

THE TIGER TIMES

THE OFFICIAL RISING SUN HIGH SCHOOL NEWSPAPER



#BOOKTOK: FOR ALL YOUR SUMMER READING NEEDS!

BY CAROLINE KUCHTA

Reading has been a favorite pastime for millions over the years, so it didn't take long for TikTok users to create a space entirely their own on the popular platform, calling it Booktok.

The hashtag can be used to find writing tips, book discussions and recommendations, and even bookshelf organization inspiration. Although reading has never gone out of fashion, BookTok has made reading more trendy, inspiring thousands of teens

and young adults to start reading outside of school and work.

The hashtag is mainly a female lead space, and the genres of fantasy and romance are the most widely discussed. One popular video can spread like wildfire, and in hours the sales of the book could increase drastically. *The New York Times* states that after *The Song Of Achilles* was made popular through the app, two million copies of the book were bought.

(Continued Next Page)

In This Issue:

Get Informed, Stay Informed

Fashion Trends

Duolingo

The Case of the Black Clad Killer

Creature Corner



NPD books, a popular publishing company, has said that their sales of books are up by 50% directly from TikTok.

Many authors can attribute their success to BookTok, especially Sarah J. Maas, the author of the ACOTAR series. Although she was published in 2015 and would have become an undeniable hit either way, thanks to thousands of discussions and recommendations on BookTok, her work became mainstream more quickly.



BookTok is also directly responsible for several text-to-movie adaptations, such as *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* by Taylor Jenkins Reid and *It Ends with Us* by Colleen Hoover, both popular authors on Booktok.

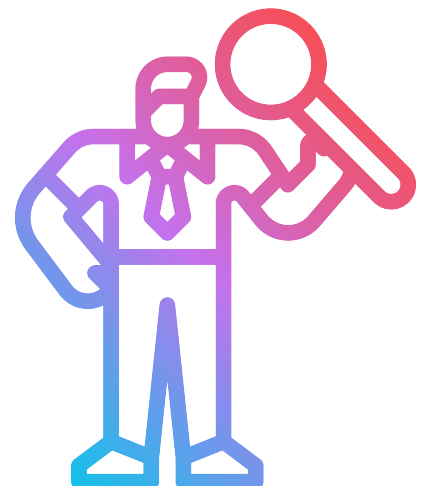
There's no doubt that BookTok can have a positive effect on the writing industry, but it's not all amazing. For example, there's been some discourse about how BookTok only sheds light on the same kind of books and authors – an example of this being Colleen Hoover. Her books are recommended almost religiously, and while she is known for her vivid descriptions of characters' inner-thoughts, it doesn't quite make up for the underdeveloped characters. Abusive relationships are romanticized, which can be detrimental for the younger generations who look at BookTok just for a recommendation. Despite these downfalls, reading is always a win, which is why we expect BookTok to be around for a long time to come.



GET INFORMED, STAY INFORMED

BY JAMES RACINE

Summer is coming! And there are plenty of things to do over the summer: go to cookouts, swim, hang out with friends, or stay inside and sleep until the next school year. Another thing you could do is get caught up on current events and issues over the summer. You can stay informed by watching the news, reading up on current issues, or listening to political speeches (2024 is an election year after all!). Staying informed is so important because it keeps you knowledgeable about what is going on in the world, such as new laws, important scientific discoveries, the latest pop-culture drama, and serious conflicts happening across the globe. And it's so easy thanks to the internet and social media. Just make sure your information comes from an accurate source! So enjoy those lazy summer days, but don't forget to take a few minutes each day to stay connected to the world beyond your own backyard.



Fashion Trends That Should NEVER Return

by ANONYMOUS



Yeezy Foam Runners



What even is this? A sneaker? A slide? I have no clue. Not to mention that this shoe would not make it through the smallest of puddles. Whose foot needs this much ventilation? Most of the shoes Yeezy produces look like something from an alien planet. If this is your style, I suggest you look at Pinterest for some new inspiration.

