

MUSTANG MONTHLY

Houston Independent School District

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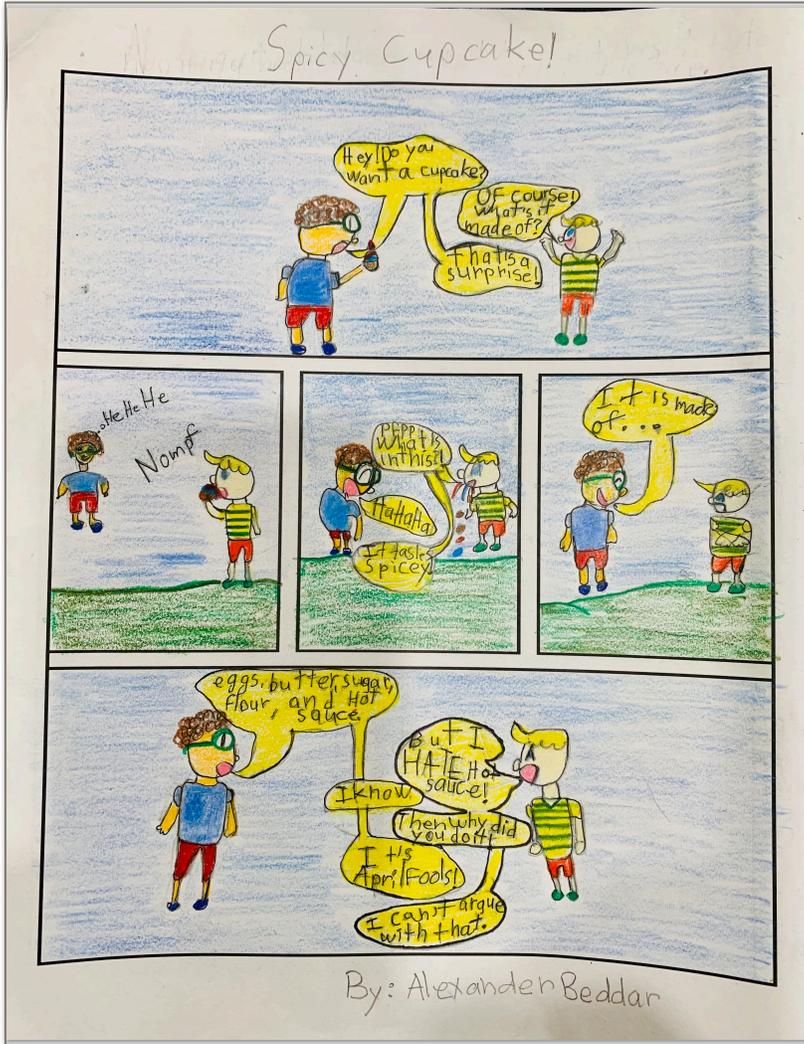
The Uninvited Guest

Milo Jenq





By: Samuel Arroyo



Spring Word Search
By Valentina Di Fiori

s	t	f	j	m	a	d	h	j	s	v	z	c	w	s	p	o
z	a	n	i	m	a	l	s	d	f	v	b	n	a	d	b	z
x	s	q	r	e	w	u	o	i	k	g	j	x	r	c	b	n
s	a	w	q	t	y	m	b	g	f	h	j	d	m	g	d	v
z	p	m	x	b	e	y	u	f	l	o	w	e	r	s	z	d
a	r	a	i	n	g	f	h	f	j	v	c	b	n	m	d	a
s	i	y	z	f	g	z	x	v	m	p	u	d	d	l	e	s
d	l	s	p	d	c	r	b	y	h	w	k	w	h	d	a	s
s	x	w	l	w	x	m	h	t	i	g	d	s	v	b	z	q
j	w	e	a	g	h	o	d	a	x	e	u	m	v	a	f	j
u	s	e	n	d	g	o	z	v	r	j	h	c	r	a	m	c
m	s	c	t	b	n	l	s	e	z	w	q	p	o	v	a	v
p	x	j	i	d	v	b	b	r	u	p	j	k	l	n	x	c
i	a	f	n	j	r	u	o	a	s	x	b	g	k	e	y	o
n	x	d	g	j	g	m	y	e	b	n	x	f	c	v	v	s
g	n	i	r	p	s	d	r	j	n	c	w	r	y	q	z	x
w	u	r	u	n	n	i	n	g	k	w	z	x	v	b	s	f

