

Cornucopia of Gratitude

It's the season of gratitude and reflection- here is what PVA is grateful for this Thanksgiving. To you, dear reader, thank you for enjoying paper*!



Socially Acceptable: Hold the Holiday Cheer

by Brian Oliveira and Hannah Horwath

Brian: As I write this in mid-October, it has already begun. The holiday decorations in stores have been up for weeks already. “All I want For Christmas Is You” by Mariah Carey is beginning to rise in streaming numbers. Thus the age-old debate rears its head: how early is too early to start celebrating the holidays?

I think there’s some nuance to the answer. I believe Thanksgiving is the official start of the holiday season. Just look at the iconic Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade: it literally ends with Santa on his sleigh, ringing in the Christmas season (not to mention all the holiday-themed decor and floats before that). It’s a month before Christmas, a perfect time to start out. That being said, I say it’s fine to start getting into the holiday spirit a little before that. I’ve occasionally found myself listening to Christmas music in mid-November. And is Thanksgiving really worthy of getting a full month dedicated to it? One day is enough for a big feast with some family (also college football—I’m still confused as to why that’s a Thanksgiving thing, but I digress). Thanksgiving’s origins are colonialist

propaganda and really not worth setting aside a month for.

So here’s my verdict: Thanksgiving is the real beginning of the holiday season, but holiday celebrations are a-okay starting November 1st or later.

Hannah: At this time of year, seeing Christmas trees next to pumpkins is no oddity, even if it should be. Don’t get me wrong, I love seasonal spirit, but chain-stores’ love of the winter season is unrivaled. It seems like they put out the holiday decorations a little earlier each year- I think by 2030 we will start seeing Christmas decor put out with the Back-to-School supplies!

The timing of the market slices the elusiveness of Fall holidays and forces Christmas cheer on people during a time when we are simply not ready to be cheerful, not to mention the fact that it is quite literally 80 degrees outside. There is no justification for putting up twinkling

lights, so why does Target keep trying to sell me them?

In my opinion, the appropriate time to purchase holiday gear is after Thanksgiving (keeping in mind that we live in Texas and there is no concern of snow over-shadowing your seasonal light show). Instead, light a candle, eat pumpkin pie, or lie about how thankful you are for all your relatives; take a moment to really celebrate the brief but beautiful Houston Fall.



POLITICAL PARTAY! WHAT ON EARTH WAS ON THE BALLOT JUST NOW?

The 2022 midterm elections will officially be over by the time you are reading this! Congratulations on whoever won (I hope)! I originally was going to write my predictions for who I thought would win, but I do not want to jinx or accidentally manifest anything, so this is my next best idea. If you have no clue what positions were just up for the running, here is a breakdown of a few of the offices just elected.

Governor: I hope you know what a Governor is. Chief person of the state. Mini president, if you will.

Attorney General: Top lawyer. Issues opinions and advice. Enforces environmental laws. Proposes legislation.

Lieutenant Governor: Governor’s sidekick. Presides over the senate. IDK why they don’t just say vice governor to keep it consistent, but whatever.

Agriculture Commissioner: Oversees farmers and school lunch programs. The last guy even wore a cowboy hat in his photo. That’s how Texan this position is. I mean, I know this posi-

tion exists in every state, but you have to admit it’s extra Texas.

Land Commissioner: Oversees state land, disaster recovery funds, public school funding, and administrative control of the Alamo. (Yes, they specifically mention the Alamo... never forget I guess?)

Railroad Commissioner: Regulates the oil and gas industry. Ok, question: why doesn’t Texas have better trains? I know this position only deals with the oil and gas industry, but personally, I think they should ditch that and start focusing on railroads (like it says in their name?). Yes, technically transportation infrastructure

by Mia El-Yafi



Sid Miller, the current agricultural commissioner.

is the job of the Public Transportation Division, but why not spread the fun? Texas is so spread out and it only makes sense to have everyone working towards the goal of high-speed rails. That highway is scary, and Texas has been around way too long to not have a decent train system. Who needs gas anyways?

Comptroller: Tax collector, accountant, treasurer. Comptroller is my personal favorite name because it sounds like it should be some corrupt military position in a YA dystopian novel. It beats “Railroad Commissioner” by 10000%.

Local Arts

by Jasmine Lin

Asa Nisi Masa Presented by Michele Brangwe Dance & Music Ensemble at MATCH
Sunday, November 20 - 7:00 PM
Tickets for \$25.00 (general admission)

Rami Khalife - Lost/ Return to Beirut Presented by Nuproductions at MATCH
November 18 - 7:30 PM
Student Discount Tickets for \$25

They Do Not Move Presented by The Catastrophic Theatre at MATCH
November 18 - December 10
Tickets are Pay-What-You-Can, sold in increments of \$0 to \$5 to whatever you want (general admission)

Cruel Intentions: The 90’s Musical Presented by The Garden Theatre at MATCH
Friday, November 18 - Sunday, November 27
Student Discount Tickets for \$20.00 (general admission)

A Christmas Carol Adapted and Directed by Rob Melrose at the Alley Theatre
Friday, November 18 - Friday, December 30
Ticket costs starting at \$41.00

Which Wes Anderson Character Are You?

By Cassie Cardenas

1.) How many times do you raise your hand in class?

- a) I get canceled by teachers because they need other students to speak.
- b) Every once in a while, only when I'm in the mood.
- c) Happily, I choose not to speak my mind (only on rare occasions).
- d) Radio Silent.

2.) What's your favorite Wes Anderson movie? (skip if you haven't watched any)

- a) Rushmore
- b) Moonrise Kingdom
- c) Fantastic Mr. Fox
- d) Isle Of Dogs

3.) How big is your group of friends?

- a) I have no friends; they hold me back.
- b) Mingling is the way to go. I can't just have a singular group.
- c) Keeping the real ones close 100%.
- d) I have one (or two) BEST friend (s) who really understand(s) me.

4.) What's your style like?

- a) I like to keep it sharp but comfortable.
- b) I throw on the dirty clothes that are on my floor in the mornings.
- c) Experimenting everyday, fashion is everything to my body and soul.
- d) It usually depends on the weather.

5.) Favorite Music Genre?

- a) Modern/Indie Rock
- b) Melancholia/Dream Pop
- c) Pop/Rap (whatever is on the radio is pretty good)
- d) Madchester/Emo/Punk/Metal

6.) Lastly, how would you describe your personality and outlook on life?

- a) I strive for the best of the best; failing is nearly never an option.
- b) I'm a "go with the flow" kind of person. Whatever happens, happens.
- c) Life is draining, people are too, and destruction is inevitable.
- d) I cry almost every day, even from a slight minor inconvenience.

Mostly A's: Max Fischer, from Rushmore. Correcting someone's grammar mid-sentence is one of your many flaws. You have a reputation for assuring everything in a group project is precise and clear-cut. Take a walk, and try not to worry about things too much. Listen to "The Wind" by Yusuf / Cat Stevens off the Rushmore soundtrack.

Mostly B's: Sam Shakusky, from Moonrise Kingdom. Going on adventures is your cup of tea. You're talkative, brave, and considerate, and you daydream during most of your classes. You take pride in your accomplishments and try to learn something new every day. Listen to "Le Temps De L'amour" by Françoise Hardy off the Moonrise Kingdom soundtrack.

Mostly C's: Ash Fox, from Fantastic Mr. Fox. You have a moody, eccentric personality. When things don't go your way, you put up a fight. "No" is never an answer, and you're probably the one on a family road trip saying "Are we there yet?" over and over again. Listen to "Heroes and Villains" by The Beach Boys off the Fantastic Mr. Fox soundtrack.

