Polaris edition to find out what happens to our brave astronauts!



POSTER MADE BY
SOPHIA ROZARIO

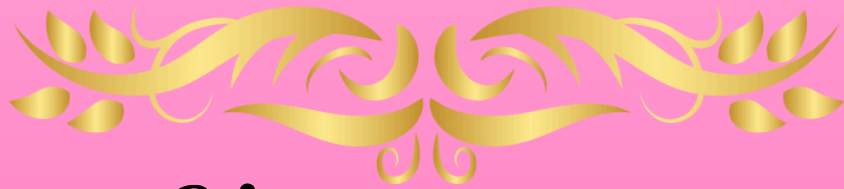


The Drama Club is putting on...



Legally Blonde Jr

The Musical



Showing on
March 21-23



Spring Word Search

BLOSSOM
 BLOOM
 FLOWERS
 RAIN
 SHOWERS
 EASTER
 SPRING BREAK
 GRASS
 HATCH
 BIRDS
 SUNSHINE
 SEASON
 MARCH
 APRIL
 MAY

N L M O R D Y S M B M O O L B
 N I A R M E L E S E E A W O G
 U O Y E L O S E A S O N M S S
 L M L I O D N E K L A Y R P H
 H C T A H I N G Q L D B R K U
 U T P E H O O D I O O I F C L
 Y T I S R E T R M D N T R E U
 V W N A O E P J T G N E D X V
 E U G R N A D M B R A Y A T E
 S L M E U B G R T A S O U P A
 R E F G L C E B T S I R G A S
 B A L Y B A E N O S R E H R T
 Y A O I K D O O H R E H O H E
 U Y W E M S H O W E R S E D R
 C H E F A M C L Y O G D R E S
 X L R O V Z R C O J B R I N O
 F I S E A R A K S L E I O E L
 B L O S S O M C B J W B M O B

JOKES AND RIDDLES!

BY LULU BOLSTAD

QUESTION: WHAT'S BLACK AND WHITE AND GREEN AND BLACK AND WHITE?

ANSWER: TWO PENGUINS FIGHTING OVER A PICKLE!

RIDDLE: WHAT FLIES WITHOUT WINGS AND CRIES WITHOUT TEARS?

ANSWER: A CLOUD!

QUESTION: WHAT IS A HUGE PILE OF CATS CALLED?

ANSWER: A MEOW-NTAIN!

RIDDLE: WHAT TWO THINGS CAN YOU NEVER EAT FOR BREAKFAST?

ANSWER: LUNCH AND DINNER!

QUESTION: WHY ARE TEDDY BEARS NEVER HUNGRY?

ANSWER: BECAUSE THEY'RE ALWAYS STUFFED!

RIDDLE: NOBODY EMPTIES ME, BUT I NEVER STAY FULL FOR LONG. WHAT AM I?

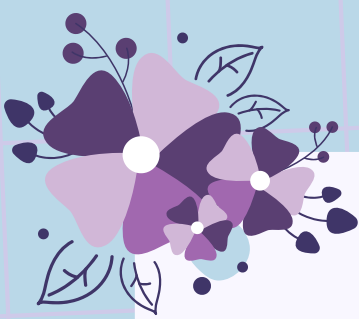
ANSWER: THE MOON!



THE LAST EXPLORER

BY LULU BOLSTAD

TRANSFORMED, THE EARTH WAS A BARREN WASTELAND FROM THE LUCIOUS, GREEN FORESTS THAT USED TO SPREAD ACROSS THE NOW DRY DESERT. ONE EXPLORER REMAINS, EVERYONE ELSE RETREATING TO THEIR HOUSE AT THE FIRST SIGN OF THE BURNING SUN. THEY WERE OUT AT NIGHT, HUMANITY EVOLVING WITH THE WEATHER. THEY WENT TO SCHOOL AT NIGHT, AND WERE PICKED UP AT THE CRACK OF DAWN. THIS ONE IS THE ONLY ONE OUTSIDE IN THE WEATHER, THEIR DUST MASK ADORNING HER FACE AS THEY GLIDE THROUGH THE DAWN HORIZON, FOR THEY ARE THE ONLY ONE BRAVE ENOUGH TO BE OUT IN THE DAY. CHILDREN WATCH HER CAUTIOUSLY, LOOKING UP FROM THEIR SCHOOL BOOKS TO WISH THEY HAD BEEN OUTSIDE. THEY INSTEAD HAD HEAVILY COOLED PLAYGROUND AREAS INSIDE, WITH SOFT PADDED FLOORS AND A LONG SLIDE WITH BRIGHT RED PLASTIC.



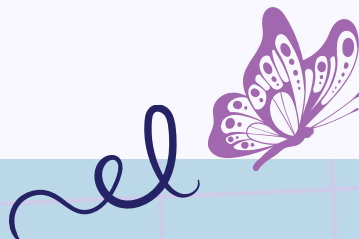
Short Story
by Mahika P-K



The smell of freshly cut grass and clean laundry filled the air as she walked down the street. Reaching the park, she looked around and saw a rainbow of different flowers and plants. Chipmunks running in the rustling dry leaves, children in the distance playing soccer as the first waves of autumn came to light in the afternoon sun. As the sun shined brightly through the tall trees, Lumi walked up the large hill on the path she had learned so well she could walk it in her sleep. Slowly, the forest got darker and filled with shadows, all signs of forest life disappearing as the dark wood of the crooked trees came into view; the cemetery.



link to full story below:
[Flickering Flames](#)



