



*Dear SLA-MS Community,

Thank you for picking up the very second edition of The SLA-MS Inquirer. This is the second newspaper for Science Leadership Academy Middle School released and the last one released this year. In The SLA-MS Inquirer we cover many things. Some of the things that we cover are sports, opinions, and news pieces! We also have a crossword puzzle to entertain our community!

This is our final issue for the school year. But hope to be back next year! Look for information in the fall to join the paper if you are interested!

We hope this newspaper can keep our community informed!

From,
The Editorial Board of The SLA-MS Inquirer

Louisa Leary, Zephyr Brick, Audrey Urwin, Nicolo Montalto, Rose Guinn, Lucilia Wang, Mila Thomas, Logan Gantz, London Touhey, Bobby Daly, Sofia Rivera, and Naftali Rosso-Cohen

SLA-MS Building: Sustainably Created?

By: Nicky Montalto and Logan Gantz

SLA-MS has one of the newest buildings in the school district. You can see significant differences between SLA-MS and other, older school buildings. Our building was built with a lot of thought, but what were they thinking in terms of sustainability? Were parts of the building not meant to be built sustainably?

First, though, we want to be clear about what we mean when we say 'sustainability'. When we say this, we are talking about a component that was built in a particular way that can help sustain resources from nature and also how it sustains the people in and around the building.

Mr. Boyle, our school's principal, told us that our building was built with efficiency, at least for maintaining temperature and ventilation. In other schools with older buildings, the temperature may be very hot or very cold. The heated or cooled air can leak outside easily. That does not happen with our building. While air conditioning itself uses a lot of electricity and is not always considered the most sustainable feature within a building, because ours is very modern, it is working in as environmentally friendly a way as possible.

During the pandemic, SLA-MS had a virtual meeting that allowed students to discuss furniture and the design of classroom spaces. Several ideas were brought up in this meeting (and other more recent ones) about setting up learning spaces that can support students and teachers alike. For example, our furniture! In the hallways, we have furniture that is built to be comfortable, a great space to collaborate, and a great space to focus on work. The furniture is built with very comfortable materials. It is also arranged in ways that can support social learning by making sections of furniture and tables. As we all know, classrooms can get noisy, so we are sometimes sent out to use the furniture as it is quieter and easier to focus there. We know that the hallways are built sustainably, and so are the classrooms! The classrooms have desks with multiple seats, allowing for a collaborative room. We also have shelves for books and worksheets, plus coat hangers in case we need a place to put our bags or coats. While it is true this also uses some resources that could contribute to the worldwide resource consumption humans cause, it is great for making a safe and educational space for students and staff. We chose to spend more money to buy durable, long-lasting furniture rather than cheaper furniture that we need to keep replacing. But what about things built to be environmentally friendly?

Compared to other schools, our school yard is a green space. We can spot multiple trees, patches of grass, bushes, and other kinds of plants. These plants support birds and other wildlife. It is a place where we can play but also a place for animals that are forced to live in the harsh conditions of the city. This is important because creating green spaces across the city supports sustainability because it helps animals.

As you can see, a lot of components the designers thought about and added to our building helped promote sustainability for the school and the animal community. This allows people, plants, and animals to coexist. With all of this, we can make the building even more sustainable by doing a few things. One thing we can do is stop trampling the plants in our schoolyard, as that is where we support animals who are living in the city. Another thing we can do is support collaborative spaces by treating our furniture with respect so that it can last as long as possible. Don't cause any damage to the furniture and just allow the intentions of the building to support you.



How has SLA-MS changed through the eyes of teachers?

By: Lucy Wang and Rose Guinn

Some of us already know the changes of the SLA-MS building, I mean, we have switched buildings quite a few times. But, there are more than just changes in the building. There have been changes in the staff, in the classes, in the groups of kids coming to the school, and more! We interviewed Ms. I and Ms. Carter, who have been here since the first and second years, to learn more about this topic, through the eyes of teachers.

First off, we interviewed Ms. Carter. Ms. Carter moved to SLA-MS because she felt like at old school, students didn't come to her when they had questions or problems. But at SLA-MS, students want to come to her for support and help. Another school she taught at was really rough. Also, she didn't appreciate the politics there. Here at SLA-MS, Ms. Carter gets to choose what she teaches in her lessons and make it fun. But, at her old schools, she had to sneak it into the lesson, hoping she would not get in trouble. We asked Ms. Carter about the diversity here and she feels like in her first year teaching at SLA-MS, there were maybe 90 out of 100 students identified as African-American and the rest were white. Now, there are maybe 3-5 white kids in each classroom. Next, we asked about the interior of this building and the changes that have been made to it. First off, the first week of school would be all of the kids in the school making a project (not all together) so they could get a gist of how SLA-MS is going to be or a reminder on how it was the previous year. Secondly, all of the rooms used to be really small and it just so happened that Ms. Carter got the smallest room in the whole building! Ms. Carter, she is happy with most of the changes SLA-MS has had.

