



---

# The Knightly Times

3rd Edition

May, 2021

## Staff:

### Chief Editor:

Simran Bhasin

### Editors:

Jiya Kohli

Yukti Malik

Rachael Rakhara

### Reporters/Photographers:

Jiya Ashar

Nilani Bharathvajan

Simran Bhasin

Saara Dash

Afsheen Fathima

Evelyn Fu

Sohum Gulati

Praveen Hariharan

Mahreen Hydari

Jiya Kohli

Ananya Mahidhara

Yukti Malik

Sreehaas Mannepalli

Khushee Matani

Akshita Mohapatra

Trisha Ojha

Rachael Rakhara

Deepsikha Sahu

Diya Senthil

Emma Shrivastava

Vihaan Singh

Dhriti Vohra

Manas Yedia

### Advisors:

Mrs. Coscarelli

Mr. Cherence

---

# History Of Chocolate

By: Simran Bhasin

Mhmmm! “Wow! Chocolate is just so good,” I said to myself. Wait. “Where does chocolate come from?” I asked.

My mom came into the room and said, “Why don’t you Google it?”

“Great idea,” I said. I opened my laptop and opened up a new tab. “Wow!,” I said. I was blown away by what I saw. Chocolate comes from South America! For most of its history, chocolate was a sugarless drink that was bitter. Around 200 BC, chocolate in South America was extremely valuable and sometimes could be used for money! People there saw cacao beans as a divine gift from the gods.

After Europeans invaded South America, sugar was added to chocolate. This is how the story went: The South Americans saw the Europeans as a kind of god. They treated them to a big banquet and served the chocolate drink. The Europeans thought that the drink was way too bitter to enjoy and added sugarcane to the drink. This is how sugar got added to chocolate. Sadly, the Spaniards were invaders, not gods, so they went on to loot the South American’s for their chocolate and gold.

Chocolate soon became a popular drink in Europe for the rich. It wasn’t until the invention of the steam engine that chocolate could be mass-produced. A man named Joseph Fry was the person who converted chocolate to its modern shape as a solid. He did this in 1847 by creating a thick chocolate paste that mixed cocoa butter and powdered chocolate. Soon after, chocolate candies were being sold by a company called Cadbury. A few years later, people found how to create a sweeter version of chocolate named milk chocolate. By that time, chocolate had reached its fully modern form from bitter liquid to sweet, scrumptious, solid bars.

Flash forward to today: chocolate companies make around four billion dollars a year alone in the U.S! The companies keep making more and more money constantly because an average human eats around half a pound of chocolate a month.

“That’s a lot of chocolate!” I said, closing my laptop. After all that chocolate talk, I grabbed for a bite of chocolate for myself

---

# The 63 Annual Grammys Awards

By: Jiya Ashar

You’ve heard of the Oscars, Emmy Awards, Golden Globe, Academy Awards, and many others. But, have you heard of the Grammys? They started the Grammy awards in 1959. The 2021 Grammys were going to be like nothing you’ve ever seen. They don’t give awards to movie stars or movies. They honor music artists, songs, albums, and many other things! For this year, many great songs and albums were picked along with their singer.



They have different groups of nominees like Song of the Year, Album of the Year, Best New Artist, and many more! Some of the nominations of the song and singer for Best Pop Solo Performance are, “Yummy” by Justin Bieber, “Say So” by Doja Cat, “Everything I wanted” by Billie Eilish, and many more amazing artists. Some of the nominations for Song of the Year are “Black Parade” by Beyonce, “The Box” by Roddy Rich, “Don’t Start Now” by Dua Lipa, “Everything I Wanted” by Billie Eilish, and many more songs.

Some of the nominations for best pop duo/group performance are, “Rain on me” by Lady Gaga featuring Ariana Grande, “Intentions” by Justin Bieber Featuring Quavo, “Dynamite” by BTS, and many more songs.