Eternal Difference

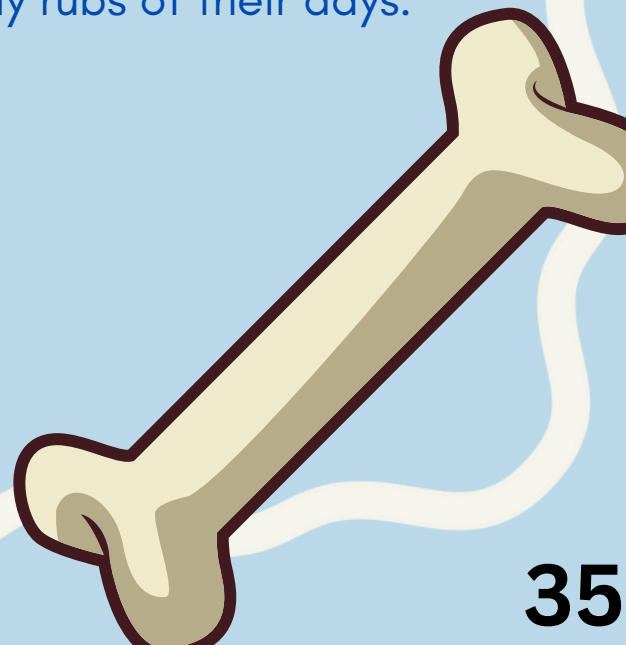
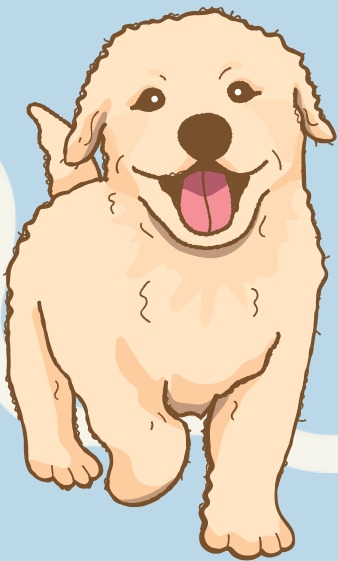
by Neela P

Content with the night
Yet awaiting the day
Been fed so full
But hunger still stays
Surrounded by peers
Yet finding solitude
Always looked over
But never understood
A perfect happy face
Masking authentic despair
Not one can fight fate
Life is never fair

OPTIMISTIC SCIENCE STORIES



A scientific study was done with Scientific American and Harvard University Dream researcher Deirdre Barret, the author of the famous text, *The Committee of Sleep*. They studied what your pets do and don't dream about! Their studies showed how dogs and cats sleep which is a type of sleep called Rapid Eye Movement (REM) sleep. REM sleep is when a person or animal's heart rate, blood pressure, and brain activity increase and your eyes quite literally move rapidly under your eyelids. This stage of sleep is where most dreams occur and is almost guaranteed in humans. From this, it is often believed that dogs and cats dream in this way. But do they dream about us? Philosopher, David Pena-Guzman from San Francisco State University and writer of the book, *When Animals Dream*, believes that just like us who dream about our day or memories we can recall, a dog would probably dream about the smells, sights, and belly rubs of their days.



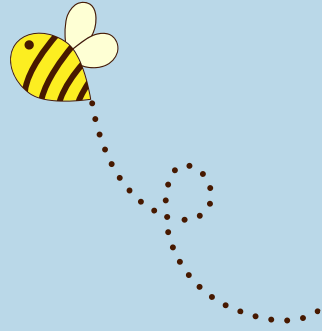


POEMS

By-Minduni pahathkumbura

Spring 

**I WAKE UP IN THE MORNING,
WHEN THE SUN POURS ON ME
I GOT OUT OF BED,
WHEN THE BIRDS ARE SINGING WITH ME.**



**I HAVE MY BREAKFAST,
AND PUT ON MY CLOTHES ON FAST,
I RUN AND RUN AND I RUN, OUT OF THE HOUSE.**



**I RUN TO THE MEADOW
SINGING, DANCING AND TWIRLING
THE WIND IS SWIRLING
AROUND ME AS I SKIP
I WILL SKIP, SKIP AND SKIP
TILL I DROP.**

**I LAY UNDER A TREE,
WHICH IS FULL OF LEAVES
I SIP A CUP OF TEA
AS THE WIND BLOWS, WHEEEEE!**



**I RUN INTO THE MEADOW,
THE FLOWERS BLOOMING HIGH
IN THE FAR DISTANCE
AS I SEE THE SUN SET,
“IT’S TIME TO GO HOME NOW.”
THE SUN SAYS TO ME.**



The Moon 🌙

**IT’S ROUND AND BIG
WITH A BIG,BIG FACE
IT GLOWS AT NIGHT
WITH A LITTLE HELP.
FROM THE SUN.**

**YOU CAN SEE ME
ALL OVER THE WORLD,
ALL THE CHILDREN
LOOK AT ME ONLY AT NIGHT.**

**WHEN IT’S CLOUDY
I’M NOT TO BE SEEN,
CHILDREN ARE DISAPPOINTED
SO “GO AWAY CLOUDS!”**



Apple pie

**IN THE MORNING
I SMELL SOMETHING,
WHAT'S THAT?
IT'S GRANDMA'S APPLE PIE!**

**I GO TO THE KITCHEN
WAITING TO SEE
THE BIG FAT APPLE PIE
ON THE TABLE IT LAYS
ON A ROUND DISH, WITH A SPOON.**

**GRANDMA SAYS, "HERE YOU GO."
WHILE I SAY, "YUM,YUM!"
WHILE I EAT THE APPLE PIE
GRANDMA SITS BESIDE ME,
"HOW IS IT?" SHE ASKS,
"DELICIOUS!/" I SAY.**



Have You Ever Wondered?

By-Minduni Pahathkumbura



1. Have you ever wondered why oranges, carrots and pumpkins are orange?

- The orange color of many fruits and vegetables, such as carrots, pumpkins, and oranges, comes from carotene, a type of photosynthetic pigment. These pigments convert the light energy that the plants absorb from the Sun into chemical energy for the plants' growth.