Ms. I is the Pathfinder math teacher in 208. We asked her a few questions about how SLA-MS has changed over its 7 years as a school. Our first question is, have the students gotten more or less diverse? Ms. I said, "Maybe a little less over the years. When we first started you know we had a lot of kids from Powell and others schools." She thinks that before we had lots of different kids from lots of different places, and now we have kids from the same schools. We also asked her why she stayed at this school. She said, "Well, I wouldn't be happy teaching anywhere else. I like my team. I like that we offer classes like pre-engineering. We have good opportunities for kids." We also asked Ms. I about how the classes have changed. She explained that our schedule was really different. Classes were all 80 minutes. Students would have two classes in the morning, like a long Humanities and long Rover. Then they'd have lunch and recess. Then they'd have two more classes, like a long STEM (math and science combined) and a long tech. "It was brutal! Isn't it cool how SLA-MS has changed?" When we asked her how she felt about the changes, she said, "I think we had really good intentions of making it a great school, but we made a lot of silly mistakes. The changes have made us a better school. We worked out the kinks."

In conclusion, SLA-MS has gone through so many different changes. Even in such a short time, it has still built such an amazing community and reputation in part because of our willingness to reflect and change.

How Are We Destroying Our Environment?

By: Mila Thomas and London Touhey

Our environment here, in Philadelphia, is being destroyed due to our actions! Our activities are causing there to be a lot more food waste, litter, and so much more. Simple activities we do daily are making a big impact on what Philadelphia looks like. In this article, we're going to be explaining some of the many ways Philadelphia is impacting our environment, and what you can do to change this.

One way Philadelphia is destroying our environment is by adding to bad air quality. For example, people ride cars daily, but the pollution it produces can actually harm your health and add to climate change. It's not only bad for the Earth, but is also bad for you! Places around the world, including Philadelphia, are destroying our environment in several ways. For example, people ride cars daily, but it can actually harm your health and add to climate change. It's not only bad for the Earth, but is also bad for you! This can also affect other living beings. Bad air quality can damage animals' respiratory (breathing) systems and cause neurological problems and skin irritations. Plants and crops also grow less when exposed to long-term air pollution, so this can cause less plants. A couple of things you could do to help stop this are by either riding your bike (taking the bike system Philly provides), carpooling, or taking the bus. By doing this, you can reduce the amount of bad air quality that goes into our atmosphere.

Another way Philadelphia is impacting our environment is by adding to food waste. Often, your "eye is bigger than your stomach", meaning that you get more food than you actually eat. This adds to climate change and landfills. Food waste can affect relationships between predators and prey for animals, plant reproduction patterns, and overfeed plants. It could also cause a population explosion and a decrease in population, which both would be bad. To stop this, you can only get the amount of food you KNOW you are going to eat. Many people get a lot of food and then just don't eat it, which is just a big waste! Doing actions like this could help a lot of animals and plants from going extinct or being overpopulated.

The last way we're going to mention is Philadelphia destroying our environment is by having polluted streets. Often, people litter and just drop some trash on the street just because there isn't a trash can in sight. This is really bad for our ecosystem and environment though. These dirty and polluted streets cause more deaths for wild animals and plants. To stop this you can pick up litter when you see it in streets, parks, or really anywhere. And, this doesn't apply to everyone but it does to a lot of people, you could stop littering. By doing this you could not only save some plants/animals, but also save Philadelphia from becoming covered in trash and waste.

In conclusion, we need to do something about our actions. And it's just small actions like these that are already making big impacts on our city. Just imagine how much damage things like power plants or oil spills are causing! So, the least we can do is start doing things like riding bikes a bit more or picking up litter/not littering. If we do this, we save our city, or even the planet, from becoming covered in pollution and litter. You can help a lot by just simply picking up some trash one day!

How has the SLA-MS curriculum ^{News} changed?

By: Zephyr Brick and Louisa Leary

SLA-MS is one of the many schools in the School District of Philadelphia. But there are some major things that set us apart from others. It's project based and the curriculum is all written by the teachers themselves. This means that the teachers get to decide how they teach, what they teach, and why.

A curriculum is a plan and the components of the projects, assignments, and material of what we are learning. By SLA-MS being able to have their teachers write their own curriculum, we're able to allow the teachers to teach in ways that they feel benefit their students.

