

# Monthly Mustang



## BOO BASH TIME BY MARIA NEATA

The air around you turns cool and crisp as red and gold leaves fall to the ground. It's autumn, and you can't deny it. But fall doesn't just mean more ugly sweaters; it means it's time for the Boo Bash!

The Boo Bash is a carnival/bazaar for children of all ages. It takes place on the West U campus, and the most recent one was on October 16, 2021. All games and inflatables are accessed by a wristband, which can be bought ahead of time along with the multicolored confetti eggs that'll be in your hair in no time. This October festival is a place where you can play games, jump in bouncy houses, and stuff your mouth with sweets, which is why I'm going to

share with you the highlights of my experience. Imagine walking into a place where there are mountains of food. And by food, I mean sweets. Caramel and butterscotch. Chocolate and pumpkin spice. Peppermint candies and watermelon bubble gum. And it's all yours to take. Does that sound like a dream? Well then, the Boo Bash must be a fantasy. While the nutritious lunches may be satisfying, I'm in for the sugar to the end. Candy is the number one prize earned at the end of a carnival game, but some spots are reserved for sweet selling. However, you can't put a price on twelve-year running, Mrs. Wood's cotton candy. So if you're looking for a place where you can stuff your mouth, you needn't search anymore.

A carnival is not a carnival without any games. The Boo Bash is a carnival. So, of course, there has to be games. And there are. From inflatable racetracks, haunted

houses, obstacle courses to Plinko and Skee Ball, every corner has something new. No matter tossing or sliding, dunking or catching, it's something you're for sure to enjoy.

There are many entertainments at the Boo Bash. There are photo booths and shopping carts, sweet treats, and fun games. However, the most exciting thing for me was the dunking booth. Children have three chances to hurl tennis balls at a red button, which dumps an unlucky teacher into a pool of cold water. On October 16, Mr. Castle, Mrs. Henderson, and Ms. Mays all got dumped into the pit of freezing water. But that's not all! Mr. Disch, the school principal, sacrificed himself to ball-wielding children and a bucket of icy water.

So, if you're looking for a place to stuff your face, a location at which you can have a go at carnival games, and a wonderland where you can dunk Mr. Disch, what can I say? You know where to go!

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## THE HOUSTON BALLET'S JUBILEE OF DANCE BY LILA COOLEY



I went to see the Houston Ballet's Jubilee of Dance on October 3. There were three acts in the performance. It had many different dances, and all of them

told a different story. Overall, it was fun to see all of the different dances! The Houston Ballet company was awesome!

In Act I, there were nine dances. They included two pieces from *Divergence*, two pieces from *Sylvia*, as well as one piece from *A Time to Dance*, *Of Blessed Memory*, *Play*, *Flower Festival in Genzano*, and *Madame Butterfly*. My favorite dance from Act I was the *Seventh Movement* from the ballet, *Play*. It had a bunch of people wearing business suits, ties, and belts dancing to a song by Moby called *Run On*. I think it was about people who wanted to do a dance while they were on their way to work because everyone wants to dance. It was choreographed by Stanton Welch, who is the Artistic Director of the Houston Ballet. They filmed a version of it, which you can watch on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S7wYZIs-nsM>

In Act II, there were two dances. One was from *Big Sky*, and the other one was from *Don Quixote*. The pas de deux from *Don Quixote* was great! Mónica Gómez and Charles-Louis Yoshiyama danced the roles of Kitri and Basilio. They did so many pirouettes. One dancer would leave the stage, and the other dancer would do so more pirouettes. And then, they would switch places! It was incredible! They wore glittery costumes that were very pretty.

In Act III, there was one performance that was *In Good Company*, and it seems like it was danced by the entire company! It was also choreographed by the great Stanton Welch! It was different from classical ballets. It had music by *The Dead South* with lyrics, instead of instrumental music played by an orchestra. The costumes were white shirts with green bows on them and black pants or a black skirt. There were seven small sections in the ballet. Each one had a different style of dance. My favorite piece was the first one. I liked it because of the movements of the dancers and the song that accompanied it. The dancers seemed to be performing some of the lyrics, which was fun.

Overall, the Jubilee of Dance was very fun and entertaining! I recommend going to one of the Houston Ballet's performances or watching some of their great videos on YouTube. The Houston Ballet's channel on YouTube is <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-oTYdy7BubNRUp0CM34DQ>

## CAMPS AT NASA OF THE JOHNSON SPACE CENTER BY NAOMI FAN

Have you ever heard the acronym NASA? NASA stands for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. NASA is a federal agency that was established in 1958 to explore space. There are ten major centers and eight smaller facilities. Its headquarters are in Washington, D.C. One of the centers is the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. It's an astronauts' training facility and mission control center. From 1960 through 1965, Cape Canaveral in Florida was used as mission control during the Mercury missions. From 1965 to present day, the mission control has been the Christopher C. Kraft Jr. Mission Control Center of the Johnson Space Center, Houston. The seven Apollo missions were controlled in the Johnson Space Center.

NASA offers summer and winter camps to children ages four to eleven. Those camps will take you to explore Mars, to learn about robotics, and to journey and beyond. For children 12 and up, instead of camp, they attend Space Center University.

During the summer, I was lucky to spend two weeks at the Johnson Space Center for the summer camp. Over the

weeks, we did many fun and stimulating activities. We, a group of "young scientists," designed a suit for astronauts to wear on Mars.



Another activity was thermal and cryogenic testing.

Thermal means hot, and cryogenic means very cold. For the thermal test, we made a heat shield for re-entering the earth with only four materials. I chose one piece of steel wool, two pieces of metal mesh, and another piece of metal stuff. My tile was put in between an egg and a small fire. The fire was lit with a propane lighter. The propane lighter would reach 1,976 °C, which is about 3,588 °F. The fire burned for two minutes. Because all the materials I chose were metal, a hole did not burn through my tile. If it did, then they would have to put out the fire.

For the cryogenic testing, ( *Cont'd on page 4* )



**GET TO KNOW MR. CASTLE** BY COCO RAHBAR-DANIELS & MOUSSIA ELYASHEVICH

CoCo: What do you see yourself doing ten years from now?

Mr.Castle: I would like to stay the Wraparound Specialist. I would also like to have any other leadership role to help with social and emotional learning.