2. Have you ever wondered why cats climb into boxes?

- They do it to feel safe, according to Live Science. And it's not just your domestic tabby: Big cats also like to hide in a spot where nothing can sneak up on them. Susan Bass, director of public relations at Big Cat Rescue in Tampa, Florida, told Mental Floss that the tigers and other cats at the sanctuary will hop into any box big enough to hold them, just like the little kitty living at your house does.



3. Have you ever wondered why seashells sound like the ocean?

- The shape of seashells allows them to capture and reflect ambient noise, amplifying certain frequencies, so when you hold one to your ear, you're really just hearing echoes of the quiet sounds that are already surrounding you.



4. Have you ever wondered why we always see the same face of the moon?

- Here on Earth, we can always see the “man in the moon” because the same surface faces toward us no matter where the moon is in its orbit. That’s because the moon is tidally locked with Earth, meaning that our gravitational pull keeps it rotating on its axis at a speed that’s coordinated with its orbit around our planet. We humans didn’t get a look at the moon’s other side until 1959, when the Soviet Luna spacecraft took the first photos and scientists realized it’s much different: There are few large lava seas, like the ones on the side facing us, and many more impact craters.



5. Have you ever wondered why squirrels chase one another?

- When they go on mad sprints up and down trees and across your yard and deck, they’re probably working out their hierarchy, according to Live Science. Squirrel expert Michael Steele of Wilkes University in Pennsylvania tells the website that the most common U.S. species—the Eastern gray squirrel—doesn’t tend to be territorial but does like to let everyone know who’s boss. Not too surprisingly, young squirrels also like to chase one another around for fun, just as puppies do.



6. Have you ever wondered why some people are left-handed?

- About 90 percent of humans are right handed, and it's not at all clear why that proportion continues to hold. If there were a major evolutionary advantage to being left-handed, more people would have the trait; if there were a clear disadvantage, it would disappear. The latest thinking among scientists is that a large number of different genes affect handedness, according to Smithsonian Magazine. Many of the genes that have been studied play a part in the body's left-right symmetry, and certain mutations can lead to unusual organ placements (like the heart being on the right side instead of the left).



7. Have you ever wondered how birds know where to migrate?

- Forty percent of bird species migrate every year, with some traveling tens of thousands of miles. (Arctic terns fly about 50,000 miles every year, from pole to pole.) Migrating birds can even find their destinations if researchers make them start from unusual locations, according to an article in the Conversation by Richard Holland, senior lecturer in animal cognition at Bangor University. How do they do it? Holland and his team published a study suggesting that some songbirds use a magnetic map to navigate long distances, but nobody knows how they can detect the Earth's magnetic field.

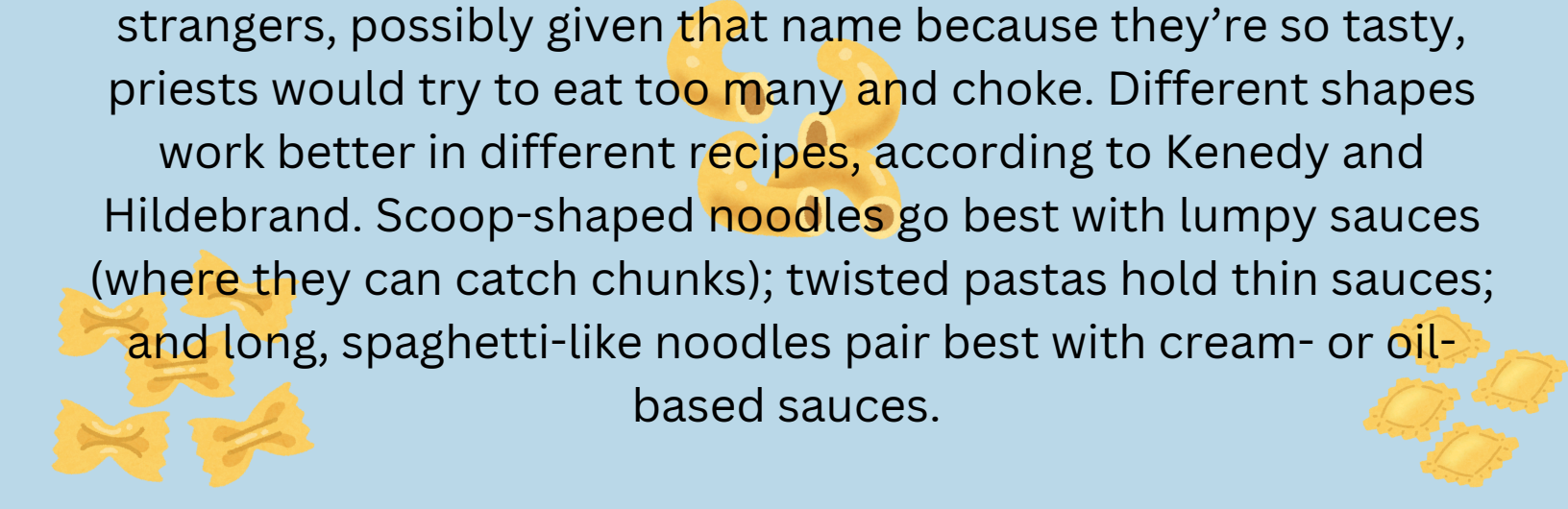
8. Have you ever wondered why we say “cheese” when we’re having our picture taken?

- Saying the word cheese does make you pull your lips back and show your teeth, so if you're trying to get a lot of people to at least approximate smiling at the same time, it's a good start.