Mostly D's: Tracy Walker, from Isle Of Dogs. The little things get to you; having a kind heart and a gentle way of communicating is how you go about your business. You always try to do what's right and you cry during ASPCA commercials. Listen to "I Won't Hurt You" by The West Coast Pop Art Experimental Band off the Isle Of Dogs soundtrack.



HSPVA Survival Series: Thanksgiving Edition

by Chloe Cheuk

You don't have to dread Thanksgiving anymore- here are some tried and true ways to survive the most common Thanksgiving problems!

Don't want to talk to family/guests?

Read a book!

The smarter-looking, more productive version of being on your phone. It screams don't talk to me while also impressing all your family friends.

Long Bathroom Break.

Sneak your phone, airpods, and/or favorite books into the bathroom for a very long time. Just say that your stomach has totally been hurting for 3 hours. The only downfall is that you can't eat food or drink water.

Do your Non-Existent Homework.

Your family friends will fawn over your dedication towards your education while you sneakily alt+tab to YouTube.

Compliments.

You would be surprised at how nice people are to you after you compliment them. A great conversation starter/ender as well.

Just try talking to them!

You never know, maybe that random uncle has more to him than his terrible dad jokes and fashion sense.

Don't know how/what to cook?

Make Mac & Cheese.

A Thanksgiving classic, and one of the easiest things to whip up. Add some breadcrumbs and bake to leave guests begging for more.

Snacks.

Caramel popcorn, Trader Joe's leaf tortilla chips, or some good ol' Lays. The kids will love you.

Sauce.

Offer to bring the cranberry sauce and gravy. It's great if you're low on time (hint hint: buy it at the grocery store).

Don't know how to clean after the party?

Bribe your sibling.

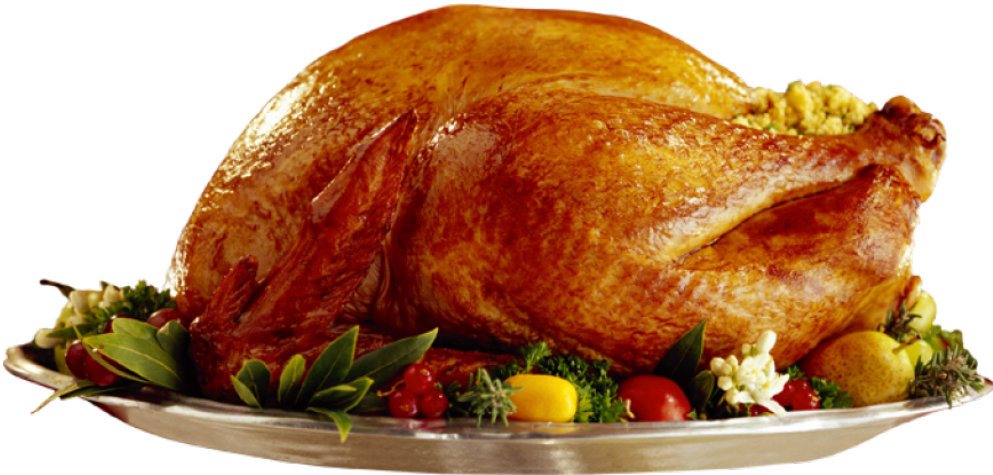
Who said candy can't make your sibling do the chores for you? Nobody. It works every time.

Again- do your homework.

Sorry I can't clean up, I have a very important project that's worth 20% of my grade. Your project: scrolling through TikTok.

Actually do it.

My favorite tip - split the cleaning into rooms and only do 1 section at a time, pile all the items in a corner then divide them by type, then put them away to prevent having to go back and put back leftover items.



Faculty Q+A

...continued

Ms. Chandler

by Dillon Hillard

What subject do you teach? What inspires you most about this subject?

It's always been a passion of mine to teach and support not just kids but parents and teachers as well. I've taught for a very long time, and Special Education is an area I haven't explored yet, and I want to help all kids.

Where did you work/study/etc. before coming to HSPVA, and what brought you here?

I've been in education twenty-five years, in six different districts, with my last one being Brenham ISD. As my family and I relocated to Houston, my child is a high school student in HISD, and my husband also works in the district.

What's your favorite book? TV show? Song? Breakfast food? Candle scent?

Book: *A Hundred Years of Solitude* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez.
TV show: *This Is Us*
Song: "Piano Man"
Breakfast food: Coffee. Pancakes and waffles are dessert foods, realistically.
Candle scent: Vanilla

If you had 24 hours to do whatever you wanted anywhere and at any time period, what would you do?

1920s Paris. I don't know; it just seems very romantic, and I'm a sucker for romance and flapper dresses.

What is your deepest, darkest secret, relative to all your other deep, dark secrets that are neither too deep nor too dark to publish in a school newspaper?

I had plastic surgery at the age of fourteen. I'll leave it up to the general public to assume.

Ms. Melone

by Camryn Dallas

What subject do you teach? What inspires you most about this subject?

Pre-AP English 1, Academic English 2, and Academic English 3. I think that English is connected to everything. So many people think, "Oh yeah, it's just reading," but no, everything you consume is English Language Arts, so you're being bamboozled to think that you're not studying language arts all the time, but you are.

Where did you work/study/etc. before coming to HSPVA, and what brought you here?

I was a sound designer and costume designer in theater. I got my BFA at Ithaca College in Sound and Costume Design. I worked professionally, but Covid hit, so theaters shut down, and I had to re-evaluate my life. I decided to pursue education. My mom, my grandmother, and all my aunts are teachers, and I rejected it for so long, but then I was like, "Wait a sec-

ond, I'm actually really good at this." I moved to Houston and applied to Rice's master's program in Education. Last year, I was assigned to PVA as Mr. Lozano's student teacher, and I was lucky enough to get an open position here, and it just worked out like magic.

What's your favorite book? TV show? Song? Breakfast food? Candle scent?

Book: *Contagious* by Jonah Berger and, in terms of classic literature, *Affaral of the Arms*.
TV show: *New Girl* and *Hunter x Hunter*
Song: "Candy Coated Lie\$" by Hot Milk
Breakfast food: Homefries!
Candle scent: Pine

If you had 24 hours to do whatever you wanted anywhere and at any time period, what would you do?

1160, to the court of Marie, Comtesse de Champagne, because that is where Chrétien de Troyes, the author of the King Arthur stories, visited all the time, so, I could ask him, "Is King Arthur real? Who is he based on?" I would force him to finish Percival and listen to the end and figure out where the Holy Grail is.

What is your deepest, darkest secret, relative to all your other deep, dark secrets that are neither too deep nor too dark to publish in a school newspaper?

I convinced all of the freshmen when I was in college that I actually went to Cornell despite being an Ithaca college major, and they never found out that I didn't actually go to Cornell.

Ms. Llano

by Alec Boutte

What subject do you teach? What inspires you most about this subject?

Biology and Environmental Sciences. How everything can change with a new discovery. In Biology, we're always learning about everything. Who knows what's in the ocean?

Where did you work/study/etc. before coming to HSPVA, and what brought you here?

I worked at Baylor College of Medicine and did pediatric cancer research, then studied at Sam Houston University. The need for teachers brought me here, and I love the arts. I am a dancer and singer, and I thought that I'd like to teach kids that have a passion.

What's your favorite book? TV show? Song? Breakfast food? Candle scent?

Movie: *White Chicks*
TV Show: *I Love A Mama's Boy*
Song: "En El Olvido" by Omar Apollo.
Candle Scent: Bath and Body Works' champagne toast.

