

The Tusker Tribune

The student newspaper of Somers Middle School



Volume 1, Issue 3

<http://somersschools.org/domain/995>

Fall 2016

Ethan Hsu's Incredible Journey From Taiwan to Somers!



By Ethan Hsu
Tusker Tribune
Staff Writer

One afternoon my dad told our family we would be moving to New York for one year. We were told were moving because of my dad's job.

I was happy and nervous because I don't know a lot of English and I would have to go to school where most everything is in English.

The day we moved, I really didn't want to go. My mom, my dad, older sister, younger sister and I flew from Taiwan to Somers. It took



us 18 hours! It was a long way. When I got to Somers I think it is not so bad. Here at Somers Middle school, it is different from my school in Taiwan. Here in Somers I take a bus to school and it takes five minutes. In Taiwan I walk 40 minutes by myself to school.

In Somers, I have different classrooms and in Taiwan I only stay in one classroom.

In Taiwan we didn't have a locker and tablet. Even though I am here at Somers for a little bit of time, I haven't really missed Taiwan.

Continued on page 3

Happy Birthday Roald Dahl!

By Marissa Abramson
Tusker Tribune Staff Writer

Recently, on a Tuesday, a very celebrated author birthday happened. An author by the name of Roald Dahl has just had his birthday past.

This talented author was born on September 13, 1916 in Llandaff, South Wales, United Kingdom. As a kid, he proved that he was skilled at finding trouble at a very young age. At 4, his father died.

As his father wished, Dahl's mother sent him off to English schools. Dahl first attended Llandaff Cathedral. He soon got kicked out for being mischievous boy. He tried several other schools, which was trial and error. He finally attended St. Peter's boarding school, and then Oxford or Cambridge University for his college years.

After that, he moved to America, he got married to actress Patricia



“
'Meanings is not
important, said the BFG.
'I cannot be right all the
time. Quite often I is left
instead of right.'
”

from The BFG

RD.COM/QUOTES

Neal. As the marriage did not last, but it did produce 5 children. He started to publish short stories for Saturday Evening Post.

In 1943, he published his first story, Gremlins. He quit his job writing for Saturday Evening Post, and continued writing short stories for adults.

As soon as Dahl's kids were old enough, he started to publish write stories for them before they went to bed. This became his foundation for his career as a kid author.

His first big children's book was James and the Giant Peach. Some of his favorite books that kids love are Matilda, The BFG, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, The Witches, and Gremlins, just to name a few.

Roald Dahl died on November 23, 1990 in Oxford, England. Roald Dahl was a very talented author and is loved and admired by many



Harry Potter and the Cursed Child

A Disappointment to Many Readers

By Sara Vala
Tusker Tribune Staff Writer

Spoilers Included!

Last July, J.K. Rowling surprised and excited fans with her big news, a new Harry Potter book was coming out!

People from around the world were waiting with great anticipation as they waited for their pre-ordered books. Finally, came July 31st. The suspense had been broken. Literally it's been broken. In fact, many people were actually disappointed! And I can give you a few reasons why.

THE BOOK WAS A PLAY!!!

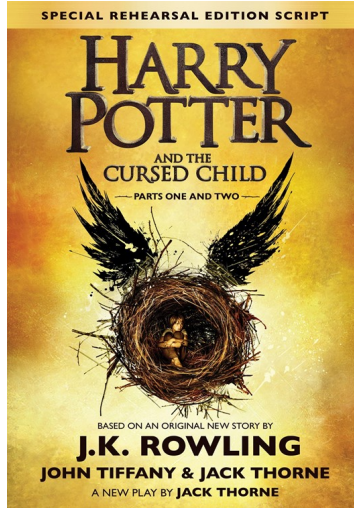
This surprised me the most. I thought that when I bought this book, I would be reading a magical novel, but instead, I find a screenplay written like this.....

Harry.....

Albus.....!

Paper is set on fire and thrown across the stage. It was very surprising and I despised the way this book was written.

I admit, when I first read this book, the characters



seemed more different than I'm usually used to.

Harry: He was crying. For Dumbledore. He cried because he missed someone. A grown man cries with a painting.

WHY??????????

Ron: He was pretty weird in the beginning, with his stupid breath jokes. Really??

Hermione: She was kind of meaner and she let down her guard (she couldn't even keep two 14 year olds out of her office) She also had a weird addiction to toffee

Draco Malfoy: He used to hate Hermione, now, he defended her in court. He called her a "Mud-blood" for goodness sake! Where was the bully we all loved? (or not)

No Description: Don't you usually, expect to read a novel with great detail and a great plot? Well, this so called "plot" was barely described. Albus's whole life, passed by, in 4 pages!

To sum it up, I really didn't like the book. I hope J.K. Rowling will actually write a real book, this time alone. I hope you take my advice and don't get your hopes up too high.

Airplanes, Sonic Booms, and Other Things that Fly



By Nitin Seshadri
Tusker Tribune Staff Writer

Have you ever wondered what it's like seeing a plane fly at supersonic speeds as the pilot shows off his skills? Would you want to experience it up close with me? Then read on!

My family and I had spent the last week preparing for the air show. We researched about planes, bought tickets online, and we even bought these fluorescent-green earplugs to protect our ears. I'd rather wear my noise-canceling Beats instead, but I had to defer to my mom's demands that I wear the earplugs. After a long two-hour drive, we finally arrived at the Stewart International Airport complex where the much-awaited air show was happening. I peeked through the car and I saw the planes standing on the tarmac. My excitement could not be contained! I was able to endure the long wait on the ticket line solely because I was so pumped up about the show. Good thing we were early, or else we wouldn't have found a place to sit because the place was jam-packed with people.



We had just plopped our chairs down in the viewing area when this wimpy, yellow, loud, generic-looking propeller plane flew into the scene. I could immediately tell that the pilot had utterly no clue about how to fly a plane. The engine made creaking and whirring sounds as though it wanted to fall apart. The tail fin of the aircraft plummeted to the ground with a thump as the plane went into an unsteady ascent. You could even smell the exhaust smoke and fuel that was pre-

sumably leaking from the gas tank. The audience gasped in shock! The aircraft made dangerous loops and dives and it almost flew into some trees near the airfield. The air show moderator was extremely panicked by the interruption and immediately summoned the renegade plane over the radio. The situation was getting tense. We all wondered: Why in the world would some random guy decide to interrupt an air show? After an extensive radio conversation, we found out over the PA system that the pilot Chuck was escaping prison by flying away in a plane that he had built himself.

Continued on page 3

Sonic Boom from page 2

It was apparent that he had not taken care to bolt in all the pieces tightly because some wing parts and a tire from the landing gear fell off the plane. I was scared to death over the fact that Chuck was an escaped convict. There was lots of tension in the audience when suddenly, a cloud of black smoke began to envelope the plane and it started to plummet to the ground with a loud buzz. My heart was racing. Chuck could probably hear it from his cockpit.

The moderator frantically gave him a crash course in flying and Chuck managed to land the plane without exploding it. Suddenly, a booming voice came over the PA. It was the infamous Chuck! He explained that he was not a prisoner but actually a trained stunt pilot. We learned that this was the first of thirty "acts" in the air show. I was extremely relieved. A huge sigh emanated from the audience and we all chuckled at ourselves for being fooled so easily. About two seconds later, we began to hear a deafening noise. A five-plane Thunderbird squadron began to speed down the runway. They gracefully swept up high into the air and out of our sight. I noticed that they were in an unusual diamond formation. As I looked in awe, each plane abruptly went into a different direction and started to do tricks. One Thunderbird flew upside down for a few minutes. Another flew so slow, it seemed as though it was on the verge of falling out of the sky. Scary! The third plane decided to swirl round and round until it was dizzy. The fourth and fifth planes flew as mirror images of each other: One flew right-side up, another flew upside down right below it. I was excited, but worried that they would crash into each other! As a grand finale, the fifth plane flew solo and chased the four "squadron" aircraft around until they landed.

A booming voice over the PA announced that the Geico "Skytypers" plane squadron was going to fly now. These planes were specially outfitted to "type" messages in the sky. The moderator explained the history of the Skytypers as they took off and printed sponsorship mes-

sages all over the sky. Two aircraft separated from the squadron and engaged in a mock dogfight with the other four. The two planes were the solos and the other four were the formation. I was eagerly watching to see who would win the fight. One of the solos pretended to shoot down an enemy aircraft. The shot aircraft plummeted to the ground (!) and then swooped up again, ready to fight. The formation now went on the offensive. They chased after the two solos, but the solos were able to shoot them down. Finally, the six Skytypers gracefully landed on the runway, one after the other, receiving a loud round of applause from the audience. I felt like I was watching World War II from the frontlines!

It was now time for the legendary F-16s. Four of them sped down the runway and took off almost vertically. They accelerated like there was no tomorrow. Suddenly, **BOOM!** I looked up, startled. One F-16 had already reached the speed of sound! Good thing we were wearing our earplugs. Three F-16s flew in formation and went around at the speed of sound. Even with the earplugs, my ears felt like they were going to explode. The fourth F-16 was like a wizard; it suddenly appeared, zoomed past us, then disappeared. I watched in amazement as the F-16s went so close to each other. It appeared as if their wings were touching! With a flourish, the planes landed just as smoothly as they took off. What a sight! The five Thunderbirds took off once more. We didn't realize that they had a second act! They did some impressive, breath-taking moves in the air, including a smoke trail shaped like a heart. Music from the PA system blasted as the planes flew in random directions. It seemed as though planes were flying to the rhythm of the fast-paced music. All I was doing was imagining what it would be like to fly in one of those planes. Just as I took off my earplugs, surprise! A sixth Thunderbird zoomed very close to the ground with an earth-shattering noise with utmost precision. I hadn't seen it take off, and that trickster got me! I smiled and saluted those pilots.

This air show was one of the most mind-blowing experiences of my life. Obviously, that two-hour drive was definitely worth it. Trust me, I'm going to come back for more.

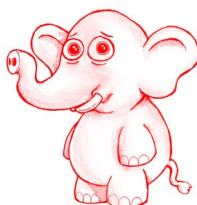


The Tusker Tribune is published online and is featured weekly on the Somers Middle School Website. It is entirely student-written by 6th, 7th and 8th grade students from

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Homemade Hot Chocolate



By Natalie Maher
Tusker Tribune Staff Writer

Makes- 5 cups
Total baking time- around 15

minutes
Skill level- easy

Ingredients

- 1/4 cup un-sweetened cocoa powder
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1/3 cup hot water
- 1/8 tbs salt
- 4 cups milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Instructions

Combine Cocoa, sugar, water and salt in a medium sauce pan
Under medium heat stir until your mixture boils, while stirring constantly
For one minute u



Last Descendants



By Nick Cirillo
Tusker Tribune Staff Writer

Ok, let's face it. Books based

off of video games are rarely any good.

But *Last Descendants* by Matthew J. Kirby is different. Based off the popular *Assassin's Creed* franchise, the story is considered canon (True to the series) with the games as well as the upcoming movie.

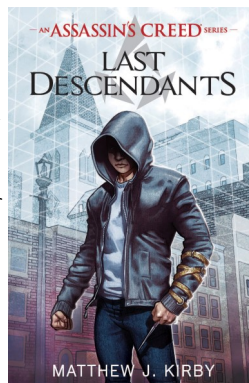
Last Descendants starts with Owen, a teenager, trying to find out what *really* happened to his father, who died in prison after being accused and convicted of murder. Trying to find the

truth, he goes to Monroe, the IT specialist at his school to use the Animus - a device that lets you simulate the memories of your ancestors

using your DNA. But during a simulation, he discovers something else.

Seemingly zapped into the Draft Riots of the mid-1800's, Owen and a group of other kids discover a world of the Assassin's Brotherhood and the Templar Order, a mystic fight ensuing over freedom...

If you are a fan of the *Assassin's Creed* franchise, or just want a cool read (like me), *Last Descendants* is the first book in an action-packed series that is sure to keep you reading.



Somers Cheer Team Brings Tusker Spirit to NY Mets



By Skylher Reyes
Tusker Tribune Staff Writer

This year, on Saturday September 24th, I went to the Mets game.

At the game, I was cheering with the NY Jets Cheerleaders for the annual Mets cheer and dance day.

On one special day every year, they have a day where they have all different cheer and dance teams learn a dance that would then be performed on the Citi Field Baseball Diamond.

It was so cool!!!! I had so much fun. It was

also really cool that we got to meet the jets cheerleaders and take pictures with them. After we were done doing the dance, we got to enjoy the game of the Mets vs. Phillies. In the end, the Phillies won 10-8. But luckily, the Mets won 17-0 the very next day!!!!

Journey from page 1

I like it here at Somers.



Editor's Note: Ethan is a seventh grader on the SMS White Team. In addition to being at SMS, Ethan is also a student at the Taipei Jinhua Junior High School in Taiwan. Taipei is the capital of Taiwan. You can check out these web links to find out more about the Taipei Jinhua Junior High School:

<http://www.chujh.tp.edu.tw/mediafile/1369/fdownload/78/248/2014-5-14-19-26-25-248-nf1.pdf>

<http://jinhuaart.weebly.com/index.html>