9. Have you ever wondered why there are so many pasta shapes?

- Some come from industrial tools; eliche are screws, and fusilli are spindles. And then there are the strozzapreti, or priest strangers, possibly given that name because they're so tasty, priests would try to eat too many and choke. Different shapes work better in different recipes, according to Kenedy and Hildebrand. Scoop-shaped noodles go best with lumpy sauces (where they can catch chunks); twisted pastas hold thin sauces; and long, spaghetti-like noodles pair best with cream- or oil-based sauces.
- 

10. Have you ever wondered why a smiley face symbolizes happiness?

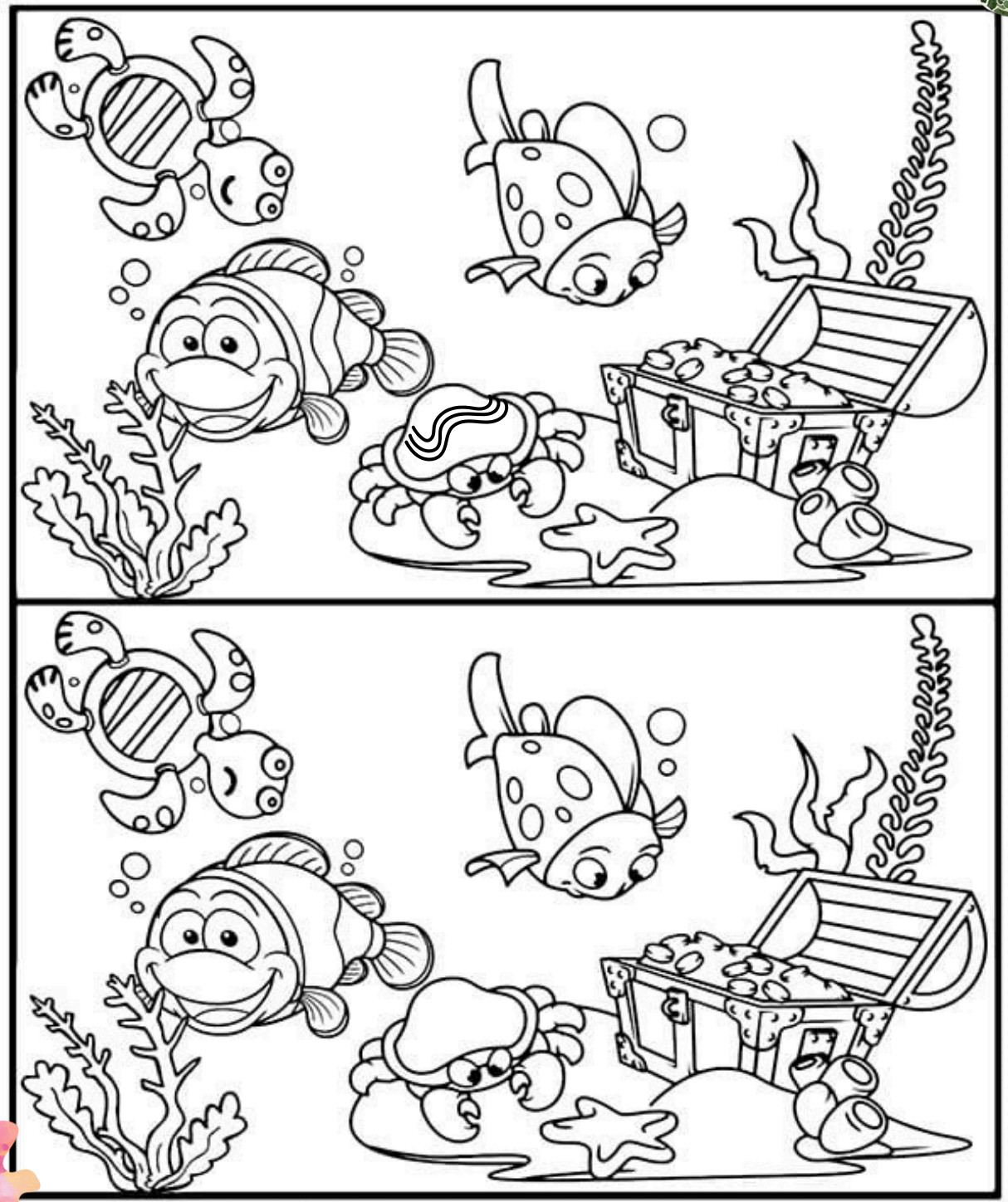
- After an insurance company in Worcester, Massachusetts, went through a series of tough transitions in 1963, it hired a graphic designer to create an image to boost morale. The designer came up with a smiling face on a yellow background. At first, it was just printed around the office to put a smile on everyone's face, but it quickly gained popularity. Now its positive message reaches across the world.