If you had 24 hours to do whatever you wanted anywhere and at any time period, what would you do?

I'd go to all the Mayan ruins, to Rome and the Colosseum. I'd want to go anywhere you're not allowed to go, like the Pyramids, because I want to go inside the tombs. Who knows what

might come out with me, but I think it's so scary and cool.

What is your deepest, darkest secret, relative to all your other deep, dark secrets that are neither too deep nor too dark to publish in a school newspaper?

I'm really into reading and learning about serial killers; I'm interested in how their brains work.

Ms. Jimenez

by Matthew Jeong

What subject do you teach? What inspires you most about this subject?

I teach Spanish not just because it is my native language but also because I am passionate about the study of languages and literature, their origin, and history. I want to share that passion with my students.

Where did you work/study/etc. before coming to HSPVA, and what brought you here?

I worked for eleven years at Carnegie Vanguard High School, teaching Spanish 3-6. I came after Mr. Perez called me to tell me about the Spanish position. I decided to apply because, after a decade, a new environment and new challenges were very attractive and refreshing. Also, because my daughter is a student at HSPVA!!

What's your favorite book? TV show? Song? Breakfast food? Candle scent?

Book: I have many favorites, so this question is almost impossible to answer. I have great admiration and respect for *El Ingenioso Hidalgo Don Quijote de La Mancha* by Cervantes. I also love the works of Unamuno, García Márquez, Cortázar, Tolstoi, and Martí.
Song: My favorite song depends on the day or moment. Some are "El Cantante" by Hector Lavoe, "Ojalá" by Silvio Rodríguez, "Mary" by Joe Arroyo, "Canela" by Cesar Mora, "El derecho de Vivir" y "Manifiesto" by Victor Jara, "Un minuto de ti" by Mikel Erentxun, "G.D.B.D" by Rubén Blades, "Lucha de Gigantes" by Nacha Pop, and the list may go on.
Breakfast Food: a fresh cup of "sublime" Colombian coffee with arepa and calentado paisa with quesito.
Candle scent: palo santo, comal, or sandalwood.

If you had 24 hours to do whatever you wanted anywhere and at any time period, what would you do?

To the future. I have big hopes for younger generations. They are more open-minded, tolerant, and have a better sense of being part of the world and nature.

What is your deepest, darkest secret, relative to all your other deep, dark secrets that are neither too deep nor too dark to publish in a school newspaper?

Before I go to school, I pray for patience... I do not want to be in the news!! So far, it has worked for the last 25 years!!!

Chat to the Past: From Class of 1975 to 2022

by Lila Mankad

I recently had the opportunity to interview Cynthia Williams, a theatre student in the 2nd graduating class of HSPVA. Our school is quite special, but its history spans half a century. I was curious about how our school both changed and continued its traditions, and Cynthia helped answer a few questions:

Lila: Could you give me your background with HSPVA?

Cynthia: I graduated with the Class of ‘75, the second graduating class. My mother, I don’t know how, found something called HSPVA. I auditioned, and I got in! Back then the school was over where HCC is now, and there had never been a theater there before. We built the stage ourselves, out of basically a platform.

Lila: I know that right now at PVA, there’s a reputation of theater kids as being all out there and exuberant and a little bit dramatic. Is that the same as it was when you were in school?

Cynthia: Yeah. It’s always been like, “Oh, they’re a theater kid.”

Lila: I heard that PVA was a little bit less rule-bound back then. Do you have any fun stories?

Cynthia: First of all, I want to say that school in general back then was less rule bound. But yes, we actually had a smoking area where the students could go smoke cigarettes. And of course, we had the Happening. I think that was invented by the first year students.

Lila: I didn’t know it was that old!

Cynthia: Well, it goes back to the early 70s language. To have a happening meant to have a gathering, sex, drugs and rock’n’roll basically. So the word is actually positioned in American culture from that period as well.

Lila: Where did you go from HSPVA?

Cynthia: I was an actress in New York for, I don’t know, eight or nine years. It became so hard that I stopped- the auditioning process was really painful. I had an agent, but I was not old enough, or mentally or emotionally stable enough to be in New York City on my own. So I came back when I was about 27 and started college.

Lila: What were the people like at PVA? Where are they now?

Cynthia: The theater department back then was pretty diverse. It was probably two-thirds White, one-third Black. In the art department, there were a lot of White and Hispanic kids. Even back then in the 70s, we sort of self-selected to be very integrated, because we were all interested in the arts.

Most of my friends became artists, teachers, and independent workers. Some build set pieces for the museum. One of my best friends is still a painter, but she also teaches. I have another two friends who became architects; they were in the technical theater program. Even though we didn’t all become famous artists, I think HSPVA helped kids who were already non-traditional. It honored kids’ individuality.

I’ll tell you a story. We had two brothers at the school. They would come to school dressed as cowboys, and they had plastic guns, and cowboy hats. And it was like, “Okay, that’s weird, but whatever.” Nobody chased them around, or were mean to them. It was like, “They’re not bothering me with their weirdness.”

Lila: That’s really funny. That definitely still happens, kids in capes and stuff like that. Do you have any advice for students?

Cynthia: It’s a good idea to get a degree from a four year college instead of just an art school. You can major in theater, you can major in creative writing, but you don’t know who you’re gonna be in 10 years. All the skills that you have, as a writer, as an artist, as an actor, have many places that will both need them and want them. Non-traditional artist jobs are out there. It’s hard to say to a teenager “Well, you might not be famous, but you might be!”

Lila: Do you have any advice for kids who are like you were and are really into their art, but not so much into academics?

Cynthia: Get a good therapist. But really, if my daughter had been like me, I would have wanted her to be more emotionally stable before she went off to New York. It takes a lot of support, it’s very, very hard. You’re kind of alone and you’re very broke when you’re first starting out as an artist. So you need a lot of people around you who are going to support you and keep you going. Take all the help you can get.

Lila: Any more reflections?

Cynthia: The first people were like little pioneers. Ruth Denney came up with the idea, and then these 15 year old kids came in and basically invented the school. They established the vibe. This is going to be a safe school, this is a place to talk about books and ideas. This is going to be like “okay weirdos, come along!”

The Cold is Rather Bitter than Cool

by Izzy Issakhan

If I were a queen with ice powers, I wouldn’t complain about my cold hands. I would be rocking a blue gown, a crown, and a glittery cape—but no. My teeth chatter as I’m dressed in pants, long sleeves, and a hoodie.

When fall begins, I hear about this “glorious breeze” and that the weather is just “wonderful.” I always ask, “How do you function in an environment that constantly spreads goosebumps on your skin like nut butter on a rice cake?” Some heads turn. Some eyebrows raise. A few people ask me to elaborate. Despite my inquiry, the answer is usually, “It doesn’t.”

A fun fact about me: I’m like an enzyme. If I haven’t reached my optimal conditions, I can’t work efficiently. First off, I have to stop for hand lotion because the folds between my fingers dry up when exposed to the cold, which is beyond irritating. Secondly, sluggish phalanges mean I can’t write, which is especially annoying

when I don’t have writer’s block. Lastly, I can’t get lost in a book because it requires two hands to hold and to turn the pages—while one of my hands has already retreated to the warmth of my pocket. My only source of heat is my boiling blood from this constant frustration.

Perhaps it’s the air conditioning, perhaps it’s anemia, or perhaps it’s because I’m secretly a lizard underneath all these layers... Whatever the reason, I still stand by not liking the cold. And sure, the autumn and winter seasons are the best times to curl up under crocheted blankets or celebrate diverse holidays by throwing ice at your friends (since Houston doesn’t have snow), The absolute best times to toss your homework in with the wood burning in your fireplace, returning to class saying, “My family would’ve frozen to death if I hadn’t sacrificed my twenty-page essay on why Santa Claus is, in fact, real—and immortal.” I, nonetheless, still prefer the temperature to be in the nineties, booing each time the forecast announces a cold front.