Moussia: What is your favorite type of food?

Mr. Castle: I really like Vietnamese food such as pho and banh mi sandwiches.

CoCo: If you could thank one person, who would it be?

Mr.Castle: I would thank my dad because he taught me how to keep my cool under pressure.

Moussia: What was your favorite grade?

Mr.Castle: My favorite grade to teach is fifth grade. I enjoy working with them and preparing them for middle school.

CoCo: Who was your fifth grade teacher?

Mr.Castle: My fifth grade teacher was Ms.Buck at Saybrook Elementary in Ashtabula, Ohio. She inspired me to learn more about history.

Moussia: Who is someone you regard as a hero?

Mr.Castle: A hero of mine is my Uncle Ellis. He was a World War II veteran, he was an amazing family man, and he always put children first. I named my one-year-old son after him.

CoCo: What is one of your favorite books?

Mr.Castle: I enjoy Cloud Atlas by David Mitchell. I like it because it shows how people of different cultures and in different time periods of history share things in common.

Moussia: What is your favorite state?

Mr.Castle: I love my home state of Ohio. I try to visit my mom who still lives up there whenever I can.

CoCo: What was an important event in your life?

Mr.Castle: I took a class in Educational Psychology for fun in college. I discovered my passion through a connection with both the professor and through my field experience working with kids in an after-school program. This has led me to change my career path, and I have not regretted it since.

Moussia: What do you think you have accomplished?

Mr.Castle: I am proud to be a West U parent, resident, and now new school employee. I am honored to serve the families of West U!



**ANDREA SALEEM, KINDERGARTEN TEACHER** BY ETHAN DUGUID



Q. What inspired you to be a teacher?

A.I come from a line of teachers. I always saw my mom and grandma teaching, and I've always been good with kids. I guess teaching was my destiny.

Q. Do you have any siblings? If so, can you give us a little background info about them?

A. I have a twin brother named Richard, and he works in the military. He flies Black Hawk helicopters and lives in Hawaii.

Q. Have you worked anywhere other than WUES?

A. Not teaching, but I have worked as a barista at a coffee shop and coached gymnastics.

Q. Do you have any kids? If so, can you tell us their names?

A. I do. Their names are Kai and Mila. They bring all the joy to my life.

Q. What made you choose to teach Kindergarten?

A. I think it is because of the fun. The crafts, activities, and watching them learn how to read fills my heart. I also think it was because my friends are Kinder teachers, and they begged me to join them. I was a first grade teacher at the time.



# GET TO KNOW MRS. ERWIN

BY SYDNEY DEFREHN



Q. What is your favorite thing about teaching?  
 A. All the art and crafts, watching kids learn to read, and their joy for reading.

Q. When and why did you decide to teach?  
 A. (When) Elementary school (Why) I saw how much my mom enjoyed teaching.

Q. What advice do you have for future teachers?  
 A. Get creative and come up with new teaching styles. Keep the kids interested and engaged. Also, know everyday will bring something new.

Q. What is your favorite subject to teach?  
 A. Social studies and science because you get to do fun experiments and units.

Q. What is it like to be a teacher?  
 A. It is amazing because I get to be with kids all day

Q. What is your favorite ice cream flavor?  
 A. Mint Chocolate Chip

Q. What is your favorite color?  
 A. Burnt orange or rainbow

Q. Where did you go to college?  
 A. I went to UT (University of Texas) in Austin. Hook 'em Horns!

## AN INTERVIEW WITH THE THANKSGIVING TURKEY BY MATTHEW HERMAN



(me): "Today we are doing an interview with the Thanksgiving turkey. I would like to introduce today's guest, "The Turkey."  
 (turkey): "It's a pleasure to meet you and to be in this magazine."  
 (me): " Why don't you tell me a little bit about yourself?"  
 (turkey): " I am a Rio Grande turkey, and my scientific name is Meleagris Gallopavo Intermedia."  
 (me): " I have heard of wild turkeys like the one in the picture but not like you."  
 ( turkey): "That is an Eastern Wild Turkey. I am a Rio Grande. I guess it doesn't matter; we are all turkeys!"  
 ( me): "Well, that's all the time we have today. So, join me next time for an interview with an elf!"

### NASA CONT'D FROM PAGE 2

Our creations would be dipped into liquid nitrogen for two minutes. Then, they would take each one out and unwrap it to see if the marshmallow was still intact. I chose two pieces of insulator, one piece of felt, and one piece of wax paper. I took my marshmallow and wrapped the materials around it hot dog-style. I taped the middle shut, so no liquid nitrogen would get into it. Then, I folded in the ends. Then, I taped it shut. With the excess tape, I made sure all the holes the liquid nitrogen could enter through were taped shut. When it was my turn, the suit

was put into the pot and we waited two minutes. When she took it out, it was still nice and squishy. Mine was one out of the three that survived.

These are some of my favorite science experiments that I've ever done! I hope that my designs will be worn by the astronauts in the future. In lieu of the pandemic, this summer turned out to be my favorite summer vacation because of this inspiring and fascinating summer camp.

To learn more, visit this NASA website: [www.pacecenter.org](http://www.pacecenter.org)

## BOOK, TV AND MOVIE REVIEWS

### WHEN STARS ARE SCATTERED: A BOOK REVIEW AND INTERVIEW WITH THE AUTHOR

BY JULIET KUBAN



This book is about survival, family, and the perseverance to reach a goal. Omar and Hassan are brothers. They used to live on a farm in Somalia. Then, bad people came and killed their father. They didn't see their mother for a very long time. They were forced to go to a refugee camp called Dadaab in Kenya. There, they had a foster mom named Fatuma.

Throughout their time in the camp, they had to make very hard decisions. Omar wanted to go to school. Hassan was a nonverbal child. It was Omar's job to take care of him. It was hard to decide whether or not to go to school since Hassan was his only real family left.

At the camp, there was a list. If your name was on the list, you might get resettled to America. Everyone wanted to get on the list. Read the book to find out if they get the freedom to pursue their dreams. I very highly recommend this book!