BTS is the world’s first k-pop group to get nominated for the Grammys.

“Dynamite” is their first all-English song. That’s why they got nominated for the Grammys. BTS is a group that has 7 members. They are very popular, and I’m glad that the word finally reached out to the Grammys. Now, of course, there are many more groups and nominees with their songs, but there are so many of them that I won’t be able to say it all, but you can check it out if you click [here](#).

---

# International Women’s Day

By: Nilani Bharathvajan

## ABOUT INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY

International Women’s Day is a global day celebrated all around the world to honor all the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call of action for supporting gender equality. This day is witnessed worldwide as groups come together to celebrate women’s achievements or rally for women’s equality.

International Women’s Day is celebrated on March 8th. This day is one of the most important days to:

- Celebrate women’s achievements
- Raise awareness about women’s equality
- Fundraise for female-focused charities
- Protest against gender inequality

## HISTORY OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY

With the first gathering in 1911, International Women’s Day has been celebrated for well over a century.

In 1908, after a lot of debating, women’s oppression and inequality was spurring women to become more active in campaigning for change. Then in 1908, 15,000



women marched through New York City demanding fair pay, the right to vote, and shorter hours of work.

After a declaration by the Socialist Party of America, the first National Woman's Day (NWD) was celebrated across the USA on the last Sunday of February until 1913.

International Women's Day didn't come around until Clara Zetkin (leader of the 'Women's Office' for the Social Democratic Party in Germany) suggested the idea of an International Women's Day. She proposed that every year in every country there should be a celebration on the same day - a Women's Day - for women to press demands. Everyone in the office agreed unanimously and thus, International Women's Day was born.

#### WHAT COLORS SYMBOLIZE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY?

Purple, green, and white are the colors of International Women's Day. Purple signifies justice and dignity. Green symbolizes hope, and white represents purity. The colors originated from the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) in the UK in 1908.

#### FAMOUS WOMEN THAT HAVE CHANGED THE WORLD

- Jane Austen: 1775 - 1817.
- Florence Nightingale: 1820 - 1910.
- Emmeline Pankhurst: 1858-1928.
- Marie Curie: 1867 - 1934.
- Coco Chanel: 1883 - 1971.
- Katharine Hepburn: 1907 - 2003.
- Mother Teresa: 1910 - 1997.
- Margaret Thatcher: 1925 - 2013.
- Rosa Parks, 1913–2005.
- Kalpana Chawla, 1961-2003

These are just some of the women who have helped change the world. Nobody in the world can list down all of the women that have made an impact. This just proves that women can do anything that men can do if they set their minds to it, maybe even more.



# “Old Peak”

By: Afsheen Fathima

“Old Peak” is translated to Machu Picchu in the Quechua Language. You all may be wondering, “What is this Machu Picchu?” Well, then to give you a brief explanation about what Machu Picchu is, it's technically an urban creation of the Inca Empire. To further explain it, Machu Picchu is considered by many to be the most spectacular urban creation of the Inca Empire, and one of the most important heritage sites in the world! It's located in the eastern part of the Andes Mountains in Peru belonging to the Cusco region.

Now Machu Picchu is left in ruins, but I wonder why? It was abandoned an estimated 100 years after its construction, probably around the time the Spanish began their conquest of the mighty pre-Columbian civilization in the 1530s. Many modern-day archaeologists now believe that Machu Picchu served as a royal estate for Inca emperors and nobles. Now all my questions are all cleared about what Machu Picchu is, and I hope yours are too.

Since the Inca ruled over Machu Picchu, they had to be doing something to the place, protecting it, or just letting it crumble to ruins. Today Machu Picchu is left in ruins, which symbolizes that something brutal happened. But the leftover ruins give away a few clues. Between 1537 – 1545, as the small Spanish army and its allies started to gain ground over the Inca Empire, Manco Inca abandoned Machu Picchu, fleeing to safer retreats. The residents took their most valuable belongings with them, and destroyed Inca trails connecting Machu Picchu with the rest of the empire. In 1572, with the fall of the last Inca capital, their line of rulers came to an end. Machu Picchu, a royal estate once visited by rulers, fell into ruin when their last rebel of Inca, Tupac Amaru was captured. What a sad story about how Machu Picchu was destroyed.

