

THE

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culture

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tco life



discovery

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original artwork by lauren head

K

Cover design by Lauren Head

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The ROCK magazine staff is comprised of TCA Upper School students. Students join *The ROCK* at the beginning of the school year, usually in September, and meet regularly throughout the school year during off periods and outside of school to discuss, decide and execute the magazine's theme, article topics, writing, editing, photography, design and layout. Staffers submit articles for inclusion in each year's issue and also judge/select when there is a call for Middle School and Lower School art and writing submissions for a particular story.

If you have feedback, ideas or suggestions for *The ROCK* or would be interested in joining the magazine staff for the next school year, please contact Kendall Ellis, TCA publications coordinator and *The ROCK* sponsor, at kellis@trinitychristian.org.

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editor's note & dedication

dedicated to

SARAH-GRAHAM TURTLETAUB

When deciding to whom *The ROCK* staff should dedicate its spring 2019 issue, the choice was clear. TCA eighth-grade history/english teacher Sarah-Graham Turtletaub not only had a greatly positive impact on members of the staff in eighth grade, but she has continued to inspire us students throughout our years at the school to learn curiously, think creatively, interact purposefully, lead effectively, and speak truthfully. Miss Turtletaub's productive years at TCA are coming to a close at the end of the 2018-2019 school year, which is another reason the staff chose to dedicate this issue to her, one who encapsulates the ideals of the three sections in this magazine—engagement and impactfulness in the community, willingness and desire to wholly understand people and the events that shape them, and intellectual curiosity toward new and unexplored experiences. Both students and fellow teachers will miss her daily enthusiasm, passion, wit, and thoughtfulness but look forward to having her back as a substitute teacher or even just as a visitor in the years to come. We are excited to see all the things she accomplishes and people she impacts in the future. To Miss Turtletaub, and to all readers—the staff hopes you enjoy the spring 2019 issue of *The ROCK*!





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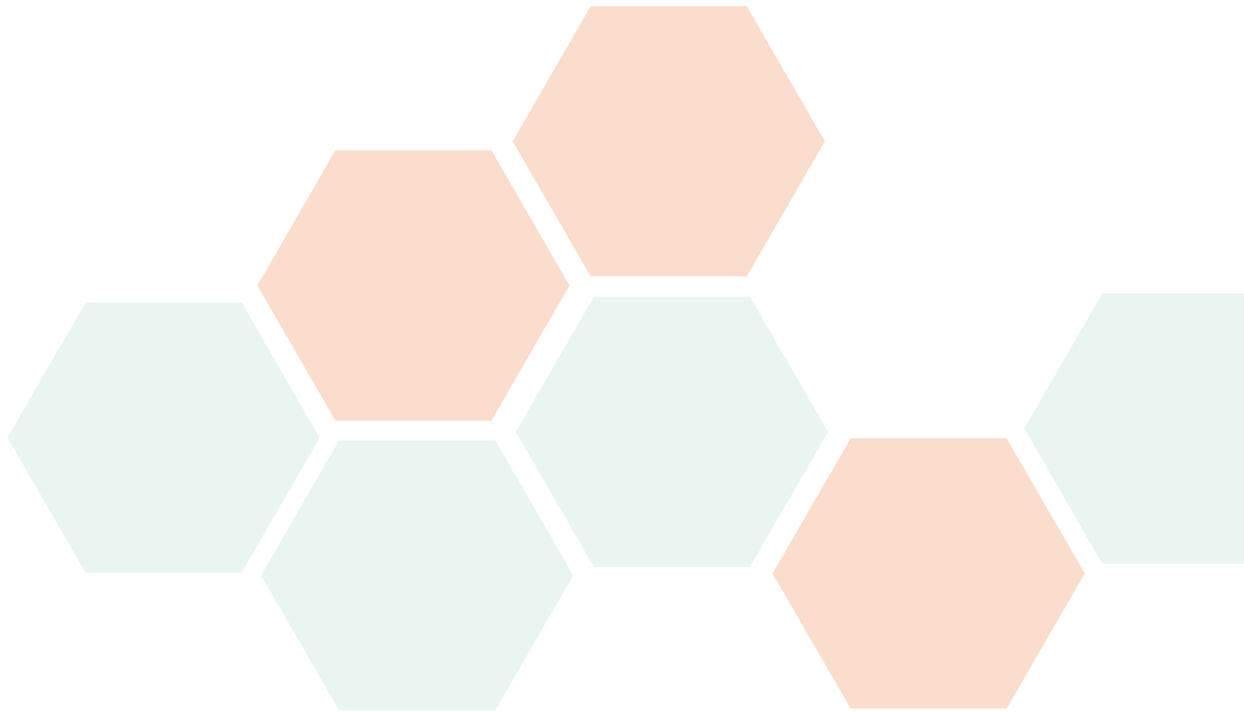


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grant depaoli

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TCA MISSION

Eye-opening. Life Changing. Freeing. These words from the mouths of students and faculty on behalf of the Israel trip illustrate its impact. Led by US Bible teacher Hank Harmon, this trip has proven worthwhile as he personally sees students “finally understand the truth of the Bible” as they walk where Jesus walked. Israel is mentioned 1,842 times in Scripture, and Jerusalem is mentioned 834 times. The Holy Land richly runs throughout the Bible. “The ancient stones themselves cry out with the good news,” shared Mr. Harmon. It is the Promised Land. Speaking with some students, the impact of such a trip became clear. Mia Gradick described this opportunity in a beautiful way, saying that “the Bible comes full circle,” and you begin to “respect each other on a whole other level.” Mia relayed that this trip gave her assurance in the gospel as she visited places where mighty men like David submitted to God. Understanding the power of surrender, Mia devoted herself to living a life of surrender, crying, “Here I am Lord, send me.” Israel is freeing. Returning from such an experience, Blake Mercer explained how visiting places in the Scriptures helped him read and comprehend the Bible better. The Bible transforms from distant stories into intimate realities. This “new lens” has impacted so many people on this trip as they have followed the very footprints of Jesus.

ISRAEL

Enlightening. Inspiring. Moving. These three words have been used to describe the annual Africa trip. Organized and led by Jon Millet, this trip’s mission is to serve the less fortunate and to share God’s Word and His abundant grace. Zach Speck deeply hoped that the trip would “convey even so much as an ounce of God’s love,” and he continued to explain how the trip did much more than that. He described the trip as more than service or outreach, but weeks devoted to love. The trip is “spiritual humbling” with the realities it brings. While spending countless hours of labor and aiding Tanzanians, Zach began to understand that he may never know the lasting impacts of his service years down the line. He will never know if orphanages will stay standing or communities will continue to benefit years later. Despite the uncertainty of the status of the material goods gifted to orphanages, Zach understood that the spiritual outreach would have the lasting impact on the orphans and people. God would supply the rest according to His will. Brielle Stein, a student dedicated to the Africa trip throughout high school, was granted glances into authentic love, and the trip pulled her back to “the roots of what it is to be human.” Brielle communicated that the trip is beyond the “bounds of human language” because it provides a feeling. When exhaustion and irritation became a wall for many on the trip, including herself, Brielle understood the essence of patience. When in the dirty river water, building dams, or hugging orphans, she experienced God as a source of patience and steadiness. The time and labor associated with reaching out to orphanages and people across Tanzania provided many with a raw surrender to God’s time and purposes. The Africa trip rekindles a spark of authentic love that overcomes labor, poverty, and borders.

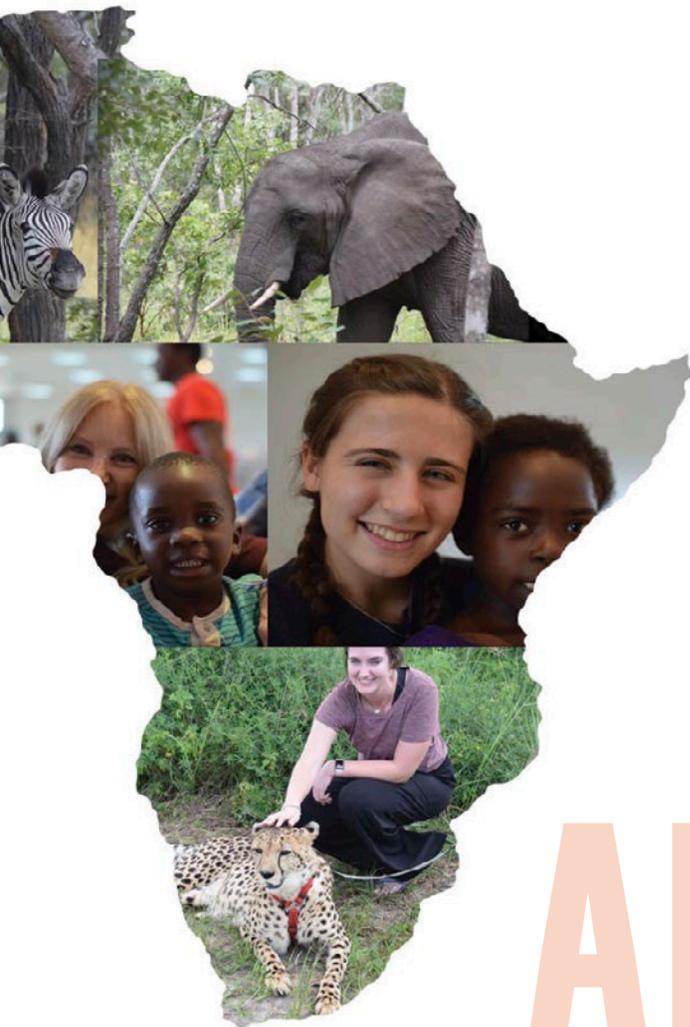
TANZANIA



TRIPS

by Erin Clay

reaching
BEYOND the
Texas **BORDERS**
to extend
GOD'S LOVE



Unforgettable. Fulfilling. Indescribable. Although TCA has not hosted an Amazon trip in recent years, its legacy left lasting changes on students. Lacking compassion from the outside world, villages impacted by the Amazon trip were given special care through medical service, dental services, and ministries for both children and adults all across the Amazon from the students, faculty, and advisors that boarded a river boat. This trip, led by Headmaster Dave Delph and US Bible teacher Steve Williamson, taught many students to appreciate what they have been blessed with. Caroline Tate relayed that even a family whose house was being washed away by the river still lifted their hands in praise of God. Caroline also understood, through the trip, that love, when unable to be expressed by word, can be expressed through action. Even with translators, the language barrier proved tough to work with. Caroline realized she may have to use the action "of a simple hug" to provide villagers with the "overflowing affection of God." The love of God was needed to be expressed in both profound and simple ways to communicate the heart of the gospel. Having her muddy feet washed by the precious water of villagers, Caroline saw the sacrifice of a precious necessity of life. Witnessing moments like these, Deven Gann described them as "something incredible." Alongside such treasured moments, Deven communicated the growth she experienced was also between the people of the Amazon trip. She found new friendships centered around Christ in this service opportunity. The Amazon trip uncovers the essence of gratitude and sacrifice, and such biblical truths even course through the impoverished villages of the Amazon.