*Interview with the Author Victoria Jamieson:*

*Q: How did you meet Omar?*

*A: I met Omar through volunteering in my community. I was volunteering with a refugee resettlement agency in my area, which is a place where new arrivals to the U.S.*

can get assistance with things like finding an apartment, enrolling in schools, finding a job, and so on. Omar worked at this agency as a social worker, and, one day, his co-workers introduced us. Omar was working on his memoir at the time and was looking for a co-author to help him finish it. I asked him if he'd ever considered making his memoir into a graphic novel, and the rest is history!

*Q: What was your inspiration to write the book (besides Omar)?*

*A: I was really inspired by my curiosity and a desire to learn more about the refugee crisis. As an American living in the U.S., I often felt powerless to become involved in situations that seemed so far away. Through meeting Omar and working on this book together, however, I learned there is so much someone can do to help, even (or especially!) young people. I now volunteer with Omar's non-profit organization Refugee Strong, and most of our donors are kids. It's been amazing to see young people get involved.*

*Q: Does this book make you feel lucky to live in America and sleep on a bed?*

*A: Working on this book really made me appreciate everything I have, like a safe place to live and a bed to sleep in. As a parent, I feel especially lucky to be able to provide those things for my son. Omar fled Somalia with Hassan when he was about four years old, and my own son was about four when I began this book. It was hard for me to imagine my son at the same age, sleeping on the ground rather than in his warm, safe bed. I definitely feel very fortunate.*

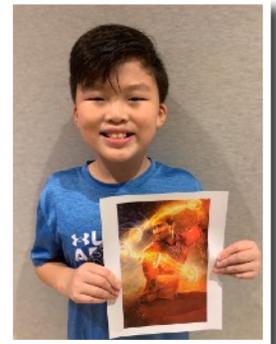
### MOVIE: SHANG CHI AND THE LEGEND OF THE TEN RINGS REVIEWED BY ALEXANDER KIM

From a comic to a movie, Shang Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings is the most recent addition to the Marvel Cinematic Universe. It was released September 2, 2021, only in movie theaters. If you missed seeing movies on the big screen during the pandemic, then this is a great opportunity to go back to the movie theater experience.

Shang Chi is the main character of the movie. He seems like your average car valet (his job in San Francisco), but he is actually the son of an immortal Chinese emperor, Xu Wenwu, who controls the ancient, mystical Ten Rings. The Ten Rings have immense magical powers, like Thor's hammer, that the owner can use to destroy his or her enemies or use for good. When an ancient, soul-eating creature lures Shang Chi's father on a destructive journey

to use the Ten Rings to free the evil creature from its dragon-scale prison, Shang-Chi has to face his past and become the warrior that he has tried so hard not to be in order to stop his father.

Along the way, Shang Chi finds his long-lost sister, Xialing, who is also a great warrior – her specialty is swiftly manipulating the rope dart – and she joins him on the journey to stop their father. Shang Chi's best friend, Katie, played by Awkwafina, also *Cont'd on page 11*



## A BOOK REVIEW OF THE LAST KIDS ON EARTH BY GAVIN TERRAZAS



Jack Sullivan has to survive in the monster and zombie filled world of his town... Sounds fun right? That's what I thought too! As I was getting ready for Halloween, I started reading this book. It fits great because monsters, zombies, and Halloween, right? In this particular book, our friend Jack wants to kill a monster he named Blarg because his roar sounds like this: BLARG! Anyway, I am glad that I don't have to spend my Halloween fighting monsters and zombies, because that wouldn't be fun, to say the least. Boo!

Getting back to my review of the book, *The Last Kids on Earth* is a great book because it is funny and adventurous. It also has some funny,

hair-raising danger. It is about a 13-year-old kid named Jack (who is also a photographer), who has to survive when monsters take over the city (maybe the world, but he doesn't know). He joins up with his bully Dirk Savage, his best friend Quint Baker, and his crush June Del Toro. The weird thing is he actually is having fun in the zombie apocalypse. I bet I wouldn't have fun if I was stuck in a monster apocalypse for Halloween. If you are wondering where he lives during the zombie apocalypse, here is your answer. He lives in a tree house. It is upgraded after Quint comes to live with him. It has two crossbows, two catapults, an electric generator, an armory, bottle rocket launchers, a helipad for a helicopter (they have a helicopter????!!!!), a rainwater shower, a weatherproof flat screen TV, a relaxation station, a toilet bucket, a crow's nest with a night vision telescope, and some outer defenses (spikes). It is known as the tree house at the end of the world.

The book was written by Max Brallier, and it is illustrated by Douglas Holgate. It is only a part of the seven- book series. I have only read

the first two books in the series. It is also a TV show on Netflix, so I'm guessing that most people have watched or are still watching the TV show but haven't read the book. If you are somebody who hasn't read the book or watched the TV show, I definitely recommend this book to you. I also recommend this book if you have only watched the TV show. I'm not sure if the TV show is better or the book is better, though. I hope somebody can tell me that soon. I would appreciate that a lot.

The second book is called *The Last Kids on Earth and the Zombie Parade*. This book, in my opinion, is better than the first one. It has some weird monsters, zombies, and monster people. In this book, everything from the monster apocalypse and the zombie takeover become a lot clearer. The book after the zombie parade is called *The Last Kids on Earth and the Nightmare King*. I still haven't read it so I can't tell you much about it. I've already told you everything I know about the book: I know that it is called *The Last Kids on Earth and the Nightmare King*!

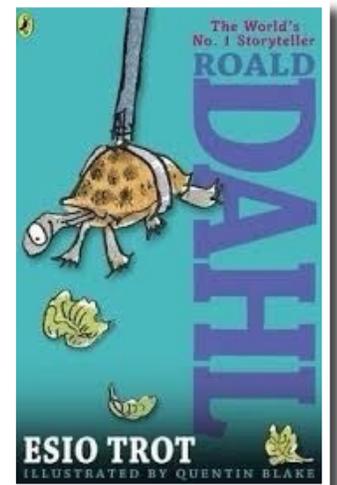
## BOOK REVIEW ON ESIO TROT BY ROALD DAHL BY YASH SHIVANI

This is an interesting story about two people! Mr. Hoppy lives in a tall high rise building. Mr. Hoppy loves two things. One was the flowers he grew on his balcony, and his second love was a secret.

Mrs. Silver is an attractive lady who lived in the apartment

immediately below Mr. Hoppy's. Mrs. Silver had a small tortoise called Alfie. Alfie helps Mrs. Silver and Mr. Hoppy fall in love with each other.