Despite the fact that Machu Picchu was built over 500 years ago, with no mortar used to hold together its stones, and it sits up a mountain on an earthquake fault! The city's 500 stone buildings are, amazingly, still standing today. Radiocarbon testing (carbon-14 dating) places the date of Machu Picchu's construction around 1450, during the reign of the Inca King Pachacutec, the great builder, who was considered the great founder of the Inca Empire. The dwellings at Machu Picchu were probably built and occupied from the mid-15th to the early or mid-16th century. Machu Picchu's construction style and other evidence suggest that it was a palace complex of the ruler Pachacuti Inca Yupanqui (reigned 1438–71).

Machu Picchu might be a historical place to learn for some people, or it might be a place to discover and unwrap secrets. Maybe for others, it is a religious place for worship. But what they have in common is that you learn something. Everywhere and anywhere you go, you learn. That's how you gain the knowledge you need!

# Toxic Metals In Baby Foods

By: Evelyn Fu

Panic had sparked among many parents, getting a sight of the dangerous metals found in baby food products. Four top baby foods contain high levels of toxic metals including arsenic, cadmium, lead, and mercury, according to the investigation on Thursday, February 4th. The report released in February tested out Gerber, Beech-Nut, HappyBABY(Nurture), and Earth's Best Organic baby foods (Hain Celestial Group), finding out that all of them contained heavy metals that could lead to brain damage or even death.

The investigators said that the toxic levels in those baby foods are far higher than many products such as bottled water. But this is not the first time that baby foods had toxic metals in them. Heavy metals were also found in 2017 and 2019 investigations. The heavy metals were found in rice cereals, sweet potato puree, juices, and sweet snack puffs made by some of the most trusted baby food names.



## What are in the Baby Foods?

Arsenic is ranked as No.1 of natural substances that cause a serious risk to human health as stated by the Department of Health and Human Services' Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. Last August, the FDA recommended infant rice cereal to contain no more than 100 parts per billion of arsenic. The sub committee's report said that Earth's Best Organic baby foods made by Hain have as much as 309 parts per billion of arsenic.

Lead is No. 2 on the list of health hazards. There is a growing agreement among health experts that lead levels in baby foods should not pass 1 ppb. According to the information by the committee, Beech-Nut used parts that contain as much as 866.9 parts per billion of lead, 334 ppb cadmium, as well as 913 parts per billion of arsenic.

Additionally, Gerber used carrots with 87ppb of cadmium and Nurture has 10 ppb of mercury. The report also states that Gerber rarely tests for mercury while Beech-Nut and Hain do not even test for it.

*"Exposure to these toxic heavy metals affect babies' brain development and nervous system, it affects their behavior, permanently decreases their IQ and, if you want to boil it down to dollars, their lifetime earnings potential,"* Tom Neltner, chemicals policy director for the Environmental Defense Fund said.

This is a breakdown of the results:

- One-fourth of the brands of baby foods contained all of the heavy metals
- Around 65% of the baby foods contained arsenic
- Heavy metals were highest in the products with rice and sweet potatoes
- 95% of the baby food brands contained arsenic, lead, mercury, and cadmium

## Things Parents Could Do

Because of the heavy metals in some baby foods, many parents are making their own baby foods to reduce the risk of babies being exposed to toxic metals in their diet. Parents can choose safer alternatives to some concerning baby foods. Rice, sometimes has lead in it, so they can exchange rice puffs for rice-free foods. You can also exchange teething biscuits for frozen bananas or chilled cucumber and rice cereal for oatmeal or barley, recommended by [HBBF](#). Making homemade baby food is a lot better and healthier, but it doesn't mean that it can't have those contaminants too.