Our views on ideal weather shouldn’t be the reason we can’t get along, however. Just keep in mind that the next time you tell me to “chill” whenever I state that I’m cold, I’ll make sure to send shivers down your spine, so you can feel what I feel.

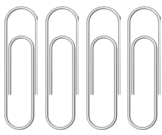
Barbarian

by Cassie Cardenas

You can't spell Barbarian without Airbnb.

This thriller was jaw-dropping. Some reviewers have said that it was pretty grotesque and had some disturbing material. But honestly, this film does a great job of flipping your predictions of the movie upside down and into the drain by replacing them with something even more cryptic. Exactly 30 minutes into the movie, my face was plastered with a shocked and open-eyed expression, accompanied by speechlessness after what I just witnessed. I love how no one in the theater could have ever predicted this amazingly deranged and comedic plot.

Starring recognizable faces like Bill Skarsgård from It (2017), Georgina Campbell from the Black Mirror episode “Hang The Dj,” and Justin Long from cult classic Jeepers Creepers, this film follows a woman named Tess who books an Airbnb located in an abandoned Detroit neighborhood. She arrives at night, knocking

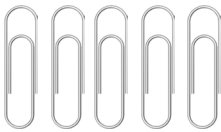


on the door to have a man answer, saying he already booked the stay. He offers her to spend the night with him, and she hesitantly accepts. At this point, I thought I knew what was going to happen: he would end up being the villain. But turns out he was just a nice guy who wanted to get to know her, and his fate shouldn't have been destined to happen the way it did. Things take a turn for the worse when Tess discovers the basement.

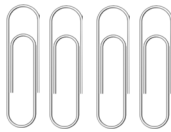
I shouldn't spoil too much of it since I walked into the theater without a clue of how any of it would go down, which made it one hundred times better. Seriously though, whoever made the trailer should be given an award because there wasn't a hint of the main plot detectable. This movie made me recalibrate how I hear the song “Be



paperviews* Ratings Beginning of Year Edition



Gaining an hour from Daylight Savings ending



Seeing people dressed up for Halloweek



Thanksgiving break: so close yet so far



Realizing midterm exams are coming



Getting the flu and dreading HISD's absence policy

Minions: The Rise of Gru

by Brian Oliveira

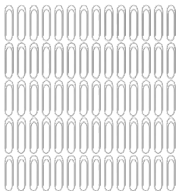
REVIEW (just joshing):

In early July, you may have seen the videos and photos circulating of people going to watch *Minions: The Rise of Gru* in groups wearing suits, like they were going to a red-carpet premiere. Most laughed at these posts, but I am here to tell you this film is no laughing matter. What I experienced going to see the groundbreaking cinematic achievement Minions: The Rise of Gru was unlike anything I'd ever experienced watching a film, and this movie deserves the success it received and twenty such.

How to begin to put my feelings into words? I'll start with a brief overview. *Minions: The Rise of Gru* follows a young Gru pursuing his dreams of becoming a supervillain, assisted by his crew of titular Minions. It's possibly the most epic film I have ever watched. Gru's fights with the Vicious 6 villain team were surprisingly gory and Grusome, creating gripping, edge-of-your-seat action. The Dark Knight? James Bond? Small potatoes in comparison.

But this film also has a deep emotional core. I must have cried at least twenty times during the movie. The scene where Gru says, “Minions, it is time for the Rise of Gru” sent chills down my spine and had me shaking and crying in pure astonishment and enlightenment. The audience reactions during Avengers: Endgame were pitiful compared to the crowd during this film. Truly one of the greatest cinematic achievements of all time. If this does not win every Oscar category possible, including Best Picture, there will be riots. *Minions: The Rise of Gru* touched my soul in a way no other film, or any work of art ever has, and probably ever

Joke Review:



Legit Review:



will, and after that amazing post-credits scene teasing the MCU (Minions Cinematic Universe), I will gladly be returning to theaters next year for Minionvengers: Grufinity War.

REVIEW (for real):

In the early weeks of July this year, you may have seen videos and photos circulating the Internet of teenagers going to see *Minions: The Rise of Gru* in full suits, treating it like some red-carpet premiere and singing its praises ironically. But memes aside, is the film really any good?

Actually, it's not bad.

I'm not the biggest fan of most of Illumination Entertainment's works. They're perfectly good kids movies, but they're not exactly trying to be Pixar. These films are mostly made to entertain kids and make money, which they're successful at. But *Minions: The Rise of Gru* was a pleasant surprise. Again, not great, but it was mildly enjoyable and got a few good laughs out of me.

The movie loosely picks up where the first Minions film ended, following a young Gru in his attempts to become a supervillain by joining villainous team The Vicious Six. It's a lot more enjoyable than the first Minions movie, probably because the Minions are side characters in this film instead of being the leads (wow, it's almost like they were created as side comedic relief and should never have had a movie dedicated to them), and the best parts of this movie are when it focuses on Gru. He gets kidnapped by a former Vicious Six member named Wild Knuckles, and their interactions are actually kind of sweet and nice to watch. Other than that, this film ranges from watchable to genuinely funny in some moments. If you're looking for something simple and fun for a casual watch, consider giving this movie a shot. It's alright.



American Horror Story (SEASONS RANKED)

by Cassie Cardenas and Isobel Stevenson

1st Place- *Murder House*. In first place, Murder House takes the cake. This has to be the most classic season, not just because it was the first season that was released, but because the storyline was seriously insane. This is the perfect season to start with if you want to get into the show. Grab some popcorn and a seatbelt because you’re in for a ride.

Best quote: “I NEEDED YOU, AND YOU GOT A DOG?!”

2nd Place- *Coven*. Coven is comparable to the first season, both centering around ghosts, witches, murder mysteries, a haunted house that’s been through way too much over the years, and other types of mayhem. If you want a revival of Tate and Violet’s relationship in Murder House but with a less toxic narrative, this season is the way to go.

Best quote: “Any last words?” “BALENCI-AGAAA!”

3rd Place- *Hotel*. This should be in second place because Lady Gaga was iconic this season; I just don’t see why her being a vampire couldn’t be possible in real life. Her being one would fit so perfectly, and nobody would be surprised after knowing about that Meat Dress. Hotel felt like a more vamped-up (get it) version of The Shining with a spookily superb soundtrack.

Best quote: “HIGH FIVE.” “Good.”

4th Place- *Asylum*. The opening scene starts with the biggest jumpscare in the history of the entire universe: Adam Levine of Maroon 5. Other than that, Asylum is set during the 1960s, when most people’s belief systems

differed. It revolves around alien abductions and patients getting admitted into this strange asylum, Briarcliff Manor.

Best quote: “HELP, HE’S ESCAPING! THE KILLER IS ESCAPING! HELP MAY!”

5th Place- *Freak Show*. Our final contender, Freak Show, is the hardest season to watch in American Horror Story, right next to Asylum. Clowns have always been a horror classic, but in this season of AHS, they dial it up to 100. This one is made for the gore and Jessica Lange fans, but also those who want some small easter eggs toward Asylum.

Best quote: “Cupcake.” “I DoN’T WaNnA CUP-cAKE”

MUSIC

A Definitive Ranking of the Best Lyrics on the *Midnights* Album

by Charlotte Witz and Catie Giesen

After the release of Taylor Swift’s tenth album, *Midnights*, fans were eager to share their thoughts. The new tracks are incredible and will continue to cause many sleepless nights for Swifties worldwide. Of course, every album has songs that are popular, and songs that aren’t, and all of that is not without opinions. We’ve come together to share our song rankings and a few of our favorite lyrics.