If you are an animal lover like Mrs. Silver, you will enjoy reading this book. I loved it!



**FIDGETTOYS ARE SUPER POPULAR!** BY KELSEY YIP**What are fidget toys?**

Fidget toys are little toys that lots of kids think are satisfying and fun to play with. Some examples are Pop Its, stress balls, marble mesh, mochis, dimples, pop tubes, squishies, and simple dimples.

Which fidget toy is most popular right now?

Pop Its are very popular fidget toys. Pop Its are silicone shapes with circles that you can pop over and over again. I bet if you ask somebody if they know what fidget toys are, they'll say yes.

Some Pop Its are even shaped like Unicorns, Rainbows, Butterflies, Ladybugs, Pineapples, or Dinosaurs.

**Why do kids like them?**

Kids like Squishies because they are cute, and, when you squeeze them, they go back to their shape. Kids also like pop tubes because they make a really funny and silly

sound almost like a musical instrument. Many kids love Pop Its because it is so satisfying to pop all those little circles. They are also the right size for your fingers. The good ones make a nice sound when you press down on them.

**What can you do with them?**

You can play with them, fidget trade, or watch fidget videos on YouTube. For example, if you go to YouTube and look for a channel called "Kelsey's Musical Wonderland," you'll see fidget videos demonstrating different fidget toys.

Where can you get them?

You can find fidget toys at toy stores like Learning Express, Fundamentally Toys, Tom Foolery, and also Amazon. Sometimes Walgreens and Target will have Pop Its too.

**ROBLOX IS GREAT!** BY SAMUEL ARROYO

Roblox is a multiplayer game, several users can play the game at the same time, and each user has its

own avatar (character). There are millions of users worldwide. When talking to my friends, all agreed that Roblox is a really good game. If you were wondering where you can play Roblox, you can play it on a computer, xbox, or a mobile device.

Roblox is not just a normal fixed story game. Within Roblox, there is a module called Studio. Studio allows you to be creative and build your own game or replicate existing

games. Some of the examples of Studio Games are horror games, shooting games, tycoon games, simulator games, and obby games.

Although Roblox is a good game, there are some issues that the developers could fix. Roblox has changed throughout the years. In the first versions of Roblox, the users were friendly and good sports. Nowadays, some users are bullying other users. The developers included an option to report these users. After a user is reported, a moderator could ban them. Here is where the developers could improve: maybe they should automatically find these users and ban them right away.

For the ones who still like the old version of Roblox (like myself), there is the RetroStudio Game. Here, the game and user feel like the older version.

**DOG TIPS** BY KEIRA THOMAS

Do you want a dog? I wanted a dog, but my parents wouldn't allow me to get a dog until I researched about how to take care of one. I researched about dogs and learned interesting facts to convince my parents to get me a dog. Here are a few tips to help you convince your parents to get a dog, but remember a dog is a huge responsibility.

Tip 1: Do extra chores around the house to show them that you are ready for the extra work to take care of a dog.

Tip 2: Read books about dogs. This will show your parents that you will not just snuggle your dog.

Tip 3: Understand their body language this will show that you really deserve a dog.

Here is a piece of a dog's body language. Dogs are scared when they tuck (Continued on last page)



### A DAY IN THE LIFE OF SAFETY PATROL BY ALICE KATE ALLISON



I interviewed Oliver Meraz, who is a fifth grader in the West U Elementary Safety Patrol. I learned that his responsibilities include opening and closing doors and leading a class to IKids. Next, I asked why he wanted to be on safety patrol? He responded, "Because it feels good to help people." When asked how a student becomes a safety patrol, he answered that they

are chosen by teachers. These students need to have good grades and be well behaved to be chosen. Other responsibilities include meetings with the team and daily duties unless you are absent. I asked him what the best part of being on safety patrol was and he said going to Ms. Ross's room because she gives out lollipops. That sounds like a sweet deal.

### YOU'RE NOT TOO COOL TO OBEY SCHOOL ZONE RULES BY GIBSON ALLISON

I interviewed Officer Wilkinson with the West University Police Department about school zone safety, and this is what I learned. A school zone is a zone around the school with laws that protect children and keep the children safe. In her 14 years, Officer Wilkinson says there are about five accidents per year. I asked her if we were lucky with such a low number in West U. She answered "Yes, and we are always out there."

The officer said parents should never speed, never text while driving, and make sure they are always alert. Obey the 20 miles per hour speed limit during

school hours. Children on bikes should be careful crossing the roadway, stay close to the crossing guards, and wear a helmet. If you walk to school, she said to be careful of your surroundings and always take the same path. This helps your parents find you if you have a problem. Also, you should always look for the crossing guards to cross the street.

Officers are present during school zone hours. If your parents speed or make turns where they shouldn't, they will get a ticket! Remember, always listen and be respectful of the crossing guards. We are lucky to have them. These tips will make us all safer.



### BATTLE OF THE MONTH BY SAM ATHA



Hi, my name is Sam, and I like the history of battles. You have probably heard of battles like D-Day and Pearl Harbor, but maybe you have not heard of the battle called Taranto. Let me tell you about it.

Early in World War II, on November 11, 1940, 21 planes took off from the aircraft carrier Illustrious, a British ship. Their targets were Italian Navy

warships anchored in Taranto. Italy had recently aligned itself with Germany, and the British wanted to take control of the Mediterranean Sea. This was the first time an aircraft carrier was used in battle.

Planners in Britain were considering an attack on the base of Taranto. In the weeks before, they had been spying on the base. Intelligence on November 9 confirmed that all of Italy's battleships were at the base.

At 8:35 p.m., the first wave of 12 planes took off; each had a bomb, a torpedo, or a flare. The other nine planes took off just under an hour later. The planes made it to the base in formation. The anti-aircraft gunners fired at first sight, illuminating the night sky, but the attack was too much. Surprised and shaken, the Taranto base was destroyed including three Italian battleships. Only one of the British planes was shot down, and all the others returned to the aircraft carrier. To quote the British Lord and later prime minister, Winston Churchill, "The Royal Navy has struck a crippling  
(Cont'd on the next page)



## BY ISABELLA CHEN

Do you know that Thanksgiving is celebrated in countries other than the United States and at different times as well? Read on to have a deeper understanding about Thanksgiving around the world.