To make your own baby food fruit puree, you can simply wash and peel the fruit after removing any pits or seeds. Then, mash canned fruit or fresh fruit into its own juice. After making sure the temperature is appropriate, you could freeze prepared baby food for later use. Making your own baby food is very easy and simple. Here are also some ways to make homemade baby food at [Eatright.org](#).

Several other steps to reduce baby exposure to heavy metals are to read the labels, serve a variety of fruits and vegetables after washing in cool water, and try to avoid rice or switch up your grains.

*"I hope that companies would voluntarily start to undertake actions such as testing their baby food more properly and thoroughly and phase out certain ingredients that we know are problematic right now,"* Krishnamoorthi, the U.S representative said.

It is very important to know about the toxic metals in the four top baby food brands that can lead to brain damage or even death. Many baby foods are working right now to decrease the amount of heavy metals in their ingredients. A lot of parents have also started making their own baby foods which can reduce the risk of babies being exposed to the toxic metals in their diet.

---

## Movie Review; *Finding Ohana*

By: Jiya Kohli

*Finding Ohana*, directed by Jude Weng, gave a thrilling experience going through the Hawaiian culture well having an edge of a seat thrill. The movie is about Pili, who is on a visit to Hawaii with her mom and brother. As they arrive they think that they might have found Monk's stolen treasure, an old Hawaiian myth that might be true.

The movie starts as Pili, played by Kea Pheau, disappointed that instead of going to a special geocaching summer camp has to go to Hawaii and spend the summer with her grandfather after he suffered some medical conditions, to her not wanting to go back to New York.

As Pili and her friends look for Monk's stolen treasure they face many inconvenient occurrences that will leave you in awe. As soon as you think that you know everything there is to know another secret is revealed, making you even more invested than before.

As the movie goes on the watchers are exposed to rich Hawaiian culture. The movie has thrilling adventures, twists and turns at every second, teenage drama, etc. *Finding Ohana* was one of the best

movies I've ever seen. I give *Finding Ohana* an eleven on a scale of one to ten. I highly recommend this movie that will leave you at the edge of your seat. If you watch this movie, you won't regret it.

---

# The History Of St. Patrick's Day

By: Yukti Malik



St. Patrick's Day is quite interesting. If you don't know why we celebrate it, or the history behind the holiday, this is the passage to read.

The day that St. Patrick's Day is celebrated on never changes. It is always celebrated on March 17th. You may ask, "Why do we celebrate it on the 17th?" Well, we do this because St. Patrick died on March 17th in the fifth century. If you did the math, St. Patrick's Day has been a religious holiday for over 1,000 years. If you are wondering who St.

Patrick is, he was the patron saint of Ireland and its national apostle. He was born in Roman, Britain. He was kidnapped and brought to Ireland as a slave at the age of 16. He escaped, but returned to Ireland and brought Christianity for its people. St. Patrick's Day is a Roman Catholic holiday.

St. Patrick's Day falls during the Christian season of Lent. Irish families would traditionally attend church in the morning and celebrate in the afternoon. St. Patrick's Day was first celebrated around the ninth or tenth century. The parade took place in America in a Spanish colony, which is now in St. Augustine, Florida. The parade and a St. Patrick's Day celebration a year earlier was organized by the Spanish Colony's Irish vicar, Ricardo Artur. More than a century later, on March 17, 1772, in New York City, homesick Irish soldiers serving in the English military marched to celebrate the Irish patron saint. It was only from there that excitement for the St. Patrick's Day parades in New York City, Boston, and other early American cities grew.

Several New York Irish Aid societies chose in 1848 to merge their parades to form one official St. Patrick's Day Parade in New York City. Today, with over 150,000 participants, that parade is the oldest civilian parade in the world and the largest in the United States. Nearly 3 million people line the 1.5 mile parade route every year to see the procession, which takes about five hours. With parades involving 10,000 to 20,000 participants each, Boston, Chicago, Philadelphia, and Savannah also celebrate the day.