Micro Bags

Whether these are just for looks or used to hold a singular penny, they aren't cute. They give a Polly Pocket vibe, but aren't as fun to chew on. Nothing will fit in them, so they are useless and leave you needing a bigger purse for your mini bag. I hate to diss Lizzo, but her outfit at the AMA's would have been so much better without this abomination of a purse.



These EXACT Skinny Jeans



I have never met a single person who could pull off these pants. If you insist on wearing a distressed pair of jeans, just buy some with holes in them like everyone else. The bumps on the thigh of the pants make them clash with any pattern you try to wear them with. I mostly saw these roaming the street in 2019 and I am pleased to say the sighting has decreased since.

Bucket Hats

Unless you are wearing a bucket hat to actually protect your face and head from the sun, leave it at home. It is impossible to look cool while wearing a bucket hat. It looks like you just ran out of popcorn and decided that the bowl would make a great accessory. Pro fishermen can rock these bad boys, but ONLY if they're over the age of 50 and already married. If you desperately want to cover your head, wear a baseball cap.



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Fashion Trends That Should NEVER Return



Cow Print Pants

It was cute while it lasted. The popularity of this print can be traced back to 2020 when we had nothing better to do than try out a new style and create a new image for ourselves. But these pants became tacky almost as soon as we discovered them. They give off "I searched kidcore on Pinterest and this is what I got." So unless your goal is to look like a rambunctious tween, I suggest you stick to minimal animal print.

DOES DUOLINGO REALLY WORK?

BY CAYDEN BARKSDALE



Language is one of the most important tools a human can have, as it allows us to communicate with other humans around the world. This exact reasoning is what drives most people to learn a foreign language; they want to be able to communicate with more people and, more specifically, native speakers of the language they are learning. With this in mind, many people look to the greatest resource of all to learn that language: the internet. On the internet, you can find resources to learn to speak, read, write, or listen to your target language. Some sites, like Duolingo, even promise to help you become fluent in all four key aspects of that language. Duolingo - likely thanks to the fun and easy approach to learning a language - has become the world's most popular language learning app. Due to its popularity, it has a crowd of critics with opinions ranging from outright disgust with Duolingo, to complete adoration for the app, and each side has good reasons for their opinions.

Duolingo is a free language learning app and website that allows users to learn a multitude of languages, including constructed (or made-up) languages. The site mainly targets English speakers who seek to learn another language, but there are many courses that natives of other languages can take. As the world's most downloaded language learning app, that little green owl definitely has some standards to live up to...but does it live up to them?

The courses Duolingo does offer vary in terms of how fluent they will help you to become. For example, while the Spanish course for English speakers has over 200 units, the course for Russian from English has a mere 51, with some languages offering even fewer units. While this is reasonable, as the company offers so many courses that they are forced to work on them in order of popularity, this is a dramatic difference in achievable fluency, and can be discouraging, at least, for someone who wants to learn a less popular language like Russian instead of a more popular language like Spanish. This, however, is the least of the problems that Duolingo critics have with the app.

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DOES DUOLINGO REALLY WORK?



In a survey of Rising Sun High School students, 84 of 90 students surveyed responded to a question asking their opinions on the app. A large majority of the respondents said that Duolingo is effective and many said it should be supplemented with other language learning materials to be effective, but only a handful said that it is not effective whatsoever. The general consensus among RSHS students, as well as a large number of people elsewhere, seems to be that Duolingo is not effective for long-term growth. In 500 Days of Duolingo: What You Can (and Can't) Learn From a Language App (5/25/19), Eric Ravenscraft argues that, "...if you want to become fluent in a language...[Duolingo] won't be enough..." Ravenscraft believes that while it might help you learn the basics, it is not to be used as a replacement for a language course, and it will definitely not help you much, if you wish to pass a language proficiency or biliteracy test; basically, Duolingo promises too much. Some, however, offer a different perspective.