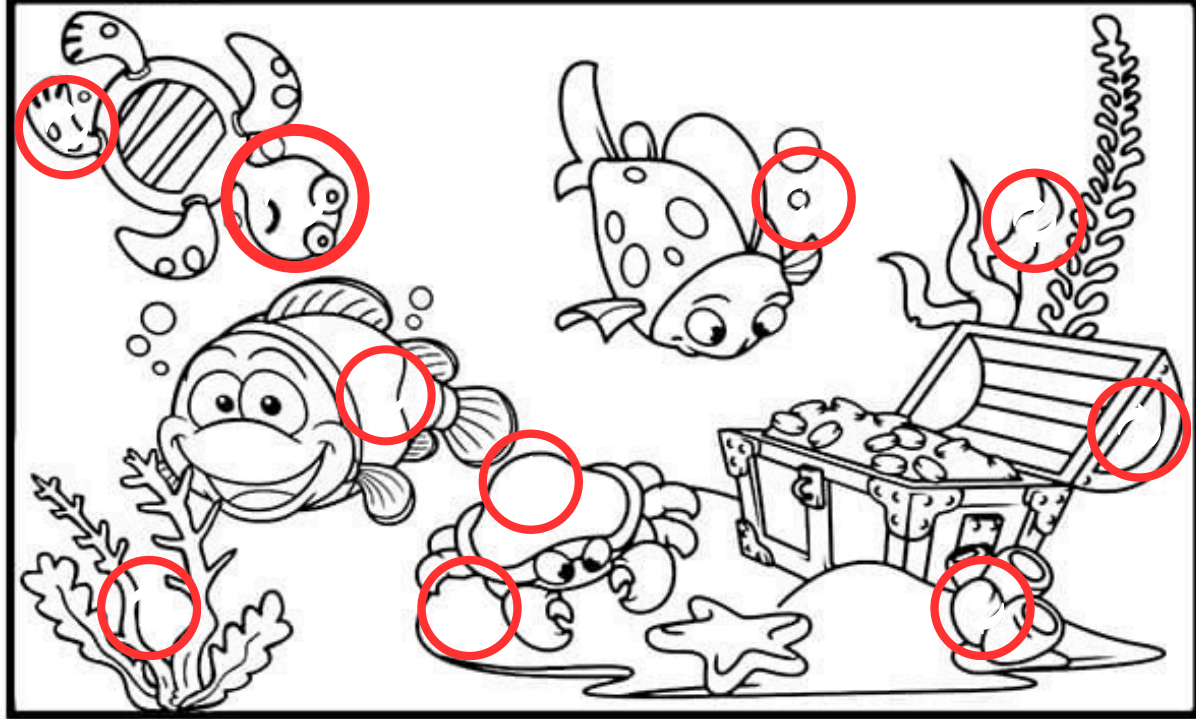
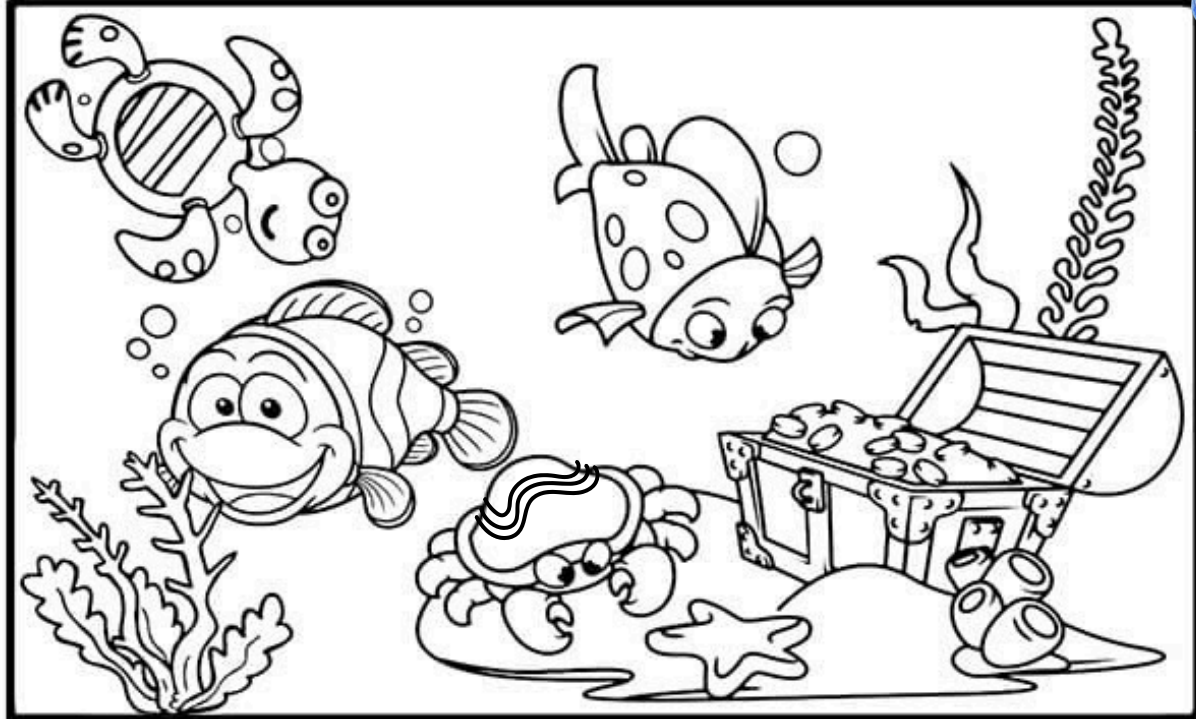
Spot The Difference

~~There are 10 differences~~

By-Minduni Pahathkumbura



Find the answer on the next page....

