# FVikinç Runes F B < MMPXH | 9 < PM + SC PR STOPPXPT

#### Viewmont High School's Literary Magazine — Bountiful, Utah — January 2019

Airplane by Alec Britte

've always loved the airport aesthetic. The morning light through the glass windows, the color grey-white scheme: everything feels so clean cut. It's fresh and it's new-an accurate feeling for those here



who are flying away and starting a whole new life. As for me, I'm just flying to Washington to see my family. Not as fresh and new, but something I'm still excited for. Coffee and luggage in hand, I walk to the gate as the plane starts boarding.

"Enjoy your flight!" says the attendant, handing my ticket back to me. I smile and nod back.

I sit down and find myself next to an older man and a younger kid. They are sitting on opposite ends of the aisle, so I figure they aren't together. The kid next to me seems too young to travel on his own. He probably has a family somewhere else on the plane. There's a slight delay on the flight, so, like the kid, I whip out my phone and browse Twitter, while the older man pounds away at his laptop.

It's about an hour into the flight now, and I realize how much of a mistake it was to skip the bathroom. I excuse myself as I sneak out of the aisle and walk towards the back to the restrooms. Washing my hands in the sink, I stare at my reflection.

"I need a haircut."

I stumble, but catch myself; the floor is shaking. The noise of the plane is loud, but one initial "boom" leaves me dazed and light-headed. I rush out of the bathroom and back to my seat, where I grab the air mask and put it on as fast as possible. My heart is racing and my mind's going even faster. Will I survive? Is this gonna blow over? Will I see my family again? I sit there in panic for what seems like forever, until a flight attendant calls over the intercom.

I definitely hear the words "experimental parachutes" in there. I see others reach under their seats, and I follow.

As I'm putting on the parachute, I look over to see the kid in tears and notice he doesn't have a parachute. I look around and try to find an attendant and see a woman in tears running towards our aisle. I realize what I'm going to have to do. I take off my parachute and help the kid put it on. The mother grabs his hand, looks at me for a moment, then rushes off with him.

Everything is still shaking. The lights are dim. The noises are ringing in my ears, and with the kid I watch my life run away from me. This is it. I don't think I've ever felt more alone in my life. Until I feel a hand on my shoulder.

"Go," the older man says to me, holding out his parachute.

I take it from him, put it on, and hug him, tears in my eyes. He sits back down, and I follow the crowd.

The man's name was John Rodgers. He was 76 and had a family living in Florida. The more I found out about him the more guilt I felt, but there was really nothing much I could do. I was able to find his wife, Mary Rodgers, on Facebook. I typed out a message telling her about what had happened on the flight, and how her husband had saved my life. I figured it was the least I could do to help. Weeks passed with no response. She hadn't even opened the message. Every day I would check on the message, and every day my heart would sink deeper.

Weeks passed until I got a message, but it was not from who I expected. It was from a woman named Nicole Hayden, and it brought me to tears. Her son had told her about what I did on the flight, and, after weeks of searching, she had finally found me on Facebook. She had sent me paragraph upon paragraph of thanks, sharing many details about her son, his favorite food, his hobbies, expressing her endless love for him. She told me that her son was the only real family she had left, and she didn't know what she would do without him. The growing guilt I had felt from the older man was put to rest, and I finally felt at ease.

### Casualty of the Skeleton War

by Morgan Nightingale





### Prompt Response

The prompt from December was as follows:

You're sitting around thinking when you have a revelation. Your eyes widen as you realize the implications of what you've just discovered. You wonder why nobody has ever thought of this before—and then there's a knock at your door.

*"FBI, open up!" They're onto you.* 

What was your revelation? How do you escape?

Thanks to everyone who submitted their responses. Here is our top pick for December's prompt!

## Untitled

by William Kortkamp

It was a quiet day. I sat alone in my room, staring into the dry popcorn ceiling of my apartment, listening to a podcast on my phone. I became hungry, famished at the sight of my ceiling, and I shuffled into my kitchen. I opened my fridge to see my favorite food in the world thirty Cost-Co sized boxes of it: Go-Gurt.