I hope you learned something out of this passage. Now, you might agree with me, the history of St. Patrick's Day is *really* interesting.

---

# Winter Weather Mayhem

By: Sreehaas Mannepalli

---

Snow, snow, snow is all that you heard on the forecast wherever you were in the United States in February 2021. Snowfall records were shattered in many parts of the U.S. But, what exactly caused the snow, how much fell, and the effects of it are the real problem.

In California, they experienced an atmospheric river winter storm which has caused over 1 billion dollars in damage. This storm brought hail, mudslides, rain, and tons of snow. Atmospheric rivers are big but narrow parts of the atmosphere that travel with the weather. They carry huge amounts of water vapor and, like hurricanes, when they make landfall, they release all that vapor in the form of snow or water. The storm that hit California was a category three which was the third-highest.

California might have been the hardest-hit state, with it snowing more than 10 feet in the Sierra Nevada mountain range! Rainfall totals soared with Los Angeles picking up more than 1.48 inches in one day, which is more than the average rainfall of November. Other places have gotten 10 inches of rain and mudslides.



In the Northwest, towards Washington, more snow has fallen. Seattle, one of the biggest cities in Washington, has received over 8 inches of snow and Seattle seldom gets snow. Same in the capital of Washington, Olympia, where a storm dumped 14 inches of snow. The lowest temperature in Seattle ever was 29°F but this storm shattered it by making the temperature go as low as 26°F.

Now towards the Northeast, where snow has piled in just 2 days. New York City, the biggest city in the US, has received over 17 inches of snow and outside the city, 30 inches of snow may have fallen. New Jersey has broken its record for the most snow ever after 35 inches of snow fell in Cape May. Overall, New Jersey has received more than a foot and a half of snow.

This string of storms may be the worst of the decade. After the storm, roads were icy and the commute from New Jersey to New York through trains was canceled because of the tracks freezing, and schools were closed throughout New Jersey. In California, flooding left people stranded and mudslides made people evacuate. Worst of all, in Texas, icy conditions made 133 cars crash into each other.

Places are still recovering from the extreme weather and it's a reminder that anything can happen at any time.

---

# History Of Pizza

By: Khushee Matani

We all love some type of food whether it be a specific cuisine, or a dish. More than 98 percent of Americans eat pizza, and 54 percent of Americans love pizza! There are about 33 million Americans that go as far as saying that if they had a choice, pizza would be their last meal on Earth!



Most of the time when we see pizza, our mouth waters and we crave to eat it, and we don't really think or thank the people who invented pizza. If they hadn't invented pizza then we wouldn't even have pizza!

Before the dish was named pizza, people used to make flatbreads and oven baked bread with toppings. This was the start of pizza, and it started in the Neolithic age, which was about 12,000 years ago!

Soon enough, though, in the city of Naples, Italy, around the 1600's, bakers started making dishes they called pizza. Back then, pizza was a cheap street food sold to the less fortunate people in Naples, who usually roamed the streets because their homes weren't as comfortable as ours in modern times. These people bought slices of pizza and ate them as they walked, and soon, more and more people started wanting pizza.

In 1889, King Umberto I and Queen Margherita visited the newly unified Italy, and of course, they passed through Naples. Legend says that the King and Queen had gotten a little bit bored of the same French, grand meals and cuisine, so Queen Margherita asked for different varieties of pizza to try. A baker named Raffaele Esposito of Da Pietro Pizzeria (now known as Pizzeria Brandi) is said to have offered her a heavenly dish.

It was a pie with red tomato sauce, green basil, and white mozzarella cheese (the colors of the Italian flag). Of course, Queen Margherita was intrigued by this. Then the Margherita pizza was born, and to this day, it is the favorite food of so many people!

