

Volume 4

April Edition

## STOLEN FROM SOCIETY

by: Rachel Dsouza



On March 30, 2020, a masterpiece was stolen. "The Parsonage Garden at Nuenen in Spring" by Vincent Van Gogh was found missing from a museum called Laren. Strange enough, the thief made off with the precious painting on the artist's birthday.

"I feel enormous anger and sadness," said Jan Rudolph de Lorm, the museum director. "Because especially in these dark days that we are in, I feel so strongly that art is here to comfort us, to inspire us and to heal us."

The museum had been closed due to COVID-19, which may be a reason the thief decided to strike. The museum is not usually guarded at night, either. The picture had been on loan from a different museum and had attracted over 5,000 visitors.

"It is one of our main works of art," Andreas Blühm, the director of the museum that Laren had borrowed the painting from, said. "But every piece of art that is stolen from a public museum is art that is stolen from society."

## THE LEGENDARY BUNNY: HOW EASTER CAME TO BE

by: Nathan Yang

The holiday of Easter is usually filled with trying to find eggs during an Easter egg hunt or playing games with the Easter Bunny. How did this miraculous holiday start out like? Easter first came to be as a Christian holiday that celebrates the belief of Jesus Christ's resurrection. According to the Bible, Jesus resurrected three days after he died. Many people celebrate that day as Easter.



Before all this, Christians have lent, or a "40-day period of fasting, prayer and sacrifice." Easter then ends with Holy Week that includes Holy Thursday, which is the celebration of Jesus's Last Supper.

The Easter Bunny is a character that delivers candy to children on Easter Sunday, though legend has it that the Easter Bunny hides under the disguise of a human adult - we don't know for sure. Nobody knows the exact origin of the Easter Bunny though some people think the bunny was chosen because each spring, new bunnies are born. Therefore, the birth of bunnies is associated with birth or renewal. Today, the Easter Bunny is sold as a mascot of Easter. The Easter Bunny is on everything - from food to plates to napkins.

Though the true origin is unknown, some sources say that the Easter Bunny came to the Americas in the 1700s from Germany. German immigrants brought their traditions of a bunny called the "Osterhase" or "Oschter Haws." along with them. Children made nests where the bunny could give birth. Eventually, this hare brought from Germany became the Easter Bunny, who gave out candy and toys on Easter Sunday.

Easter eggs are a part of modern traditions such as the "Easter Egg Hunt". The eggs show fertility and growth, which is why they are associated with the holiday. Today, they have become what is known as an Easter Egg Hunt. Kids go around searching for hidden eggs. Inside, the prizes range from money to candy to toys. The most famous Easter Egg Hunt might be the White House Easter Egg Roll, where kids roll Easter Eggs down Capitol Hill.

# The Virus Apocalypse

by: Michelle Du

COVID-19, commonly known as the coronavirus, first started in Wuhan, China but continued to spread to other countries at a mind-blowing pace, hitching rides on tourists and travelers.

Authorities believe that COVID-19 was first found in a seafood market. However, scientists have discovered that the origins of the coronavirus come from bat genetics. These genetics could have contaminated food from the market, infecting one person, starting the domino effect.

For example, we can say that there are two people that have COVID-19. In a month, 1, 458 people would be infected, just from contact with these people. This is how COVID-19 spreads so fast, by taking advantage of the world population.

COVID-19 can cause pneumonia, which is a sickness that causes shortness of breath. You might feel fine for some time, but eventually, you will have trouble breathing. Pneumonia affects your lungs by filling the air sacs with fluids and mucus making you unable to breathe.

COVID-19 has proven to be airborne. Airborne means that something can travel by air. If you sneeze or cough, those germs that act as particles and go into the air. These particles can stay in the same place for eight hours. Even most metals such as copper still require 2-3 hours for germs to fade away. Plastic can take even longer for the particles to leave. Germs can stay put for 5-6 hours until they disappear from the surfaces. If you breathe in specific particles that are related to COVID-19, there is a strong possibility you could be infected. Due to the fact that COVID-19 is so contagious, political leaders prevent people from going to public or populous areas. Many areas have been closed off, such as parks and playgrounds. Events have even been postponed or canceled, such as the Olympics.



Temporary hospitals like this one in Wuhan house victims of mild COVID-19 cases.

COVID-19 is a virus that spreads through your respiratory system. The lungs are a part of the respiratory system. The reason why doctors insist on people not touching their faces is because that is one of the main ways the disease is able to infiltrate into your body. When you touch your face, germs can sneak through your nose and mouth.