SLA-MS was not always like it is today. We used to have a lot fewer classes, for much longer. Let's go through the schedule; For the core classes they had Humanities and STEM which was math and science combined. For the Curiosity classes, they had only one: Tech! Rover and advisory stayed the same. You would have Tech every day of the week except for Wednesday, where you would have Wellness instead. In the early days of SLA-MS, the curriculum looked a lot different too. For example, when the school first opened, they didn't have any books when this started, just 90 copies of Wonder. They made a project where they would order new books, write about them, talk to librarians and people in their communities to be able to get a view as to what kinds of books would fit and what they needed. This project has been reused multiple times in the past. Once these books arrived, they realized that they didn't have any bookshelves! This is where STEM came in, they learned about area, length, width, simple machines, and more, eventually building some of the bookshelves we have now! This just meant that the projects and course of lessons changed and was altered based on how to help the school and what was happening. This was able to happen and students were able to engage in the making of this because teachers could alter the curriculum and make it any way they see fit.

For Ms. I and Ms. Coff, they have more on their plate than just our school's curriculum. They also work on the entire school district's curriculum. But a curriculum is not just jotting down some interesting stuff to talk about but really thinking about what a good unit would look like to a student. A key part is that it has to be "It has to be interesting and meaningful to kids, not just worksheets/busy work. It has to be something that the kids enjoy and want to talk about and remember positively." Ms. I said. Ms. Coff, the Zephyr science teacher, said that many things in science should allow students to "...engage with real-world phenomena, ask questions, do investigations to answer their questions, and work collaboratively." Allowing students to have a creative, investing, process to science, allowing it to be something much more than a textbook or written information. Some of the stuff they write for the school district they also use at their classes here, with just a few tweaks. When writing Ms. I said that you have to ask yourself "how do you use this math in the future/world (application), and communicate with people in the building?" when coming up with a unit or topic of focus in math class. Ms. Coff has a very specific process she uses. She uses the 5E method (Engage, Explore, Explain, Elaborate, and Evaluate). This helps her decide the flow of her lessons and how they work. There should be variety; with students working together, alone, there should be reading, writing, and doing hands-on stuff.

As we've seen, the curriculum, not just for our classes but for the school, has changed in a majority of ways. A big thing is that, often, teachers may reuse projects and with everything they learn from their experiences they will be able to develop it for the future. For example in our unit where we voted on our topic for the rest of the year. This unit has changed throughout the years. Playing with what they need to focus more on, the different things they could do, and so much more. Reusing projects can be very helpful, this is because every time, they learn something new or see a different viewpoint. Ms Hilary stated that, "From a teacher's perspective, teaching is a really hard job and there are things that make it better or make it more fun. And I know, for me, working in a school where I get to keep creating things is so much fun. Rather than doing the same thing every year, back to back, that would get boring." SLA-MS is an amazing place for many reasons, our teachers and learning included.

New Monitors

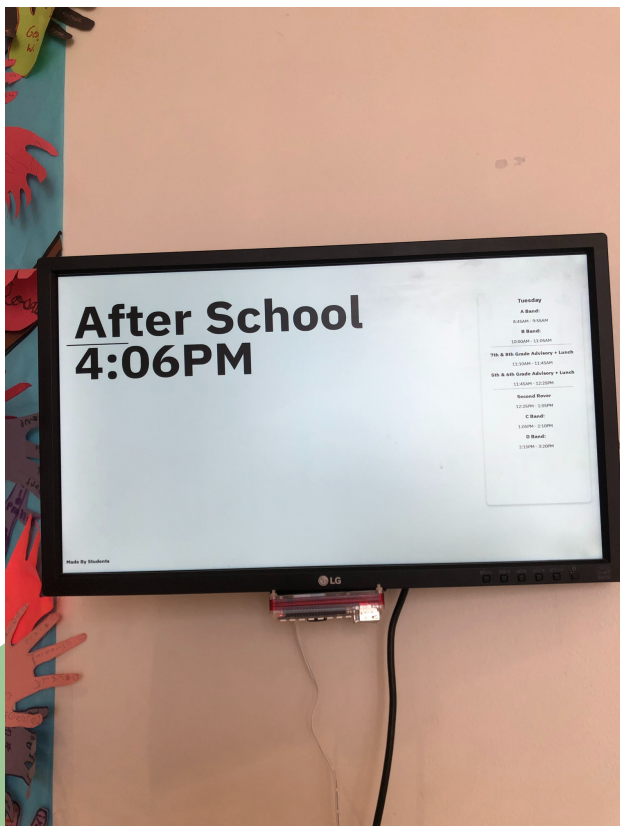
By: Audrey Urwin

Recently at SLA-MS, we installed monitors in the hallway to help students and teachers with the schedule and upcoming news. Getting them up and running was a lot of work!