AMAZON

students take on the MUSIC INDUSTRY

TCA has always been known for its wonderful music outlets of the choir, band, and worship team. But, several Upper School students have created names for themselves on the music scene outside of TCA as solo artists with published music. We interviewed three seniors, Isaac (I.C.A.) Agumadu, McKenzie (Zie) Moore, and Michelle Raybourn, to ask them about how and why they entered the music industry.



How long have you been into music?

ZIE “I’ve been singing since birth, but the songwriting part came in eighth grade when I decided that I would take my brother’s old guitar and learn how to play it. So, I learned about four chords, and from there I started writing songs.”

MICHELLE “Since I was little. I always had a desire to express my feelings through music. I loved music. I’m named after the Beatles’ song, ‘Michelle.’ I think that’s funny, just because I love music so much, and my parents always had the Beatles or the Beach Boys on in the car, or just always music playing. There’s something really cool about writing your own music—of just authenticity and vulnerability.”

ISAAC “I’d say it started around seventh grade, because that’s when I first started doing music for my church. I was on the worship team there. And then ninth grade is where it kicked off. I was able to finally lead songs at church, and I started writing my own songs.”



What are the difficulties of being a high-schooler in the music industry?

ZIE “First thing is you don’t really know what you’re doing. You’re just making it up as you go, and when you do it alone it’s definitely a lot harder because you can piggyback off of other artists and see what they do, to help you out, but nobody’s going to be your style exactly. In that aspect, you have to figure out what you’re about and what you want to do with it.”

MICHELLE “I mean, I’m just breaking into it. It’s not like I’m doing a show every night, or anything, but it’s just balancing. On the weekends I’ll go work on my album or I’ll practice music or have a gig, and then I’ll still have to be doing school work and things like that. It’s just juggling the two worlds.”

ISAAC “Definitely time, because school is a priority. I also do sports, and so I’d say other extracurricular activities and school. Just balancing it all.”



How would you describe your music style?



ZIE “My style of music is interesting. I would more relate my stuff to Troye Sivan or Lana del Rey. There’s a specific genre, synth pop. It’s like taking the technology part of music and combining it with the rock style, sometimes mellow.”

MICHELLE “Singer-songwriter, so that I don’t have to put it in a box. I like to have real and thoughtful lyrics. I want to be as authentic as I can through my music, because then, I think, if it’s authentic, people can relate to it. If I had to put it in a box, I’d say it definitely has some rock, definitely some folk, a little country, a little pop. I get bored of listening to an artist whose music all sounds the same.”



ISAAC “I’d say pop and Christian rap.”

What advice would you give to students hoping to have a career in music?

ZIE “I would say ‘make it your own’ because there are lots of things out there. They’re all so similar, and I think that’s what gave me inspiration to do stuff like this. I was tired of hearing the same things over and over again. I have a lot of feelings that I need to express, and I knew music was the best way for me to do that. So, I needed to figure out how I could get my feelings out in the best way possible.”



MICHELLE “I would say get ready, and make sure that you’re doing it because it’s your passion, not just because you want to make money or you want to be famous. Think ‘Why am I doing it?’ Go deeper. I get jealous of other people who don’t have a passion, because they can just choose, but for me, it’s like ‘if I don’t do music, I’ll be unsatisfied with my life.’ And who knows if I’m going to make money doing it? Make sure your heart is in it, and just do what you love doing.”



ISAAC “Don’t give up, even when you are going through hard trials, like trying to figure out how to come up with a new song. I’d say just keep going. I’d also say find someone else who’s more successful in the music industry to help you get through that. And, if you can, I’d recommend just joining the worship team at church and stuff like that, because many church artists have more experience when it comes to music, so that’s definitely something I’d recommend.”



What's the hardest part of the whole songwriting and producing process?

ZIE “I would definitely say it's self-doubt, because if you're going on the road thinking, 'I'm going to be an individual and make my own stuff,' and you don't have anything to base it on, then you think, 'Okay, is this even good?' or 'Is this even what I'm aiming for?' Something I struggle with is having confidence in the stuff I write, because I want it to be the best it can be, because I'm a perfectionist.”

MICHELLE “Not being super hard on yourself. You'll write something and it's not great, and you'll think, 'I'm a terrible person, and I shouldn't be doing this'. The first time I went in to my producer, he loved my music . . . but then he said, 'Ok, let's change this and rewrite this.' I would think, 'My work isn't good?' Songwriting for me is very therapeutic. And producing is turning your thoughts into something that's sellable, so it's like watching your child be rebuilt. It could be a song I wrote from a sad time, and I'm making it sound more empowering later. It's your brainchild, but then they're changing it, even though you loved it the way it was. Holding on to that loosely and being okay with making things sellable but not selling out is the hardest part. Knowing who you are and going in and saying, 'Yeah, that's what I want.' You have to be your best self to keep producing art. And give yourself plenty of time to express art. It's about the process and what you learn from it. I'm not just cranking out a song to make it sellable, or to help my career. I'm doing it because I love doing it.”

ISAAC “Trying to find a place so that I can think and write songs. When I write songs, I usually have to be in my room. And then with producing songs—basically getting all the copyright information organized—it's a long process, trying to get your name out there, and trying to find the right producer to produce your music.”

Do you plan on continuing as a singer/musician into college and beyond?

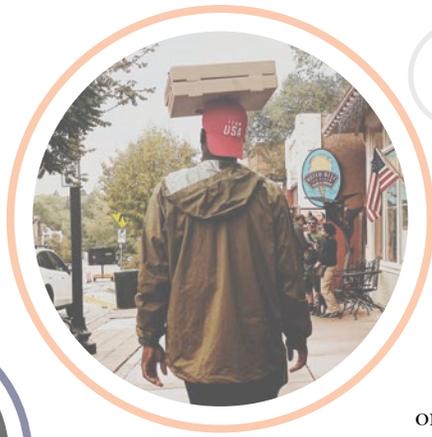
ZIE “Yes, I want to major in either music business or songwriting, or maybe even something else like production. But I do plan on making this my future, maybe not necessarily singing, but I'm hoping that somehow, some way, I will get to do that because I love that, too.”

MICHELLE “That is all in the Lord's hands. Something my parents say is that 'it's dangerous to follow your dreams, but take your passions with you.' So whether that means I'll actually be doing music for a living or just singing in church, I know that it will always be a part of what I'm doing.”

ISAAC “I think I will. It won't be my main focus, because I'm also trying to study to be a doctor, but definitely something I will incorporate into my major for pre-med.”



Where do you see yourself in ten years?



ZIE “You don’t see a lot of female producers around. Hopefully in the future, ten years maybe, that could be me. I could be a well-known producer or a well-known songwriter that people go to.”



MICHELLE “Oh, I have no idea. Hopefully, I will have a lot more music released by then. I want to keep writing and keep releasing more songs so that I will have a full album that I can make through the years. And I’ll definitely be singing in a church somewhere.”

ISAAC “Getting albums onto Apple Music, getting to perform at concerts as well. My goal and dream is to perform at huge church youth conferences, like Prestonwood or Watermark, so I could minister to young kids.”

Where do you draw most of your inspiration for your music and lyrics?

ZIE “In my process, some of my songs are shallower than others because I’m in the mood to write about stories. But, my main inspiration is kind of weird—I don’t really write about my own experiences that much. I like putting the feelings I get from those experiences into made up stories, because I feel like you can express them better since you have unlimited things you can talk about.”

MICHELLE “I’m a very relational person, so most things I write about are relationships, whether it’s a friend—I’ve written a lot of songs for friends—or for a guy I have unrequited feelings for. Then I’ll just write a song about it. Or, it could be for my parents, or about my faith. One song on my EP is called ‘A New Day.’ It’s just about how I’m tired of the struggles that I keep going through, of people pleasing, and pride, and lust, and all of that. It’s like an anthem: This is what I want, this is what is good for me. And I’m tired of not doing what’s good for me.”

ISAAC “The word of God. Definitely. A lot of the lyrics I wrote earlier, in my freshman year, came straight out of the Bible. And just to be able to take those words and write it into music is basically just ministering to other people.”

What song on your EP is your favorite? What inspired you to write it?

ZIE “I would have to say ‘Heaven.’ A lot of people say ‘Pretty Mama’ . . . but ‘Heaven.’ I’m in that emotional state more in my life. I relate to it more, I guess. I’ve discovered over the past few months that my favorite thing to write about is how even the people without a god will always have a deep desire to search for God, and that’s just my favorite storyline to pursue. That’s kind of what ‘Heaven’ is about.”

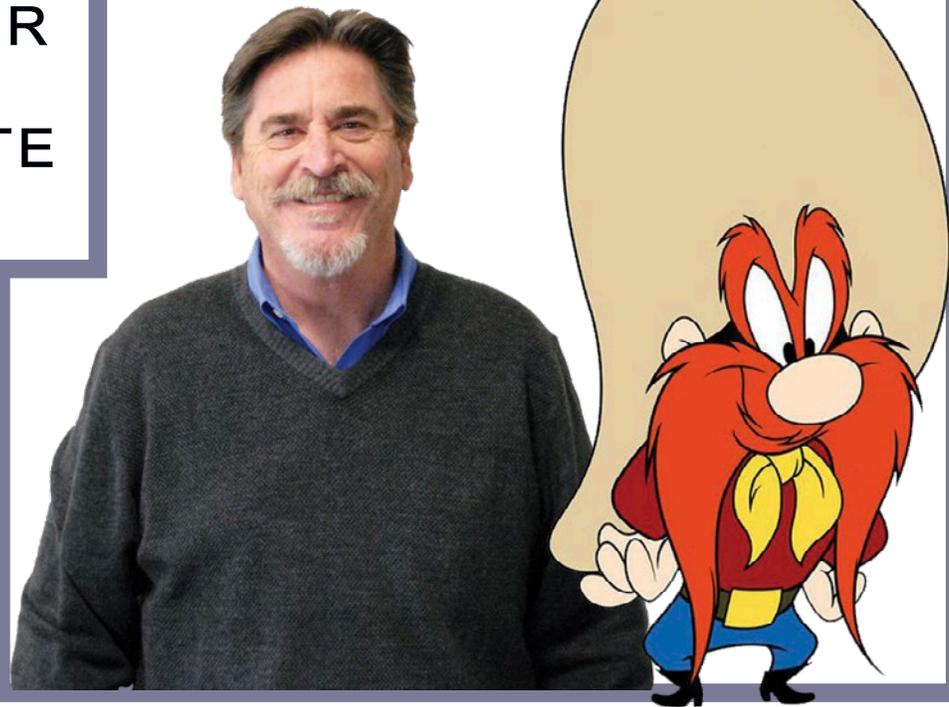


MICHELLE “I love ‘Those Moments’ because I feel like it’s very lush as a song. It’s very romantic, it’s very sweet and beautiful, and I just love that. Another one of my favorites is ‘Clouded’. It has a Mumford & Sons, Brandy Carlisle type of vibe. I really like what’s going on musically, I just think it’s very fun and different. It’s a little out of my comfort zone, but it’s also me, and I like it.”

ISAAC “‘Superman’. It was a chance for me to start something new in my life. I began to chase something that challenges me that I also knew that I can enjoy.”

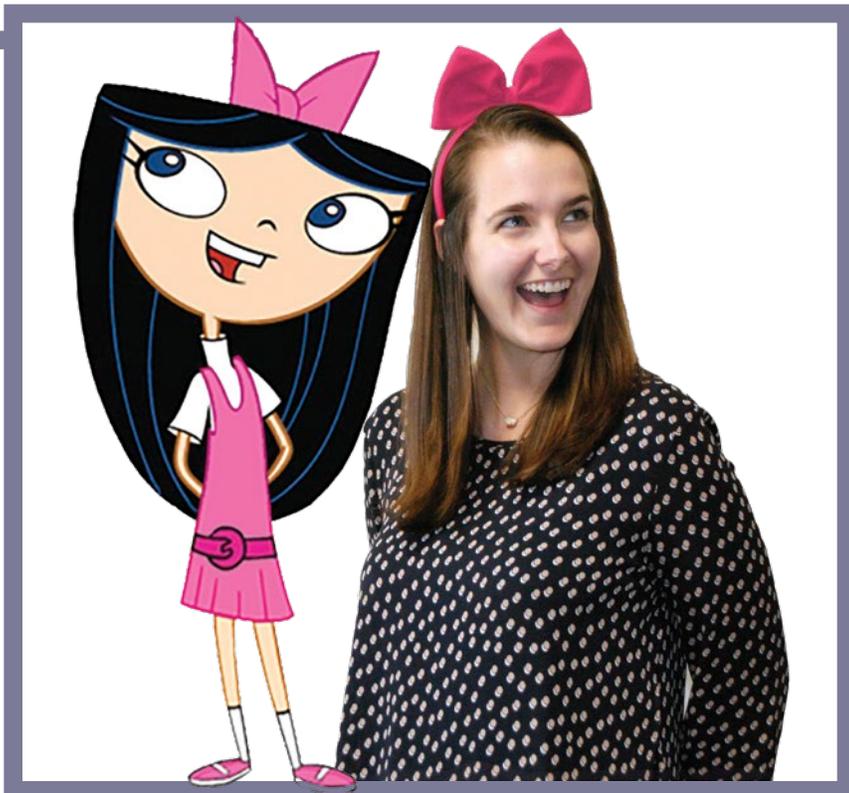
Teachers as Cartoon Characters

MR. DYER
as
YOSEMITE
SAM



MRS. PATERSON
as
RAPUNZEL
from
TANGLED

MISS FREET
as
ISABELLA
from
PHINEAS AND FERB



MRS. ROSARIO
as **BETTY RUBBLE**
from
THE FLINSTONES

MR. ACKER
as
PAPA SMURF



our teachers do college apps .

by georgia ballew



Come senior year, the dreaded college application process begins, and students must determine their greatest failure, future career, true dream, favorite subject, most transformative moment, and biggest challenge in order to tell their stories to universities all over the country. Because these prompts can get monotonous, some colleges, such as the University of Chicago, approach the process a little differently, trying to facilitate the evocation of students' true personalities and interests. Using UChicago's previous short answer prompts, we asked some of our history/english teachers to choose one and respond, seeing just how creatively they could answer these unconventional but entertaining essay prompts.



1. In 2015, the city of Melbourne, Australia created a “tree-mail” service, in which all of the trees in the city received an email address so that residents could report any tree-related issues. As an unexpected result, people began to email their favorite trees sweet and occasionally humorous letters. Imagine this has been expanded to any object (tree or otherwise) in the world, and share with us the letter you’d send to your favorite.
2. So where is Waldo, really?
3. Lost your keys? Alohomora. Noisy roommate? Quietus. Feel the need to shatter windows for some reason? Finestra. Create your own spell, charm, jinx, or other means for magical mayhem. How is it enacted? Is there an incantation? Does it involve a potion or other magical object? If so, what’s in it or what is it? What does it do?
4. Joan of Arkansas. Queen Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Babe Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Mash up a historical figure with a new time period, environment, location, or occupation, and tell us their story.
5. How did you get caught? (Or not caught, as the case may be.)

holly bator

sophomore history/english

prompt 3:

Please and Thank You. Abracadabra. Bibbidi-Bobbidi-Boo. Expecto Patronum. Protego.

Ah, magic words, they come in such variety. My mom always said “please” and “thank you” were magic words, so I’ll include them here to make her happy. I don’t consider them magical, really, but they are helpful, and also practical. Moving on. Some magic words help magicians coax reluctant rabbits out of hats, while others have the power to create a dazzling ball gown, highly uncomfortable footwear, and instant transportation so that you can meet Prince Charming, dance the night away, and fall in love without ever revealing a single personal detail! Oh, and as a bonus, this magical fashion combo will make your malicious stepsisters (if you have them) incredibly jealous. In Harry Potter world, magic words abound—they call them spells, though—they can protect you from evil Dementors by channeling your happiest memory. There’s even one that has the “I’m rubber, you’re glue” effect: it bounces back spells to the person who casts them without hurting you. Nice, huh? A wand seems to be required for the majority of these magic words to work, though. Oh, and the Fairy Godmother used farm animals. And a pumpkin.

So, I’ll keep “please” and “thank you.” I don’t have any need for “abracadabra”—I have no plans to take a magic act to the stage. As for the dress/shoes/transportation/prince provided by “bibbidi-bobbidi-boo,” I’m out. I have my own clothing, footwear, and car, and this may sound crazy, but I think it’s better to get to know someone by actually speaking to them. I’m not bashing the benefits of a good waltz; I’m just thinking it’s probably not a solid relationship foundation. Lastly, since I’m classified as a Muggle, do not possess a wand, and have never confronted a Dementor, the Hogwarts spells are of no importance to me.

However, if I had the ability, what kind of magic spell would I cast? Well, I’m an introvert. And a teacher. Not a problem, you say? Let me explain. Introverts get physically drained from being around people and need to go off by themselves to recharge. Since teaching involves people, (and lots of them), I’m completely spent by the end of the day. After work, I want (need!) to hibernate. The necessary supplies for hibernation are no people and no plans. That’s it. If I have any social obligations after work, I would really rather undergo medieval torture than attend. That’s where my spell comes in. It would create a temporary Holly clone to attend any “peopley” event. To my fellow introverts, we all know that the best plans are cancelled plans, right? You know, you get invited somewhere by friends so you know they like you, but then something happens at the last minute and you don’t have to go. With my spell I’ll never have to go! I can stay home and hibernate while my magical clone goes to dinner, parties, anywhere that requires interaction with humans. My clone could also go to Introverts’ Club. Just kidding, there is no Introverts’ Club. My magic words? Partum Geminae. No wand necessary.

katie kilpatrick

junior history/english

prompt 1:

Dear salsa,

I’d like to take this opportunity to say a long-overdue, “thank you!” I remember in kindergarten at Mario & Alberto’s, my parents’ favorite restaurant, getting my first taste of that mysterious substance. It became a family joke that I loved that red dip immediately, and began to call it “spicy,” as in, “Mommy, can I have some spicy on my chips?”

I remember in high school when I started getting jars of El Fenix salsa in my Easter basket. I started putting salsa on eggs, salsa on salads, salsa on baked potatoes. I remember freshman year of college when I was disoriented and sad, and mom drove three hours away on a Sunday to take me to Ninfa’s Tex-Mex Restaurant. We commiserated over chips and salsa, extra salty from a few tears. The next year that same restaurant opened a tiny outpost right there on my college campus, a little embassy of salsa within walking distance of my apartment. My college Friday ritual was born: if I attended every class that week, I rushed to the Student Union Building when class ended at 1:50, dashing in to reward myself with a pint of salsa to-go before the restaurant closed at 2:00. I’d walk it home, ten minutes—don’t trip on the roots of the 100-year-old live oaks!—and decompress in my apartment, with chips and salsa and cable news (of course, dearest salsa, this was before things got quite so bitter, when cable news made me feel informed and not likely to spiral off into a cardiac event). Three years later, I had an engagement party in that same restaurant, love christened not by champagne but by pureed tomato.

At 24 I moved with that new husband to a foreign country, one shockingly devoid of jalapeños, so I started growing my own, just to blend up my own salsa. Once, when my mother heard that a church from our hometown was sending a mission trip to my faraway new city, she practically forced the trip leader to 1) weigh down his duffel bag with bubble-wrapped jars of salsa and 2) take a bumpy, dusty detour through a third-world capital to deliver the precious package to me. It was like manna from heaven when it arrived . . . I ate it with Lay’s Potato Chips, not at all the normal delivery vehicle for salsa at a Dallas Tex-Mex restaurant, but the only suitable substitute we could find that week.

At 29, now living back in Dallas again, I took my parents to Mi Cocina to tell them they were grandparents . . . of twins! At 30 the whole family gathered in the back room of El Fenix; my mom opened a box to see two blue balloons drift out to riotous applause. You see, salsa, you’ve been an integral part of so many family events. It’s like the conversations happen a little easier when our hands are busy. Mom likes the chips folded in half, I like the perfectly flat ones, and our friends know to ask the waiter right away about getting a few extras, or I’ll eat up every drop on the table. The thing is, salsa, you’re my very favorite treat!

At 33 I am delighted that my son, Will, has started asking for a little taste of salsa on his chips when we go to eat Mexican food. He calls it “spicy.”



While American artists are mostly solo performers, Korean artists are generally groups formed through a highly selective audition process. Pre-debut trainees work to survive years of elimination and evaluations just to make it to the final lineup. They learn stage presence with intricate dance performances while they hone in on whatever specific position they are given, such as vocal, rap, or dance. They may even throw in an extra language or two with the hope of appealing to a larger fanbase. From here, newly created teams set out to make a dent in a competitive industry made up of hundreds of under-appreciated and talented musicians.

K-pop groups have a large range of artists from one solo artist to thirteen members. Each person is an expert in dancing, and groups like **Seventeen** and **Red Velvet** are known for their creative choreography and skilled moves. On top of that, artists often sing and dance simultaneously, resulting in a lot of practice to maintain

their voices while exercising skilled moves. Solo artists and duos like **IU** and **Bolbbalgan4** are very respected for their vocals, and bands like **CNBlue** and **Day6** are known for their fun, charismatic performances. All in all, there are so many distinct artists and different music styles worth exploring, whether it's a traditional K-pop group or a stereotype-breaking soloist. Fashion is also a must for any South Korean musician. Whether it's for personal expression or to convey a concept look, K-pop fashion is marked by matching outfits that fit a particular song genre and mood. Popular groups usually sport the newest fashion trend or even create the newest look, and coupled with professionally-done hair and make-up, groups look trendy and eye-catching.

K-POP

By
Michelle Lee

You might have heard the term K-pop increasingly more over the past years. Maybe you haven't, but this music genre is rising onto the world stage and gaining more exposure and popularity. K-pop is an umbrella term for all different genres of music from the Asian peninsula nation, like R&B, pop, rock, and ballads. But, it is more than just music. The South Korean industry has attracted fans for its visual concepts, sharp and synchronized dancing, and eye-catching fashion.

Captivating the admiration of fascinated observers, the performers create fandoms for their followers, identified by creative names like Carat, Reveluv, and Starlight. From concerts and fansigns—the Korean version of a meet-n-greet—to group merchandise and album design, K-pop groups create much content to give to their fans. In the South Korean pop world, being a fan opens endless opportunities to support your favorite artists. Whether it’s cheering for them at music broadcasts, being one of the lucky fans to talk to them at fansigns, or voting for them when award ceremonies roll around, there are unlimited possibilities to become involved with the culture, not counting YouTube and other social media platforms. High-definition pictures from every event are always available on Instagram or Twitter fanpages, so knowing what events your favorite groups are involved in is simple even if you live halfway around the world. Usually the only chance of seeing them in the states is at KCON, held in either Los Angeles or New York City, or during an international tour. As more North American cities are regularly visited, there’s a good chance you can visit a K-pop artist near you.

Rising to recent international popularity, **BTS** is a group formed by its seven members: Jungkook, Jimin, V, RM, Jin, Jhope, and Suga. They are the first K-pop act to debut number one on the US Billboard 200, win awards from the BBMAS and AMAs, and receive RIAA certifications. Spreading a message of self-love and always showing their passion for music on the stage, they have gained the love of many fans in Asia and now all over the world. With skilled dance choreography, gorgeous vocals, and at times heart-wrenching lyrics, they are definitely a group that fully embodies K-pop culture to another level. As you can tell, I’m a huge fan of BTS, so maybe you should check out their music to see why so many others, like me, love them so much.

A major disadvantage of being an international fan is the language barrier. Yes, watching your favorite member of a group—or your “bias”—appear in an interview without knowing what he or she is saying is not the most entertaining thing to do. But, do not fear. Subtitles are common because a lot of multilingual users are more than willing to repost videos with subtitles to share the love with other international fans. On YouTube, subtitles exist for things from individual songs in each album to different shows and events musicians appear in. All it takes is a lot of patience and the usual thank-you for the people who make it easier for everyone. But, if watching English translations flash across the bottom of your screen doesn’t appeal to you, you could always start learning Korean. From personal experience, it’s definitely not easy, so good luck! I think I’ll stick to picking up bits and pieces here and there and learning a new word every so often. It’s always fun to recognize a few characters and feel proud of yourself for knowing something someone is saying.



THE MET GALA

by Ruthie Turner

One day a year, politicians, athletes, actors, and models all collide on a single star-studded runway in the middle of New York City. The first Monday of May marks the date of the Costume Institute Gala, commonly known as the Met Gala—the event where fashion becomes an artform rather than just an outfit, and each year celebrities embrace the opportunity to display their creativity through their over-the-top fashion statements. Although the Met Gala is truly a fundraiser for the Costume Institute of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the night has become globally recognized for ostentatious decorations and avant garde fashion.

In order to raise funds for the Costume Institute, which opened in 1946, fashion publicist and CFDA founder Eleanor Lambert developed a dinner in 1948 that took place at a location other than the Metropolitan Museum of Art. This dinner became the foundation for the annual fundraising event. In the 1970's, the arrival of Diana Vreeland allowed the event to morph into its current form. She made the Met Gala a distinct event and themed the party for the first time. Theming the event drew the attention of celebrities, like former First Lady and fashion icon, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis and legendary entertainers, such as Cher and Diana Ross, to attend the event. With celebrities from all different fields joining together, the event rapidly grew in popularity. In 1999, the Met Gala found its legendary form under its new chairwoman, Anna Wintour. Wintour brought her power as editor-in-chief of *Vogue* to the event. Her first major decision as chairwoman was to move the fundraiser from December to its current spring date. She has led the popular culture to embrace the event, which provides an immense amount of funds for the Costume Institute.

Under Anna Wintour's rule, the guest list for the Met Gala became extremely exclusive. Only the most well-known figures have the opportunity to buy a ticket. With the backing of celebrities and the media, the event raises massive funds with ticket prices of \$30,000. In 2018, the Met Gala generated over \$12 million dollars in funds for the Fashion Institute.

To the common world, the Met Gala is known not for its fundraising, but for its fashion. The first Monday of May is fashion's biggest night. Every year, each celebrity takes the event as an opportunity to show off his/her fashion sense. Due to the high publicity of the event, the Met Gala allows celebrities the opportunity to become fashion icons. Many stars have attempted to cross this bridge on the Met Gala red carpet, but only few have received iconic success.

Although she was only a princess in England, Princess Diana solidified her status as a queen (of the red carpet, at least) at the Met Gala in 1996. She graced the runway in a navy Dior slip dress with black lace trim along the neck line. She paired it with her iconic pearl and sapphire choker.

In 2015, the theme of the Met Gala was "China: Through the Looking Glass." Rihanna took this opportunity to transform herself from a pop star to a fashion legend. Her fur-trimmed golden dress stole the runway. The dress, which took one woman two years to make, featured traditional Chinese embroidery down the lengthy train. Rihanna is one of the few stars who uses avant garde fashion to fit the theme of the event every year. In 2018, she nailed the theme of "Heavenly Bodies: Fashion and the Catholic Imagination." She arrived at the Met Gala sporting a pearl and jewel bedazzled dress and coat by the fashion house Maison Margiela. The pinnacle of the outfit was a jewel-encrusted miter.

It is easy to focus on the women who win at Met Gala fashion every year, so it is easy to forget the men, who have also mastered the artform of Met Gala fashion. At the 2018 Met Gala, Jared Leto perfectly represented the theme of "Heavenly Bodies: Fashion and the Catholic Imagination," sporting his blue Gucci tuxedo, pink shirt and his golden halo-like crown, which allowed him to achieve iconic Met Gala fashion status. Another guy that brings some memorable fashion moments to the Met Gala is Jaden Smith. He is best remembered for bringing his newly cut-off dreadlocks as his accessory to the 2017 Met Gala.

Every year couples choose to rock the red carpet together at the Met Gala. Many couples even use the Met Gala as an opportunity to announce their relationship to the world. One couple in particular never fails to perfect Met Gala fashion. Blake Lively and Ryan Reynolds own the red carpet every year through Lively's elegant dresses and Reynolds' adoration for his wife. Their all-time best was at the 2014 Met Gala. Lively's draped blush pink beaded V-neck Gucci dress was finished with her hair in old Hollywood style curls. What truly allowed this look to steal the show was the look of pride in Reynolds' face as his wife walked the red carpet—well, and his blue velvet tuxedo.