1. Maroon
“Carnations you had thought were roses, that’s us.”

2. Anti-Hero
“I’ll stare directly at the sun but never in the mirror.”

3. Vigilante Sh**
Charlotte: “I don’t start sh** but I can tell you how it ends.”

Catie: “While he was doing lines, and crossing all of mine.”

4. Mastermind
“No one wanted to play with me as a little kid, so I’ve been scheming like a criminal ever since, to make them love me and make it seem effortless.”

5. Snow on the Beach (ft. Lana Del Rey)

Charlotte: “And time can’t stop me quite like you did.”

Catie: “Can this be a real thing? Can it?”

6. Would’ve, Could’ve, Should’ve

“Living for the thrill of hitting you where it hurts, give me back my girlhood, it was mine first.”

7. The Great War
“But diesel is desire, you were playing with fire.”

8. Question..?
Charlotte: “Cause I don’t remember who I was before you.”

Catie: “Does it feel like everything’s just like second best after that meteor strike?”

9. Bejeweled
“Putting someone first only works when you’re in their top five.”

10. Lavender Haze
Charlotte: “They’re bringing up my history, but you weren’t even listening.”

Catie: “Talk your talk and go viral, I just need this love spiral.”

11. Labyrinth
Charlotte: “You know how much I hate that everybody just expects me to bounce back.”

Catie: “Oh, I’m falling in love, I thought the plane was going down, how’d you turn it right around?”

12. Paris
Charlotte: “I’m so in love I might stop breathing.”

Catie: “I want to brainwash you into loving me forever, I want to transport you to somewhere the culture’s clever”

13. Karma
“Trick me once, trick me twice, don’t you know the cash ain’t the only prize?”

14. Sweet Nothing
“They said the end is coming, everyone’s up to something, I find myself running home to your sweet nothings.”

15. Bigger Than The Whole Sky
Charlotte: “Every single thing to come has turned into ashes.”

Catie: “I’ve got a lot to pine about, I’ve got a lot to live without.”

16. You’re On Your Own, Kid
Charlotte: “I search the party of better bodies, just to learn that my dreams aren’t rare.”

Catie: “From sprinkler splashes to fireplace ashes, I gave my blood, sweat, and tears for this.”

17. Midnight Rain
Charlotte: “And I never think of him except on midnights like this.”

Catie: “He wanted a bride, I was making my own name.”

18. High Infidelity
Charlotte: “Do I really have to chart the constellations in his eyes?”

Catie: “You know there’s many different ways that you can kill the one you love, the slowest way is never loving them enough.”

19. Dear Reader
Charlotte: “And if you don’t recognize yourself, that means you did it right.” Catie: “No one sees when you lose when you’re playing solitaire.”

20. Glitch
Charlotte: “In search of glorious happenings of happenstance on someone else’s playground.” Catie: “I’d go back to wanting dudes who give nothing.”



Frida’s Rhythm and Beats

by Frida Ruiz Berman

November is a month of bleakness - one filled with the sad whiff of limp turkey broth and the stretch of Texas farmland far and wide ahead. Thanksgiving looms near the end of the month, filled with the claustrophobic threat of family disputes and disagreements; Christmas has never been so far yet so yearningly close.



“**Better Distractions**” *Faye Webster*
In her work, Faye Webster manages to create a feeling of utter longing and lush bleakness - “Better Distractions”, from her latest album *I Know I’m Funny Haha* is no exception. It is a song that has the same feeling of being in a blank waiting room, yet feeling a warm glow tugging gently at your heart. Faye Webster is truly a criminally underrated artist that always manages this dreamy, floaty feel to her music - perfect for a vacant, banal November.
“**Sweetest Thing On This Side Of Heaven**” *Papa Bear and His Cubs*
“Sweetest Thing on This Side Of Heaven” is a never-endingly charming addition to this November’s playlist. Dreamy, hazy, and exceedingly profuse, this song feels like the sunlight streaming down through the trees in a golden haze. It makes you want to strut down the sunny afternoon sidewalk and enjoy a dirty chai latte. It’s a song that has a strong almost sedative effect on the listener, one that reminds you of the beauty of the little details in life, the ones that slip through the cracks so easily. If you are one of those who lack love, this song will make

you feel its warm embrace!
“**Death Of A Disco Dancer**” *The Smiths*
Going into November and the winter, The Smiths automatically become a go-to artist. “Death Of A Disco Dancer” is one of those Smiths songs that is perfect for the transition into winter - another that paints a bleak picture of life, yet conveys the warmth that one might feel drifting from a roasting turkey fresh out of the oven. Although we can’t quite like Morrissey due to his embarrassing racism and rampant bigotry, it is always a good time to support the better half of the Smiths, Johnny Marr.
“**Deep In A Dream** ” *Chet Baker*
In “Deep In A Dream”, Chet Baker demonstrates what a well-used string section can do for a song. The strings and his phrasing in this piece create an image so clear in my mind, that if you asked me to close my eyes, I could immediately tell you what every corner of the room looks like. Throughout the song, Baker creates a very clear storyline where you can feel yourself following along on this heart-wrenching and utterly devastating dream journey. With its

dark periwinkle hazy feel, “Deep In A Dream” is the dreamiest addition to the November playlist to fall asleep to. Zzzzzzzzz....
“**Preoccupied** ” *Mac Demarco*
“Preoccupied” with Mac Demarco perfectly describes what we all are at the moment - too busy to breathe. With school fully ramping in and finals looming in the near future, “Preoccupied” is one of those songs that really just feels appropriate. With Mac Demarco’s easy listening style and effective licks, this is a perfect song to add to your November playlist.
“**Kiss Me**” *Sixpence None The Richer*
A devastating love song - some have even said that this piece is part of their devastating era. A tune for the true romantics, “Kiss Me” by Sixpence None the Richer manages to convey the warm orange tones that gently line November while painting pictures of a fall love most of us reading and writing the high school newspaper will never have. But alas, we can dream and unwind all of our pent-up angst amongst the columns of critiques and suggestions.....
“**I Wish I Knew How It Would Feel To Be Free**” *Nina Simone*
Last but certainly not least, “I Wish I Knew How It Would Feel To Be Free” by Nina Simone is the final addition to the tail end of your November playlist. Full of warm optimism, this to me is simply a fantastic song to carry you through the end of the year. From its message to the lovely tone of Nina Simone to the feeling of utter hope that the song evokes, this is a great choice to rejoice in the 70-degree Houston weather before the reality of a cold, harsh December fully sets in.

Pathological Lies I Have Told

Okay, before I start this, I would like to preface by saying that I am 99%, completely, totally, absolutely honest now. But when I was younger, I had a habit of lying to entertain myself, and that my creative deception was at its peak at age 12. So here are most of the lies I told when I was bored and needed something interesting in my life.

1. I sang the National Anthem for Oprah. I don’t know what compelled me to tell this lie. It is so easily unverifiable that if my friend I’d told it to would have searched it up, I easily would have been exposed. But she never did. And I also don’t know why I chose Oprah - I feel like that’s more of an Ellen thing.

2. I was colorblind. Most lies are morally incorrect, and I think this lie qualifies as that. In my defense, I exposed myself by accident in the next few minutes by saying I thought the color of a house was pretty when I supposedly wasn’t able to see that color.