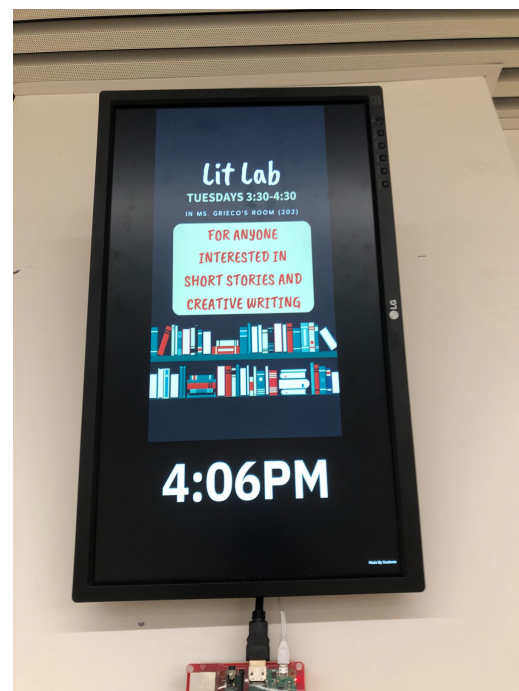
Mr Franklin, the SLA-MS Pre-Engineering Teacher, was the one who set up these monitors. Earlier this year, Mr. Franklin started projecting pictures of students working on the T.V. in the East Commons. After this students Nate Pupik-Dean and Quinn Hancock asked Mr. Franklin about using the monitors donated by Richard Fedele, a family friend of Mr. Franklin. They wanted the monitors to do similar things. Several students became involved. They identified the best locations for the three monitors. One is at the start of the hallway in East Commons, one is in the middle of the hallway by the water fountain, and the third is by the staircase in the West Commons. Mr Franklin states, "We have plans to put up at least 3 more before the year is over. They will show more student work, additional photos, and maybe the school calendars." He thinks that they attract more attention than posters hanging on the wall. He also thinks it's helpful for someone late to come in and be able to see what class band and what time it is. The monitors also show student work. This is important to the school because Presentation is one of the core values at SLA-MS.

Quinn, one of the students who helped set up the software for the monitors, said that he has a good understanding of the code and the technology used. He said that the monitors are planned to show upcoming school events, the schedule for the day, and more. Along with Quinn and Nate, Logan Tom, Joshua Serota, and Jonah Walden all helped get this project going.

Students agree that these monitors are a great addition to our school. As one student explained, when they're walking back to their class after going to the bathroom or getting some water, they can see what time it is, and sometimes if the band changes. The students and Mr. Franklin did a great job programming and setting up the monitors!



Photos from Audrey Urwin



Students Run Philly Style

By: Zephyr Brick and Logan Gantz

Who are we? Students!
What do we do? Run!
How do we do it? Philly Style!

Students Run Philly Style is a long-distance running program that's driven to change students' lives. Students Run Philly Style teaches students about endurance, resilience, determination, and persistence. The learning and process of these skills can carry onto school and are very important as life skills. Running requires dedication, courage, and effort, all things that allow you to push yourself, to reach extents you didn't know were possible.

Their Impact

Students Run Philly Style has helped over 1,000 students, reaching 51 schools. So, how do we know Students Run Philly Style is making a difference? What's their impact? Since Students Run Philly Style started, 41% of its students have increased their GPA. This shows that Students Run Philly Style can improve more than just a mental state of mind but a vision and will to pursue values, like grades. 50% of students have decreased their violent behavior and 80% of students increased or maintained high levels of self-control. These show a lot about how Students Run Philly Style can be an outlet for kids, allowing them to have a person to confide in, an environment whereas they can learn commitment and perseverance skills, and create bonds with teammates.

Our Team

For Science Leadership Academy Middle School, the Students Run Philly Style team has two wonderful coaches who are Ms. Londo and Ms. Duenas. We interviewed Ms. Londo about Students Run Philly Style and we asked her a few questions about why she joined and what makes the program special. Ms. Londo has a passion for running and loves Students Run Philly Style. Students Run is a program where you get to run a few miles on Tuesdays and Thursdays and Saturdays and just keep building up to running races like the broad street!

We interviewed a student in Students Run Philly Style to see what he thinks about it. When we asked Sahaaj what he likes about it, his response was "It is a good exercise to do". We asked what made him interested in joining Students Run Philly Style and he said that he wanted to do something new. He also said that once you start running it is hard but it gets easier as the time goes on. Sahaaj stated that Students Run Philly Style is also a great way to make friends and that Students Run Philly Style is a good way for him to keep on pushing himself to run. Sahaaj was asked if he would recommend it to other students and he said "I would recommend it because I think they would enjoy Students Run Philly Style a lot.