After COVID-19 has invaded the body, they will proceed down the respiratory tract, which is the passage that air passes through from your mouth and nose to your lungs. Why does our body not stop them? Well, COVID-19 has something special on itself that fools your body into thinking they are nutrients. This way, they can bring endless amounts of their own kind inside your body without being detected. The germs will then attach themselves to other healthy cells, and take over them. This will kill the cell. Eventually, the germs will reach the lungs and cause shortness of breath and coughing. Most cases will end after this, however if the infection is more severe, it is possible that the germs have damaged blood and tissue. This damage can lead to debris, which in turn causes blockage in the lungs. Blockage can make it hard, or even impossible to breathe.

People have started to stock up on things such as hand sanitizer, food, disinfecting wipes, and toilet paper. This is a logical reaction when a pandemic occurs, but if we clear the shelves of stores, what do the people that need the products get? For example, there might be ten people who arrive at a store and clear the shelves of milk. Another person could come later and see that there is no more milk on the shelves and realize that they will not have any at their house. Remember to think about others when in these harsh situations. Do not hoard food, and only buy what you need.

COVID-19 has hit hard on the United States. When we study the charts, we can see that the number of cases aren't on a continuous slope or line. Instead, they increase by a bit and then decrease by a bit. Chances are that we will be hitting a huge decrease after most of the cases are controlled and isolated.

When we look at China's cases, we can see that there was an enormous spike in mid-February, but then continued to fall down to the bottom of the chart. This means that China has controlled most of its cases, which is resulting in only about eleven total cases on April 25. Their progress is obvious and well-done.

Bacteria is the most abundant living organism on Earth. It can be found almost everywhere, including in your body. Have you ever heard of the five-second rule? Many people “follow” this rule and believe that a piece of food is still clean if picked up from the ground within 5 seconds. However, scientists took an experiment. They dropped a slice of bread on a dirty floor. After one second, the bread had soaked up 1% of the germs on the floor. While this may not seem like much, after five seconds the slice of bread had absorbed 20% of the germs on the ground.

One of the most germ-infested areas of your body is your hands. Approximately 1, 500 germs live on every square centimeter of your hands. This is why most people are now trying to avoid shaking hands. While this may seem a silly way to avoid germs, it is actually beneficial. An average handshake takes three seconds, which gives time for more than 120 million germs to spread from a person's hands.

Many doctors encourage washing your hands and claim that it is one of the most efficient ways to keep yourself healthy. Hand sanitizer can help, but it only kills the germs. Killing the germs does not mean that the germs have disappeared from your hands. If you rub the hand sanitizer on your hands, the germs are killed but they stay on your hands unless you wash them later. If you wash your hands with soap and water, the germs “slide” off your hands and go into the sink.

You may have heard of the phrase ‘social distancing’. Social distancing is the act of staying away from other people. In other words, self-isolation. Self-isolation does not mean that you have to sit in your room away from your family. It means that you stay at home most of the time and only go to populated places when necessary, such as the grocery store. Social distancing can help decrease the chance of getting the coronavirus. If you have limited contact with others, it lowers the chance of coming in contact with someone that has COVID-19. Social distancing is necessary to expand the length of time of the pandemic. If the amount of cases were to increase rapidly, medical workers would not have enough time to care for all of the patients. However, with social distancing the amount of cases is spread out, giving doctors time to care for people.

At one point, many people were under the impression that children are immune to COVID-19. While it may be true that kids react differently to the coronavirus, they are not immune to it. The youngest death so far was a baby in Illinois. A 12-year old girl from Belgium as well as a 13-year old boy from London. Children have shown to have milder symptoms.

At present, wash your hands and don't touch your face. Otherwise you may become sick. When you are sick, your immune system job of fighting illnesses becomes harder. If you have two viruses invading at the same time, your immune system could be so overwhelmed that it will take much longer until it restores your health.



*Medical workers on shift - doctors and nurses are required to wear heavy protective gear when in contact with patients*

While many leaders are successful with lowering cases and deaths, many women leaders are stepping up their game. Germany's chancellor Angela Merkel has made it so that fewer than 5,000 deaths have occurred in her country. She says that COVID-19 was “serious – so take it seriously”. Denmark's Mette Frederiksen acted by closing the borders and shutting down all schools and universities. Denmark has less than 8,000 reported cases, and only 370 deaths. Taiwan's female president, Tsai Ing-wen has also been affecting the COVID-19 outcome. In weeks, 124 control and contain measure were appointed. These measure made a full lockdown unnecessary. Taiwan has reported only six deaths, and is reaching out to other countries. They have been sending face masks to COVID-19 infected countries. Prime Minister of New Zealand, Jacinda Ardern, has united the country in many ways. Not only does Ardern communicate with non-aggressive press conferences and “stay home and save lives”, New Zealand has only recorded 18 deaths. With such progress, New Zealand is even developing a plan to cease the reign of COVID-19 for good.

Thanks to doctors, over 850, 000 people have recovered. Hospitals are filled with patients, and around the world medical workers have been battling COVID-19 tirelessly. Companies such as Eli Lilly have also been stepping up and helping to test for the coronavirus. Volunteers are risking their own health to help others. Leader of New Zealand, Jacinda Ardern, insists on being helpful and kind to your neighbors. She is beloved by the many kiwis in her country. Countries everywhere celebrate people who still work for their fellow citizens. Not only medical workers, but police officers, firefighters, etc. In places such as India and Italy, people go out in the evening and sing, to honor these hard workers.

Though we are at home, we are still alive. And if we are still breathing, that means we still have everything we need to fight. And if we continue our struggle, COVID-19 will fall to its well-deserved death. We will regain our footing on the world and because of conquering COVID-19, we will be able to face on harder and even more horrible obstacles. COVID-19 isn't our weakness. It will become our stepping stone and our armor instead.

# A VIEW INSIDE THE LOCKDOWN

## HOW COVID-19 THREATENS THOSE IN WUHAN, CHINA

by: Angie Xiu

---

Last summer I took a trip to Wuhan and attended my aunt's school for a few days. You couldn't walk down a hall without one boy or one girl clapping you on the back or flashing you a smile. But now that school is empty - its corridors are most likely filled with dust and grime. The street outside, once bustling with honks and smoke, is now a deadly sort of quiet. That school is just another building amidst the silent chaos of China. A fourth grader from that school became an orphan in February, I should mention. His parents were victims of the first wave of COVID-19 in Wuhan - the wave of patients that did not receive the necessary treatment in order to survive.

Most of my family lives in Wuhan, China - the province where COVID-19 first hit. Such as my aunt, who is an assistant principal in an elementary school, or my cousin Cindy - who's still in preschool. Since we have this special situation on our hands, I decided to interview my aunt over WeChat. Below is our conversation.

### 1. Can you tell me your personal view on COVID-19?

This new coronavirus is an infectious disease that is transmitted through droplets. It can cause lung infections in patients and attack the immune system. At present, I am not infected because I wear masks for protection.

### 2. What is the current situation in Wuhan? How often do you go out?

At present, all confirmed and suspected cases in

Wuhan have been treated and isolated. The confirmed cases are gradually decreasing as well. The situation is somewhat optimistic. Those who are not infected (healthy) are isolated at home. We haven't been out for 67 days\*. Never even stepped out of the door. Just walked back and forth between the living room, bedroom, and balcony.

### 3. Do you think COVID-19 will disappear in the summer?

At first, it seemed promising, but with the increasing number of cases in Europe and the Americas, it is estimated that this hope is somewhat slim.

### 4. Is the situation serious in your area?

We are in Wuhan, the first area where COVID-19 broke out, with a total of 67,801 confirmed cases which does not even include those who died without a confirmed diagnosis. Of course it's serious.

### 5. Do you think there will be other problems after COVID-19 disappears, such as racism?

There may be a certain period of time when there is, since everyone would be especially afraid of the virus, so it would be obvious for them to avoid people who lived in the past-affected areas. But this virus knows no borders, and working together to fight it is what everyone should do. My son said that as long as it is not called Wuhan Virus, China Virus will do. \*facepalms\*



# WORLD RECORDS : Stunt Edition

By: Nathan Yang, Jackson Taylor, Rachel Dsouza, Catherine Guo, and Angie Xiu

In this article, we'll be telling you about the mind-blowing stunts that made it to Guinness World Records. From climbing Mt. Everest in nothing but shorts to skydiving without a parachute, these stunts are out of this world!



## *Antony Britton: Fastest 100 Meter Run While on Fire*

Antony Britton is a well known stuntman best known for his “buried alive” stunt. On December 5th, Antony ran what is known as a charity run to raise money, but instead of your normal run, Antony Britton ran 100 meters while on fire. Not only that, but he also broke the world record for the fastest time for running 100 meters while on fire. Antony had on a fireproof coat while on fire, and did not suffer any injuries other than sweating a lot.

## WIM HOF: CLIMBING MOUNT EVEREST IN NOTHING BUT SHORTS

In 2007, the Dutch daredevil Wim Hof, known as “the iceman”, attempted to climb Mount Everest in nothing but shorts. Wim is able to withstand extreme cold and is a master of tummo meditation (a form of yoga). He is able to control his immune system and his body temperature through deep breathing. Wim did not make it to the top though, thanks to a foot injury. However, two years later, again in nothing but shorts, Wim made it to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro in only two days with a group of trained experts who were taught (by Wim) to control their body temperature. Wim Hof currently holds 18 world records.



## *Vesa Kivimäki: fastest time for Side Wheelie in a Racecar*

Vesa Kivimaki is a 41 year old professional stunt driver. He teamed up with Nokian Tyres to beat the world record for fastest side wheelie in a car. The record has not been beaten for 19 years. On an airfield in Seinajoki, Finland, Vesa Kivimaki was driving 115.742 mph while wheelieing. He has been driving since the age of six and it was his dream to break this world record. The car that he was driving was a BMW 330 fitted with Nokian tires.