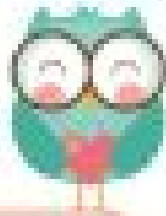


By: Kalista

Name: _____

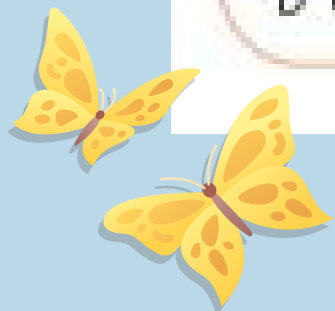
Date: _____

Find the February Words



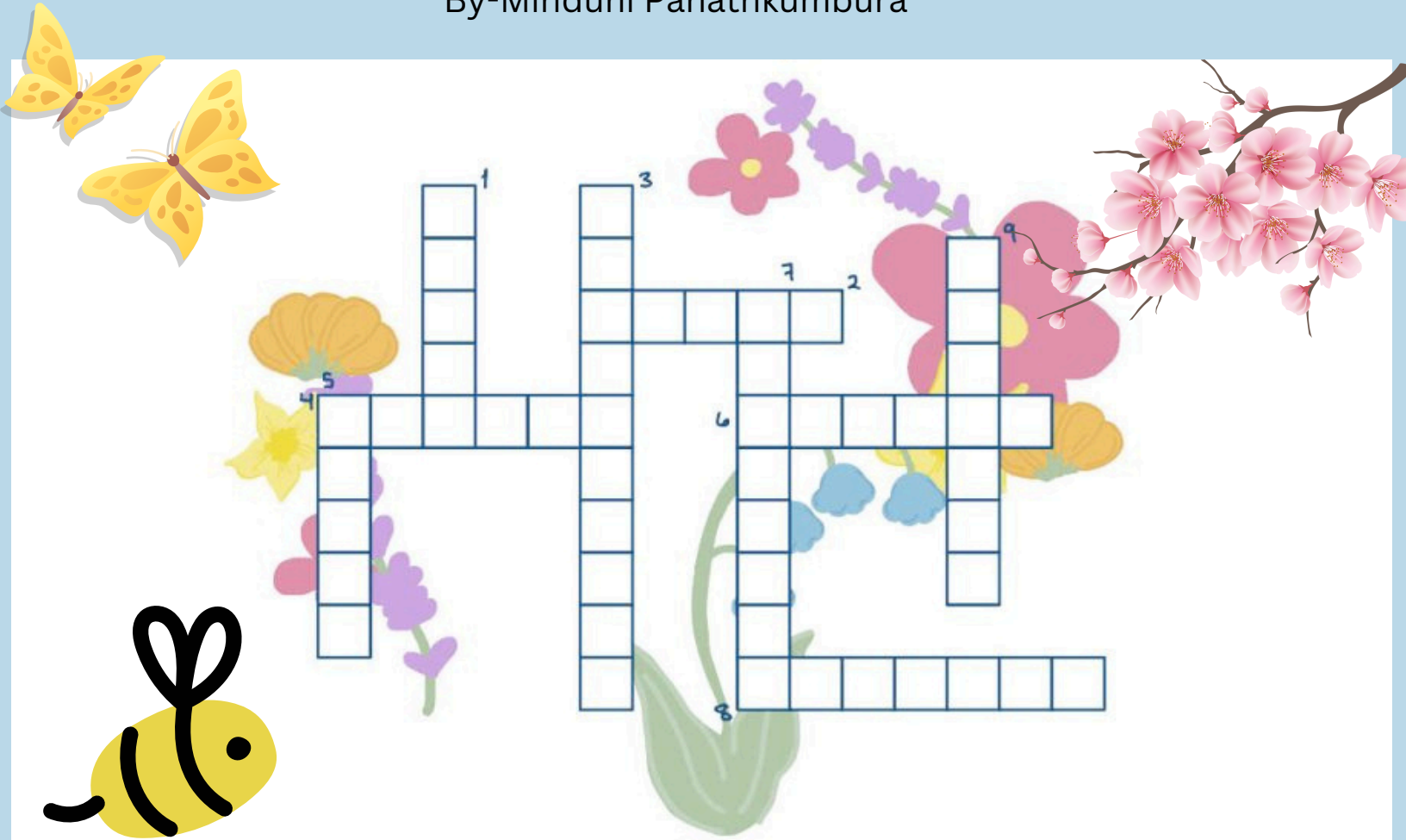
S	H	A	D	O	W	J	G	S	K	W	E
O	N	I	K	N	T	F	X	K	L	W	J
K	M	R	Y	L	O	B	W	B	W	I	Y
W	X	K	E	O	W	I	S	W	E	E	T
A	H	R	J	C	Y	Y	M	B	F	L	G
J	B	I	O	T	C	D	R	V	J	S	U
S	D	Y	H	O	C	H	C	G	A	C	G
X	Z	V	G	M	H	W	A	A	W	A	I
W	Y	B	H	U	G	S	Z	P	R	N	V
Q	I	A	F	E	W	T	V	A	P	D	Q
S	C	N	D	Z	A	V	Z	N	Z	Y	S
L	G	X	T	Y	S	R	O	K	E	X	H
C	E	F	X	E	X	C	T	W	F	U	N
V	O	F	E	B	R	U	A	R	Y	Z	O
Y	Q	L	Y	W	P	S	X	R	S	B	K
T	N	D	D	K	I	S	S	R	F	F	D
X	J	H	P	W	N	C	R	A	P	V	K
P	K	C	X	O	K	M	I	A	D	X	M
C	E	V	X	S	W	P	I	C	N	I	C
B	S	U	G	G	Q	J	U	E	L	P	P
R	D	J	B	E	X	E	O	Y	L	E	J
D	O	L	O	V	E	J	O	F	S	Y	D

- Cold
- Heart
- Love
- Shadow
- Winter
- February
- Scarf
- Icicle
- Hugs
- Sweet
- Kiss
- Fun
- Candy
- Cards
- Pink
- Happy
- Picnic



Spring Crossword

By-Minduni Pahathkumbura



Down

1. April _____ Day
3. A spring bloom where more flowers bloom than usual
5. _____ Day- A day that celebrates the environment
7. Major Jewish Spring holiday
9. Appears in the sky after it rains