Word bank

- Animal
- Bloom
- Planting
- Flowers
- Rain
- May
- Warm
- Running
- Spring
- March
- April
- Puddles
- Jumping

Reviews

Carrabba's

By: Alice Kate

I went to Carrabba's, and it was awesome. They gave us bread with olive oil that had herbs. It was delicious, and their bread was very good. I ordered the kid's spaghetti and meatballs with butter sauce. It was very creamy and buttery, and the meatballs were big and tasted delicious.

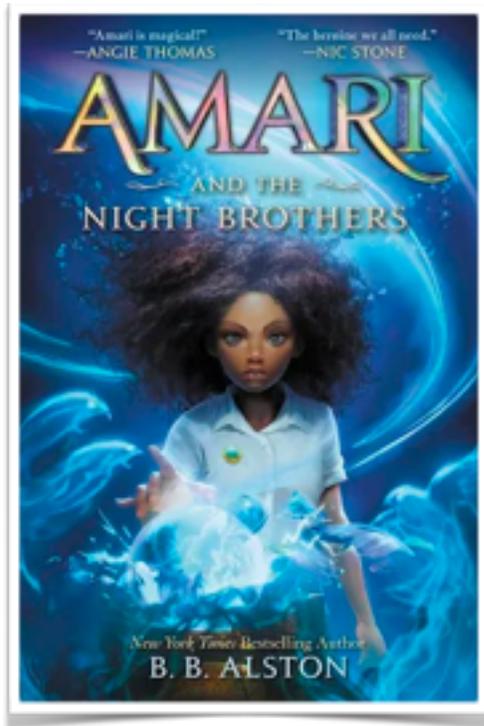
Then, they gave us a dessert menu. I got the sogno di cioccolata. It is a brownie with a few layers, and it tastes like a tres leches cake that is chocolate. It also came with chocolate fudge sauce. When we left, they had bowls with mint and regular Life Savers. I loved Carrabba's, and I give it five stars.



Amari and the Night Brothers

"A tale of magic and adventure, with hints of mystery along the way."

A book review by: Andrew Herman



Amari has always convinced herself that Quinton, her brother, who went missing the year before, was still alive. She even got in trouble for standing up to bullies who said he was gone for good. Then, one night, she finds a ticking briefcase in her closet. It says she has an invitation to the Bureau Of Supernatural Affairs. She decides to go, but when she gets there she has to wrap her head around aliens, fairies, werewolves, and magicians all being real! She also finds that the Bureau was also the “job” Quinton said he had. She decides the Bureau is her ticket to finding out what happened to Quinton and how to get him back. The problem is that this information is classified,

so she must pass Junior Agent tryouts to find out what the Bureau knows. How will she do it when her supernatural talent is deemed “illegal”? The answer is in Amari and the Night Brothers.

I would rate this book five out of five stars.

This book was the perfect mix of suspense, magic, and adventure to be of my liking. I highly recommend this book to kids in third through fifth grades. Amari and the Night Brothers is set to be a Bluebonnet for 2022-2023. Also, keep a lookout because the second book in the series is coming out soon!



Travel Reviews

Tubing in Utah

By Lila Cooley and Kelsey Yip



Over spring break, we were able to go tubing at Woodward Park City in Utah. Tubing is where you sit in a tube and slide down a hill. You can

(Cooley and Yip, from page 4) even do it in groups! Tubing is fun because of all the little hills you can go over. We have some tips for you if you ever go tubing.