From the perspective of someone who needs a quick, cost effective way to learn a language, Duo just so happens to be a popular refuge. Although Duo may not be able to teach you how to pass a biliteracy test, some argue that you don't exactly need a biliteracy certificate to be able to communicate effectively. For example, it is not uncommon for native speakers of a language to avoid the grammar, syntax, advanced vocabulary, and formality rules that these tests tend to focus on. (How often do you say something like "should of" instead of "should've" or "should have" when you speak, even formally? What about "yeah" or "uh-huh" instead of "yes?") After all, "The people behind the [Duolingo] courses are real speakers of the language..." says Cindy Blanco, part of the Duolingo team, in *"Can Duolingo Make Me Fluent?" and Other Common Questions from Learners* (8/3/2022), so why would Duolingo not be able to teach you a language?

Well the answer to that question is quite simple, according to many users: it can! While Duolingo might work best in combination with other language learning tools, it is quite an easy and reliable way to get your feet off the ground, and begin your language learning journey. In fact, according to an independent study conducted by the City University of New York and the University of South Carolina, an average of 34 hours of Duolingo are equivalent to a full university semester of language education! This is quite unbelievable, but the numbers speak for themselves: people who learn a language on Duolingo are able to communicate more efficiently and sooner than people who take university courses!

So is that little green owl the greatest foreign language teacher in the world, or are they a fraud? That is a question which you must answer for yourself, as every person has their own learning preferences. With that being said, however, if you just want to be able to communicate effectively with speakers of your target language, evidence suggests that Duo might make a pretty good teacher.

DUOLINGO FUN FACTS!

BY STEVEN HOLBROOK

Guatemala native and Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) professor Luis von Ahn decided that he wanted to dedicate his work to transforming education — leading him to co-found Duolingo with the mission of bringing free language education to the world.

The Owl is used to symbolize knowledge and learning.

Duolingo was opened to the public on June 19, 2012, with a waiting list of 500,000 who wanted to use the app.





THE CASE OF THE BLACK CLAD KILLER

BY NATHAN PIPPIN

Please enjoy the fourth & final installment of this year's serialized short story, **The Case of the Black Clad Killer**. We rejoin our detective as he prepares to reveal the identity of the killer.

I decided to call about the deaths at the statue and museum--the man on the other line said they were trapped in some way, but they could not find the origin of the trap. I had figured it out. I knew who did it. It surprised even me and yet, it had to be. I headed to the billionaires' huge estate to confront them once and for all--but I was greeted by Bob and Jack at the front door.

"Why howdy detective--" by the time he was about to finish his sentence I kicked the door open.

"Hey, wait up!" I shut the beat-up door in Bob's face--eager to apprehend the killer.

Bill and Kasey stood there stunned, until finally, Bill spoke, "Ah detective, so nice to see you. Don't worry. I know why you're here." He took a long pause between every sentence. "You think I did it. I was too willing to comply. I was talking to Jared. And yet the one thing you overlooked, was my perfect alibi--

"Kasey," I interrupted. "It was Kasey."

Bill looked in shock at his brother. "Is this true?"

He did not respond.

"Speak to me brother!"

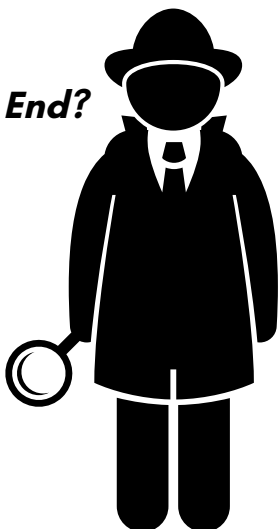
"How did you figure it out?" Kasey finally said.

"The puzzles, the traps, the big hands--and of course the money. All of your gains are entirely ill-gotten, making all of you a part of a criminal conspiracy, all thanks to Kasey's 'perfect' plan." I said this to Bill who was still entirely in shock and, of course, did not quite understand.

But, as I gazed into his eyes my heart sank. His eyes rolled into the back of his head with tears pouring from them. His entire body was shaking violently. By that time, my brain had finally caught up to my eyes and I realized--that face is not the face of shock--it was the face of a dead man. A dead man, who was now laying on the ground next to his handcuffed brother. A dead man whose brother was now in jail for more crimes than I could have ever imagined. A dead man whose face still haunts my nightmares. A dead man, whose brother may have been--even despite all of the evidence--not the man I was after--as there was one thing that still confuses me.

Why did he want me?