You're probably pretty familiar with American Thanksgiving. It occurs on the fourth Thursday of every November, and it is a national holiday. In 1621, the Plymouth colonists and a Native American tribe shared an autumn harvest feast. That is known today as one of the first Thanksgiving celebrations in the colonies. Also, do you know that the menu at that time included lobsters, seals, and swans?

Canadian Thanksgiving is similar to the American version. It is held on the second Monday of October. Surprisingly, the first Thanksgiving celebration in Canada predates the American one by more than 40 years! In 1576, an expedition group led by the navigator Martin Frobisher held a ceremony in Nunavut, giving thanks for the safety of their fleet. This occasion is now considered as the first-ever Thanksgiving celebration in North America. Fun fact: Canadian and American Thanksgivings both include eating turkey and watching football with the family.

German Thanksgivings, however, have different traditions. Their Thanksgiving is called Erntedankfest ("harvest festival of thanks"). This religious holiday often takes place on the first Sunday of October, and different places mark the occasion on various dates in September and

October. Churches in German cities give thanks for the good fortune their congregations experienced that year. The celebrators feast on fattened-up chickens or roosters. A fun thing to know is that celebrants may carry an Erntekrone ("harvest crown") made of grains, fruit, and flowers to the church in a solemn procession.

In Liberian Thanksgivings, the food involves chicken, like in Germany. Instead of turkey and pumpkin, the menu includes spicy roast chicken and mashed cassavas, and live music and dancing are part of the Thanksgiving tradition. Freed slaves from the United States established Liberia in the early 1820s. In the 1880s, Liberia's government passed an act declaring the first Thursday of November as National Thanksgiving Day. Fun fact: Churches auction off baskets filled with local fruits like papayas and mangoes after their services on Thanksgiving.

However, Japanese Thanksgivings are different from the others. The modern tradition of Labor Thanksgiving Day in Japan began in 1948, just three years after World War II ended, as a celebration of the rights of Japan's workers. The holiday takes place on November 23rd. It evolved from an ancient rice harvest festival which goes back as far as the seventh century A.D. To mark the special day, children often make thank you cards for police officers, firefighters or other community workers.

Norfolk Island, which is currently Australian territory, also has a Thanksgiving holiday, and it is once again related to America. Its Thanksgiving traditions date back to the mid-1890s, when the trader Isaac Robinson decided to put on an American-styled Thanksgiving service in a church in Kingston in order to attract some visiting American whalers to the celebration. His plan worked, and the churchgoers of the island continued to celebrate the holiday, bringing fruits, vegetables, and cornstalks to decorate the church and sing American hymns on the last Wednesday of November each year.

Although people celebrate Thanksgiving differently around the world, they all have one thing in common: the celebrators give thanks and appreciation for good harvests and other people's generosity. I think we should be grateful not just on Thanksgiving Day but every day of the year.

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**BATTLE OF THE MONTH CONT'D from p. 8**  
on the Italian fleet." And he called it a "Glorious Episode."

The battle forever changed naval warfare. Seeing the damage done by the planes made the Japanese ask themselves what power a load of planes could achieve. Apparently a lot, as the attack on Pearl Harbor was led by six Japanese aircraft carriers,

resulting in the biggest foreign attack on a U.S. base in history.

Sources: *What We Learned from the Battle of Taranto*, by Joseph F. Callo;  
[www.nationalww2museum.org/war/articles/taranto-november-1940](http://www.nationalww2museum.org/war/articles/taranto-november-1940); [www.rebellionresearch.com/the-battle-that-changed-warfare](http://www.rebellionresearch.com/the-battle-that-changed-warfare); *The War Illustrated*, Volume 3, No. 65, November 29, 1940

**A CREATURE REPORT: THE PEPPERMINT SHRIMP** BY VALENTINA DI FIORI

The peppermint shrimp or *Lysmata wurdemanni* has many names. All of its names are because of the red stripes across its body. The peppermint shrimp is white with numerous bright red lines like a peppermint candy. A peppermint shrimp is rather small; it can measure up to seven centimeters. A peppermint shrimp lives up to two years. Each female can have up to 300 babies. Its eggs are bright green. One place a peppermint shrimp lives is the Caribbean Sea. Peppermint shrimps are also

found in the Atlantic Ocean. The peppermint shrimp is a “cleaning shrimp.” It can hop on any fish and clean it of parasites, damaged scales, or dead scales. It is best known for cleaning the anemone. One predator of the Peppermint shrimp is the pufferfish.

Most reef coral tank owners have peppermint shrimp as they help keep tanks clean. I interviewed a peppermint shrimp owner to learn more about them. This is what he told me.

Where did you get peppermint shrimps?

I bought peppermint shrimps from an online store, so a few days later they showed up at the front door in a bag full of water inside a box. I bought them online) because they are captive-bred, meaning that they are raised in an aquarium and not collected from the ocean like in *Finding Nemo*. You can find peppermint shrimps in the jetties in Galveston as well.

Why did you get peppermint shrimps?

I got peppermint shrimps because they like to eat *Aiptasia*. *Aiptasia* is a small anemone that is a pest in saltwater aquariums, spreading fast and killing other things like corals. Natural predators like peppermint shrimps are great to keep them out.

How do you feed peppermint shrimps?

I don't feed them specifically. They eat the food that I put in the tank for the fish. Plus, they eat the *Aiptasia* and help clean other anemone and fish.

I hope you enjoyed learning about the peppermint shrimps. I can't wait to tell you more about other marine creatures!

By: Alexander Beddar

## The Difference Between Domesticated and Wild Turkeys

You might think there are only one species of turkey. The turkey you find on the table at Thanksgiving, but there's that one and the wild turkey. Wild turkeys have brown and black feathers. They are often mixed up with domesticated turkeys, who have white feathers. Another difference is that wild turkeys are smarter than their domesticated brothers. Wild turkeys are able to survive amongst predators, while the domesticated turkeys wouldn't survive at all. Wild turkeys can also fly up to 55 miles per hour. Wild turkeys sure are different!