Lila's tips:

1. Make sure to hold on tight if you are in a group; you don't want to go away from the rest of the group.
2. Also, have fun and don't worry about it. I was scared that I would get hurt, but I was wrong. It was really fun!
3. And my last tip is: don't go tubing if the weather isn't nice; it will probably not be as fun.

Kelsey's tips:



1. If you're going in a group with other

people,

make sure to not sit too close to the top of the hill when you're getting ready so that you don't slide down the hill without your group!

2. Don't try to rock your tube around when you're sliding; you might go into another lane. So, just stay still and enjoy the ride.

3. Lastly, if you get too hot, you can put your jacket inside of your tube and sit on it when you slide.

If you are ever in Park City and want a day off skiing, tubing would be a great option. If you follow all of these tips, you'll have a great time and not get hurt. Bring a buddy with you if you ever go tubing; it's more fun that way!

Blisswood Bed and Breakfast Ranch

By: Naomi Fan

Over spring break, I visited Blisswood Bed and Breakfast Ranch, which is a dude ranch. The Blisswood Ranch is about 60 miles from Houston. You can rent a house or cabin, or you can go glamping in a tent, RV, or covered wagon. All the houses, cabins, and tents are equipped with AC and heat. Some of them, like the one we rented, have television. There are many fun activities such as kayaking or boating, paddleboarding, fishing, archery, horseback riding, trap shooting, tomahawk/knife throwing, and biking.



We rented the Ranch House Studio, which is connected to the owner's house. It had three rooms and 2.5 bathrooms, and each room had a queen bed.

(Fan, from page 5) While we stayed there, my family and I did many fun things, such as horseback riding, archery, and trap shooting with shotguns.



You meet your instructor at the Show Barn with all activities. When we got on the horses, my horse was named Leo. My dad's horse

was named Duke. We went on a one-hour horseback ride throughout the property. We went on many trails that you wouldn't usually go on. When we passed by a lake, my horse, Leo, decided to get a drink. Leo walked down and bent down to get a drink. The leader's horse, Pax, followed it right after. And then, my dad's horse also took a sip. Since the horse's head dropped down, it felt like you were about to fall off the horse into the lake. Sometimes, when we paused to let Duke catch up, Leo often bent down to eat a bit. When we got back to the Show Barn, one of the staff let us feed our horses with the treats. While Duke ate it up immediately, mine sniffed it twice, and it just didn't eat it. Horseback riding was enjoyable, and the sights were amazing.

Later that day, we went back to the Show Barn and met Mr. Skeeter. He showed me how to hold the bow with your weak hand, put in the arrow, pull back, and release the arrow. You have to target a bag of stuffed hay with four targets with

one in the middle and a fake deer. I hit bullseyes and shot the deer's heart.

My dad did shotgun shooting, and we all watched him. Mr. Skeeter showed him how to handle and use the shotgun. There was a launcher with orange cones firing, and my dad was aiming for them. On the third try, he clipped the edge of the cone but didn't hit it entirely.

Part of the property is an exotic farm. They have miniature donkeys, bison, emus, and white-tailed deer. A chain-link fence divides the donkeys and the rest of the animals. The donkeys were extremely



friendly, and they didn't show any aggression towards us. You could take a safari tour with Mr. Skeeter and feed the deer, emus, and bison. When we watched my dad shoot a shotgun, Mr. Skeeter gave me a bucket of food and let me feed the donkeys. When I was doing that, many bison, deer, and emus came over to try and get some food. When the donkeys started eating, they became a little aggressive and tried to push each other out of the way to get to the food. There was also some hay in the passenger's seat in his large four-wheeler. I took some hay and fed some of the bison. The bison seemed to bound happily to get some hay.

There is a large cage near the Show Barn for four ring-tailed lemurs. Another family was feeding them bananas, and one of them gave me a banana. I fed a few lemurs bananas. The lemurs were cute and funny. There was also a swing on a big branch of a tree that I swung on.