Even though Queen Margherita gave her blessing on pizza, it still didn't spread much outside of Naples until the late 1800's. In the 1800's, Italians started migrating to America, and of course, taking their cuisine and culture with them.

In 1905, Gennaro Lombardi opened the first pizzeria in the United States, in Manhattan, in a neighborhood with Italian-Americans. They loved the dish and the store itself. Lombardi's is still a restaurant today, and even though it is not in the same location as it was before, the restaurant still has the same oven that was used in 1905.



By the 1930's, the pizza business boomed. Pizzerias were opened everywhere, in Boston, Manhattan, and even New Jersey!

It boomed even more when Pizza Hut opened in 1958. Domino's opened in 1960, Papa John's opened in 1989, and other restaurants like these opened.

All of these stores started and profited from the fact that they could sell

pizza to masses of people.

Today, the estimated value of the pizza industry in the U.S is almost \$46 BILLION! And the global value is \$145 billion! And the pizza industry is still running. In 2019, there were about 77,000 pizzerias throughout the U.S itself. Woah... Imagine how many there were and are in the world right now!

---

# Overfishing

By: Akshita Mohapatra

Overfishing is a big problem the world faces today. Fish are being caught faster than they can reproduce and are going extinct. At first, people thought that since the oceans are so big, humans couldn't harm them. But now overfishing is a huge problem. Now that fish are decreasing, and fishermen will soon have to look for new jobs. People who eat fish will also suffer. And fish will go extinct. We need to do what we can to protect the fish and animals in the ocean.

The main reason for overfishing is mostly because of Factory fishermen. Factory fishermen are called freezer trawlers. They drag a huge net and catch many fish. In one day a fish trawler can catch the amount of fish a normal fisherman catches in a year! Fish trawlers catch many fish which damages 1 or 2 species of fish. They also use nets with smaller mesh to catch younger fish so those fish can't reproduce anymore! When they do their big hauls, they accidentally catch other sea animals large and small.

Another reason is because of by-catching. In doing so, fish trawlers damage food chains and even food webs! About 3 tons of other sea creatures are dumped/lost every year due to by-catching. In addition to this, the fish trawler's nets can damage habitats along with damaging food webs and chains. Fishermen try to catch the bigger fish because they make more money than smaller fish. This means big fish are endangered and they play an important role at the top of the food chain. Without the big fish, fish would keep populating because no fish will eat them and it becomes chaotic!

Also, another reason is because fish homes are being destroyed. Coral reefs are called the rainforest of the sea because it is home to so many different sea creatures. These delicate homes are damaged because of fishing equipment and overfishing. When the nets scrape across the seabeds, they disturb and/or damage whole habitats. This could harm fish even more and make fish more scarce.

Lastly, if fish go extinct, our world wouldn't be the same. Families that depend on fishing will have to find new jobs. Companies that depend on fish will have to close. And towns that depend on fish will have



to close and people will have to find new places to live. Fish stores, fish chips, and other fish items will be gone. We need fish for protein and so without it we can't keep our bodies strong!

You can help stop overfishing by using nets with larger mesh so that young fish can escape and reproduce. You can also fish for only 4 days a week to help make sure you aren't catching too many fish. Lastly, you can be kinder to fish and not destroy their homes.

As you can see, overfishing is a big problem and we need to take the necessary actions to prevent fish from going extinct! Many people and towns depend on fish and we need to make sure that they stay in business. So what are you waiting for? Stop overfishing and endangered species will be safe.

---

# History Of Valentine's Day

By: Deepsikha Sahu

Valentine's day is known for many things, but the important point is to show your love to your loved ones. The most common gift given to people on this day is candy. This romantic day is also known as St. Valentine's Day. This holiday has come from a saint named, St. Valentine. This is a holiday widely celebrated by the Catholic people. The Catholic religion has many legends and one of them is about Valentine's day. This special day contains both vestiges of Christian and Roman tradition.