## *Alain Robert: Free-climbing the Burj Khalifa*

Alain Robert is a French rock-climber and is known for climbing buildings. He's known as the “French Spider Man” and “the Human Spider”, using nothing but chalk and his own body to scale large buildings. In 2011, he climbed the 2,717 foot tall Burj Khalifa in six hours with a harness and rope, due to safety requirements. Alain has climbed over 70 skyscrapers, including Taiwan's Taipei 101 and New York's Empire State Building.



## **LUKE AIKINS: HIGHEST SKYDIVING WITHOUT A PARACHUTE**

Luke Aikins, an American pilot and skydiver, dove 25,000 feet into a net with no parachute in Simi Valley, California. He trusted scientists to get the measurements correct and to catch him when he descended from a plane. The 200 foot high net was suspended in the air with four cranes. Luke has performed stunts for Hollywood before, including ones in movies such as *Godzilla* and *Iron Man 3*. He and his team of producers planned this jump for two years, and Luke finally accomplished it with a trio of additional jumpers.

## *Garrett McNamara: Biggest Wave Surfed*

Garrett McNamara of the United States broke the record for surfing the largest wave by one person on November 1, 2011. McNamara managed to surf a wave that was 23.77 meters measured from trough to crest. The wave was surfed off the coast of Praia do Norte, Nazare, Portugal. Waves up to 300 feet high constantly crash into these Portugese cliffs and are therefore the perfect place.

## **Tyler Bradt: Highest Waterfall Kayaked**

Tyler Bradt is an American kayaker who broke the record for the highest waterfall kayaked. He defeated the 107-foot high waterfall by staying to the far left of the descending water. By staying in the left range, Tyler managed to land in the "safety zone" which is the area where the water pushes away from the waterfall's base. Tyler Bradt broke this record on September 7, 2007 in Canada, at the waterfall Alexandra Falls. Bradt has pulled stunts in multiple documentaries such as *Chasing Niagara*, *Congo: The Inga Project*, and *Oil + Water*.

## **Yuya Yamada: Largest Hula Hoop Spun**

This aluminium hula hoop measures 5.14 meters in diameter (16 ft 10 in) and was spun by Yuya Yamada in Yokohama, Kanagawa, Japan on November 9, 2017. Also known as Hoop Man Yu-ya, the Japanese performer was required to complete three revolutions which he accomplished easily. Yuya has been working as a hula hoop artist since 2011, traveling to schools to give demonstrations to children.



# Amazing Animals: Mythical Edition

By Rachel Dsouza & Catherine Guo

When you hear about dragons and fairies, you probably think that these are stories for wackos. There is *no way* anyone would believe in a giant lizard that guards a holy rock. It is *impossible* to think that there is a monster in the ocean. You would be wrong. Many people believed in these creatures and passed on their stories for generations. Here are a few.

## Chimera

The Chimera is a beast with three heads that consists of a goat, a snake, and a lion. It has been seen in many different myths, but originates from Greece. The beast was foretold to terrorize Lycia (now Turkey) but was slain by a man named Bellerophon. The Chimera was thought to be capable of breathing fire, and was said to have a snake as a tail, its middle as a goat, and the front of its body a lion. The word 'chimera' is still used nowadays to express a piece of imagination.



## KRAKEN

The Kraken is pulled from the pages of Norwegian folklore. It wrecks ships and terrorizes sailors and fishermen. The Kraken is usually described as a ginormous octopus or squid. Many people believed that it was real, and some people as far back as the 1500s, thought that they had caught a sighting. It wasn't until the 1700s, however, that a Swedish scientist named Carolus Linnaeus finally "confirmed" that the Kraken was a cephalopod. He even gave the creature a scientific name, which is *Microcosmus marinus*.



## Makara

Also known as the Dragon Fish, the Makara originated from India. However, it was carried in Buddha's teachings and is now also known in other parts of Asia. Buddhists describe Makara as a fish that can swallow anything. According to Hindu mythology, they guarded temple entrances, and gateways. It is a mythical sea creature, and despite it being called 'Dragon Fish', Makara is actually depicted as half land animal, and half sea animal, though people disagree on what the terrestrial and aqueous halves of the Makara are.



## Adnoartina

Adnoartina is a giant lizard that originates from Australia. Adnoartina is the guardian of Uluru (oo-la-roo). Uluru is a 2,831 feet high rock. While that may not seem especially impressive, Uluru has been sacred to the Diyari people for centuries. It is Adnoartina's job to keep this sacred land safe. Legend has it that one day, Adnoartina killed Marindi, a ginormous dog, and his opponent's blood spilled over Uluru and dyed the rock red.