3. My dad was best friends with Steve Jobs (who at the time was CEO of Apple) so I had the not-yet-released iPhone 5S. I told this lie because I’d made a mistake when someone asked me which version my phone was, and I supposed lying about it would have been more fun than admitting I’d made a mistake. I thought this one was funny. It was believed, too, which is one of the key ingredients to a good lie. So, there’s that.

by Fiorella Caro

I have so many more lies that I told in the time before I discovered The Sims to divert myself, but those are the ones that I can remember off the top of my head. To protect my reputation, I feel obligated to mention that I’m not a pathological liar anymore and that lying is bad (even when it’s fun)!

But if you happened to tell a harmless little lie like the ones I’ve told, I definitely would not be amused, and I definitely would not give you tips on how to lie better...

A Critique on PVA Haikus

HSPVA’s renowned haiku critic, Takeru Niihara, judges poems penned by PVA’s very own faculty- which one stands the test as the best?

Mr. Landry - Procrastination
Midterm exams, Ack!
Prioritize studying!
Maybe tomorrow.
Takeru’s Take: This is trash. We don’t put onomatopoeia in Haikus and no exclamation points, please. This is why you’re a physics teacher and not an English teacher.

Mr. Landry - Our School
HSPVA
Creativity grows here
Make it a great day

by Takeru Niihara

Takeru’s Take:
This is better than the other one. Each line has a clear, one themed connection but... Dah...Please be more creative. It’s so obvious. Aren’t you an HSPVA teacher?!?

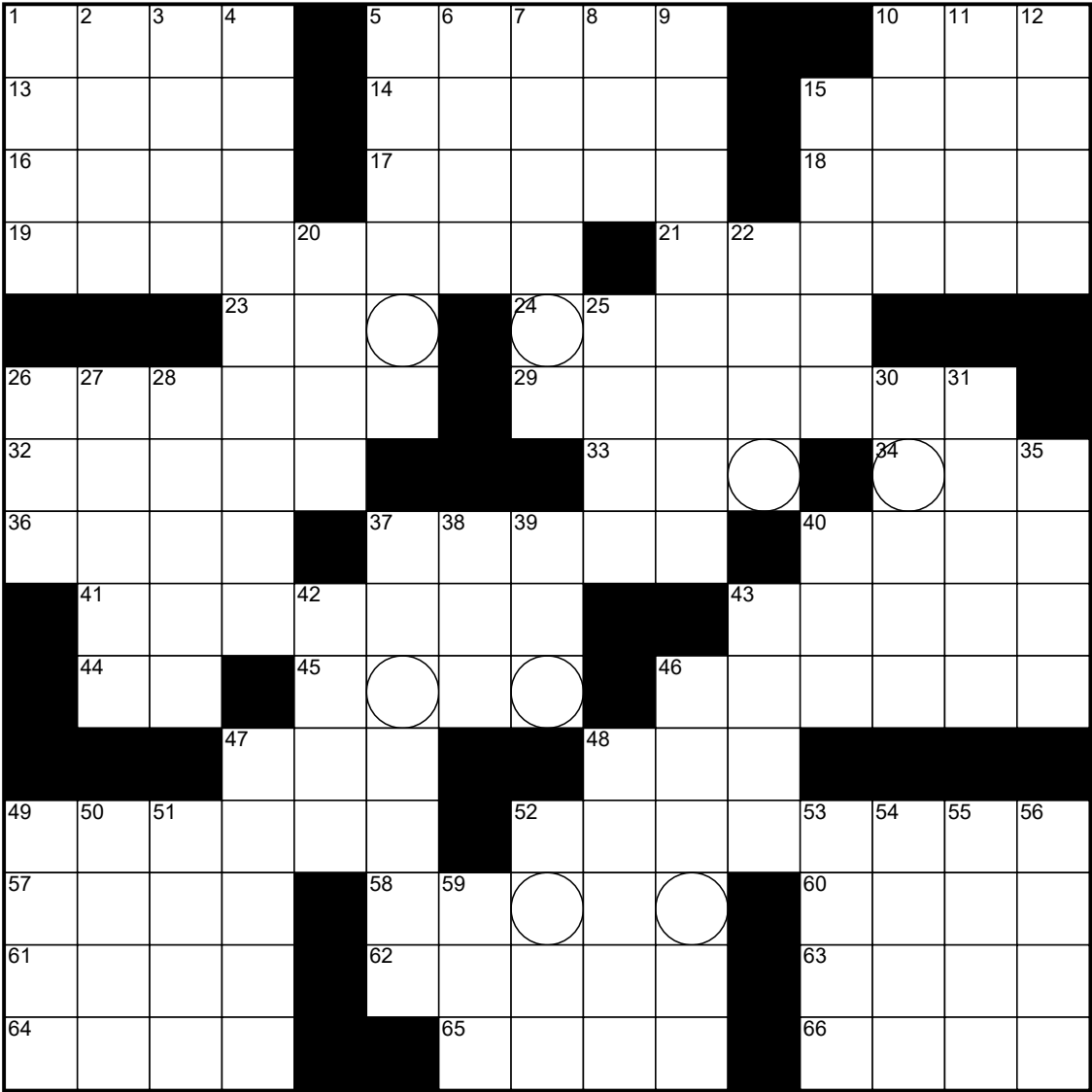
Ms. Manchac - Critical Thought
a teacher’s lament
please think how context matters
history repeats
Takeru’s Take:
What history? The history of PVA or US history. So vague! “Context matters!” Have a more stable theme and make a clear connection!

Ms. Manchac - Resources
Miss, I was absent
Did we do anything then?!
Please just read the WaaG
Takeru’s Take:
This works better...BUT choose another topic. I get it, but some people have issues with technology!

Mr. Sneed - Hank Mobley
Mobley plays the groove
Swingin’, swayin’, always cool
A heavyweight champ
Takeru’s Take: This is the best one of the bunch! The rhythm of the Haiku is very consistent. Also, a nice topic. It’s something that everyone is familiar with, and you did a wonderful job making a connection from line to line. The creative writing department could use you!

Crossword: Falling Leaves

by Sofia Fontenot



ACROSS

- 1 Appear flabbergasted
- 5 Fit for a task
- 9 Wrinkle-nosed dogs
- 13 Jack and Jill went up one
- 14 Edith Wharton novel, The ____ Innocence
- 15 App that can deliver you or your food
- 16 “How obvious it seems now!”
- 17 Quite, quaintly
- 18 Runs for the hills
- 19 Unlucky symbols of the spooky season
- 21 CollegeBoard program with a dreaded end-of-year-test
- 22 “It ___ bad taste in my mouth”
- 23 Spy with your little eye
- 24 Clickity clacks on a computer, maybe
- 28 Prefix for tope or metric
- 29 Leaves alone
- 32 “YOU ___ HERE” (star on a map)
- 33 Emu-esque bird
- 35 Number of toes on the average person
- 36 Like four special puzzle pieces
- 37 Tummy woe
- 39 Female companion, briefly
- 41 Built a new wing, perhaps

- 43 It may be watching you, in Halloween decorations
- 45 Lizard’s collar
- 46 ‘Too-Ra-Loo-Ra-Loo- ___’ (Irish lullaby)
- 47 Millipede’s movers
- 49 “___ apple a day ...”
- 50 Teenage newt
- 53 Comparable (with)
- 55 Back-to-school mo.
- 57 Island of the Greek sorceress Circe
- 59 “Ready, set, ___!”
- 60 Ghostly
- 62 Store to buy a meatball or flat-pack furniture
- 65 “Have you ____?” (Of course I’d do that!)
- 66 “What good would ___?”
- 67 Fuzzy fruit, or a New Zealand bird
- 68 Trees bearing dates or coconuts
- 69 ___ there, done that
- 70 Genesis garden
- 71 Say ‘Hi!’ to
- 72 Like Austin, Pierce, and Caroline