The Catholic Church recognizes at least two different saints named, Valentine and Valentinus. One legend says that Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families, he did not allow marriage for young men. Saint Valentine, realizing the injustice, confronted Claudius and continued to do marriages for young lovers in secret. When Saint Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he should be put to death. Still, others insist that it was Saint Valentine of Terni, a bishop, who was the true namesake of the holiday. He, too, was killed by Emperor Claudius II.

Other stories suggest that Valentine may have been killed for attempting to help Christians escape Roman prisons. According to one of the legends, Saint Valentine actually sent the first "valentine" greeting himself after he fell in love with a young girl. The young girl was the daughter of a prisoner. Before his death, it is believed that Saint Valentine wrote the young girl a letter signed "From your Valentine," an expression that is still used today. No matter what story you believe, all stories say that Saint Valentine was a sympathetic, heroic, and truly a romantic figure. Valentine's Day is celebrated in the



middle of February to celebrate Saint Valentine's death or burial which probably occurred around A.D. 270.

A common question asked by people about Valentine's Day is, who is Cupid? As everyone knows Cupid is often known for giving Valentine's Day cards to random people who love each other by launching arrows, but where did this idea come from? The tradition of Cupid has come from the Roman god Cupid. The god Cupid was the Roman god of love. There are many theories of his birth, some say he is the son of Nyx and Erebus, others say he is the son of Aphrodite and Ares, still, others say he is the son of Iris and Zephyrus or even Aphrodite and Zeus. You can believe any theory, you feel like.

---

# Share Your Story Program

By: Diya Senthil

Do you like writing? I do! It's a fun way to get your brain thinking. The Winter Share Your Story Program is a program where you will have to write a fiction or nonfiction book. You will send your story to the judges of the program, and they will pick one book to be published. The book that gets chosen, and will be illustrated by a professional illustrator. Isn't that so cool?

The 8 steps to this process and the dates to when they were introduced are as follows:

#1: Brainstorming	February 1st
#2: Fiction vs Nonfiction	February 8th
#3: Tell Your Story Aloud	February 15th
#4: Write, Write, Write	February 22nd
#5: Revise For Clarity	March 1st
#6: Edit For Grammar Mistakes	March 8th
#7: Illustrate With Details	March 5th
#8: Final Draft	March 22nd

This might seem like a lot, but when you follow these steps, your book will be amazing! People who wanted to participate in the program signed up for it. Then they received an invitation to Mrs. O'Brien and Mrs. Coscarelli's Google classroom. Each week in the Google classroom, the teachers would post a video of what each step is and how you do it. The first part of the video will be explained by



Stan Tucker, the founder of the Share Your Story Program. The second part of the video will be explained by a young author and she/he will give you suggestions and recommendations.

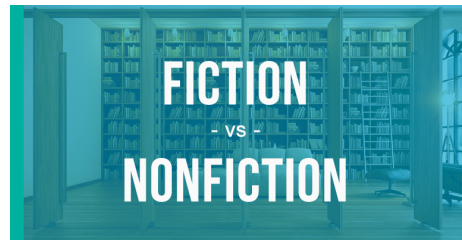
Participants also received some supplies and materials needed for the program. They arrived in the participant's mail. The things you got are crayons, a blank book, organizers, a smencil (Smelly pencil), and a short packet that says, "I'm Ready To Be an Author." It tells the steps of the writing process. Above, you will see the dates as to when the teacher posted the video of those steps on Google classroom. Here is a brief explanation of what each step means:

#### #1: Brainstorming:

Brainstorming is when you come up with ideas for your story. You will take your organizer from your supplies that you got in the mail and in the middle, you will jot down writing topics that come to your mind.

#### #2: Fiction vs Nonfiction:

This step is when you decide if your story is going to be nonfiction or fiction. Nonfiction stories are not made up, and they tell the truth. They basically tell facts about a topic. You will most likely have to research this topic to get true information. Fiction stories are made up and they are not real. Fiction tests your creativity and imagination. There should be a bunch of different characters in your story! There is also a setting and plot. Some of these stories also have a theme or moral. Students are encouraged to have a theme and/or a moral.



#### #3: Tell Your Story Aloud:

You will tell your story to a partner or yourself in this step. You will not write your story down yet. You will take your organizer with ideas and while you're telling your story to yourself, and add some more details in your mind.

#### #4: Write, Write, Write:

In this step, you will have to write your whole story on paper. This is not your final draft. It is just your first draft. When you are doing this, make sure you don't focus on the mistakes and errors you make. Just write, write, write!

#### #5: Revise For Clarity:

Revision is a process of rearranging, adding, and removing paragraphs, sentences, or words. This is a way of making your writing better! It will help your writing make more sense if it doesn't. You can only do this after you have written your first draft.

#### #6: Edit For Grammar Mistakes:

Editing is when you look for grammar, spelling, and punctuation mistakes/errors in your writing. This is what you will be doing in this step.

#7: Illustrate With Details:

This is the step where you will draw illustrations/pictures on the blank paper you used for Write, Write, Write. Use your Creativity!

#8: Final Draft:

This is the last step of the process. This is where you will copy down your story by fixing your edits and revisions in the blank book. A good length story size would be the expected size.

Even if your story doesn't get picked, don't be sad about it! It is actually going to be worth it, because in the long run, you will have learned how to write a story and you are going to be a better writer! In the future, congratulations to the person who will get picked! I hope everyone enjoyed this program and learned from it. And remember, authors are just storytellers that complete the process.

**\*Editor's Note - Farrah Allidina, one of our own JMI students, was one of the lucky students chosen whose book will be professionally illustrated.**

---

## Movie Review; *Pinocchio*

By: Emma Shrivastava

Have you ever heard of the wooden puppet that sat by a fireplace to warm up, fell asleep, and woke up only to find that his foot had burned off? Released in 2020, the new movie *Pinocchio* will have you on the edge of your seat everytime the mischievous wooden boy finds himself in trouble.

Gepetto creates a wooden puppet named Pinocchio, who comes to life. Instead of being obedient and thoughtful, the disrespectful marionette repeatedly runs away and winds up being misled by his double-crossing "friends", the cat and the fox. Will the naughty Pinocchio ever learn his lessons and change his behavior? Will he ever succeed in fulfilling his reverie to become a boy?

While entertaining, this movie does have some downsides. Although there aren't many scenes that are violent, some parts of the movie might not be so kid-friendly. One example of this is when assassins attempt to kill Pinocchio. Also disappointing is the deemphasizing of Pinocchio's infamous nose that grows every time Pinocchio tells a lie.

I enjoyed this movie because it has a lot in common with the book which helped me follow the movie more easily. Another reason is that the simple plot is easy for kids to understand. The stop-motion movie, unlike other Disney films, is not animated. This gives it a realistic touch.

In conclusion, I think that kids should watch the new *Pinocchio* movie because there are not too many violent scenes and the movie is exciting and fun to watch.

---

# Virtual Science Fair

By: Trisha Ojha

This year, instead of having an in-person science fair, we are having a virtual fair. We are doing this to keep everyone safe, while showcasing our scientific discoveries! This fun activity is optional to the students. Unlike last year, to prevent the spread of the virus, the students could either do it in groups, or independently. The original tri fold poster, was replaced with a google slide template that will be provided from the school. The topic must be science related, but it could be anything that interests you. All presentations needed to be submitted through the flipgrid. The flipgrid was assigned by grade level. The Science Fair submissions were due February 26, uploaded or recorded to the appropriate grade in the leveled Flipgrid. The link to more of your questions can be found [here](#). In the link, you will find some additional information that will help you understand the concept of the virtual science fair. You can also find all of the submissions in the Flipgrid Submissions tab, and more!