# DOMOVY

A domovy, also called a domovoi or domovoj, originates from Slavic mythology. Domovy are household spirits. In Russia, people call them 'Домово́й', which literally means 'Household Lord'. They are known to be charitable and friendly. A domovy usually does not reveal themselves to the inhabitants of the house, but they show their love by giving different signs. A domovoy can even protect households from natural calamities. However, if inhabitants of the house are lazy, rude, or dirty, a domovoy can break objects and sometimes even suffocate people. To appease a domovoy, people gave offerings like milk and bread.



# Qi Lin

A Qi Lin, also called Qilin, is a benevolent creature from Ancient China. It is similar to a dragon but is often compared to a European version of a unicorn. In fact, the Chinese characters for a Qi Lin are 麒麟, which means unicorn. This is because a Qi Lin possesses a horn on the top of its head, much like a unicorn. However, the Qi Lin is also thought to be wreathed in flame and to have fish scales on its skin - similar to a dragon. A Qi Lin only showed itself if there was a good emperor ruling China. They are seen as bringers of good fortune.



# Curupira

The Curupira is a mythological creature from Brazilian folklore. The Curupira has blended features of fairies from other myths, but it is seen as a demonic figure. Its name in Tupi-guarani means "child's body." It is seen as a boy with red hair, and sometimes fire hair. Another interesting feature of this creature is its backward feet. They are used to confuse travelers. The Curupira can also create illusions and a high pitched whistle that scares away its victims. The Curupira protects forests and animals from hunters, lumbermen, and other people.



# KUMIHO

The Kumiho, also called a Gumiho, is a fox with nine tails. It's Korean name, 구미호 literally means nine tailed fox. Although it is an animal of Korean folklore, it originated in China. Korean folklore says that when a fox lives for a thousand years, they will turn into a Kumiho. These fox spirits have the ability to change into the form of anything they desire, even an inanimate object! In one legend, Kumihos transform into attractive beings and then lure people in. They would proceed to eating the victim's heart and liver out.





# Dingonek

The Dingonek that was supposedly found around jungles in West Africa. J.A. Jordan claims to have seen it himself near Lake Victoria. Above that, it is also a West African cryptid. It is an aquatic animal, and is known as the “Jungle Walrus” for that and its long sabers. It’s mainly a mix of a pangolin and a saber toothed tiger. Some theories say that it’s a living dinosaur, since it has features of a dinosaur from the Mesozoic period. The Dingonek is a carnivore, and will eat anything except elephants. No one knows why.



# Ningen

The Ningen’s name, as well as its Japanese name, 人間, translates to “human.” This makes sense, because it has some human features. Another common name for this creature is “Japanese mermaid.” It is a large and bulbous creature, about 20-30 meters long. It was originally sighted in the Arctic Ocean by a Japanese research vessel, although there have been many sightings. Usually, it is sighted at night. The Ningen is currently being studied by Japanese scientists.



# Ahuizotl

The Ahuizotl is a creature of Aztec mythology, a cross between a dog and a monkey. (Some say it’s half human.) Its name, translated in Nahuatl, the language which Aztecs speak, means “Thorny One of Water.” True to its name, the Ahuizotl inhabits the depths of watery springs and caves and drags in, with its tail, whoever gets too close to its domain. It has short fur, and a hand sprouting from its tail. The Ahuizotl usually tricks humans by imitating the sound of a crying infant. Then it drowns its victims and eats them.



# Tabib al-Bahr

The Tabib al-Bahr, also known as “The Physician of the Sea” or *طبيب البحر*, is a fish-like creature that has a human shape and can transform into a sort of mermaid/merman-like form. It is found in the Indian Ocean and originates from the Middle East. Prior to its name, the Tabib al-Bahr has a large yellow gemstone in the middle of its forehead. Besides the gem having incredible healing powers, if you kill the Tabib al-Bahr, the gemstone will be able to turn metals into gold. Tabib al-Bahr is now thought to be a symbol of alchemy. A famous story involving Tabib al-Bahr is the explorer Jabir ibn Hayyan. The Iranian explorer was one of the last to sight this creature.



# ALL ABOUT APRIL FOOL'S DAY

by: Layla Abdo

## WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT THE PRANKSTER HOLIDAY

All holidays have origins. In April, there are many holidays celebrated in different religions. The Jews have Passover for eight days and the Christians have Easter on Sunday and Monday. However, there is a holiday that can be celebrated by any person. April Fool's Day is celebrated by millions around the world. In this article, we are going to talk about April Fool's Days' history, how it is celebrated in different countries, and famous tricks and scams that happened on the first day of April.