The End?



Alex & Allie's Creature Corner: TOOTH SOME CREATURE CREATIONS

BY ALEX COLEMAN & ALLIE GIBSON

Yeehaw! Alex and Allie are back with our final creature corner! That's right, we are both graduating and becoming the scariest creature of all: adults! Zoinks! Before we go, we have to bless you with our final creature findings. This time, live from Allie's kitchen, we will be bringing you some creature snackage! These are some simple, silly, and scrumptious creature goodies you can make in your own home! We hope you enjoy it! Bonk!

Recipe #1: Scrumptious Spiders!

Arachnophobes need not participate! Sorry!

Ingredients:

- Brownie (any recipe will do, pick your favorite!)
- Pretzels
- Icing
- Candy eyes



Steps:

1. Make your brownies according to the recipe you selected.
2. Take out some brownie and mold it with your hands. You can shape it however you want, but if you want to be right (like Alex) you can shape it into a two-ball, sternum and abdomen type deal.
3. Use icing to affix eyes. The more the merrier! Get funky with it!
4. Break pretzels into curved sections and insert into the side of the spider body. These will be their legs!
5. Use the icing to add any other decorations you please :)

Recipe #2. Rat Croissants!

Rat fans will be sure to enjoy these funky treats! Zing!

Ingredients:

- Pillsbury Crescent Dough
- Candy Eyes
- Colored icing



Steps:

1. Prepare the croissants.
2. Let cool for a while because the icing will melt everywhere if you do not.
3. Decorate your rats as desired. You can give them a silly hat, big ears, little hands, whatever your heart wants. Use the icing to affix the eyes as well.

THIS WAY FOR MORE RECIPES!

Alex & Allie's Creature Corner:

TOOTHsome CREATURE CREATIONS

Recipe #3: Creature Crackers!

A savory snack for animal lovers! Yippee!

Ingredients:

- Crackers
- Various cheeses (we used cheddar, American, and gouda)

Steps:

1. Use a knife to carve the cheese into shapes! Start with the basic shape of the animal's face, and then use different kinds of cheese to layer on spots, eyes, and noses.

2. Place your cheese creature on the cracker. Easy!



Recipe #4: Dirt!!!

A fun twist on the dirt cup dessert that we all probably ate as kids! Yum!

Ingredients:

- Chocolate pudding
- Brownie (any recipe will do, pick your favorite!)
- Gummy worms
- Red icing (optional)

Steps:

1. Make your brownies according to the recipe you selected.

2. Cut a circle of brownie the size of the bottom of your cup. Place it in the cup.

3. Cover the brownie with a thin layer of chocolate pudding.

4. Place some of your worms on top.

5. Cover the worms with another thin layer of pudding.

6. Cut out another circle of brownie and place it in your cup as another layer.

7. Add another layer of pudding on top of the brownie.

8. Crumble up pieces of brownie and sprinkle them on top, then add a couple worms! If you want, you can also add some red icing on top to make it spooky! Eek!



THIS WAY FOR ONE MORE RECIPE!

Alex & Allie's Creature Corner:

TOOTH SOME CREATURE CREATIONS

Recipe #5: Animal Cell Cookies!

Microbiologists will love this! Yowza!

Ingredients:

- Pillsbury sugar cookie dough
- Writing icing



Steps:

1. Cut your cookie dough into circles. We cut ours about half an inch thick and they came out pretty big, so cut them thinner if you'd like them to be smaller.
2. Arrange your cookies on your pan with parchment paper. Make sure they are spaced apart!
3. Bake the cookies according to the directions on the packaging.
4. When they are done cooking, wait for them to cool before applying your icing. If you want to make plant cells (which are more rectangular than animal cells), cut the cookies into rectangles before they fully cool.
5. Use different colors of icing to draw the different parts of the cell, like the nucleus, membrane, ribosomes, and mitochondria! Make sure to give your plant cells chloroplasts!

Thank you to all Creature Corner fans who have stuck with us through this wacky year! We hope you enjoyed all our goofy hijinks! We will love all creatures until the day we die and we hope you do too!!

Love,
Alex & Allie <3