*Wild turkey*

## SUMMER SLEEP-AWAY CAMP – COLVIG SILVER CAMPS BY BRAYDEN LIM



Are you looking for a spectacular sleepaway camp next summer? If yes, check out Colvig Silver Camps! I spent two weeks there last summer and loved it because of the beautiful scenery, the super fun activities, and all the friends I made through my cabin mates and my counselors.

The camp is located in Durango, Colorado, which is approximately a 17 hour drive from West University. When we drove, we stopped in Lubbock to spend the night. Durango is a small town in the San Juan Mountains. The camp itself is nestled in a valley. The environment had many large trees and diverse plants. The types of plants are reed plants, and grass that you can make a whistle out of. The camp had cabins, a livery, a lodge, a lake, and fields. The best part was the cool weather.

My cabin's name was The Bank. There were four people in my cabin. We ate meals in the lodge or the livery. The lodge was way farther away, so I liked the livery best. We usually ate breakfast in the livery and lunch and dinner in the lodge. My favorite meal was the

turkey dinner with stuffing, green beans, and mashed potatoes. There were chores, which were not that bad. We had to clean the boys' bathroom, to clean the girls' bathroom, to feed the animals, and to clean the dishes. We rotated the chores between the cabins so each cabin would do each thing.

Our days were filled with amazing activities. We did rock climbing, archery, swimming, and hiking. My favorite activity was riding in a boat. I wasn't really good, but I still liked it. I had a three day trip to Potato Lake. When we were at the lake, we played lots of games. Some examples were skipping rocks and dam building. The only bad part was the mosquitos and the flies. There were a million of them!

Making friends was the best part of camp. My cabin mates' names were Jacob, John, and Teo and my counselor's name was Jake (aka "Yams"), who is a student at Rice University. The games I played with them were Uno, Connect Four, and Diablo. A Diablo is Chinese yoyo. We played with Diablos every single day because our counselor had two of them for us to use.



Make the trip next year and spend your summer at Colvig Silver Camps! It's a bullseye of a camp.

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### THE LEGEND OF THE TEN RINGS CONT'D FROM PAGE 5

joins him on his quest. No spoilers here, but this movie has a connection to one of Robert Downey Jr.'s earlier Ironman movies (and reveals the fate of an old character). It also introduces some cute new creatures related to Chinese mythology (one of which is Morris, a faceless, winged, six-legged creature inspired by the god of chaos).

Personally, I loved this movie, even if there were gruesome and creepy parts, and it is definitely somewhere in my top five list of favorite movies. I loved the storyline, the action sequences, especially

the martial arts fighting, and the mythical creatures. I also liked the characters, particularly Shang-Chi, Xialing, and Xu Wenwu, who were played by great Asian actors. But I have to say my favorite character was Morris, who is an intelligent, furry furball of chaos. I give this movie five stars, and I recommend it for ages nine and above or lower if you don't get scared easily. I hope you will go to see Shang Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings, and I hope there will be a sequel soon.

## FAVORITE HOLIDAY RECIPES

### AMAZING PUMPKIN PIE! BY EVELYN WATSON

What you'll need:

- 1 (15 ounce) can of pumpkin
- 1 (14 ounce) can sweetened condensed milk
- 2 large eggs
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon ground ginger
- ½ teaspoon ground nutmeg
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 (9 inch) unbaked pie crust

#### Step 1

Preheat oven to 425 degrees F. Whisk pumpkin, sweet condensed milk, eggs, spices, and salt in a bowl until smooth. Pour into pie crust. Bake for 15 minutes.

#### Step 2

Reduce oven heat to 350 degrees F and continue baking 35 to 40 minutes or until a knife inserted one inch from the crust comes out clean. Then, cool it down for about

15 to 23 minutes.  
Garnish as desired. Store leftovers in the fridge.

#### MY REVIEW

Personally, I think this was great! It felt so good in your mouth. The taste lasted long; so, that was absolutely great. I put whipped cream on top of the pie and ice cream to the side, and that made it extra tasty! I would rate this an 8.9 out of 10. I think what could have been different is a little bit more pumpkin because, even though the taste was delicious, I didn't taste that much pumpkin flavor. Overall, I think this was a great dessert (or snack). I hope you like this as much as I do!



### A THANKSGIVING APPLE PIE RECIPE BY JACK BRIDGES



Thanksgiving is right around the corner and no better time to eat apple pie! I got this recipe from my Aunt Lenora that lives in Oklahoma. I've had her pie many times and I love it. When we were little, we would go to her house to feed her chickens and collect the eggs and she would make us this pie.

just enough to stick together. DO NOT OVER MIX. Place half of dough on floured surface and roll into circle. Place in pie pan.

Filling:

Peel, core and slice 6-8 medium sized apples. Sprinkle 1 T lemon juice over apples. Pour over apples a mixture of: 2/3 - 3/4 c sugar, 1 t of cinnamon, 1 T flour. Place pats of butter over all. Roll out other 1/2 of dough and place over apples. Crimp edges, sprinkle with small amounts of

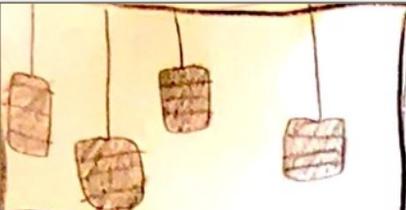
sugar on top and make splits in dough to release steam as it cooks. Bake at 425 degrees for 15 minutes.

Let it set out for about a half hour and then there are many ways to eat this yummy pie. You can put ice cream or whip cream on it (that's my favorite way), and after that it is ready to eat. Enjoy your apple pie and Happy Thanksgiving!

Crust:

- 2 cups all purpose flour
- 2/3 cup shortening
- 1 teaspoon sugar

Cut shorting into flour. Should be some smaller and larger pieces. Gradually add ice water in small amounts to make dough. Add



My grandma was born in T'ihua, Hsing Chiang, China. She was named after the city she was born in because it was showing. Her last name means leaf.

# Snow-Leaf's Journey from War to Peace: A story of my grandmother's early years

By: Willa Castle



She had a normal baby life: eating and sleeping. Until...