(Fan, from page 6) The activities don't stop there. You can do birding, biking, hiking, and nature walks. Blisswood Bed and Breakfast Ranch is a fantastic place for a family vacation nearby.

Spring Break Skiing in Deer Valley

By: Alexander Kim

Imagine a spring break with temperatures below freezing! Well, that would not be your usual spring break in Houston, but it is in Deer Valley in Utah! This spring break, my family and I went to Deer Valley to ski, and we had a blast! This was our first time skiing in two years (due to the pandemic, of course). So, we were a little rusty at first, but, soon enough, we were zipping down the runs as if no time had passed.

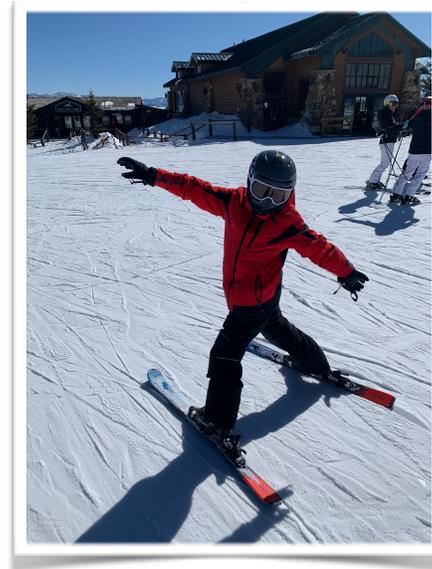
My first time in skis was when I was two years old, when I went down a little bunny hill and my dad caught me. I don't remember this, but we have photographic evidence. I do remember more, however, about my first time skiing at ski school when I was four years old in Whistler, Canada. It was not a success. I would get so tired from skiing in the morning, I would take long naps in the afternoon, and I didn't even follow instructions! My mom called them the most expensive naps ever. Future ski school lessons went better, and I have since learned skills like pizza and parallel. Although I started on the bunny slopes, I kept on improving so that now I can ski with my family on blue squares.

There are three main levels of difficulty in skiing runs – green circles (which are the easiest and flattest), blue squares (which are harder and steeper), and black diamonds (which are hardest and steepest). I spent most of my time this spring break skiing blue squares with my dad and sister in Deer Valley. Some of my favorite blue squares were Fairview, which is fun and easy; the

Mountaineer, which is steep and hard; the Solid Muldoon, which is kind of steep but not as bad as the Mountaineer; and finally, my personal favorite, Hidden Treasure, which is steep and has moguls (human-made snow hills that skiers have to dodge)! This was my first time skiing moguls. The first time I went down, I did not fall, but on my second time, I went way too fast and fell. But I got up right away and finished the trail. My family also went on green circles, but I did not like them that much. I liked the more difficult trails like Hidden Treasure which, to me, are like a double blue square or black diamond.

Aside from skiing with my family, I enjoyed many other relaxing and fun activities at Deer

Valley and in Park City, Utah. At the resort, we would relax after skiing by going to the pool and then the hot tub where we



played games like Marco Polo and Sharks and Minnows. We also drank hot chocolate and made s'mores in the firepit. We also spent time in Park City exploring Main Street and shopping at local institutions like Dolly's Bookstore. We also ate a ton and enjoyed lots of fine cuisine at Park City's many restaurants, such as sushi, pasta, and steak.

(Kim, from page 7) I had so much fun during this spring break, and I hope to come back to Deer Valley again soon to enjoy more skiing and winter fun. I loved the change in scenery and seeing the beautiful snowy mountains. I would also like to come back for more food! I would highly recommend skiing in Deer Valley for a future spring break trip. I hope you enjoyed your spring break as much as I did!