There are many theories on how April Fool's Day came to be a national holiday. One of them is based off of an ancient Roman holiday called Hilaria. On this day, people would dress up and trick each other. This is germane to our present-day April Fool's Day so it is a possible theory. Another theory is rooted from 16th century France. This was at the time in which France used the Julian Calendar, which celebrated the new year on April 1. When Pope Gregory XIII decided to change to the Gregorian Calendar, the new year was changed to January 1. Some people either did not know about this change or forgot about it and so when they got confused, other people would call them "April Fools." These poor fools who still celebrated the new year on April 1 and were constantly tricked into running fool errands, tasks in which are either impossible or not real. This theory is definitely different from the first, but is still relevant to how April Fool's Day came to be a national holiday.

There are many countries that celebrate April Fool's Day including Finland, Greece, Peru, France, USA, Iran, UK, Portugal, Denmark, Italy, Poland, Iraq, Germany, India, Spain, Sweden, Brazil, Belgium, Ireland, and Canada. Each of these countries has their own twist to the way they observe April Fool's Day. For example, in France, Italy, and French-speaking parts of Canada, people stick paper fish to other peoples' back without the victim knowing. They even call April Fool's Day *Poisson d'Avril*, meaning April Fish, in honor of this joke. Most of the jokes played in these countries are also commonly known as *Poisson d'Avril*. In Poland, the press and government both play tricks, so you have no idea when you can believe what they're



saying. It is a little hard to think that news stations and leaders of the country would play tricks on their citizens. It seems like anybody can fool others on this day whether they are a student or a political leader. In Belgium, youngsters might lock adults such as parents in rooms or entire buildings only to let them out when promised treats and candy. In Scotland, April Fool's Day was formerly called Hunt the Gowk Day (gowk, in Scottish, means a foolish person). On this day, whoever was the "gowk" would be given a sealed letter and be sent to a house. They would give the letter to the receiver. In the letter it would say, "Dinna laugh, Dinna smile. Hunt the gowk another mile." The receiver would then give the gowk an identical letter and then send them off to the next house. Eventually, the gowk would either realize what was happening or somebody would feel bad for them and the joke would end. In the UK, people are supposed to pull pranks only until noon. Anyone who fooled others after this time would be called an April Fool. In Germany, citizens play pranks on others, called *Aprilscherz*. TV channels and other news stations normally have one story that is false and not an actual piece of news on their station. It is normally not that hard to tell the true news stories from the false ones though. When divulging their trick, Germans say *April, April*, literally meaning "April April". In Portugal, people do something especially unique and amusing; they throw flour on each other. Think of what it would be like, surprising your friends by tossing some flour on them! These are just a few of the many ways that different countries celebrate April Fool's Day.

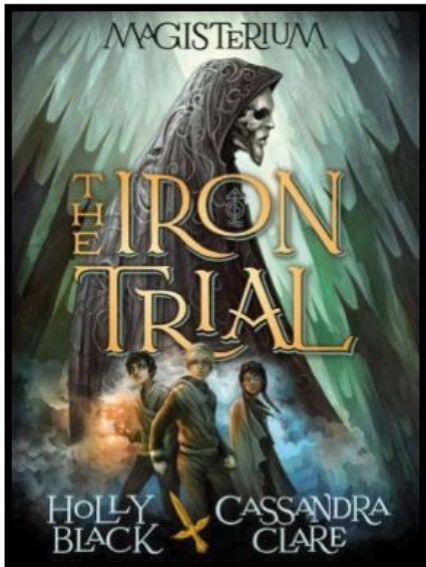
Not only does each country have many April Fool's Day traditions, but there are also many famous pranks that have happened in the past. One of the most famous ones was on BBC - British Broadcast Corporation. They showed a clip on a family harvesting spaghetti off of "spaghetti trees." At the time, spaghetti was not an extremely popular dish in Britain and because of this many people were fooled. They called BBC asking how they could plant their own spaghetti tree. Apparently, these people did not realize how crazy they sounded. Another trick was when a German newspaper named the *Berliner Tageblatt* said that thieves had excavated an underpass below the U.S. Federal Treasury and had taken gold and silver from America. This caught many people's attention in the US and Europe. Fortunately, it was just an April Fool's Joke. Another prank was actually done a day before April Fool's Day. It was meant to be on April 1, but weather conditions caused it to be on March 31. Richard Branson and Don Cameron were in a hot air balloon that looked like a UFO. When the police arrived at the field, Cameron emerged from the UFO in silver attire as if he was an alien. The frightened police officers ran away. These are a few of many famous pranks in history.

April Fool's Day is a fun holiday celebrated all around the world. Each year on the first day of April, you can always count on hearing false news or getting tricked by a family member, relative, or friend. This year, we celebrated April Fools with only our family, not able to prank our friends due to safety requirements. Nevertheless, April Fool's is always fun and foolish and a holiday that we look forward to each year!