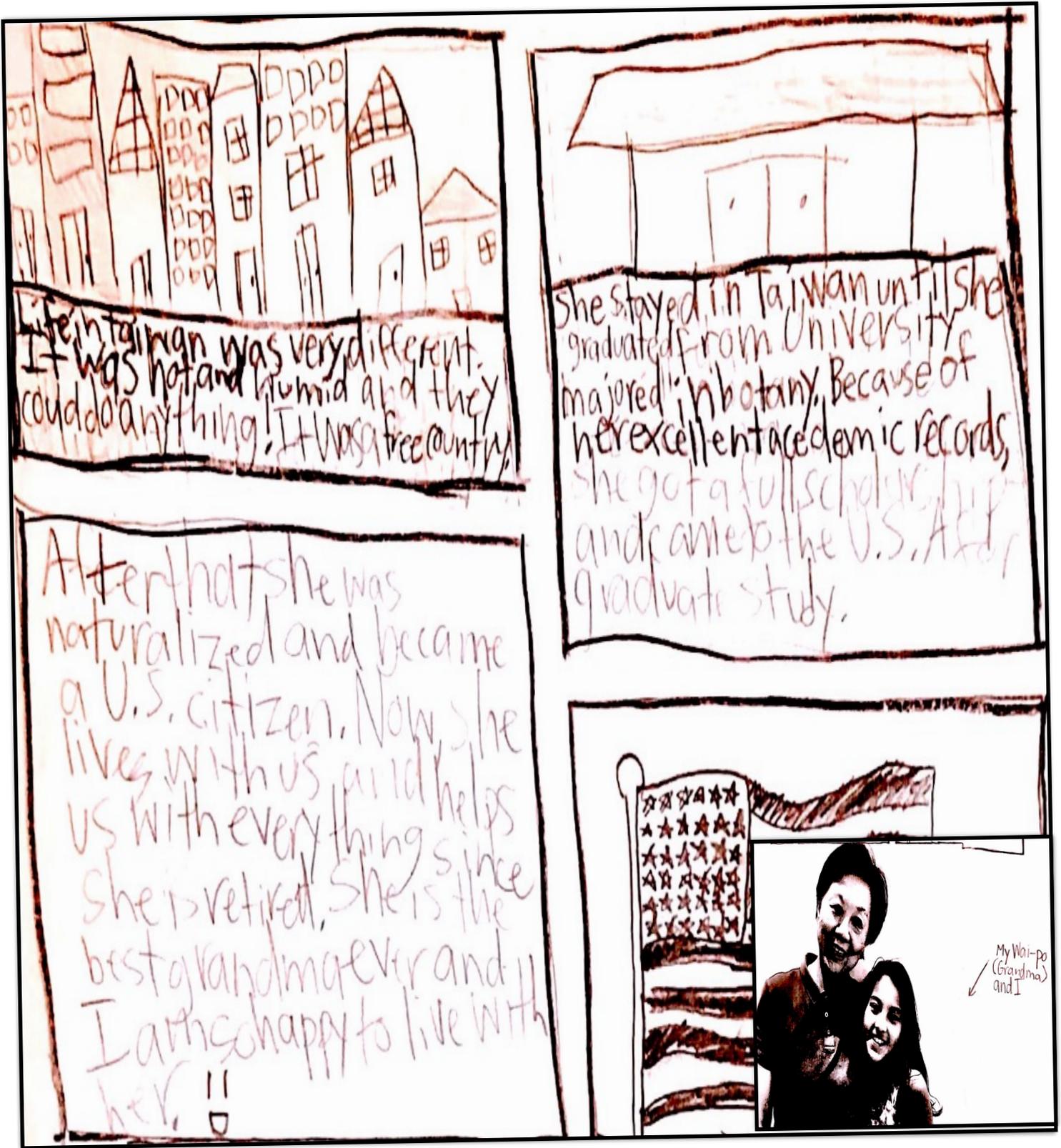
## THE WAR CAME.



my grandma

Her and her family had to flee for their lives. They rode on horseback across Pamirs Plateau to get away or they might not have survived. The temperatures were freezing and the conditions were unsafe, but somehow they eventually made it to Taiwan.

# The Story of my Grandma's Journey to America by Willa





CROSSWORD PUZZLE BY MAGGIE CHEN

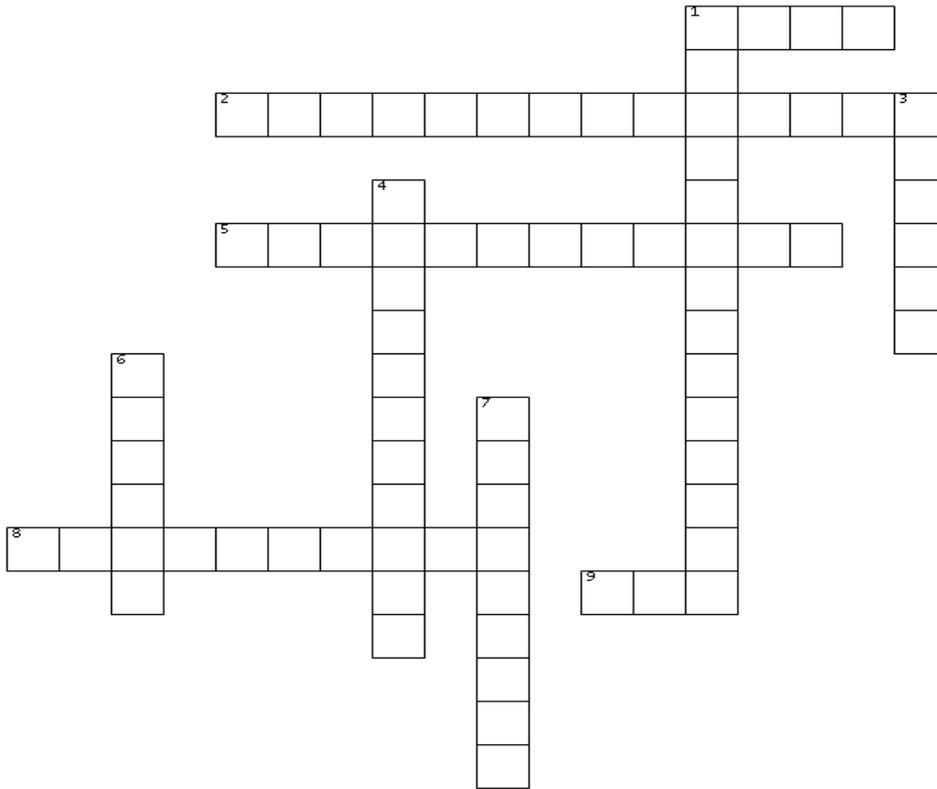
Thanksgiving Day Food

ACROSS

- 1. yellow and cylinder shaped
- 2. it is eaten with gravy
- 5. gooey and yellow
- 8. long and skinny vegetable
- 9. a dessert you eat after a Thanksgiving meal