Spring Break – Hawaii

By: Brayden Lim



For spring break, my family visited my grandparents in Hawaii. We had many fun days, but my favorite day was when we visited Hanauma Bay in the morning and had shave ice in the afternoon. Hanauma Bay is a fish sanctuary where fishing is illegal. We went early so there weren't many people when we got there, but, by the time we left, there were a lot of people. I went snorkeling and saw many colorful fish. My snorkel wasn't working, so I had to come up every few minutes. I saw two fish on a rock resting together. One was yellow and gray, and the other was black, orange, and blue. I also saw a school of fish

swimming towards the two fish. We snorkeled around the keyhole-shaped reef, and we came back and had a snack. Then, my brother and I went to dig a hole in the sand. Our hole died because the hole was too small and the wall caved in.

After spending the morning at Hanauma Bay, we ate shave ice at Monsarat Shave Ice. The price was only five dollars, but it was fifty cents more for each topping. It was seven dollars for the MK special, which had five toppings. The five toppings were azuki bean, mochi balls, syrup, powder, and vanilla ice cream. The shave ice lady put three whole layers of shave ice and flavor in the cup. It took her five minutes to make one order of shave ice, but it was delicious. I got shave ice two times on Friday and Saturday. The first time, I got strawberry and mixed berry. The second time, I got strawberry and acai. The shave ice flavors were also made out of real fruit. Our whole family each got a shave ice, and it was very yummy.



Interviews

Ms. Moen's Birthday: An Interview

By: Ana Sofia Muñoz and Juliet Kuban

Hello Mustangs! This is Ana Sofia Muñoz and Juliet Kuban. Today, we will be entertaining you with this amazing article about Ms. Moen's birthday. Thank you and enjoy. P.S. Ms. Moen is a 4th grade teacher.

Question 1: What do you like to do on your birthday?

Answer: I like to have dinner with family and friends.

Question 2: What is your favorite restaurant to go to on your birthday?

Answer: Since my favorite food is Italian, I like to get pizza at Rosie Cannonball.

Question 3: What is the best gift you have received on your birthday?

Answer: A dollhouse I got when I was three years old.

Question 4: What is your most memorable birthday?

Answer: When I turned 16 years old because I got my license.

Question 5: If you found a genie and had three wishes, what would they be?

Answer: More wishes. To travel anywhere. To go to a real-life Hogwarts.

Question 6: Would you rather have a big party or a few friends over?

Answer: I would rather invite a few people over.

Question 7: What is your favorite thing to do with your family on your birthday?

Answer: I like to go shopping on my birthday.

Question 8: What did you do for your birthday when you were younger?

Answer: I would have a big party such as swimming or ice skating.

Question 9: What is your favorite number and when is your birthday?

Answer: My favorite number is nine and my



birthday is April 9th.

An Interview With 5th Grader Barrett Hall

By Ethan Duguid



Q. What positions do you play in baseball?

A. Second base and outfield normally. Sometimes, I'm a pitcher though.

Q. Where did you go during spring break?

A. I went to Crested Butte, Colorado.

Q. Have you seen the movie Encanto? If so, what do you rate it, and what's your favorite part and song?

A. I rate it an 8 out of 10. My favorite song is We Don't Talk About Bruno. That doubles as my favorite part.

Q. If you could go back in time, what time and place would you visit?

A. Before Covid, so I could go to Rio de Janeiro.

Q. What is the one thought that comes into your head when I say the name Percy?

A. Percy Jackson!

Done Is Better Than Perfect

By: Gibson Allison



I was curious about how to be a real reporter, so I interviewed Amber Elliot, an Arts and Society reporter for the Houston Chronicle. I asked her why she wanted to be a reporter. She said that that's all she ever wanted to be. When she was six years old, she was asked what she wanted to be when she grew up, and she said a writer. Amber was born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and moved to Houston when she was two. She went to high school in the area, and she attended college in Texas. She was paid for her first story in college.

(Gibson, from page 10) I asked her how long it takes to write a story, and she says it depends on her deadlines. During the Super Bowl, she wrote a story on her phone that went viral. Amber says she has four to five ideas at one time, and she gets ideas from different places. The Houston Chronicle is different from the Monthly Mustang because the Houston Chronicle has between 18 to 20 editors. The editor in chief is the boss of the Houston Chronicle. Her advice for future reporters is “done is better than perfect.” Like all good reporters, she told me to fact check or follow up.