*Poisson d'Avril - the sacred fish of April*

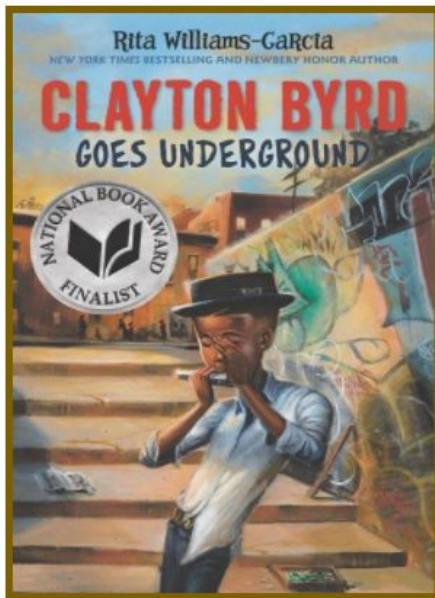
# April Edition Book Reviews



## **THE IRON TRIAL** by Holly Black and Cassandra Clare

Review written by Nathan Yang

Callum's dad, Alastair Hunt, is always warning Call about the Magisterium, a school buried deep under the earth. The Magisterium is where children learn how to control their magic. Call has been brought up to fear magic. However, he and a number of other kids are forced to take the Iron Trial, a series of tests that decide whether or not you are capable of handling the Magisterium. When Call goes to the Iron Trial, he wants to fail. But Call somehow passes the test and is emitted into The Magisterium. There he meets Aaron and Tamara and soon all of them become friends. Then there is Havoc, who is a chaos-ridden wolf pup that Call adopts. At the Magisterium, Call learns about the Enemy of Death. Supposedly, The Enemy was the one who had murdered his mother, as well as countless other people. Almost everyone at the Magisterium seems to hate the Enemy, also known as Constantine Madden. One fateful day, Aaron gets kidnapped by the supposed Enemy of Death. When Call and Tamara go after their friend, Call learns a hidden secret about himself that changes his life.



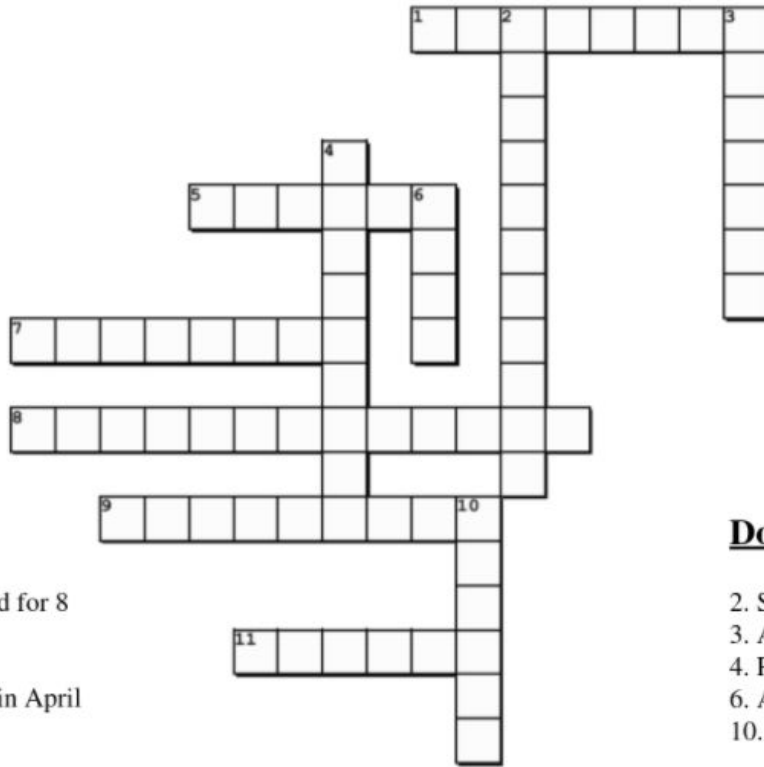
## **Clayton Byrd Goes Underground** by Rita Williams-Garcia

Review written by Jackson Taylor

Clayton is just a music-loving kid. He has always wanted to play the harmonica with the Bluesmen, his grandfather's band. Clayton and his grandfather, Cool Papa, have always had an excellent relationship through music. Clayton's mother doesn't like the music though. She doesn't like Cool Papa because of the music. One night, Cool Papa dies after reading Clayton a book at night. Clayton's mother decides to get rid of all of Cool Papa's stuff, to wipe away the memory of the Bluesmen. But Clayton fought for that stuff, although he only kept one item - Cool Papa's hat. Angry and hurt, Clayton runs away from his life, with only the clothes on his back, his harmonica in his pocket, and Cool Papa's hat on his head.

# Kuhn Kronicles April Crossword Puzzle

by: Layla Abdo



## Across

1. A Jewish holiday celebrated for 8 days
5. The season in April
7. This sport starts its season in April
8. First day of April
9. Sports Draft
11. A Christian holiday

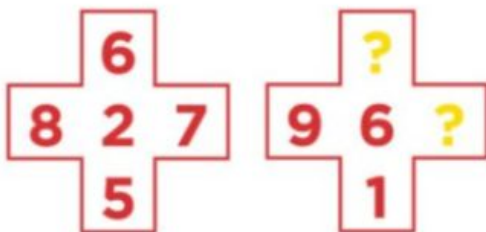
## Down

2. School break
3. An Arabic month of fasting
4. Part of March Madness
6. Adjective for a certain Friday
10. Number of days in April

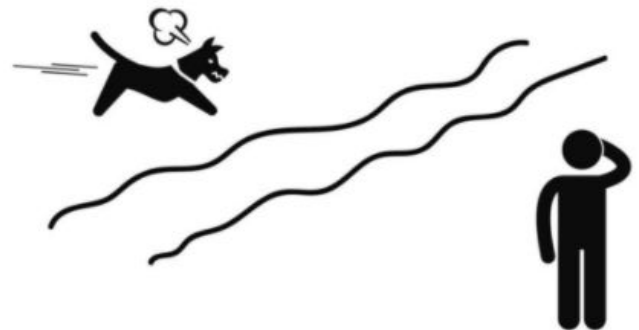
# BRAIN GAMES

Credit to Reader's Digest

## Find the 2 Missing Numbers



## What Happened?



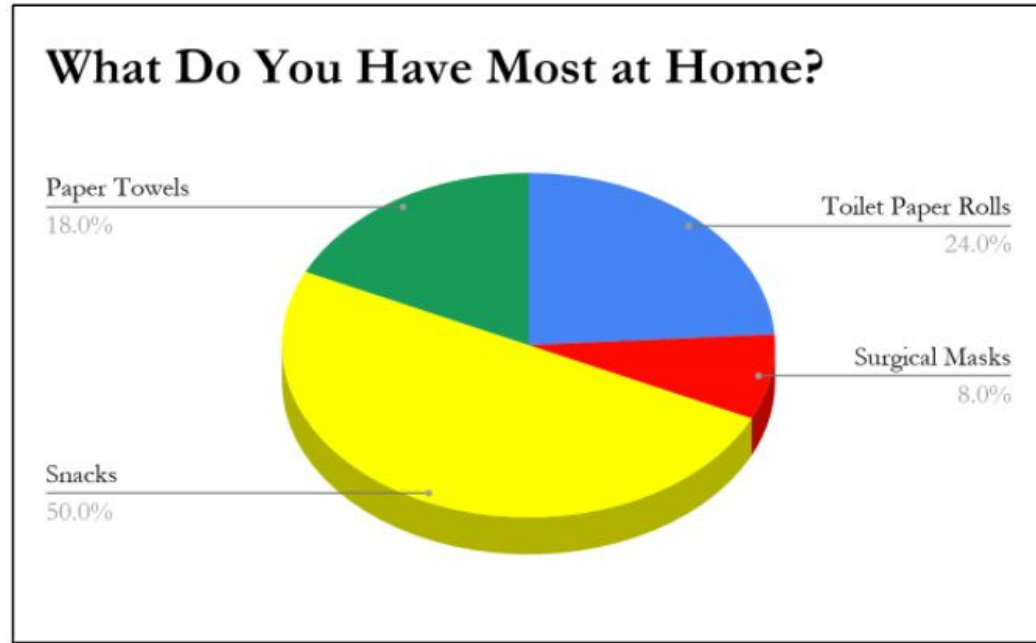
A man stands on one side of a river, his dog on the other. The man calls his dog, who immediately crosses the river without getting wet and without using a bridge or a boat. How did the dog do it?

# THIS IS THE END - WE'LL SEE YOU NEXT TIME.

## Crossword Puzzle Answers

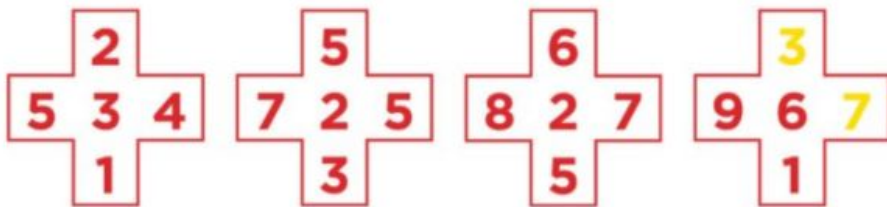
1. Passover
2. Spring break
3. Ramadan
4. Final Four
5. spring
6. good
7. baseball
8. April fools day
9. WNBA draft
10. thirty
11. Easter

## Monthly Data Analysis



## Brain Game Answers

### Find the 2 Missing Numbers



### Answer

3 and 7. In each grid, add the top number to the one in the center to get the number on the left. Then add the center number to the one on the bottom to get the number on the right.

### What Happened?

*Answer: The river was frozen.*