The following names listed are the kids in Students Run Philly Style: Alex, Josh, Saffie, Logan, Sahaaj, Ariel, George, Jordan, JJ, Scarlett and Bryce

Girls Basketball

By: Mila Thomas and Lucy Wang

The SLA-MS girl's basketball team made it into their league, unlike other SLA-MS basketball teams! They put their skills and mental game to the test and succeeded! But, to be honest, that makes us have a few questions. Who are these people? Who coached them to get this far? What else about this team made them get this far? We found all of this and more when we interviewed their coach, Mr. G, and two of the players: Asiya Lowrey, and Amodjonae Mitchell. We asked them a few questions and honestly, they seem like they have had a great season and a great team!

First, we interviewed the coach of the team, Mr. G, and found out a lot more about the team! He told us about how he thought it was really important to have a girl's basketball team here at SLA-MS, how it develops teamwork and connects others that don't share classes, like sixth and eighth graders. He also told us how he had a lot of fun coaching this team and he really liked watching the girls practice and seeing them compete against other girls. Mr. G has coached other middle schools but specifically felt like this team has a lot of pride in presenting themselves to other schools. He mentioned that if he could change anything, he would probably change for the Philly public to have girls' basketball playoffs.

Next, we interviewed two girls who play on the team, Asiya and Amodjonae. We asked them six questions and got pleasing answers! First was Amodjonae. She plays point guard and power forward and really appreciates her teammates and her coach. When we asked Amodjonae what she liked about playing basketball on this team, she gave three specific examples. She appreciates how they all collaborate well, which is good because as you all know, that is one of our core values at SLA-MS. The second thing is she feels she gets along well with all of her teammates, and the last thing is she appreciates how her team cheers each other on a lot! Moving on, we interviewed one more player, Asiya, who plays positions all around, but mainly block. She likes her teammates and her coach and she thinks her team collaborates girls really well. Also, she thinks her team never gives up. For example, Asiya says, "We had our first loss and recovered from it." After that loss, they won the last three games showing how they learn from their losses, and move on without turning back. Even though the girls won 19 games and lost 1, Asiya still feels like they should do even better next season!!



Picture of SLA-MS basketball team from SLA-MS twitter

During the season, the team won nineteen games, with only one loss. They were undefeated in the public league division. Sadly though, they lost in the semifinals of the charter league by one point. This was the most wins the team has ever had! They had an amazing season this year, and hopefully, even better ones to come!

In conclusion, the girl's basketball team of 2022-2023 went almost undefeated. They were led by an awesome coach, and just-as-awesome players. From now on... maybe next year... maybe after reading this... you might think about showing up to one of their games and supporting your school's team? Just a thing to think about!



School for Good and Evil:

Movie vs. Book

By: Mila Thomas and Rose Guinn

When you see the movie and the book version of the School for Good and Evil, you'll notice a bunch of differences. In the movie, it starts with two characters named Sophie and Agatha in a little town called Gavaldon. Sophie finds out about the school for good and evil through books, and finds out how to get there. But, once Sophie and Agatha reach the School for Good and Evil, they find out it's not exactly what they expected. Agatha just wants to go home, while Sophie insists on staying but switching schools. It's only a little until the book and the book and movie start to go two separate ways. The two go on a big adventure, and end up as totally different stories.

The School for Good and Evil book series consists of six books. The first book basically follows the lines of the movie, but there are five other books that give you a totally different story, whereas the first book is just rising suspense. I don't really like the organization of the story, though. If the whole series were just the 4th, 5th, and 6th books, I would be really happy. The first book is okay, but the 2nd and 3rd books are not really needed. The series could also possibly be the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd books, too. It's just that the first book has an ending, while there are still other books. Then, in the second book, the authors want to take back their ending. In the third book, they want to take back their ending that they made in the 2nd book, and then, in the 4th book, they don't like their ending. But in the 4th book you realize there is someone else causing trouble in fairyland. This causes the whole series to take a turn and makes it totally different from the rest of the series.

The School for Good and Evil movie is very different from the books. The baseline from the movie is off the first book, but mixes a bunch of scenes from other books into it. It starts the same, but then it starts to mix and change up a bunch of scenes from the book that are really important for the story to make sense. Also, a major character from the story, Rafal, isn't actually introduced until later in the book series, like the 3rd and 4th books. The movie includes details from the 2nd and 3rd books, even though it's telling the story of the 1st book, and also includes details that I later found out were from the prequel. Pretty much, this is a completely different story! It mixes up scenes from all of the books and uses them to create a new story, including almost all of the books in it.

So, yeah, the book and the movie are pretty different. But which one should you read or watch? Which one tells the story better? We'll be talking about that next. I think that you should read the book first. I think this because, well, the book is the reason for the movie. Shouldn't you read the baseline first? Also, the books provide such a heartwrenching story, which the movie just couldn't produce in 1 or 2 hours. Even Mila agreed! (She hasn't even read the book) Even for people who don't think reading is the best, at least read the first book before the movie.

In conclusion, the movie and book are both good, but they are totally different stories! The book is more detailed than the movie and provides more information on the actual story, but let's be honest, it is probably easier to watch a movie than read a book series. I would honestly do both, read the books and watch the movie! There are definitely a lot of differences between the two, but they're both really intriguing and interesting stories. There are also a lot of different opinions on which one's better, and it is really interesting to compare all thoughts! We definitely recommend this series/movie and hope you give some thought to reading or watching this next time you need a book to read/movie to watch!



[Book Photo Link Address](#)



[Movie Photo Link Address](#)

Stop Destroying the Oceans!

By: Bobby Daly

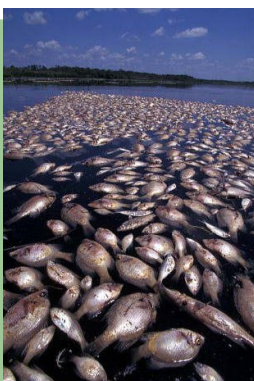
Humans are destroying the ocean and things are not looking good for the environment. For the past several decades and maybe even centuries, people have been littering, making landfills, and doing things that are killing the ocean's fragile ecosystem. The ocean is home to many unique species of fish, mammals, and plants. Because of the affects of humans, these fragile ecosystems have become unbalanced as some species are now endangered while others are growing at an alarmingly high rate. From littering to catastrophic events like oil spills we are slowly killing the ocean and its inhabitants. We must understand the impact humans are having on the ocean.

The ocean is crucially important. The ocean gives us oxygen. Most of our oxygen comes from the ocean. The ocean also helps build our economy. The oceans attract tourists, it supports international shipping, and it's where fishermen make their living. The ocean regulates our climates and feeds us. The ocean is very important to us and without it, and the animals and plants living in it, we as humans could not survive.

We know that our ocean is being destroyed but what is destroying it and how? Well, the most common way of hurting the ocean is littering. When people litter it could hurt the flora and fauna in the area. This could be the litter damaging the sea plants or suffocating the sea animals. Littering comes in many different forms beyond just dropping a single piece of trash. Landfills are where trash is dumped after you throw it away and most of it ends up in the ocean. Trash islands are mountains of garbage and litter that form islands in the ocean. Oil spills are basically when oil is released into the ocean and this is really bad. The oil will go into the ocean and stick to the birds, reefs, and more as it contaminates the water killing tens of thousands of fish. Oil spills also cause the ability for an ocean fire. This is when the oil on the surface catches fire and it also kills a lot of animals. Of course, this is just the tip of the iceberg in littering events that harm the ocean but they are some of the worst.

There are many cool and interesting fish that inhabit the ocean but over and underpopulation is a big problem. Oceans are a delicate balancing act. We need the correct numbers of each species in the ocean in order to keep the food web working and to keep the different ecosystems healthy through biodiversity. When we pollute the oceans, this kills off some species which will in turn mean that the predators that eat that species will become underpopulated and the prey that are eaten by that species will become overpopulated. This ruins that balance and does long term damage to the ocean.

The ocean is a very important place that holds many environments that are home to all sorts of plants and animals. The ocean gives many things like water, air, food, and money. If we didn't have an ocean we would all be dead because nothing would grow so livestock would die and we would lose plant foods and meat foods, this could lead to an extreme mass extension (or cannibalism). In conclusion, the ocean and its inhabitants are very important to human life.



<https://www.prwatch.org/news/2010/07/9252/environmental-health-effects-oil-dispersants-mystery-bp-and-government>



<https://www.forbes.com/sites/scottsnowden/2019/05/30/300-mile-swim-through-the-great-pacific-garbage-patch-will-collect-data-on-plastic-pollution/>

Sharks: Friends not Foe

By: Nicky Montalto

In the year 2022, 57 unprovoked shark bites took place worldwide (according to [Yearly Worldwide Shark Attack Summary](#)). This added to other kinds of attacks from sharks is an intimidating number, totaling up to 108 shark attacks. Sharks are animals capable of causing great harm to humans, and other animals for that matter. If there are sea monsters, sharks would probably be the ones. Or would they?

In general, sharks are one of the main apex predators of the ocean, meaning they are at the top of the food chain and aren't eaten by many other organisms. While some sharks eat other sharks or orcas might eat sharks, for the most part, sharks don't get hunted. This would explain why sharks feel safe to attack so many animals in the ocean. But why do they attack humans?

Sharks could eat us if they wanted to, but historically they haven't targeted us. 108 shark attacks may seem like a lot, but remember that just over half of those attacks were provoked. This means someone must have upset the shark, maybe even intentionally irritating it. The only natural reaction to this kind of behavior is defending yourself, which already explains half of those shark attacks. People might think the other half of the attacks are because sharks just want to hurt humans. This isn't exactly true. When people go to the beach to swim, they may be going into the water with shiny swimsuits. These swimsuits are easy to be mistaken for the scales of a shiny, tempting fish. The shark notices this and takes this opportunity to get the meal they've spent ages looking for when, oops. It has bitten the wrong thing. They usually spit you out when they do this. It isn't just shimmery bathing suits, but also surfboards and boogie boards. Sharks from below think they are seals, so they attack by instinct.

Sharks also do these attacks to test how things taste. Sometimes they nibble on boats and humans, then realize they should never bite them again. These attacks are usually due to the curious and quick decisions the shark makes that help them survive. These attacks are not something everyone will experience. According to [Lawnmowers and Other Things Likelier to Kill You Than a Shark | PETA](#), you have a 1 in 3.7 million chance of getting attacked and an even lower chance of getting killed. But why shouldn't we get rid of all sharks if they endanger us, even if shark attacks are rare?



Image credit

Sharks, as stated before, are apex predators. An apex predator is an animal that generally lies at the top of the food chain. Because of this, sharks are important in ecosystems. But you still may be wondering, why? Sharks wouldn't be easily replaced. Sharks eat fish and aquatic mammals that would otherwise be at the top of the food chain. Smaller fish that eat algae and other plant material are eaten by bigger fish. The fish get bigger until they are sharks. Removing this apex predator would cause too many of the smaller fish to exist and eat too much algae. The small fish then will have trouble surviving because of the damage done to their food supply. After this, bigger fish will not be able to have any of those fish to eat. It causes similar ripples up the food chain. Unlike a healthy ecosystem, this would not just bounce back to an intact ecosystem without sharks, much of it would be significantly, even permanently, damaged. Removing sharks from our oceans would kill them.

Sharks don't just help our planet by playing a role in the food web, but their appearance and anatomy can help scientists of all kinds. Their presence is an indicator of a healthy coral reef. Their uniquely built bodies made up of cartilage instead of bones, oily livers and more can help us learn more about other animals and has even allowed us to use their bodies to aid others. However, using their bodies is a major cause of their decline.

Sharks are killed for various reasons. Some cultures eat their fins, which isn't acquired in a friendly manner. People have been known to fish sharks out of their habitats and cut their fins off alive. They then bleed into the water to die slowly. If this wasn't enough, they are killed for other things too. They are shot for sport, get tangled in nets, and also suffer the impact of climate change and global warming. Because of this, several shark species are endangered. The absence of sharks in our oceans causes devastating harm, as explained above.

So because of this, never see a shark as your enemy. Sharks are beneficial and rarely attack. Sharks also have much more to fear from us, than we have to fear them. Respect life in the ocean and look at sharks, not as something dangerous, but as something purposeful.

Book Review: Keeper of the Lost Cities

By: Rose Guinn

I know, usually, people do a review of the first book in the series. The first book is my second favorite book, because the characters in it are so innocent and happy, but Book 9 is definitely my favorite. There is a love triangle going on throughout the entire book, and Book 9 is where it peaks. Book 9 is called Stellarlune, which relates to something in the book (which is definitely a spoiler so I will not put it) and represents something they find out about one of the character's background.

The series itself is about a character named Sophie Foster. In the beginning, she lives in the human world, but there is something separating her from everyone else: She has the power of telepathy. This telepathy gives her headaches and tells her people's inner thoughts about her. She has to hear people think she's weird and never talks. She's also constantly in pain from all the thoughts barging in on her head. Yeah, the main character has a pretty depressing life. That is, until a good-looking boy named Fitz swoops in and takes her to the Elvin world. Sophie has a crush on Fitz for basically the whole series, but there are also two other boys that have a crush on her named Dex and Keefe. Anyway, Fitz tells Sophie that she is actually an elf, and she is taken from her home to a home in the Elvin world.

The elves see their world as a perfect utopia compared to the humans. They don't judge you on money (you get 5 million at birth), they don't judge you on skin color, they don't judge you on gender. But some elves have special abilities (like Sophie's telepathy), and whether or not you have a special ability decides your education, occupation, and social status. For example, if you're Talented, you get bullied and don't have many friends. Also, the Council, which is basically the Government, gets to decide who you can date, marry, and have children with. You get a list of people that you can marry, and if you decide to marry someone else, you and your future children will be discredited forever. It's called a "bad match". With Sophie growing up a human and all, it gives her a new perspective. So she sees these problems that no one else sees, which leads her to find different rebel groups... and the series goes from there.

So, I liked Book 9 the best because the love triangle really peaks. Of course it would be a TOTAL SPOILER if I told you what happened, so I won't talk about it. Overall, the book is really beautifully written, and will keep you turning pages until your parents start making up random excuses for you to do something other than read. Like, I swear when I read it, my parents had to rip me apart from the book. There is just so much exciting build-up to the climax. There are parts where it gets really dark, and it seems so real, I wonder if the writer experienced it herself. Being able to make the reader feel so deeply what the character is feeling takes a lot of skill.