Articles



April Fool's Day

By Maggie Chen

Do you know the history of April Fool's Day? Read on to find out more about April Fool's history.

The first April Fool's Day was in 1582, when France switched from the Julian Calendar, invented by Julius Caesar, to the Gregorian Calendar because the Julian Calendar miscalculated the solar year by eleven minutes. This meant that Easter would be farther and farther away from the Spring Equinox. Pope Gregory XIII invented the Gregorian Calendar to change the date of Easter by moving it closer to the Spring Equinox. The Julian Calendar said the New Year started on April 1st. People who didn't get the news about the new calendar continued to celebrate the New Year from the last week of March to April 1st and were called “April fools.”

We celebrate April Fool's Day because the French changed the Julian Calendar to the Gregorian Calendar, and some people did not know. People played pranks on the “April fools,” and it became tradition.

Battle of the Month

By: Sam Atha

Hi, my name is Sam, and I like the history of battles. You have probably heard of the battles of Pearl Harbor and D-Day, but have you heard of the Battle of Formigny? Let me tell you about it.

The Battle of Formigny was a part of the Hundred Years' War. The war started in 1337 and ended in 1453, which is actually 116 years according to my math. The war started from a disagreement regarding the power of the French throne. The war consisted of a number of battles.

The Battle of Formigny occurred on April 15, 1450, three years before the end of the war. One year prior, the English re-opened the war by

(Atha, from page 11) attacking Fougères. Fougères was one of the wealthiest towns in Brittany in northwestern France. The Duke of Brittany, who had power over Fougères, was an ally of the King of France. Although there was a truce in effect, the truce ended when the English refused to pay reparations to the Duke of Brittany.

With no English armies in Normandy, the English King Henry VI sent 2,500 men under Sir Thomas Kyriell to halt any further French re-invasion. He was joined by 1,500 men from Somerset. Together, the men marched toward Formigny.



France had two forces near Normandy. John Count of Clermont led 3,000 men to Normandy and Arthur de Richemont led 2,000 men twenty miles southwest of the area. Clermont allowed Kyriell to pass in front of his men toward Formigny while waiting for Richemont. But a confident Clermont held at Formigny instead of moving to the safe haven of Bayeux. He was unaware of Richemont's approaching men.

The English were in a long line with few troops. Three-fourths of the soldiers were longbow men, behind some accompanying Spanish Riders. Clermont approached the line

with foot soldiers. Their first flank was unsuccessful. Then, the French sent cavalry charges to destroy the English line. But again, they failed too. The English then used large guns on wheels to shoot further than the archers could reach. The French archers took out the guns, but at a steep price. The French then used cannons to take out the English, but they were now themselves in disarray.

At this moment, Richemont arrived. He was positioned to assault the English army. The English were forced into a defensive position. They were so compact that they could not fire their bows and their foot soldiers were outnumbered. Kyriell tried to reposition part of his army to battle Richemont, but that only encouraged Clermont to hasten their attack. Most of the English army was captured or killed, including Kyriell. One group escaped.

The battle was important for two reasons. First, some consider it the first battle where cannons played such an important role. Second, it led to the whole region being reclaimed by France. France later won the Hundred Years' War.

Sources:

- English Diplomacy and the Sack of Fougères in 1449. M.H. Keen. Jester.org/stable/24409415
- www.britannica.com/event/Battle-of-Formigny
- Weaponsandwarfare.com/2015/11/30/battle-of-formigny-1450/