The Met Gala provides an opportunity for celebrities to honor the art of fashion. Through their outfits and donations to the Costume Institute, fashion can be a prominent artform in society. The theme for the upcoming 2019 Met Gala is "Camp: Notes on Fashion" and will be hosted by Harry Styles, Serena Williams, and Lady Gaga. Each of the three are very highly acclaimed not only for their success in respective fields but also for their fearless fashion. With this fantastic trio leading the event, the possibilities for artful fashion at this year's Met Gala are endless.

DIANA



RIHANNA



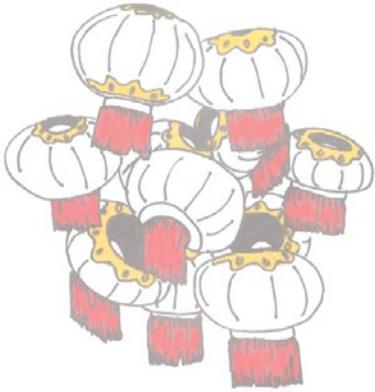
JADEN



BLAKE



CULTURES



vietnam

Xin chào lovely reader! I had to get your attention somehow, and I thought sliding in a little Vietnamese “hello” might just do the trick. Now that you’re here, why don’t you read a little more about what makes Vietnam so special? First, COFFEE. Vietnam is the second largest producer of coffee right after Brazil, and they have streets lined with coffee at every turn, especially in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City. Vietnamese coffee comes from a native French background dripped to perfection, with an out-of-this-world taste, and a rich flavor that sets it apart instantly as the real deal. Now I’ve got you hooked, but let’s talk about another special Vietnamese tradition: festivals. Tet, the Hoi An Lantern Festival, and Wandering Souls Day are just a few out of many celebrated in Vietnam. All based off the lunar calendar, Tet may just be the most ostentatious festival ever seen—think Christmas, Thanksgiving, and Halloween all put together. That’s the hype for Tet every year. In celebration of the New Year and the honoring of ancestors, lanterns are lit across the streets, prayers and offerings are made to the local temples, flowers are distributed, fireworks light up the sky, and street-food stalls buzz with activity. That right there is a snapshot of Vietnam: a magical, fast-paced world of endless color and fun.

Although the North Koreans are an isolated people living under a dictatorial dynasty, that does not mean they have no cultural traditions or customs. There is definitely a strict social standard applied to the people. From the clothes that are worn to the hair-cut one has, most everything only has a certain range of choices, and nothing outside of that range is allowed. Entertainment, outside exposure, and innovation are all closely monitored and restricted. However, did you know that the Harry Potter series, Jane Eyre, and Anne of Green Gables are all popular favorites amongst North Koreans? Although security may be tight, some foreign films, music, and literature have squeezed tightly through a few loopholes in the system. However, even though foreign entertainment may be on the rise, North Korean music, such as “The Night of Pyongyang City,” has always been treasured and enjoyed, especially because of its ability to communicate love and symbolize a universal language. Unfortunately, inadequate nutrition, restrictions of civil liberties, and selective propaganda affect many citizens. However, before denouncing or fearing the country, one must realize the people of North Korea may not be that much more different; they are humans with the same base desires, hopes, and dreams, as well.

korea



nigeria

Although Nigerians currently take the number one spot out of all African countries when it comes to immigrating to the U.S., most don’t know much about their culture. Many African countries value music as a core part of their identity, but Nigerian gospel praise has created a name for itself as the most influential genre across the African continent. As if dominating the music scene in Africa wasn’t enough, Nigerian gospel praise, with its unique fusion of modern pop and hip-hop, has taken the entire world by storm. Music represents the universal language Nigerians cherish as a means of expression and communication, and this strong desire has contagiously spread throughout the world. Respect is also a cultural norm among Nigerians. When greeting someone, using the right hand is a must, and using the left represents disrespect and weakness. Along with respect comes strict discipline and a passionate drive for success. A’s are the standard and nothing less.

COLLIDE

by grace lee

how other countries' traditions differ from ours

Winter tundras. Spies. Danger. There is an air of coldness that seems to sweep through people when you bring up Russia . . . but is that really the truth? Not quite. Russian hospitality has a reputation which trumps that of most countries around the world. As a traveler or foreigner, be prepared to engage in a spontaneous conversation with a youthful and lively Russian native on the streets. In Russian homes, dinner parties and casual visits are merely the status quo, and neighbors are treated like extended family. Although there may seem to be a serious, gloomy atmosphere out in public, that is because obnoxious outbursts of emotion are thought of as impolite and disrespectful. Religion is also an integral part of Russian culture. Today there are over 5,000 official religious associations in Russia, with Christianity and Islam being the most popular. Even the famous onion-shaped towers scattered throughout the nation represent the Holy Trinity and are not just REALLY colorful vegetable look-alikes.

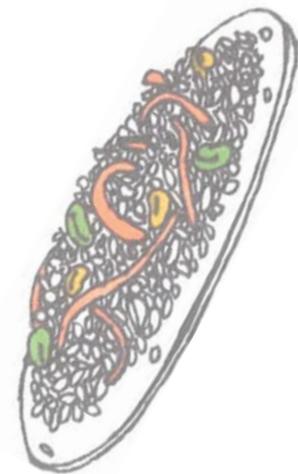
ru ssia



china

If you thought high school was stressful in America, you would be in for a life-altering, sinking-into-a-pit-of-infinite-despair experience over in China. Just kidding . . . sort of. Education. Competition. Academic excellence. These are all extremely valued in most Asian cultures, yet in China these are regarded as almost sacred values for the youth. The cutthroat education system includes, but is not limited to, public displays of rank throughout entire schools, exams that determine “success” or “failure” at the end of elementary, middle, and high school, and a nationwide cram school that tends to end close to midnight each night. Although the young, tech-savvy new generation may be a little less regimented, these fundamental values are still ingrained into Chinese culture. On the flip side, Chinese people are also extremely economical and resourceful. They save and reuse old towels, pots and pans. They collect those thin plastic grocery bags, and leftovers are prized as ingredients for tomorrow’s soup of the day. These are all examples of the distinctly different aspects of Chinese culture.

Many stereotypes are associated with Afghanistan, but it is a country rich with history and culture. For example, Buzkashi is unique to Afghanistan and is unique to the Middle Eastern country. Recognized as one of the craziest games that exists, riders all compete on horseback to chase a goat and herd it into a chalked circle. As wild as it sounds, this game has been played for centuries and is even sponsored by private companies across Afghanistan. Also, poetry has been a part of Afghan culture for thousands of years, and there are official poetry nights that allow people of all ages to create and share poetry together in public. Stories, traditions, and celebrations have all been passed down using poetry, and Afghanistan simply wouldn’t be the same without it. Another staple of Afghani culture is food. Yogurt, lamb, fruits, nuts, and spices all play a huge role in most meals. There is an honored dish called Kabuli Pulao made of nuts, lamb, spices, and mixed vegetables all on top of rice. Kabuli Pulao is one of the most popular dishes across the country and is actually the national dish of Afghanistan.



afghani stan

WORKOUTS

By Kathryn Callahan and Sophie McNeil

For our first workout class, we attended Goat Yoga in Richardson. We were very skeptical of how it would turn out, and how goats would be incorporated into yoga, but we were eager to try. We went to a stranger's backyard and were given a mat and a towel. As soon as we sat down, the instructor let about ten goats out from a pen into the backyard. They were all dressed in babies' clothes, and they immediately came to us, sitting on top of us, on our mats, and nipping at our clothing and shoelaces. The instructor started to teach us yoga poses, but most of us were too distracted with the goats to really pay attention to her. If you take this class, I would be prepared to do less of a workout, and more playing with the goats. It also became hard to do several yoga positions when the goats would sprawl out on your mat, leaving no space, or when the goats would jump on your backs during the downward dog pose. It was very funny to watch, and we eventually all lined up on our knees and let a goat walk across our backs. Throughout the class, an assistant sprinkled goat food on our backs or around us to get the goats to cooperate. It was overall a very comical and fun class to take, and we would definitely take it again.



GOAT YOGA



After hearing about an outdoor yoga class held in Klyde Warren Park in the summer, we knew we had to try it out. Although we don't want to admit it, we were a little nervous that we would be embarrassing ourselves in front of yoga experts. We showed up early for the class only to see the whole section of the park completely packed with yoga mats and men and women of all ages. After finding a place to sit, the instructor came out and led some yoga warmups. Then it really started to get tough, and it sure didn't help that it was the middle of August and almost 100 degrees outside. The poses weren't necessarily difficult; it was just much faster paced than my friends and I had expected. We struggled through the rest of the hour, but the feeling of accomplishment afterwards was worth it. The atmosphere and idea were super fun. However, my friends and I felt a little out of place as novice yogis. But, if you're looking for a pretty intense workout along with some good vitamin D, yoga in Klyde Warren is definitely the thing for you!

YOGA AT KLYDE WARREN PARK

TWO *girls* explore TWO unique *ways* to do yoga in Dallas

5 days of VEGE- TARIAN EATS

with Michelle Raybourn



DAY ONE

For my first meal, there wasn't a drastic difference in my diet. I typically have peanut butter toast and some form of fruit anyway with my Arizona green tea. However, for lunch on Monday, I made myself a salad with no chicken (which took a bit of self-restraint). I mean . . . it felt a little like eating leaves with no chicken to distract me from the lettuce, but I know that it was good for me. After school, I went with a friend for a little pick-me-up at the Juice Bar, and I got a Peanut Butter Cup Smoothie which was HEAVEN! It was definitely the protein that I needed. For dinner, my mom was kind enough to prepare pasta with a salad. Instead of adding meat, she bought a type of pasta that had protein included in the noodles. Overall, I felt pretty good about my first day of the challenge. Although I didn't feel a change in my food consumption, I did feel better about my self-esteem . . . like I ate healthy today, and I'm proud of that. However, I did notice in myself an increased irritability. Maybe my brother or my parents were just getting on my last nerve today, or maybe my new diet is affecting my attitude? I don't know, we will have to wait and see.

Vegetarians, Olympians, Navy SEALs—what do all these people all have in common? True grit. After my experience going vegetarian for a meager five days, I can personally tell you that it takes a whole lot of grit and a whole lot of heart to accomplish this goal. Not only do you have to be intentional in planning out each meal, but you must be on your guard at all times, prepared to fight off the fantasies of chicken minis on an early morning or the real temptation of a delicious, meat-filled, homecooked meal by your mother at night. You understand the challenge, I'm sure. Furthermore, how can you carry out this lofty undertaking without finding a real source of motivation? For me, it was the glory and weight of writing this article; but for the normal, everyday vegetarian you could meet on the street, it could be health reasons or moral reasons. In my opinion, both are very admirable reasons to make this sort of life change that affects your entire day, every single day. So, before I jump into my experience of my school week as a vegetarian, I just want to say . . . I have a serious, new-found respect for vegetarians. You people are truly driven, and when your parents said you were special, it was actually true. Keep opening trendy restaurants where I will go to feel better about myself (but only eat the mac-n-cheese). Continue posting your pictures on Instagram of your healthy choices that both inspire and convict us. Thank you for existing. I respect you.



DAY TWO

I didn't really feel any different, other than that I got hungrier easier because I was having to plan every single meal. Soon, the food fantasies set in with a vengeance. I couldn't stop thinking about Cane's chicken and dipping it into Cane's sauce...and that is where I put a boundary on my imagination, and I prayed to the Lord to INTERVENE! Anyway, my meal choices on Tuesday were pretty solid. I had some cereal with protein for breakfast because you've got to start your day off right with a strong meal. During lunch at school, I went off campus with friends to Smoothie King and got a cliff bar and a protein shake, something I have never done before. Honestly, I feel swole because of it. In between lunch and dinner, I ate some nuts because my body was crying out for more protein, and I had to answer that cry with food. Then, I went to Zoe's and ordered a Spinach and Mushroom Piadina with a side of hummus, which legitimately MADE MY DAY! Ugh, it was so good! Overall, I would say that this week has taught me a lot about how to find sources of protein other than meat, and learning about what I'm eating has been such an enriching experience!



DAY THREE

I started off the day with the promise of hope and the pleasure of avocado toast, a welcome beginning to my day. I thought that this would be fine even if it lacks protein. However, I did attempt to compensate by eating some peanut butter crackers before the beginning of government class so that I could really focus. When lunch rolled around, I got some of Sage's famous mac-n-cheese, and I made myself a salad to get some green on my plate. Well, I for sure hit a wall halfway through the day after lunch. It caught up to me around math class, and I found it difficult to keep my eyes open and my brain focused. So, after school, I went to Starbucks with a friend and grabbed a chai latte and a warm butter croissant, which honestly didn't help with my protein situation, but it sure tasted great! Hanging out with friends that night, I was worried about what I would find to eat; but it turns out that a vegetarian can find a lot to eat at a party. From carrots to pizza and pizza to cookies, there were numerous options to eat that didn't include meat. Throughout this week, I've come to think of my body as a machine and to think about what I am using to fuel myself through the day.



DAY FOUR

At this point in the week, my vegetarianism was becoming habit, and I was growing used to the routine. I woke up in the morning to almond butter toast with fruit and a Carnation drink. I remembered the pitfalls of the day before, and I was motivated on Thursday to get enough protein. This was a battle of survival, a struggle between life and death, and I was determined to come out of this experience alive-ing and thriving. When lunch came around, I went for Sage's margarita pizza and parmesan fries with a bowl of grapes and a bowl of peaches. Unlike the day before, I braved all of my classes with endurance, and I made it home unscathed by fatigue. When I got home, I ate a banana for a snack before I dove into homework. For dinner, I had asparagus, broccoli, and soup. I will not go too deep into the description of the soup, because this soup was the ultimate testing point of this challenge. Its blandness and otherworldly texture left me wondering whether I should turn back to my days of meat eating or continue in my noble quest for *The ROCK*. Would I say that this challenge brought me closer to God? Yes, I would say that. Throughout that night, it was a battle between my hunger and my will power. When the Bible says in Matthew 4:4 that "man shall not live by bread alone," its true meaning that I came to understand that night is that PEOPLE NEED MEAT TO SURVIVE. I mean, carbs are great and all, but you've got to have some protein in your system to live. That is all.



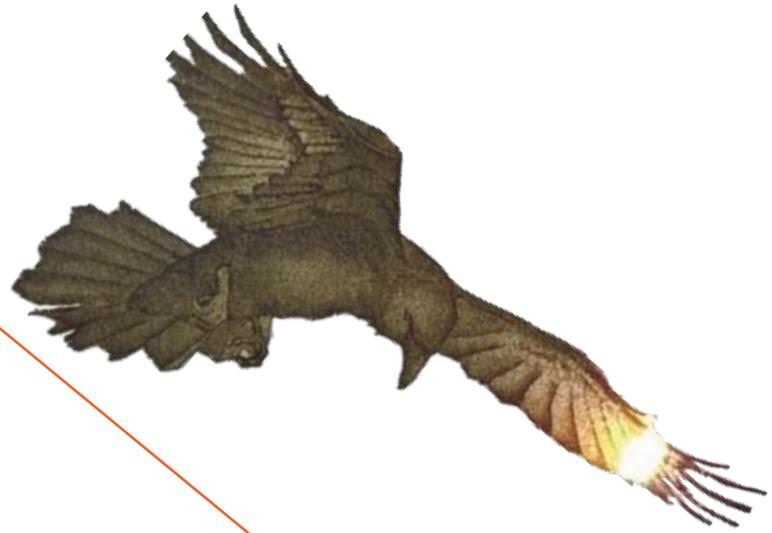
DAY FIVE

Friday. I would like to start by saying that I am ashamed of my actions, no matter how satisfied they made me feel. I apologize because I let the team down, and I let this article down. I have made vegetarians everywhere cry deep, inward tears of sorrow and feel all-consuming disappointment in where our youths are today. Let me start at the beginning: I began the day strong with chocolate chip waffles that REALLY hit the spot; but honestly, anything was welcome after that soup last night. For lunch, I was still going strong with a salad and a bowl of pears to keep my energy going and flowing until dinner. Dinner, that is what led me astray. Dinner was my downfall. It was 6:30 p.m., and I could nearly taste my freedom from the weight of this challenge. I think my hair had begun to grow gray, and I was genuinely unsure if I remembered what fried chicken tasted like. I was in a vulnerable place, ok?! So, when my typical food fantasy of Cane's popped into my head, I was too weak to say no. I followed my passions all the way to the drive-thru and ordered a three-finger combo with an extra Cane's sauce. Do I feel disappointed that I did not have the grit to complete this undertaking? Yes, of course I do. But do I regret this Friday night decision? No, never in a thousand years. Overall, this week-long goal has left me with a respect for vegetarians. It takes planning, mental toughness, and a strong moral compass to stand by your convictions about your diet. You people deserve a medal for your perseverance and character, or maybe just an article.



DANNY SHERVING
gunpowder art

Danny Sherving uses gunpowder to create rustic artwork on wood panels and canvas. In college, he discovered this technique and now utilizes it to convey his passion for the beautiful scenery and fascinating wildlife in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. First, he “paints” gunpowder on the canvas or wood and manipulates it to resemble different animals. Because the gunpowder is very light and isn’t glued down, it moves very easily and creates an added level of complexity when rendering images. Once the gunpowder is laid out, he lights the gunpowder on fire, and, in a flash, the fire rapidly spreads across the canvas and burns the gunpowder to the canvas, creating a burned, grainy rendering of the object.



Israeli sculptor Silgalit Landau takes objects from everyday life and crystalizes them in the Dead Sea. Because of the Dead Sea’s high salinity levels, salt crystals form on the objects creating stunning artwork that combines objects from Landau’s memories and the powerful elements of nature. She suspended a ballerina dress in the Dead Sea for months, and when it was removed, it weighed nearly 450 kilograms due to the salt crystals’ density. After crystalizing a pair of shoes in the Dead Sea, Landau traveled to a frozen lake and put them on the ice, where they melted large holes and ultimately fell into the lake. This process was captured in a video Landau filmed as part of her artwork.

SILGALIT LANDAU
dead sea art

ARTISTRY

... IN WAYS YOU’VE NEVER SEEN

BY CLAIRE SHODEEN



In today’s culture, artists no longer express themselves with basic pen on paper or paint on a canvas. Artists today create artwork using unconventional materials not commonly found in art studios, like food, dirt, and fire. Their inspiration ranges from childhood memories to farm animals. Featured here are just a few of the artistic techniques and inspirations that go beyond basic creativity and challenge what can be seen as art in today’s society.

Using cars covered in dirt, Scott Wade creates masterpieces. Known as the “dirty car artist,” Wade uses built-up dirt on cars to make amazing pictures of landscapes and portraits. He etches into the thick layer of dirt and dust on the car’s rear window and brushes it away to create shading and renderings of famous people and places. Wade was inspired by his early life in San Marcos, Texas, where dusty dirt roads always left cars with layers of dust on them. Wade loved to draw on the windows, and his fascination led him to continue to create art on the windows of cars. Today his art is featured in galleries all around the world.

SCOTT WADE
car dust art

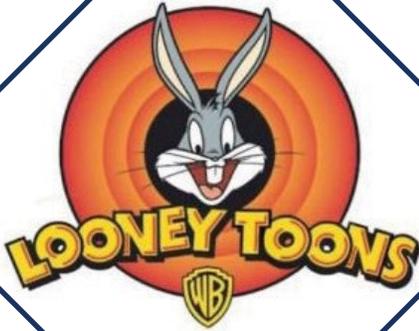


DANIELE BARRESI
fruit & veggie art

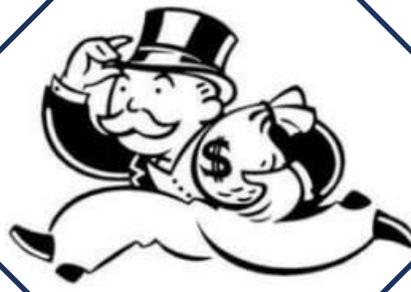
Daniele Barresi sculpts beautiful pieces of artwork out of produce. From broccoli to watermelon, Barresi carves detailed geometric patterns into any fruit or vegetable he can find. After creating his sculptures, he eats them because he doesn’t believe in wasting food. Based in Sydney, Australia, Barresi began carving when he was just 7 years old. His favorite fruit to carve is watermelon because the colors are reminiscent of Italy’s flag. His edible artwork became famous on Instagram when he created stunning sculptures out of avocados!

Investigating the Mandela Effect

by Reagan Rodgers and Ainsley Ferrel



which
Logo
is
correct?

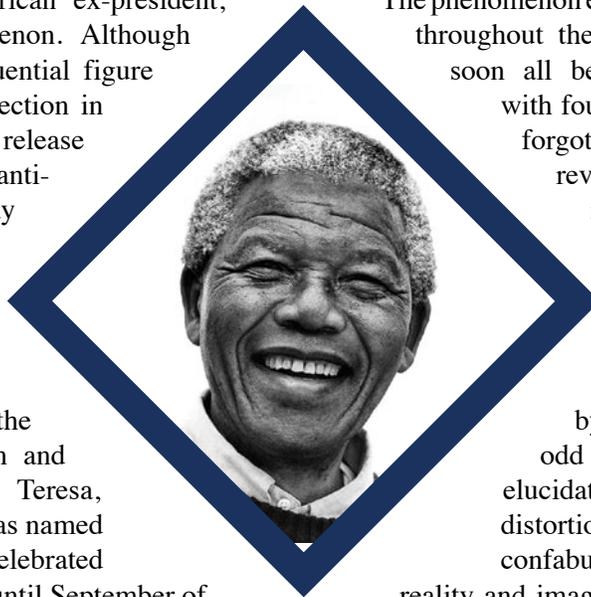


> Experiment Explained:

To test the true influence of the Mandela effect for ourselves, we showed ten TCA high-school students from each grade three sets of two images from popular corporations or forms of entertainment. For each set, one of the pictures was incorrectly represented in either spelling or design, and the student had to choose which looked the most familiar or “correct.” Considering how often the student body frequents establishments like Chick-fil-A and have viewed the symbols shown on the previous page in their day-to-day lives, correct answers should have poured in with nearly 100% accuracy.

However, only 40% of the student body chose the correct spelling for the Looney Tunes franchise, about half guessed the right symbol for the Monopoly man, and the same amount chose the real symbol and spelling for Chick-fil-A! Why such disagreement and division over such commonly known and seen entities? The explanation surely lies in the Mandela effect, but whether within its conspiracies or scientific aspects no one knows for certain . . .

The Mandela Effect stretches further than these confusing but lighthearted discrepancies, however. A large percent of the public has misremembered more significant, serious facts and historical events, like the time and place of the death of Nelson Mandela, the framed revolutionary leader, philanthropist, South African ex-president, and namesake of this phenomenon. Although this socially and politically influential figure passed away of a respiratory infection in 2013, roughly a decade after his release from his imprisonment for anti-government rebellion, on the day of his passing, it came to light that a large percentage of the population distinctly remembered his death in jail in the 1980s. A similar dispute occurred concerning the canonization of the famous nun and servant to the poor, Mother Teresa, (whom many incorrectly recall was named Mother Theresa). Although this celebrated missionary was not made a saint until September of 2016 by Pope Francis, a strikingly large percentage of the community mistakenly remember her canonization in the 1990s during her lifetime by Pope John Paul III. These inconsistencies in the memory of the public reveal that the Mandela Effect could be more than just a series of anomalies.



The effect’s definition is a similar, incorrect remembrance of something by large groups of people, or “collective misremembering.” The Mandela Effect probes debates scaling from light-hearted student arguments to thought-out pseudoscientific theories. The phenomenon eerily spreads inaccurate memories throughout the hazy past of each person, and soon all believe Looney Tunes is spelled with four O’s! But, even though C-3PO’s forgotten silver leg is a lighthearted revelation, there are darker and more bizarre sides of the Mandela Effect. Explanations such as time travelers who alter the past, spiritual or supernatural encounters, or the puppeteering of memories by the media all try to explain the odd phenomenon. But, more scientific elucidation of the false memories is distortion of present occurrences, or confabulation. The differentiability of reality and imagined events, like trying to decide if it was a dream or a memory, can be related to the Mandela Effect. In conclusion, even though the media has spread that the effect is a high-spirited occurrence, the uncovering of its science and logic is quite peculiar and disconcerting.

Dear Dwayne,

by Ashely McWhorter

Dear Dwayne,

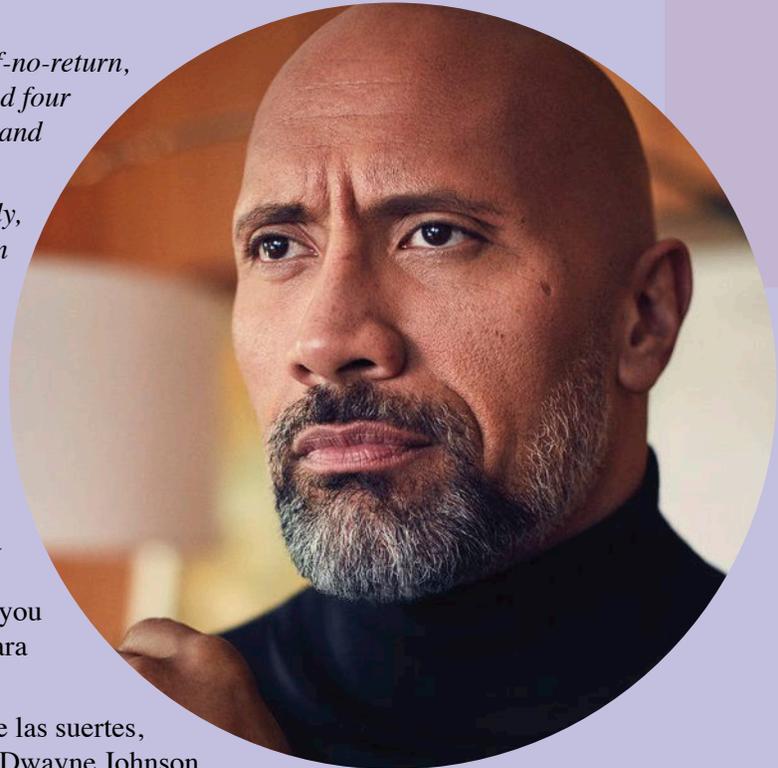
I absolutely, unequivocally, no-doubt-about-it, point-of-no-return, entirely failed my Spanish quiz. It was bad. My grade dropped four points. My parents are going to send me to boarding school, and I'll never get into college! How can I fix this?

*Sincerely,
Tired Trojan*

Dear Tired Trojan,

Well, that is indeed an unfortunate event. I, ever the star-student, never received below a ninety-one on anything and thus am not the best to ask about such a matter. The obvious answer is to actually study for the next few quizzes. This should bring your grade up by the end of the trimester. If this doesn't work, you could always try extra credit. I've found that teachers generally appreciate a good work ethic. If, at the end of all this studying and hard work, you still have a poor grade, then, sorry kid, but I guess it's sayonara and good luck wherever you end up.

La mejor de las suertes,
Dwayne Johnson



Dear Dwayne,

I ate my brother's homework. I thought it was a snack. He doesn't know yet... What do I do?

*Sincerely,
Unfortunate Underclassman*

Dear Unfortunate Underclassman,

Honestly, I have never in my life heard of such an incident. How did his homework look like a snack? But allow me to try to help. You have a few options here: apologize, blame, or replace. Apologize: explain that you ate it and are (presumably) very, very sorry. Offer to help make a new one. Blame: find a likely scapegoat and run with it. Think he'll believe that the dog ate it? Then, by golly, the dog ate it, and you did everything you could to prevent Spike from gobbling down his project, but alas it was no good. Replace: make an exact (or close) replica ASAP! Try to remember as much as you can about his snack-assignment and give it your best effort. Maybe ask a friend to help, seeing as it's time sensitive. The choice is yours, and the rest is entirely up to you. Hopefully, your brother won't take it too hard or even notice his project is different.

Best of luck,
Dwayne Johnson



Dear Dwayne,

I WANNA GET RIPPED LIKE YOU. HOW DO I DO IT???

Sincerely,
Bony Body Builder



Dear Bony Body Builder,

First, buy the latest edition of The ROCK magazine! Then hit the gym. Never leave. Live in the gym. Only eat protein. Powder, bars, shakes—if it has the word protein in it, eat it. That's it. That's the secret. Lift, bro.

Best of luck,
Dwayne Johnson

Dear Dwayne,

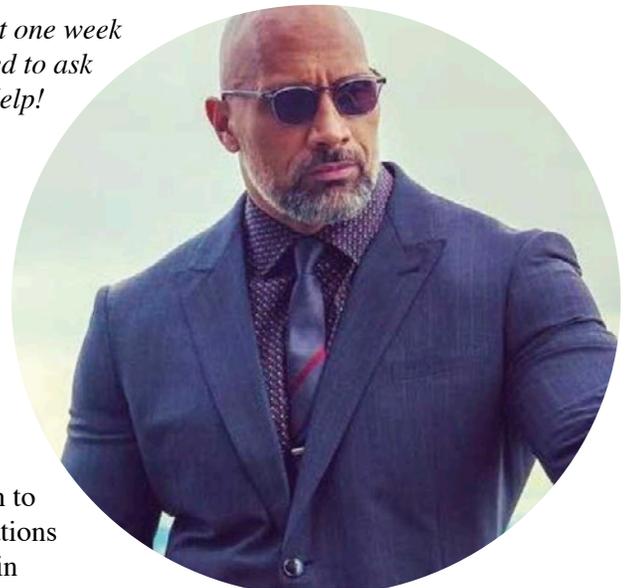
I was sick the week everyone asked people to Sadie's (that one week before Thanksgiving—remember?), and now the person I wanted to ask is taken. What should I do? I really wanted to go with a date. Help!

Sincerely,
Single Sophomore

Dear Single Sophomore,

That is truly unlucky, seeing as now your top choice has been asked. You are left with two viable alternatives—ask a boy from another school or accept your fate and go alone. Asking someone from another school has both advantages and disadvantages in the fact that likely no one will know him but you. This could lead to added street cred for bringing a new fish to the small pond, or it could result in an evening of side-conversations between only the two of you if your group doesn't engage him in conversation. Which, again, could be good or bad. In short, weigh all the pros and cons before choosing to bring a stranger to this shindig—it could be a very rewarding decision or a hindrance. Should you choose not to bring a date, you have automatically chosen flying solo. Personally, I, The Rock, never went stag—there were always a hundred girls begging for me to go with them—but I hear it can be a very fun experience. For one thing, you pay for half as much as you would with a date—one meal, one ticket, etc. The drawback is that you might not have enough other stag friends to make a solid group. However, you could always join a group of couples. Either way, you're running some big risks, so make your decision wisely. To bring a date or not to bring a date? That is the question.

Best of luck,
Dwayne Johnson

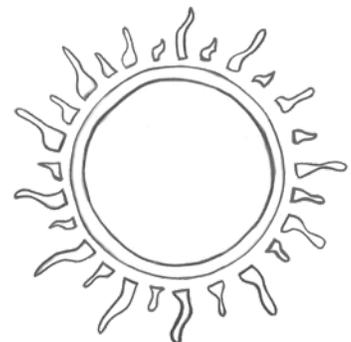
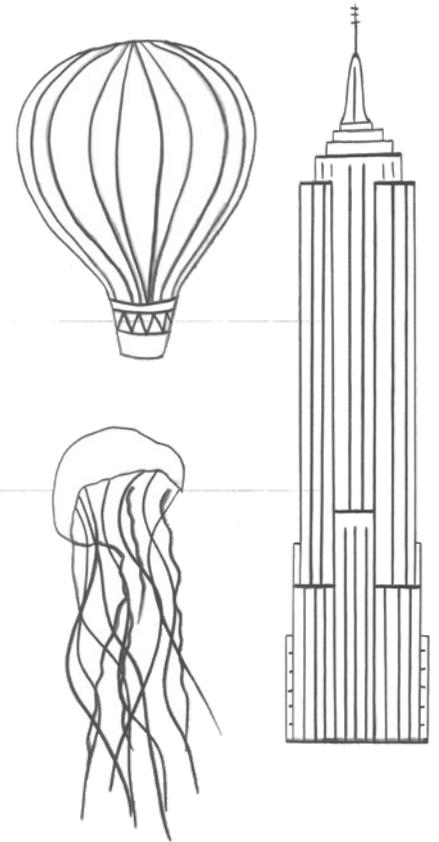


20 THINGS

you didn't know

by zoe schiefer, patricia sharon, ella ward,
caroline woodward, and annie xia

- 1 The most stolen food in the world is cheese.
- 2 The longest word you can type using only the first row of the keyboard is “typewriter.”
- 3 The only two things people are born afraid of are loud noises and falling.
- 4 Vincent Van Gogh was only able to sell one of his paintings during his lifetime.
- 5 *Turritopsis nutricula* jellyfish have the ability to regenerate their cells and possibly live forever.
- 6 The oldest “your mom” joke was discovered on a 3,500-year-old Babylonian tablet.
- 7 Bananas are curved because they grow towards the sun.
- 8 The inventor of the Frisbee was cremated and made into a Frisbee after he died.
- 9 In 2017, more people were killed from injuries caused by taking a selfie than by shark attacks.
- 10 A sheep, a duck, and a rooster were the first passengers in a hot air balloon.
- 11 Our stomachs think all potatoes are mashed.
- 12 Approximately 10-20% of U.S. power outages are caused by squirrels.
- 13 Pirates wore earrings because they believed it improved their eyesight.
- 14 The Twitter bird has a name: Larry.
- 15 The average person walks the equivalent of five times around the world in his/her lifetime.
- 16 Velociraptors were slightly bigger than chickens.
- 17 Cookie Monster’s real name is Sid.
- 18 You are more likely to become the president than you are to win the lottery.
- 19 The Empire State Building has its own zip code.
- 20 When jogging, we put on special clothes so that people don’t think we are running from something.



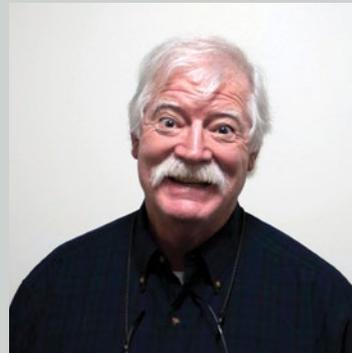
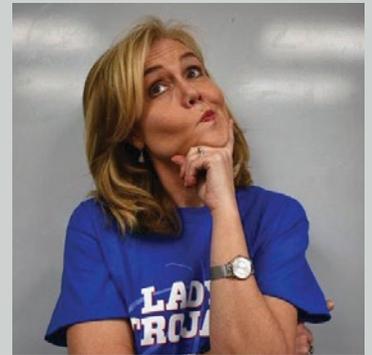
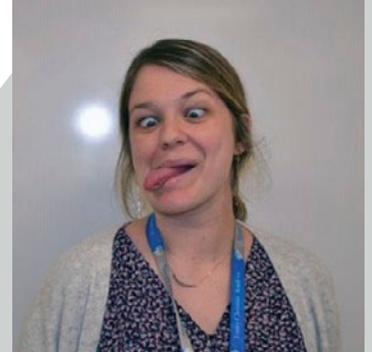
WHICH TEACHER SAID THIS

by Wilson Roe



No matter what class you take, each teacher has a joke or common saying to help you remember something important. Day in, day out, teachers drill these sayings into students' brains. Let's see if it's worked on you—match a quote to a picture!

1. Which teacher is known to exclaim, “Well, I don’t give a rip!”?
2. Which teacher likes “last names only in Kahoot”?
3. Which teacher refers to the person who sits next to you as your “intellectual partner”?
4. Who ends all his/her emails with “Love ya, mean it”?
5. Who declares, “Here’s your homework, should you choose to accept it”?
6. Who says, “I’m from Cookietown”?
7. Who says, “aquí, allí, allá”?





Hey there! I'm Georgia Ballew, executive editor of *The ROCK* and proud owner of Beebop, my blind but remarkably intelligent kitten. I am a librarian by day but an actress by night. I am famous for the "My Meals" album on my Facebook, which has a mouth-watering collection of every meal I have eaten since July 5, 2017. So, if you're into that, check it out. It is also important to note that I am afraid of birds and loud noises—Mrs. Wayman has diagnosed this as a "quick adrenaline rush." In other news, I am very excited to attend Washington & Lee in the fall! Thank you to my incredible staff who made this hard work fun!

Hi, my name is Avery Schuster, and I am a senior editor of *The ROCK* magazine. I am also co-captain of the varsity tennis team. I enjoy eating unhealthy foods and watching a lot of television. I've been known to tell anticlimactic stories, but I am good at baking and group acrobatics. My friends call me Ave, but my real friends call me Guad. This is my fourth year working on this magazine, and I'm surprised they still let me use the computer. Thank you to fellow *ROCK* staff and all the people who supported us in this endeavor.

Hey Guys! I'm Kennedy Mason, a design team member for *The ROCK*! I am in senior section on the yearbook staff and a member of Best Buddies! I'm also very excited to attend Auburn University next fall! War Eagle!!! Outside of school, I spend a large chunk of time at my dance studio where I have taken ballet for the past 15 years! In my free time, I love eating out with friends, consuming alarming amounts of bubble tea, and my favorite pastime, daydreaming about graduation. I'm also the proud mom of my blind chihuahua, Daisy, whom I love very much. Enough about me, this magazine ROCKS (pun intended, I'm sorry), and I hope y'all enjoy reading it!

Being a true longhorn, I have to start out with Hook 'em! Hey, I'm Brijit Crosby (better known as Sunshine or Ribbit), and a design editor for *The ROCK*! When I'm not tied up in editing for this staff or yearbook, you can find me on the driving range of the golf course or hunting with my brother! I love shopping, always having people over, binge-watching criminal minds and drinking chai tea lattes! Anyways, if you have made it this far, I am impressed because I would have stopped reading, but I hope you love this magazine as much as I do!

Oh hey, I didn't see ya there. I'm Dan. I like Super Smash Bros, math, and photography. If you ever see me around the school you might see Racetrac pizza, way too much enthusiasm, or hovering between conversations. When someone might ask me for a good icebreaker question, I would respond with, "What is your favorite building?" (mine is Fountain Place, a.k.a. the pointy one downtown). I hope you enjoy the magazine! We worked really hard to make it for you!

Friends, Romans, countrymen, yeah, I'm just kidding. I'm Avery Gann, but if you ask my friends, I'm either Algae, Gravy, or Avebabe. I know. I have the best nicknames ever. When I'm not spending my time eating Chick-fil-A grilled nuggets, I'm probably driving to go get Chick-fil-A grilled nuggets. Wait, no that's a lie. I totalled my car a few weeks ago. I'm going to UT in the fall! Sorry dad . . . I'm not living out his dream of becoming a Baylor Bear. Also, I don't really like orange, but don't tell UT.

STAFF BIOS