Maybe you won't read this series because all the books are, like, 4 inches thick, or you just don't like reading, or this isn't the type of book you're in to. All of those and others are good reasons. But if you think you might like it, I really, really, really, really, REALLY, deeply recommend this series (and of course the 9th book). Read it!

T.V Show Review: Owl House

By: London Touhey

“Owl House” is a magical world filled with monsters. The show was created by Dana Terrace for the Disney Channel and it aired on January 10, 2020. This show is sadly no longer running because Disney said it “did not fit their brand.” In season 1 of “Owl House” a human girl, named Luz (L-oo-Z), discovers a world with witchcraft that is called the “Boiling Isles.” Luz meets a witch named Eda (Ea-D-Ah) who becomes her mentor. In season 2 of “Owl House” all the main characters try to get to the human world and stop the end of days. In season 3 of “Owl House” they return to the Boiling Isles and stop the main villain in an action packed battle. This show has a great backstory for its characters. For example, Hunter is one of the main characters who ends up being a clone of the main villain’s brother. Another example is Eda because she was cursed and the show tells us all about that.

This show includes positive representation of the LGBTQ+ community. For example, Luz and Amity are hinted at becoming a same sex couple starting in Season 1 Episode 16 when Amity drops her Grom (a version of Prom) note, indicating that she wants to go with Luz. In another episode we find out that Eda has a friend who is trans. It’s great to see a show targeted at elementary age kids showing support for the LGBTQ+ community. One thing I like about this show is its sense of morality. Specifically, many of the characters are very kind-hearted. When Luz and Amity finally become a couple it is because Hooty, another main character, wanted to help Luz stop being distracted by her feeling for Amity. Overall the moral of the show is that even if you are an outcast you can find your people. Another great thing about this show is the action. For example, in season 1 episode 19 Eda goes to save Luce from one of the main characters Lilith. Lilith had captured Luz to bring Eda to the Emperor’s Castle in order to free Eda of her curse.

I also enjoy the characters that Dana created because of the background she slowly builds. In season 2 episode 2 starts us off with some big drama. Luz, Willow and Gus are expelled from Hexside because Amity’s parents believe they are a bad influence on her. Amity’s parents bribe Principal Bump by giving the school money. In order to get back into school Luz strikes a deal with the Amity’s mom saying she will demonstrate how their weapons work to investors and buyers. One of the things I enjoy about the characters is when she changes up the looks of a character for one or two episodes. For example, Season 2 Episode 18 when they take a deep dive into Gus’s backstory (He is one of the main characters). They give Gus one blue eye for half an episode (Gus normally has brown eyes). There are also some episodes that aren’t that great like Season 1 Episode 2. This episode just shows us that you can’t trust strangers and feels like Disney took control. Another would be Season 1 Episode 8. This episode feels like Disney told them they needed more episodes because they never mention what happened in the episode in any other episode.

Over all, we need to bring back Owl House unedited. This is because it is a great way to show being a part of the LGBTQ+ community is ok. Another reason is it also shows being different and an outcast is also ok. One final reason this needs to be brought back is that you should be proud of your race. I know this because Luz is a hispanic girl and doesn't hide it. Disney, bring back Owl House!



https://www.google.com/search?q=owl+house&rlz=1C5CHFA_enUS1044US1045



<https://d23.com/the-owl-houses-final-three-specials/>

Movie Review : Avatar, Way of the Water

By: Naftali Rosso-Cohen

James Cameron recently released his new movie Avatar: The Way of Water. This new movie is a sequel to the original Avatar, released in 2009. If you have not watched the first film or the second I would recommend watching at least one of them before reading this, as this review does include some spoilers. The new film is set 10 years after the events in the first film. In this new movie, James Cameron continues the story through a new generation of characters.

Jake Sully starts a family with Ney'tiri. With their four children, they live peacefully for many years. But then, the humans actually return to Pandora, somehow led once again by Colonel Miles Quaritch, who is now revived as an Avatar. The Colonel has one big purpose: to find Jake Sully and get revenge. After a series of troubling incidents relating to his children, Sully realizes that he is being hunted once again by the evil Colonel. He decides to flee to tropical islands, far away from the forest, and figures the Colonel will not find him there. However, when the Colonel starts searching for him in the islands, and his children and nearby tribes are in danger, Sully decides to battle the Colonel and his army to get his children back and to protect the rest of the natives. Jake Sully fights to follow the rule that he formed: Sullies stick together.

At the start of the movie I felt very disoriented. I understood that Sully had started a family, but was confused as to how the humans revived the evil Colonel. At the end of the previous film, