



# **THE GRANT PARK JOLLY ROGER LATE-FALL EDITION**



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We've created a tag system, to clarify tone and subject matter!

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# LETTERS FROM THE EDITOR

Aye aye mateys,

It is a pleasure to welcome you to our first publication of the new school year! It has been a little while since our last edition; With many writers having graduated and all the recent COVID hijinks, it's been hard to reestablish a reliable working crew but we're back and hopeful about more consistent releases throughout the rest of the school year. In this late-fall (early-winter) edition, we've put artistic and opinionated work on a pedestal. Hoping to prioritize that student voice element, we've found that many students this year have expressed an interest in composing more creative-oriented pieces and we're more than happy to act as a safe space to explore those exciting, tangential thoughts. This edition invites exciting new changes as we've switched up some of the article categories and have welcomed several new writers and new co-editor Brie V. to the Jolly Roger family!

Arghh, see ya ol' chum!

*Jamie X.*

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Ahoy buccaneers,

Welcome to our first newsletter edition of this year! We're super excited to have this out and somehow finished in a month, literally we started this in late October. I guess I should introduce myself! My name is Brie, I co-lead the Social Justice Club in our school and I'm an active member in quite a few other clubs. I like to consider myself quite creative in a multitude of ways, including the hours I spend on research, drawing and painting, and the multiple DIY things I do. My favourite fact to tell people about myself is that my brain lobes are slightly larger than average, which generally leads to people giving me a confused look. Against my dyslexia being the most annoying it ever has been my entire life, my good fellow shipmate, Jamie, convinced me to become an editor for the newsletter. Hopefully you enjoy this read and don't receive multiple headaches like I did!

That's all for now, see you next edition :)

*Brie V.*

You can contact us or submit work by emailing [GPjollyroger@gmail.com](mailto:GPjollyroger@gmail.com) or messaging our instagram account [@gpjollyroger](https://www.instagram.com/gpjollyroger)

# SCHOOL RELATED

## [What's up with Grant Parks' Clubs? \(I\)](#)

## Serious

Grant Park Student Council is a student initiative group that works to unite students and help them feel heard while raising school spirit. Our co-presidents this year are Chloe C. and Jamie X. who've already been busy these past few months working to facilitate school spirit and a sense of community. Huge thank you to Ms. Currie, Ms. McLeod and new advisor, Ms. Costa for their endless support, help and dedication to keeping the Student Council active. To get involved, email Chloe or Akinay ([grantpark@wsd1.org](mailto:grantpark@wsd1.org)) with your first and last name along with your school email address or connect through Instagram @grantparksc.



Grant Park Social Justice Club is a student-led body that focuses on philanthropy and contributing to local communities in hopes of helping to foster goodwill in our classrooms and school environment. The students in Social Justice Club started the year off with their 'Postcards for Peace' event and are hard at work on planning the next few events and goals for this year. To get involved, email [gphssocialjustice@gmail.com](mailto:gphssocialjustice@gmail.com) or connect through Instagram @gphssocialjustice.



GSA is a safe space for lgbtq+ (and ally) students to meet and connect with people from outside their inner-circle. Meetings mostly consist of group discourse regarding current world issues or supportive member discussion about personal interests! To join GSA contact us through our Instagram @grant.park.gsa to join the instagram chat or for the Google Classroom link! Or email Ms. Cuddy ([jcuddy@wsd1.org](mailto:jcuddy@wsd1.org)) for the Google Classroom link, and please feel free to bring in a new group check-in question. I'm tired of knowing what plant Jamie feels like that day!



GP Jolly Roger is Grant Park's Newsletter Team. We strive for a system of robots that work efficiently towards the production of multiple newsletter editions throughout the school year. We primarily operate through an online submission format although we will occasionally call meetings for brainstorming. You are welcome to contact us to discuss column ideas and edits regarding any preexisting work you may be interested in submitting! If you'd like to become one with the robots or just submit work to our next edition, email us at [gpjollyroger@gmail.com](mailto:gpjollyroger@gmail.com) or connect through our Instagram @gpjollyroger.



Brie V.



## *A Midsummer Night's Dream Recap {Spoiler Alert} (A)*

“Love looks not with the eyes, but with the mind, and therefore is winged cupid painted blind”

In the absence of law, love runs wild, revealing its true nature as fleeting and ridiculous. This year's school production: *Midsummer Night's Dream*, invites you to revisit the momentous love we know so well with an open mind, seeing how passion twists and turns the heart into melodramatic comedy. In the case that you plan on seeing this notoriously confusing play, allow this summary to act as a familiarized guide to the story so that you avoid getting lost in the revised prose of the late, great William Shakespeare.

Spoilers ensue, let this stand as a warning.

Opening with Theseus (duke of Athens) and Hippolyta (queen of the Amazon), the play establishes a timeframe – that it will take place over the course of the four days leading up to their wedding.



The first point of conflict is introduced when Hermia, Daughter of Egies (an Athenian nobility) is revealed to have two suitors: Demetrius and Lysander. Although Egies demands she marry Demetrius, Hermia's heart lies with Lysander. She declares that she would rather die than marry anyone but Lysander. In a desperate attempt to escape the Athenian law, Hermia and Lysander plan on eloping, letting Hermia's dear friend Helena in on the plan as well.

Helena is in love with Demetrius and although the feeling was once reciprocal, Demetrius has lost direction of his love and continues to pursue Hermia. In hopes of regaining Demetrius' love, Helena tells him of Hermia's plot and the two follow suit, running off into the nearby forest.

The forest is where we find that love runs rampant in the absence of Athenian law. Fairy royalty, Titania and Oberon, rule the land and magic can be found around every corner. In a conflict between the two (who are siblings in our adaptation), Oberon hopes to settle the matter through, effectively, a practical joke. Calling for Puck, a trouble-making jester, to find a plant whose juice makes people fall in love with the next creature they see, he hopes to make Titania fall in love with something vile.

The flower sets off a domino effect of comical disturbance. As the lovers fall in and out of love with each other, love is depicted as nonsensical. In a notable sequence, a nearby group of players practice their rendition of “Pyramus and Thisbe” in preparation for the union of Theseus and Hippolyta. An excitable character, Bottom is determined to play the lead and upon seeing his poor performance, Puck curses him with a donkey head, unaware that Titania slumbers nearby. Waking up from her sleep, Titania immediately falls in love with Bottom because of the flower’s nectar which she is given by Oberon.

The play of course ends happily with much of the conflict being resolved: Theseus and Hippolyta marry and the lovers are satisfied, pairing Hermia with Lysander and Helena with Demetrius respectively. The play closes with the players’ performance of “Pyramus and Thisbe” which is as hilarious as it is horrible.



In perhaps the play’s most well-known monologue, Puck invites the viewer to remember the play as nothing more than a (midsummer night’s) dream.

*Igotyoutoreadthis*

Administration: BB-8

Reason: BB-8 has a manipulative personality. He's loyal and curious. BB-8 likes stability and is very useful/resourceful. Administration has majority control over the school. Of course, is loyal and will always do what's best for the situation and the school. Every administration likes stability, having a chaotic school probably wouldn't be fun. They are extremely resourceful and reliable. You can always count on them to be there and look over you.

Math department: Darth Vader

Reason: Darth Vader may be seen as evil to most, but he's just driven by emotions... that happen to be on the dark side... Vader loves to find solutions to problems, even if it's blowing up an entire planet! A little arrogant, but c'mon it's the dark lord what else do you expect. He also has a strong sense of pride. The math department without a thought loves to solve problems, in fact, it's their entire curriculum! I like to say this department has a strong sense of pride as Kahlee continues to go back to get 57 watermelons just so we can calculate the square root of the grocery store! I definitely wouldn't say they're arrogant, but maybe there's a word for "My math teacher continues to have an exaggerated sense of MY abilities in their class even after I tell them I don't understand anything that's happening"!

Science department: Ewoks

Reason: Ewoks are furry short creatures. They live quite isolated from others but are quick to help out when someone's in need. They look harmless but are quite physically strong. Ewoks are very old school but are quick learners even when it comes to machinery they haven't even seen. The science department seems harmless but they could make you explode with the right chemicals, if they really wanted to. They're generally quite isolated to others but aren't afraid to step over and help out. Sadly the science department is not made up of furry short creatures but I'm sure they could fit that into a lab! They're quite old school but are quick to learn new ways and possibilities.

English department: C-3PO

Reason: C-3PO is fluent in over 6 million forms of communication. He developed a fussy and worry prone personality after his many years. Personally I see him as over-dramatic but in a loving and funny way. C-3PO is quite bookish. He's civilized, intellectual, loyal, scientific, and



quite practical. He's not spontaneous at all, if he ever is, it's R2-D2's fault. The English department is definitely fluent in over 6 million forms of communication, trust me, ask your english teacher (this is a joke... maybe)! English as a language is over-dramatic, it's literally made from multiple other languages and continues to do things like 'there', 'their', and 'they're'. Of course the english department is bookish, as they force you to read them every year! English classes are generally very strict to the course and planned lesson unless your teacher happens to be a social studies teacher then you may just get a history or geography lesson as well!

#### Social Studies department: R2-D2

Reason: R2-D2 is a smart and spunky droid. He's very wise as he's quite the oldie and wasn't rebooted. He has an adventurous and independent attitude. A little stubborn but generally things work out okay. R2-D2 is quite brave and ingenious. He often ends up in pivotal moments and is seen as eccentric. The social studies department definitely has eccentric people in the mix, especially the history fanatics. The social studies department has very smart people and are super knowledgeable. They're quite wise and generally quite clever and inventive.

#### Middle schoolers: Wookiees

Reason: Wookiees are generally reckless as youth, but grow up to be responsible and intelligent. They have big hearts and are extremely loyal. They are short tempered and hate losing (board games or not). Wookiees are extremely protective and sometimes aggressive when it comes to close ones. They grow up to be trustworthy, selfless and honorable. Wookiees are also usually stubborn but extremely caring and brave. Middle schoolers are generally reckless, but will hopefully grow up to be responsible and intelligent (Don't look for guidance from us, we're not responsible either). They don't like losing (if you don't agree, obviously you've never played dodgeball with or as a middle schooler). Middle schoolers are definitely protective when it comes to friends, and a little stubborn at times.

#### High schoolers: Jawa's

Reason: Jawa's are opportunistic, a little cowardly but passionate scavengers. They're smart in what they do and think strategically. They're said to smell absolutely terrible and have a reputation for swindling and selling faulty droids. High schoolers smell absolutely terrible and I think I can end this here (just kidding, I'll elaborate more)! They're opportunistic and passionate in what they like doing. They're also quite good at swindling except instead of money, extensions on projects they know they should've started a week ago! High schoolers are incredibly smart just also incredibly doubtful in their abilities.



#### Performing Arts department: Storm Troopers



Reason: Storm Troopers are loyal and obedient. They don't question orders from high-ranking officials. They are very merciless in battle. Of course, they operate under the Imperial army and they often used swarm tactics to overwhelm the enemy. The performing arts department are definitely loyal people, and generally obedient, unless you start playing Hamilton then things might get a little crazy! They aren't ones to question "orders" as they trust what they're given will be for the best outcome. I have no doubt performing arts students could use swarm tactics to overwhelm people, unless you as a person are a fan of the 16 songs they've broken out into, I would be very concerned to have a stampede of them walking towards me (even though I'm a theatre kid)!

#### Grant Parks Clubs: Obi-Wan Kenobi

Reason: Obi-Wan is a noble man. He's extremely skilled and loyal. He's heroic and self-disciplined. Incredibly committed and observant to his surroundings and people. Obi-Wan is very wise and mature. Grant Park's Club members' are extremely committed people. They're self-disciplined and loyal. They're generally very mature people with a large broadcast of skill sets between each person. They are observant in their surroundings and people near them and mainly very wise and trustworthy people.

#### Shops department: Yoda

Reason: Yoda is a highly mysterious, intelligent and a somewhat arrogant leader. He's extremely wise and has excelling skills. He's overall kind but can be somewhat strict when training. Yoda is quick to comfort and guide and to warn and express disapproval of wrongdoings. He's a little self-righteous and but extremely dedicated. The shops department no doubt are intelligent people with amazing skills. They're generally extremely kind and always there to help and guide. They're dedicated to what they do and who they teach. They aren't afraid to try new things or go for something bold.

#### Phys-ed department: Princess Leia

Reason: Princess Leia is hard-headed. She's sassy and has a great deal of integrity. Leia is independent but knows the importance and has a strong sense of teamwork and collective efforts. She's generally out for victory rather than personal gain. She's an excellent leader that's fearless and dedicated. Leia is a bright intellect and has a forceful personality. The

Phys-ed department is definitely hard-headed, they value practicality and realism over idealism. They have a great deal of integrity and cheer others on. They're dedicated people and will usually have a forceful personality. They can be quite independent people but they also understand the importance of teamwork and collective efforts.

#### Grant Parks Sports Teams: Mandalorians

Reason: Mandalorians are tough and efficient warriors. They are resourceful and have a strong code of honor. They are very war dominated and have a signature combat style that many fear. Mandalorians usually handle conflict with single combat. They can be intimidating but are quite warm hearted to those they care about. Grant Park's sport team's members' are tough and efficient players. They are resourceful and have a strong sense of pride in who they are (pirates)! They train hard and play to win, no matter how often the coaches say 'in it for the fun'. Our sport team members' can often seem intimidating, especially when in focus at a game, but most are incredibly kind people and not as intimidating as they look.

#### Inclusion Support department: Baby Yoda

Reason: Baby Yoda is thoughtful and a cautious communicator. He values consistency, stability and loyalty. Baby Yoda is accepting and optimistic. He's adaptive and likes to avoid conflict. He's modest, reserved, idealistic, and a great listener. And let's face it, absolutely adorable! The inclusion support department is thoughtful and accepting. They usually value consistency and stability for best outcome but can also handle a bump in the road. They like peace and avoid conflict and are optimistic people. They're adaptive and idealistic, and absolutely great listeners. The perfect friend to have around you.



#### Guidance department: Jedi's (in general)

Reason: Jedi's believe in the good side and serve it. They refuse to dwell on the dark side and live in the present moment. They are experts at feeling energies and trust their feelings and/or intuitions. They practice meditation to achieve a calm mind and practice awareness to be mindful of their thoughts. They are patient and protect those in need. Jedi are peaceful warriors and people. The guidance department believes in living in the moment and choosing to focus on the positive. They can sense when someone is off and trust their instincts. They are patient people and will always be there to help and protect. The guidance department is a peaceful place along with those who work there. They practice self-care for better mental health and encourage others to take care of themselves beyond physicality.

*Brie V.*

# PENNY FOR A THOUGHT

Semi-Political

## *How Do I Value Myself and My Time? (O)*

I sit here pondering how to write how I feel. As my mind bounds from idea to idea, I'm simultaneously trying to watch a remarkably well made Netflix miniseries, and embroider abstract shapes on a bedsheet. All in the last 30 minutes, I've made popcorn, played piano, browsed who knows how many Instagram posts, texted friends and fiddled with schoolwork; just about every one of these tasks deserves my undivided attention. I'm a horrible multi-tasker, and I'm fully aware that I appreciate each tenfold when I dedicate myself to them. All the more frustrating, this was supposed to be my relaxing Sunday night after a weekend of drafting what feels like a thousand essays.

For the longest time I've been very curious about how I value and define myself. I've come across a plurality of conclusions in my thinking, but each feels inadequate or reductive. Am I a collection of skills? Am I defined by my possessions? Am I a construct of my experiences and memories, an existence based on my presence in others minds, the number of albums I've listened to, the "best of" compilation I've read, or the quantity of essays I can churn out in a weekend? Obviously, there's no simple answer and I no longer expect to find a simple sentence that can summarize the complex and abstract concept of my existence. However, I do find it telling that the nature of these answers are all achievement oriented.

For a significant period of time, I've felt motivated almost entirely by a need for efficiency and tangible achievement. This isn't a positive motivation - not the kind that makes you excited to show up to that meeting, join that club or go for that run. No, it's the dark and scary kind - the feeling you have to run or be consumed by the darkness, the need to jam-pack your schedule so you're never stagnant, or that if you stop swimming you just might stop breathing.



Recently, in what I consider to be an extremely endearing gesture, a dear friend gifted me a small shark statuette, as a representation of this tendency.

I recognize this motivation as a consequence of personal values and the root of much of how I operate. Interestingly, this drive used to be a source of pride, “look how good I am”, “look how much I can do”. Now I recognize it as hugely harmful and destructive to so many facets of my life. The guilt I felt, and still feel, while not working makes it a daunting task to just enjoy my time.

As I’ve grown, I’ve become increasingly cognizant of the nuanced and complex nature of the world around me. I see this all consuming force everywhere; it’s central to our social functions and integral to the structure of capitalism - that’s really what this all comes back to. I’m just a 17 year old kid and I can’t escape this monster, a glutton for consumption, already burrowed in my psyche. We are largely bred, born and brought up for our capacity to act as a cog in this machine. Therapists, philosophers, and Twitter users alike call this “Internalized Capitalism”.

In a system that derives wealth from efficiency and places constant growth on a pedestal, how can we expect to function in anything but accordance? My internalization of this system feels as though it should surely cause concern, but it’s not unexpected or even shocking when considered in the context of experiences we all go through. An example of these communal encounters are the often cited idea of “factory schools”, which describes the ways our school system functions as a means to produce assembly line workers. I’ve seen arguments both supporting and critiquing this description, some argue that schooling has developed in modern times to introduce more dynamic ideas such as critical thinking and adaptability. Others highlight the way in which our classrooms and educational work styles remain largely unchanged over long periods of history. And while these positions on the production of a specific “assembly line” type worker are important, I see the more general concept of the education system



as a method for producing workers, at all, as a most compelling argument in this case. At the risk of committing a fallacy of common sense, it seems unlikely that many people would argue that the role of school is to prepare individuals for their future in this capitalist society. To be clear, I'm very much not against schooling. With conditions, I very much appreciate nearly all of my classes. As much as I love to gripe, I often find assignments fun, classes interesting and subjects engaging. But, I am occasionally given second thoughts when I realize these very same classes have been principal in shepherding me towards that wolf in sheep's clothing: a deeply ingrained personal requirement that finds self fulfillment in only tangible achievement.

This toxic motivation is undoubtedly a consequence of more than just life in the education system, it's likely been equally fostered by an unhealthy habit of comparing myself to others' achievements, which is in itself further exacerbated by a never ending supply of idealized social media feeds, and my own personal dedication to invest in my own self-worth. It has seeped its way into every corner of my existence. I would look at things that should spark happiness, things as simple as driving to music, sewing gifts for friends, or playing piano, as sequential tasks each with their own to-do list and greater goals and outcomes. How many albums can I listen to? How many piano pieces can I play? How many hobbies, how many clubs, how many certifications? Trying to summarize life on a to-do list is depressing.



I'm not sure how this problem should be approached and I don't plan on calling for a melodramatic grassroots socialist revolution in a school newsletter (although...). Rather, I want to speak to the personal level, I think recognizing this problem has led to me taking active steps to enjoy my time as being just that, "my time", not a resource to be extracted and used as a method of producing value, as capitalism might have it. There's a lot of ways I have been working against my habits. Being with friends, I find it easy to let days slip by carefree. Slip by not in the sense that I've lost the time, instead that I appreciate it and am present. Getting outside the house, looking for small adventures at every turn is also effective in reclaiming hours. This is often harder than it sounds and certainly can be a little scary. Particularly in the context of COVID and the quickly approaching, ever infamous, Winnipeg winter, things aren't going to get easier.



When stuck at home I find taking intentional time to rest has been hugely helpful. I refer to time not scheduled in some itinerary as a recognition that I deserve to feel free from my to-do lists and guilt of inefficiency. I've begun finding an escape from this mindset in not only my actions but my mindset too. The tasks that I once completed to check from a list I now do very intentionally as a way to enjoy myself. This means stopping not necessarily when I get bored, but when it's no longer making me happy. This is especially applicable with piano playing and climate activism. Both things I love very much and enjoy putting time towards, but shouldn't be corrupted by a need to constantly be completing something. Film photography is a very tangible manifestation of this. I really enjoy digital photography and could write an essay just on the comparison between the two mediums.

The gist of it is that digital lets you very quickly see exactly what a picture will be. You look at your subject, click the button and see what you got, simple, elegant and cheap (after the cost of a camera and any other dohickey). Film is undoubtedly a more drawn out process, but as any fanatic will tell you, that's the point. You can look at your subject sure, but that picture is gonna cost you a dollar, you're probably only carrying the film to shoot 24 or maybe 48 pictures, it's gonna take a week from when you take the roll to be developed (or do it yourself, but i'm not that cool yet) to even see the picture, and it's quite possible it's not even gonna turn out. These processes that are, in an age of digital photography, intentionally slow feel weirdly refreshing from the efficiency we are so used to in everyday life, and give an added value to every picture taken. Taking time to do something should be seen as a beautiful thing, not a fault.



Living for the here and now, shouldn't be a radical idea. We love to talk about retirement plans and big dreams, and that's nice, dreaming is good, but future success and enjoying the present should not be mutually exclusive. Things (including time) should be able to just be for the sake of being. Nothing should need to hold fiscal value to be given the right to exist. That very notion of "money is king" leads to so many problems. Daunting social injustices, the oppression of millions of people and climate change all stem from this toxic,

extractive idea. Capitalism in this way doesn't just kill the spirit and soul, it poisons our planet, our homes and bodies.



Some disclaimers: I can obviously see some advantages to competitive markets, but when they lead to so many problems on so many scales, there's got to be a problem somewhere and further, there has gotta be at least some sort of solution. Next, I'm not the first person to think of any of this - the idea that each of these problems can be further attributed to oppressive white, colonial systems. As a white cisgender male, I'm not going to try and explain how these systems are so harmful, on account of them being built to support me, and I've tried to intentionally avoid speaking in a way that silences or might overstep my capacity to discuss said topics. These are important parts to almost any discussion and my little collection of thoughts above may be worse off for avoiding them but, those who can clearly speak on these matters not only deserve to, but need to be listened to, so I encourage you, the reader, to consider looking further at the ways we are all collectively contributing to and uplifting these systems. Also, I still use to-do lists and definitely derive some personal value from my efficiency. The difference is, it's no longer that I need to be efficient to feel fulfilled, instead I do things as an investment, knowing they will result in positivity for myself or others. I really appreciate life and doing things, and I'm not advocating for laziness. Life is just more enjoyable when you do things because they are good things you enjoy doing, not because of a fear of failure.

I think what I've decided, when it comes to how I value myself, is that I'm asking the wrong question. I am not my value to a capitalist economy, and neither are you. You can't be summed up in a value, a number, a sentence or even an essay. Life's way too complicated for that; it may not always be good but it's definitely not always bad. Finally, I say this all as some lame 17 year old who barely knows anything - heck I could barely name you the months of the year - so do what you will with that grain of salt.

(very much hope I don't come off as some loser, lame-o, leftist wannabe - a lazy, bragging, virtue signalling hippie)

*Elias B.*

Witches were perceived as evil beings by early Christians in Europe, inspiring the iconic Halloween figure of witches as a evil, wart-nosed women huddling over a cauldron of boiling liquid to hag-faced, cackling beings riding through the sky on brooms wearing pointy hats.



Early witches were people who practiced witchcraft, using magic spells and calling upon spirits for help or to bring about change.

Most witches were thought to be pagans doing the Devil's work.

Causing a major outbreak of panic and a dark, and sometimes deadly, history for witches. Modern-day witches still perform witchcraft, but there's truly nothing sinister about it (not that there ever was). Spells are usually used to stop someone from doing evil,

harming themselves or another form of good intent. Potions are more likely to be herbal remedies for a sickness, rather than a hex to harm someone.

Wicca is an official religion in the United States and Canada, based on the strive to live a peaceful, tolerant and balanced life in tune with nature and humanity. Wicca being the most practiced modern day type of Witch. To clarify, Wiccans avoid evil at all costs, nor are they controlled by the devil. Rituals and practices vary among people who identify as Wiccan, most celebrate holidays and festivals centred around moon phases; solar equinoxes and solstices, and the incorporation of herbalism and other natural objects in rituals. Some Wiccan practices are atheist, pantheist, polytheist or respectful of gods and goddesses as archetypal symbols rather than as actual or supernatural beings.

*Brie V.*

Their cute googly eyes and small little toe-beans aside, it is a well known fact that frogs are hand-down the best amphibian out there. First off, you know those days where you're just so busy you accidentally forget to drink any water till 7pm? Well no worries if you're a frog, just absorb it through your skin! Certain frogs can jump up to twenty times their own body length in a single leap, now that would've come in handy when your parents told you you have to start walking to school! Did you know frogs swallow their food whole? Imagine being able to grab your sandwich and just swallow it without chewing! A little bit of cool history for my fellow history nerds, in the nineteenth century people heavily believed it would rain frogs, as they only came out during the rain. In England, people



used to stand out in the rain trying to catch frogs, they never came pouring down though. Frogs have over 4700 species, including the famous red-eyed tree frog, blue poisonous dart, and the amazon milk frog. Meanwhile us humans have one species, how boring! All these facts, and many more, conclude why frogs are the best animal!

*Brie V.*



# ARTS AND CULTURE

Black Lives Matter (A)

Creative

Fiction

I am not Black  
BUT I promise I won't Attack  
What is Black?  
What is White?  
What is Brown?  
We are all the same  
Then why so much defame?  
Racism is a grown up disease  
Which we all should hygiene  
People say Black is ugly  
But actually it is lovely  
We all bleed the same  
So have some shame  
Black Lives Matter  
So stop this disaster  
I am not Black  
But I will always stand by your side  
Where is Humanity?  
If you follow Christianity!!  
I can't breathe  
So please relieve  
We all come from Adam and Eve  
So please don't aggrieve  
I can't handle the Pain  
Yes we gotta make change





I am Left in The Dark (A)

Why do People always leave me?  
 First we met  
 The we got set  
 And later on you started to forget  
 And I started to regret  
 Why do people always leave me?  
 I know I am Mad  
 I know I am not Perfect  
 I know I am ugly  
 But at least am not fake  
 If you want to leave me  
 Don't ever meet me  
 If you want to use me  
 Don't ever come near me  
 Because the organ that's pumping on the left  
 will not handle this pain  
 Why do people always leave me?  
 It's so Painful  
 How people come into your life  
 and all of a sudden just walk away  
 You see that smile on my face  
 that's all fake  
 Now I have to change this heart  
 because already many people have blocked  
 Why do people always leave me?  
 I wonder if there is anyone out  
 there who is afraid to lose me  
 But people often bruise me  
 The pain in my throat  
 Feels like someone just stroked  
 The pain in my heart  
 Feels like someone just chopped  
 My eyes are filled up with tears  
 But in the end nobody cares



Kanwal K.

*Among the Stars (A)*

The plane flies into the unknown,  
My mind wonders far,  
A new chapter born,  
An ant city full of tiny cars.  
The sun slowly passes,  
The ocean is full of history,  
Islands on the beach, spread like ashes.  
What is there, it's a mystery.  
The night sky is filled with diamonds.  
Engine roaring,  
The clouds create heavenly bonds.  
My tears are no longer pouring.  
Heartbeat slow,  
My wish is to dance among the stars, and the moon.  
To forever let my problems go.  
To fulfill my dreams, I'm sure that I'll come back soon.  
Among the stars I'll run,  
You'll remember me as a dreamer, who loves to have fun.



*Nika K.*





## Photography Feature (A)

Inspired by “The Yellowhammer’s Nest”  
By John Clare

Just by the wooden brig a bird flew up,

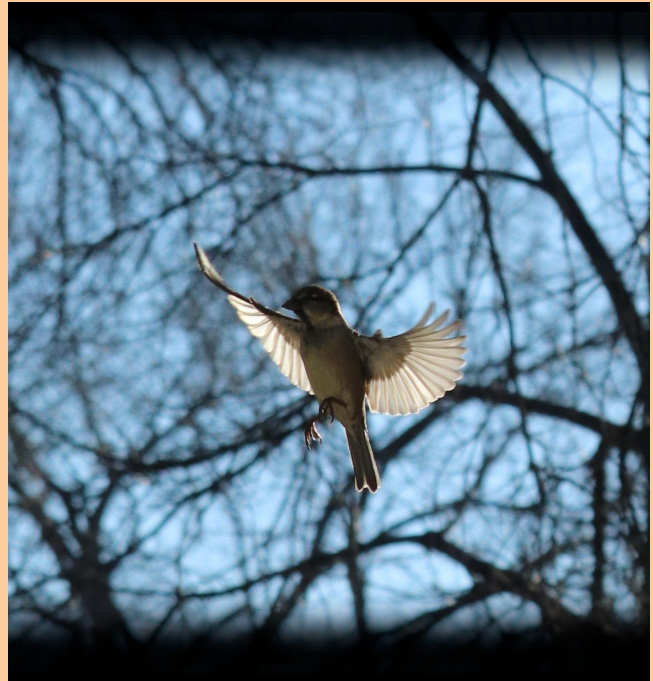
Frit by the cowboy as he scrambled down

To reach the misty dewberry—let us stoop

And seek its nest—the brook we need not  
dread,

’Tis scarcely deep enough a bee to drown,

So it sings harmless o’er its pebbly bed



—Ay here it is, stuck close beside the bank

Beneath the bunch of grass that spindles rank

Its husk seeds tall and high—’tis rudely planned

Of bleached stubbles and the withered fare

That last year’s harvest left upon the land,

Lined thinly with the horse’s sable hair.

Five eggs, pen-scribbled o’er with ink their shells

Resembling writing scrawls which fancy reads

As nature’s poesy and pastoral spells—

They are the yellowhammer’s and she dwells

Most poet-like where brooks and flowery weeds  
As sweet as Castaly to fancy seems  
And that old molehill like as Parnass' hill  
On which her partner haply sits and dreams  
O'er all her joys of song—so leave it still  
A happy home of sunshine, flowers and streams.  
Yet in the sweetest places cometh ill,  
A noisome weed that burthens every soil;  
For snakes are known with chill and deadly coil  
To watch such nests and seize the helpless young,  
And like as though the plague became a guest,  
Leaving a houseless home, a ruined nest—  
And mournful hath the little warblers sung  
When such like woes hath rent its little breast.



*Photographs by Cole O.*

# ADVICE COLUMN

## Monthly Horoscopes (B)

**Fiction**

### **Aries**

March 21st to April 19th.



Trust yourself this month. Allow yourself to observe, and create challenges to evolve your thinking during this stressful time.

### **Taurus**

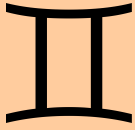
April 20th to May 20th.



Take an opportunity to reshape your brain by shifting up your surrounding environment.

### **Gemini**

May 21th to June 20th.



Take your time to recover some of your self control. During your free time, it will be useful to have fun collaborations and projects with friends.

### **Cancer**

June 21st to July 22nd.



Take a lot of time for self care, and wonder a little bit more about your inner-self. Make yourself a safe place, to make yourself feel protected and content.

### **Leo**

July 23rd to August 22nd.



If you're busy with big assignments and lots of workload, ask for help to not crash from stress. Make time to relax, and leisure.

### **Virgo**

August 23rd to September 22nd.



You need to be part of lots of teamwork! You have to realize that you can rely on others. Prioritize yourself and the people that you appreciate.



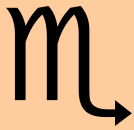
### Libra



September 23rd to October 22nd.

You've gotten a lot of potential to clear your mind and reach out to others who think alike. Expect the unexpected.

### Scorpio



October 23rd to November 21st.

You'll have a chance to become more organized, and have more time for yourself. If you plan out schedules well, you'll be unstoppable.

### Sagittarius



November 22nd to December 21st.

You'll have a change in your attitude. Your main resource is time, so if it's used well, you'll feel much better. Along the way, you'll meet people who will listen to what you have to say.

### Capricorn



December 22nd to January 19th.

You are investing more time into creating an order in your life. You'll more likely want to be the leader during tasks.

### Aquarius



January 20th to February 18th.

You've got a really great opportunity to restart, and begin something new. Give yourself free time to make you think about what you really want.

### Pisces



February 19th to March 20th.

Be really kind to yourself and don't take big steps. Take smaller steps to let new people into your life. You'll find it easy to believe and trust yourself.

*Nika K.*

## Autumn Playlist (B)

Oh autumn, what a beautiful season you are. The leaves are changing colours, the weather is getting colder, and pumpkin spiced lattes are back.

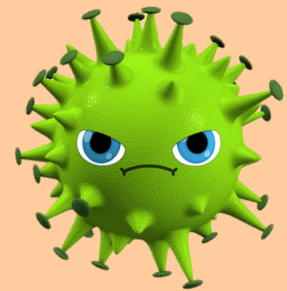
I've gathered 30 songs that can be played when you want to cozy up by a campfire, or take in the cool autumn air with a walk around the block. We are living in a crazy, stressful time right now, but sometimes it's good to just put your earbuds in and listen to a few songs...

1. So She Goes- Geskle
2. Back to autumn- Tall Heights
3. Big Black Car- Gregory Alan Isakov
4. Mountain sounds- John Vincent III
5. Closer- Nick Wilson
6. True- Katie Ruvane
7. Cherry-coloured funk- Cocteau Twins
8. Old Pine- Ben Howard
9. Waking up to another day- Ten Towers
10. Rest of our lives- The Light the Heat
11. Unrequited Love (& other cliches)- Breakup Shoes
12. From the Dust- Mountain Boy
13. Worth my While- Jacob Early
14. Watch- Billie Eilish
15. Morning- Tennis Club
16. All the Pretty Girls- KALEO
17. Autumn Town Leaves- Iron & Wine
18. Cut the Rope- Del Water Gap
19. Cardigan- Taylor Swift
20. This Old Car- lighthearted
21. Lonely for You- Georgia Greenie
22. When You're Around- From Indian Lakes
23. Rivers and Roads- The Head and the Heart
24. October Eyes- Alt Bloom
25. Falling Water- Peter Oren
26. This Could Be- Joel Anslet
27. Beige- Yoke Lore
28. Dancing in the Dark- Wilder Adkins, Molly Pareden
29. Somebody New- Sophia James
30. Tiger Striped Sky- Roo Panes



Chloe C.

1. Stick to reliable sources when looking for stats. and limit how often you look. Don't overwhelm yourself!
2. Write about how you feel or your day in general!  
Overheard, I know, but maybe it will help!
3. Catch up with friends you haven't talked to for awhile.
4. Breathing exercises!! Anxiety is the worst when it comes to a steady breathing rhythm.
5. Repeat positive affirmations to yourself. This can be super useful if you also had an off-day, it's okay to not be okay! You're still valid!
6. Go for a socially distanced walk with a friend, or by yourself! A little bit of exercise is always great for anxiety and the outdoors are beautiful when it's not -40 out!
7. Take a social media or phone break. Sometimes overwhelming news all the time is too stressful, try logging off for a few hours!
8. this Spend time with people that make you feel loved and safe!
9. Take some time for self-care! Watch a movie, play an instrument, paint your nails!
10. Most importantly, reach out for help if you need it! You're not alone in this, talk to your family or friends.



Brie V.

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