Poems

Ode to Books

By Isabella Chen



On the third floor there
is a shelf laden with
books

Books so magical they
could suck you up like
vacuums

Like portals, they show
you unimaginable worlds

The book is new but the story is old

Old as a wise oak tree

Old as a clever owl

Old as your grandfather, rocking in his chair

The books are happy

Sad

Angry

Or threatening

But I can tame them

Once I sail deep into the ocean of tales

They become my friends

Traveling along beside me

On a boat held together with imagination

And curiosity

We sail to the Island of Paintings

Where words become pictures

And tales become real

The dusty, old pages

Filled with wisdom and adventure

Pull us into this world

The leathery cover

And the mysterious odor

Of the ancient book

Is left behind

Over the boundary

Of reality and imagination

Colors swirl in the magical mist

While the wind rushes past

Sweet smells fill the air

Apples drop, ripe and red

Streams flow by like a mirror

Colorful fish swim by

The sun smiles at us

Not too hot, not too cold

But when you close the book

The island dissolves
 Leaving you with only
 A faint memory
 Of the scent of the spring air
 And the crisp breeze
 Which leaves your fingers tingling
 Pleading for another book

 And as you pick it up
 The warm wind rushes past you again
 As you read deeper
 The vacuum sucks you up
 You fly through the wonders of the world
 You soar through the skies like a bird
 The mild air tickles you
 And you watch the land asleep
 The velvet night becomes your blanket
 The moon your pillow
 The stars your playmates

 You chase the zooming comets
 You gaze at the planets
 You smile at the clouds
 You wink at the asteroids
 Leaving trails of dust
 You zoom back to reality

Overflowing with joy

 The image in your mind
 Is still there
 Clear as glass
 Everything seems all right
 Even when your brother
 Steals your homework
 You smile and laugh

 At night you dream of that scene
 You marvel at the golden moon
 You hug the stars tight
 You play with the breeze
 And you laugh along with everyone

 So don't be afraid
 To simply pick up a book
 For it just might lead you
 To an ancient and mysterious and fun world

Poems to think of on April Fool's

By: CoCo Rahbar-Daniels

April Fool's Day is a time when we can play pranks on our peers and superiors and get away with it (hopefully!). And what's more classic than the toothpaste in an Oreo prank? So in honor of this historic prank, I have compiled a list of styles

((Rahbar-Daniels, from page 14)of poems all centering around the same thing: The genius of this timeless practical joke.

Haiku:

Toothpaste is minty

Put it in an Oreo

Ruins the whole thing

Rhyming Couplet:

When you take a bite out of this silly trick

You won't even want another little lick

Acrostic:

Open it and there's white cream

Really easy to make a prank out of them

Excellent and delicious

Only good without toothpaste

Cinquain:

Oreos and Toothpaste

Minty and Disgusting

Chewing, Tasting, Biting

Tastes terrible

A well known prank

Free Verse:

I love the crunchy sweetness of the cookie

And the smooth texture of the cream

Ruined by the minty taste of toothpaste

For the enjoyment and laughter of others

I hope you enjoy thinking of these poems while you snicker as you play your own pranks on April Fool's Day!

Riddles



Are you looking for a brain-challenge or maybe something to take your mind off of school? Well, if that's the case, then I have just the thing! Take a look at these awesome riddles to challenge your brain and help you relax!

1. I have four legs at dawn, two legs at midday, and three legs at dusk. Who am I?

2. Blue man lives in the blue house, orange man lives in the orange house, and purple man lives in the purple house. Who lives in the white house?

3. Why was 6 afraid of 7?

4. Bob the cowboy rode into town on Friday. He stayed 3 days and left on Friday. How is that possible?

5. Where do fish keep their money?

6. What is yours, but your friends use more?

7. What isn't yours, but you keep?

8. What can you swallow, but also swallow you?

9. I have 2 arms, but no legs. What am I?

Answers:

1. A human. I crawl at the beginning of my life, walk on my legs at the middle of my life, and use a cane at the end of my life.

2. The President

3. Because 7 ate (8) 9

4. His horse was named Friday.

5. In the riverbank

6. Your name

7. A secret

8. Water

9. A clock

Thank you for reading! If you got all of these right, then tell your parents you deserve a treat! To know where to go, read my next article!

Signing out, Gavin Andres Terrazas

Hope you enjoyed April. Stayed tuned for the last edition of the year coming in May!