I grabbed a 'gurt from the fridge and began to tear it open. My cat hissed and began to claw at me for food with his thin paws. I gave him a Go-Gurt and devoured the succulent nectar of the gods from my own. In my boredom, I read the label, and I realized something.

"Is Go-gurt just a type of yogurt?" I said aloud.

Suddenly, there was a knock on the door.

"FBI! Open up!" a voice demanded.

Oh no, the fuzz was on to me! I knew that no matter what I did the thought police were in my head. I knew I had to act fast.

I ran to my bedroom and grabbed everything I could, including my laptop. Then I jumped out of my window. I ran to a secluded alley way and began my work.

I opened my laptop to see my next favorite thing: my desktop wallpaper of a K-Pop band. I found my secret program called "Hack.exe."

I opened it and began my work. The prompt on the screen flashed before my eyes:

"What would you like to hack today?" it read.

I typed "F. B. I." The process began immediately.

"I'm in," I said, putting on some shades.

# Untitled

by Becca Love





"Congratulations, you hacked the FBI!" the computer said after a time. I moved the files about my discovery to the recycle bin.

"What would you like to do next?"

I had to make a sacrifice. It was either Go-Gurt or my life. I had to forget, had to get them out of my head.

"What would you like to hack?" the computer asked.

I took a deep breath and typed: "my brain."

And suddenly, I forgot what was happening.

# Writing Prompt

Each month we give Viewmont a writing prompt and ask everyone to respond. The writers with the best submissions will be awarded a certificate and publication in the next month's issue of Viking Runes.

The real prize, of course, is seeing your name in print and knowing that others will read and appreciate your work!

#### January Prompt

A viral video suddenly puts you in the limelight. You're not rich (yet) but you're famous, and people are listening to you. What do you do with your newfound fame?

Submissions should be 250 - 500 words.

Send all work to: <u>ViewmontVikingRunes@gmail.com</u>

# Meme of the Month

by Yuri Checkov



#### Last Month's Puzzle: Answer

In December, you were tasked with solving 3 of these 6 riddles! Congratulations to Zeb Rhodehouse who won the drawing for the \$10 Amazon gift card!

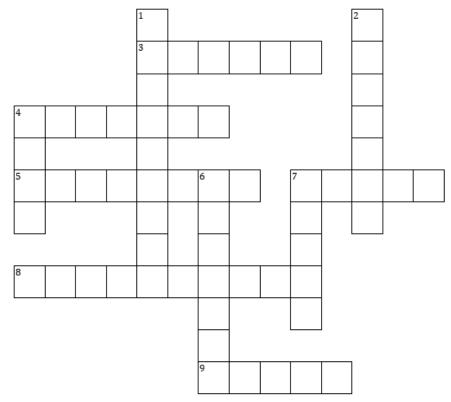
- 1. A hospital
- 11. A book
- **111.** A tree
- **IV.** A car
- **V.** Truth, rules
- Vl. Paper

### January's Puzzle: Crossword

January's puzzle is pretty straightforward, but the prize is the same! Just solve the crossword and send a picture of it to <u>ViewmontVikingRunes@gmail.com</u> to be entered to win the \$10 Amazon gift card.

Make sure you don't leave your solved puzzle laying around, or others might submit it as their own.

The theme for this puzzle is... well, that should be pretty obvious from the questions. Good luck, and be sure to check back next month for more art and puzzles!



#### Across

3. School song: "\_\_\_\_\_ Viewmont High School."

What we all are.

- 5. The play in the Little Theatre this month.
- 7. "All cars must the off the \_\_\_\_\_ by 2:30."
- 8. "A Tradition of \_\_\_\_\_"
- 9. Our principal.

#### Down

- 1. The city our school is in.
- 2. Club dedicated to creating literature.
- 4. Mascot's name.
- 6. Viewmont's annual literary journal.
- 7. Name of this publication.