DOWN

- 1 Studio that created Totoro and Ponyo
- 2 Grocery store paths
- 3 *Issue an SOS, maybe
- 4 Give the most votes to
- 5 Struck with horror
- 6 Better than best
- 7 *Like unbagged tea or essay paper
- 8 Prefix for face or fort
- 9 Like fresh-squeezed orange juice
- 10 Flavor of some purple milk teas
- 11 “Well golly!”
- 12 Like the graduating class of 2023, now
- 14 Congresswoman who wore a “Tax the Rich” dress
- 18 Dangerous thing to tempt
- 20 Infamous leafy green
- 25 *Pursue in a canoe
- 26 “By this reasoning ...”
- 27 Spotted
- 30 Bird that’s ‘bald’
- 31 Hindu king of the gods
- 34 ‘No store does more’ than this Texas grocery.
- 36 Slender fish that may have a shock
- 37 Prefix meaning ‘flight’
- 38 Greenish-blue hue
- 40 *Entomophobia, perhaps
- 42 Pet cat in ‘Alice in Wonderland’
- 44 Coily, spherical hairstyle
- 48 It may tuck into a shell if spooked
- 51 Squabbled
- 52 They might grab something to eat
- 54 Once more
- 56 One-third of a Mamma Mia song
- 58 Reverse bite
- 61 Knight’s tale of adventure
- 62 Mike and ___: fruity brand of candy
- 63 Baby goat
- 64 She may have a little lamb
- 65 Fuel economy measure



November Horoscopes

ARIES
Aries, your routines may be irregular during this cycle. But don't fret, you will learn to roll with the punches starting on November 17th, when Mercury enters Sagittarius. Nothing is permanent, you choose how to react to change.
Listen to: Change - Big Thief

TAURUS
Taurus, you have been distant. Your energy and presence is valued and your circle misses you! Sagittarius season will bring out the fire and life in you and give your energy a much needed refresh.
Listen to: All I Think About Now - Pixies

GEMINI
It has been a stressful season, give yourself some downtime, Gemini. You do not have to be productive all the time, watch your favorite fall movie, drink some hot chocolate, and give a friend a big hug.
Listen to: I'll Be Your Mirror - The Velvet Underground

CANCER
Cancer, you are an emotional sign, don't let changes in friendship dynamics get you down. Set personal goals, find a fun project to work on. Learn from Aries, nothing is permanent.
Listen to: Solo - Frank Ocean

LEO
Leo, I see possible exploration in new interests in this season, who knows, maybe even in what you want your career path to be! Trust your intuition and try new things, maybe you will find something special.
Listen to: Karma - Taylor Swift

VIRGO
You may face some disappointment this season, Virgo. Don't let your expectations affect your relationships, express your feelings in a healthy open-minded way to strengthen your bonds.
Listen to: Text Book - Lana Del Rey

LIBRA
Libra! I hope the intermittent fall weather is fulfilling your air-sign need for seasonal aesthetic. You have been so good at voicing your boundaries recently, keep up the good work but also know people will always talk. Remember any negativity that is said about you is a reflection of the speaker.
Listen to: Zero - The Smashing Pumpkins

SCORPIO
Scorpio, observe how you deal with change. There is a lot of new in every sign this season, however, you are one of the only signs that may have the capacity to sit back, watch and analyze what is giving you trouble this season. Be aware, be gentle.
Listen to: Shut Up My Moms Calling - Hotel Ugly

by Gabi Iaroslavitz

SAGITTARIUS
It's your season Sag! You will have exciting passion projects coming up in November. It has been a rough couple of months, but the season ahead is looking promising. Hang in there!
Listen to: Many Mirrors - Alvveys

CAPRICORN
Capricorn, are you being real with yourself? Is there a project or relationship that just seems to be causing more harm than good? You will soon be rid of this draining energy during Sagittarius season. Keep your head up, everything will be okay in the end.
Listen to: Under The Table - Fiona Apple

AQUARIUS
Aquarius, things are SO difficult right now. Let your circle in on your life; they will help you face challenges. November will be a healing season, feel into every part of your emotions to fully process.
Listen to: The Only Living Boy in New York - Simon & Garfunkel

PISCES
Life is getting busy again Pisces! Make sure you eat, sleep, and socialize. You can't give your all when your tank is empty. This will be a fun season if you make a point to keep balance in your life.
Listen to: Feeling Good - Ms. Lauryn Hill



Which Fall-Themed Drink Are You?

by Marz Lazar

1. What were your Halloween plans?
a) Leaving a candy bowl outside and staying in my room because children scare me.
b) Trick or Treating, even though everyone says I'm too old.
c) Going to a Halloween Party and watching Hocus Pocus 'til 3 am.
d) Passing out candy while trying to remain in character for my costume.

2. You have a paper due tomorrow, and you haven't started... What is your caffeinated drink of choice?
a) Coffee. No cream. No sugar. Just coffee.
b) Matcha because it'll keep me awake and calm, and everything else makes me jittery.
c) Candy because I've never had caffeine and am scared of what I'd be like on it.
d) Whatever tea I find in the pantry, even if it's Throat Coat.

3. Pick a Thanksgiving dish:
a) Mashed potatoes because they're the one thing that tastes consistent.
b) GREEN BEANS! Extra points if they're well seasoned.
c) Dessert.
d) Stuffing. Just because.

4. Pick a movie genre:
a) Dramas, because I live VICARIOUSLY through the lives of others.
b) Documentaries, because I love watching cute baby animals.
c) Rom/Coms because I love crying when an author writes the same trope well.
d) Anything animated. Just because the art is so pretty!

5. Lastly, pick a fall item:
a) Flannels. They're comfortable, enough said.
b) Pumpkins, they add that little fall spice.
c) UGG Boots- I hate the feeling of cold ankles.
d) Candy Apples, just because they're sweet!

If you picked mostly A's, you are Ginger Beer!
As a Ginger Beer, you are probably the shy one in your friend group, but once people get to know you, they would describe you as sarcastic and witty. You always have a smart comment or a comeback for everything and probably are the brain behind some intelligent thoughts. Like ginger beer, you might not be everyone's taste, but the people who love you really do care!

If you picked mostly B's, you are Pomegranate Juice!
As Pomegranate Juice, you're probably the "I'm-fine-being-by-myself," adventurous one of the group. You're always up to try something new and love nature. Like seriously, you're obsessed. You probably love reading and are happy to have a conversation with anyone about your latest obsession (bonus points if you've read Percy Jackson). You're an all-around good friend, and like pomegranate juice, you may not exactly be what people imagined, but you're just what they needed!

If you picked mostly C's, you are Apple Cider!
As Apple Cider, you're the social butterfly of your friend group. The "I-went-to-Phoenicia-once-and-I-already-met-a-cashier-and-we're-best-friends" type of person. You're always down to hang out and love doing anything and everything, as long as you're with your friends. You always say what's on your mind and are a very expressive and opinionated person. Like Apple Cider, you are a sweet friend, and almost everyone loves you!

If you picked mostly D's, you are Pumpkin Spice Latte!
As a Pumpkin Spiced Latte, you're a loyal friend, the person everyone can depend on. You probably have a collection of things in your bag for almost every inconvenience that could happen to your friends. You're the person who lets someone borrow a pencil and gives people your extra snack. Like your namesake, you're an overload of sweetness, but you always manage to brighten someone's day!