DOWN

- 1. a sauce made of a small and sour fruit
- 3. the name of a sport and a fruit
- 4. sweet and served with marshmallows
- 6. the main course and a bird
- 7. a red meat that is firm with a tender texture

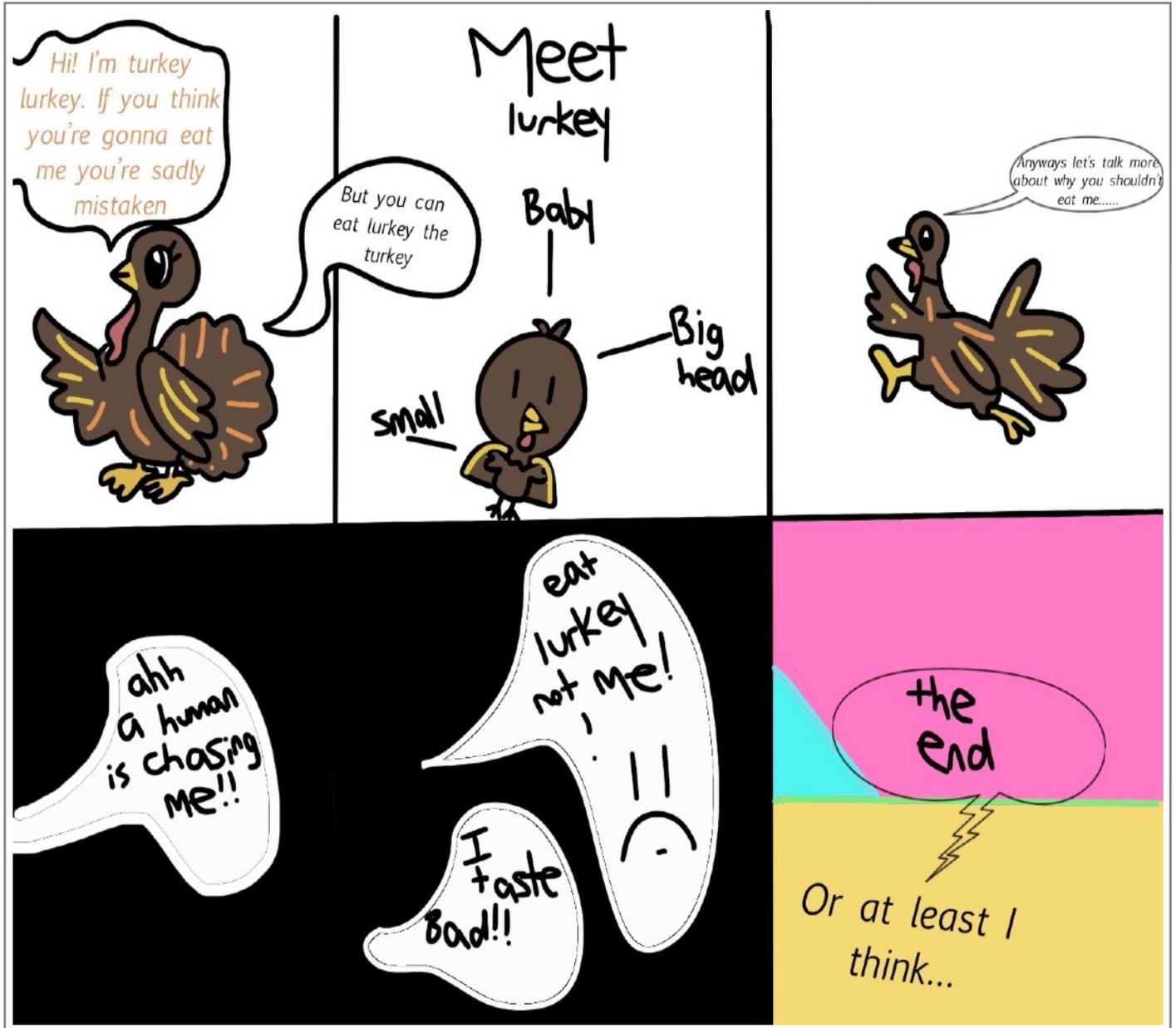


THANKSGIVING WORD SEARCH BY ANA CHO

- Blessings
- Fall
- Family
- Feast
- Harvest
- Leaves
- Mayflower
- November
- Pilgrim
- Pumpkin
- Scarecrow
- Thankful

F L E R G K O K V P B R P E N A P T N L  
 S E W O R C E R A C S C E G O A O H H G  
 H A K C X M H F Z D G O Y B Y D K M G S  
 A V S K H U A T I M V N M T M A H T E G  
 H E V E D A R F S S F A U S Q E I Y M N  
 W S C Y G L V H Q A Y C B N H I V W L I  
 B V C Q K Y E Q A F E F S L D N M O G S  
 X J P P L X S K L M T F O G I Y L F N S  
 D E B I I E T O L U F K N A H T P U Y E  
 X X M Q Y L W V K R X Y D M X U X P Y L  
 P A Y K E E G J S W R J I A M L R O D B  
 F H O R R H Y R Q D G Y D P Z L R C R H  
 T U R K E Y G R I H O E K K B A F F H W  
 X U Z U H Z F L H M C I N S B F F Q U V  
 Z N I S R Y W X Q Q N G O N C L G R S W

# TURKEY TURKEY BY EMMA GOLDSTEIN



## DOG TIPS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

their tails into their hind legs. An angry dog might stare, display a tense body, push its ears forward, or pin them back. The dog might lean forward on its front paws and even growl or bark loudly. Also, never ever pet a dog you don't know unless the

owner says it is okay to do so. Dogs use their strong senses of smell to determine if the person they are meeting is a friend or foe. Some dogs just don't want to be petted. An important gift you can give your dog is positive and supportive training. That is a piece of a dog's body language. I hope this helps you get a dog!