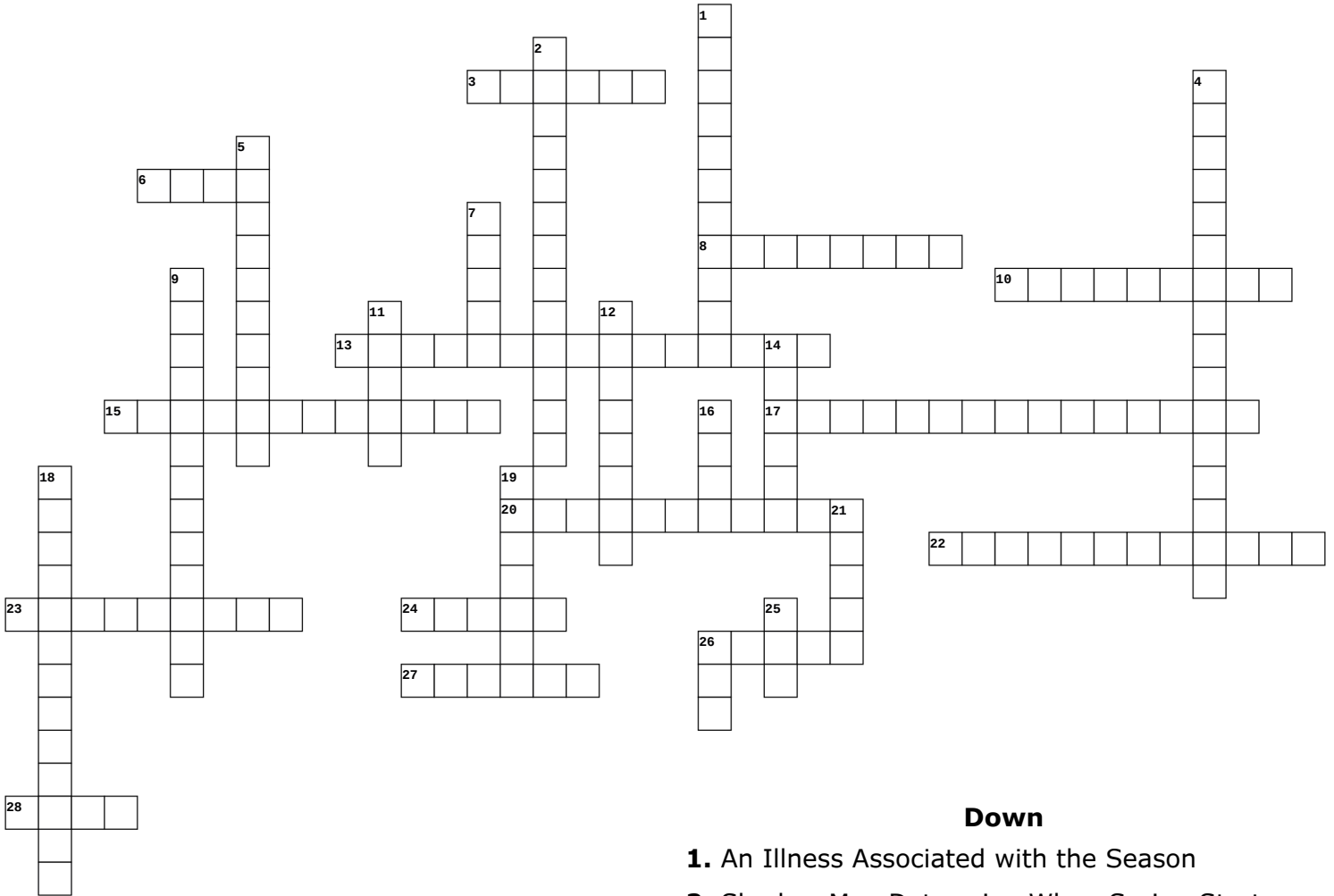
Across

2. California's state flower
4. Holiday Associated with a big bunny
6. The season of flowers blooming
8. The ninth month of the Muslim calendar and the holy month of fasting (reword-copied)



Spring Has Sprung

By : Mimi Ly



Across

3. A Natural Place to Take a Drink
6. Color of the Egg of the First Bird of Spring
8. Environmental Holiday in Spring
10. Spring Sniffles
13. Support
15. Day of the Vernal Equinox
17. April Showers Bring
20. Bird of Spring
22. Holiday of Spring
23. Last Snow of Spring
24. Birth of a new flower
26. An Avian Sound of Spring
27. State that Does Not Recognize Daylight Savings Time
28. Baby Mammal of Spring

Down

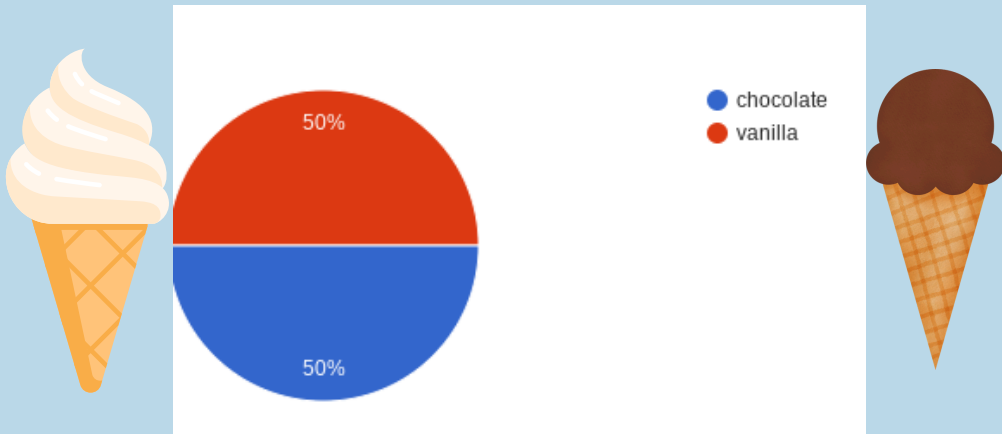
1. An Illness Associated with the Season
2. Shadow May Determine When Spring Starts
4. Founding Father Who First Proposed Daylight Savings Time
5. The Greek Goddess of Spring
7. In This Country Spring Begins with the First Cherry Blossom Bloom
9. Spring Festival in Washington DC
11. Fools Day Spring Holiday for Pranks
12. One of the First Spring Flowers
14. Season Marking the End of Spring
16. Bovine Baby of Spring
18. What You do to Your Clocks in April
19. State that Does Not Recognize Daylight Savings Time
21. One of the First Spring Flowers
25. Skunk Baby of Spring
26. Baby Mammal of Spring

SURVEY RESULTS

IF YOU COULD CHOOSE ONE THING IN THE WORLD TO HAVE WHAT WOULD IT BE?