Special shoutout to our wonderful paperboys*:

Jones Bowman, Liam Mathus, Mikey Harper, Kavi Persaud, and Paige Hartsgrove!

Teacher Talk!

Mr. Landry: Hey, Ms. Manchac, what is your opinion of teachers’ pets?

Ms. Manchac: Ooh fun! Let’s make that our next article!

Mr. Landry: I don’t think you are thinking what I am thinking...

Introducing **Teachers’ Pet:** The Matching Game!

- 1) Ms. Carothers ___

2) Ms. Carothers ___

3) Ms. Chase ___

4) Ms. Childers ___

5) Ms. Galindo ___

6) Ms. Johnson ___

7) Ms. Melone ___

8) Mr. Perez ___

9) Dr. Rivas ___
- 10) Ms. Rosales ___

11) Mr. Turner ___

12) Mr. Waddell ___

13) Ms. White ___



A: Azel



B: Hazel



C: Bella



D: Lulu



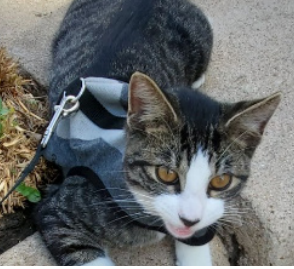
E: Pepper



F: Frito



G: Charlie



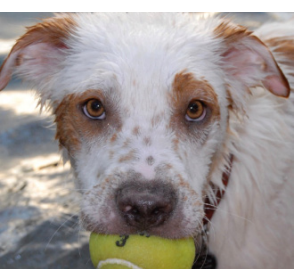
H: Purbles



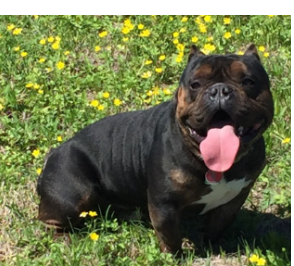
I: Ponyo Samhain



J: Zehra



K: Patch



L: Poppa



M: Bailey

Rejection Blues

by Bowen Ma and Mr. Morales

We’ve all felt the stomach-churning feeling of backstage nerves and onstage jitters; it feels like the world is watching. The congratulations, the “You did so amazing!” - is the expectation, while failure is considered something to be ashamed of.

Yet there is only 1 winner in a competition of 10; is it necessary for the other 9 to sulk and hide away from these experiences? To help us talk about failing, we welcome Mr. Morales, HSPVA Instrumental Chair and piano director, well-versed in the science of overcoming failure.

Bowen: What first memories do you have about competition? Did you undergo any unexpected emotional effects?

Mr. Morales: My first memory was a TMTA competition in San Antonio, where I played a little piece called “Tag” by Prokofiev, and I won first place. It felt good, and I got hooked on that feeling - validation. Later on, as I grew up and competitions got more challenging, I had one particularly adverse result - I was, I thought, extremely well prepared, and I just choked. I was so angry I punched and made a dent in my parents’ car door. So I’ve felt the whole gamut.

B: How do you guide your students through the process of competition, not just in preparation but also in dealing with its effects?

M: Perspective. You gotta keep playing. You lose most but you learn and develop hacks, and once in a while you go “bingo!” - you win. I am thinking of developing a class or a special track next year on Performance Psychology/ Effective Practice because I see so many promising students negatively affected by

the process of losing or lack of preparation. We need to have an emotional ‘plan’ for how we will act/respond if we don’t have a favorable result... a useful and mature strategy for dealing with disappointment. I got this from reading the Stoic philosophers.

B: I think we are all too critical at times, not giving ourselves the credit we may deserve while being extremely harsh when things do go wrong. How did you and how do you try to teach students to be more appreciative of their performance?

M: Competitions are highly subjective processes that measure one thing: a snapshot of performance acumen. This inherent one-dimensional scope neglects to measure many other elements of what an artist is: emotional intelligence, planning skills, social competence, ability to mix common sense with subversive critique, and much more.

Competitions aren’t easy- that much is obvious. They sow doubt in ourselves, leaving us

wondering how things could’ve gone so wrong. But what do competitions truly measure? Not your worth, nor are they accurate comparisons of your ability with others.

The so-called “mental practice” - simulating pressure, visualizing actions - is more valuable than hours of practice the day before a performance.

Whether performing in a theater company or giving dance recitals, these aforementioned moments of difficulty always arise. Rather than avoiding and hiding these inevitabilities, our role as performers is to acknowledge them- and most importantly, learn how to overcome them.

Answers for your puzzles!

Teacher’s Pet:

- 1) C

2) K

9) A

10) G
- 3) I

4) L

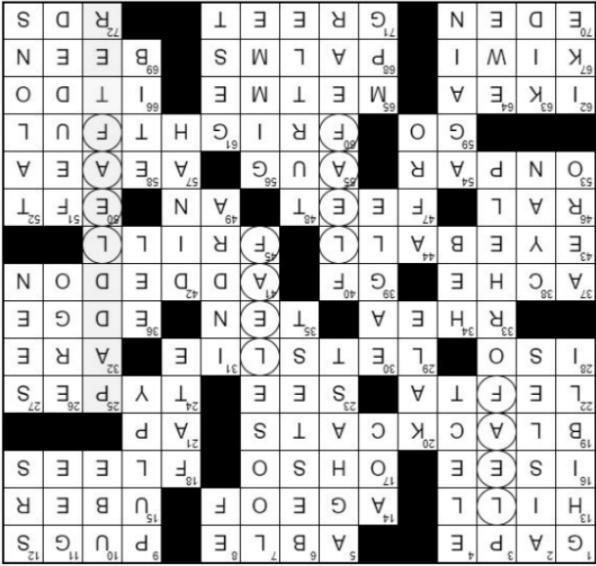
11) B

12) H
- 5) F

6) M

13) D
- 7) E

8) J



Overheard@PVA

“Wait, which one do you apply on? **CollegeBoard** or **CommonApp**?”

- JonEric Wright

“Last night was terrible. I was **hungry, tired, and delusional**.”

-Adrian Gomez

“I **had** to pick her because I didn’t want to seem **racist**!”

-Meg Routh

“Do people say **take the L** anymore?”

-Mr. Landry

“A lemonade stand is **black market**.”

-Mr. Hammon

“When I get my drivers license, I’m just going to be **picking up kids on the road**.”

-Jasmine Lin

“Every time you sing it wrong, I’m **taking my shoes off**.”

-Ms. Hall

“Yeah, people think it’s congenital.”

-Meg Routh

“Wait, **genital**?”

-Zech Bocchetto

“You know, Chuck E. Cheese actually jump started my **gambling addiction**.”

- Kerrigan Gaither

“I don’t like slow people. **Just be gay and walk faster!**”

-Mr. Pham

“I’ve got the **dilly tingle**.”

-Dillon Hillard

“I park in Ellie’s spot.”

-Mr. Klein

“If you’re trying to shock me, I’m not going to be shocked. **I don’t care**.”

-Mr. Waddell

“He’s just a **Ken doll** of a man.”

-Michael Chase

“My mom was like, ‘why are you always listening to depressing music?’ and **made me turn on the radio**.”

-Athena Haq

“I have a tiny car, and there’s **no way to fit a bike** in here, so I decided to **take my bike apart**- I’m gonna need five more minutes to put it back together.”

-Jones Bowman, the morning of paper* release day to paperboys* group chat

“Why is there **hair** all over my desk?”

-Faith Lopez

“One time I cried because I broke my arm and I couldn’t **monkey-bar** anymore.”

- Natalie Hampton

“Ew, but it’s going to take me to the **ghetto browser**, not Google Chrome.”

-Chanice Posada

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