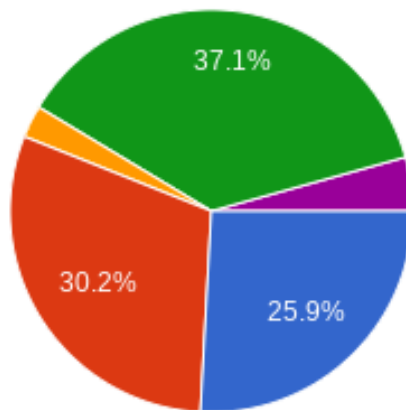
MAJORITY: MONEY \$

WHICH IS BETTER CHOCOLATE OR VANILLA?



What is your favorite type of candy?

116 responses

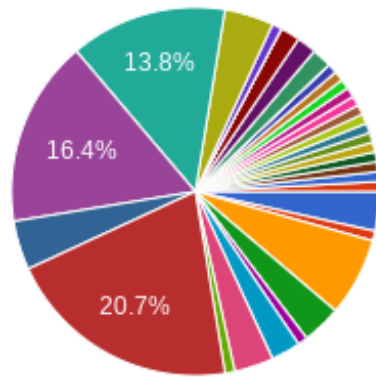


- sour candy
- chocolate
- hard candy
- All of the above
- None



What is your favorite type of fruit?

116 responses



- Apple
- Banana
- Cherries
- Pear
- Apricot
- Cantaloupe
- Grape
- Blueberry

▲ 1/5 ▼

- Raspberry
- Blackberry
- Cranberry
- Dragonfruit- It's really
- pomegranate
- Kumquat
- ALL OF THEM
- ALL FRUIT CUZ IM N

▲ 3/5 ▼

- I HATE FRUIT
- jocote/mango
- A banana that is still a
- Peach
- Mango & Pineapple
- All of the above exce
- all of them!!!
- I love jocote and pine

▲ 4/5 ▼

- Mango
- Pineapple
- Strawberry
- Watermelon
- Avocado
- Oranges
- Grapefruit
- Kiwi

▲ 2/5 ▼

LAKE MIRROR AVENUE

Has it ever happened to you to see your reflection in a lake or river?

Well I'm sure it's very common for everyone. It all happened two months ago, I was riding my bike home after school the day before spring break. I decided to go a different way because there was road work on my usual route. It was so quiet you could hear the wind whistling and lots of trees and plants, there were no flowers just yet since it was the beginning of spring. I didn't know the way very well so I stumbled across plenty of rocks and suddenly fell on the ground, hands first the rocks going through my hand full of scratches and blood. I looked for water about to cry and I ran over to the lake but I tripped on my bike, chin hit by rocks, clumsy me I thought. It's the same pain that I felt on my hands, burning and itchy. I dipped my hands and my whole head in the lake. It was itchy and it hurted at first but then I was able to get myself together again. I thought of rearranging my hairstyle but I couldn't because there was no reflection of myself on the lake. I was intrigued and I thought it was because of the trees or I was too close to the lake. After several attempts to see my reflection I gave up. I went back home, not riding my bike because my hands were in no condition to do such a thing. I just pushed my bike, spending 15 minutes trying to figure out a way to get home with this unknown road. I finally arrived at home when there was a note on the counter saying; hey Laney I went to the grocery store to buy some stuff, so take care of Allisten while I'm gone. Aunt Lila had never written a note that long or she could have just texted me but I guess I didn't notice since I fell. Allisten was a cousin that I always lived with like a sister, she was seven and loved ballet. "Hey Laney, what's up?" Allisten asked. "Nothing much, kiddo. Don't you have homework to do?" I asked.

Allisten could feel I didn't want her around at the moment but I just got hurt and the fact that I could not see my reflection on the lake was still occupying my mind. Allisten shrugged her shoulders and went into the kitchen to grab herself some yogurt. I rushed to the bathroom looking straight in the mirror, relieved I could perfectly see myself. Messy brown golden hair, halfway at the shoulder. I was 4 feet with a pointy nose and green eyes. A few seconds later I heard a voice, "Laney, your time is coming soon." said the voice like a creepy whisper. I looked behind me but there was no one. "Who are you? What do you want?" I asked. I felt a cold wind brushing against my neck, "We will come get you, so be aware of the lake." I had tons of questions in mind. Like what lake or was this connecting to what happened today? Suddenly letters in white began to appear on the mirror saying; dont; approach anywhere near a lake or reflection or they will try to erase you. Right after I finished reading the message it disappeared and the sink started running. I was frightened, and maybe that voice was right or maybe this was a dream. A word was written on my scar of when I fell, it said Timpson. Maybe the voice's name was Timpson so I yelled out, "Timpson?" I was starting to think it was a joke but it's not halloween and I didn't know anyone named Timpson until I remembered. Old stories that aunt Lila used to tell me about my great, great , great grandpa who owned a mansion near a lake. I ran downstairs and looked at old album photos. The lake looked oddly similar to the one I washed my face in and the mansion had a beautiful architecture and there was the name Timpson at the bottom of the picture. I turned the page and there was a little message or poem, "It looks fragile, but it quickly goes away like a reflection in the lake." I said out loud. The name Timpson was signed off at the bottom of the page. I knew and remembered Timpson, my great, great, great grandpa who was found dead on the lake but he was floating. I needed to go to that mansion and figure out what the mirror or voice meant to say and exactly what it meant. I thought about it all afternoon. Aunt Lila seemed a little concerned but I had all spring break to figure this out before I might get erased.

By Zelda Snellgrove

This is a link to a survey about names:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScrOdV3gpqvSOvKBKNDRK1PYRgmDjju-VA2HRbNiAis4LUQqw/viewform?usp=dialog>

**Enter this into your chromebook to be
a part of the answers to the survey
answers**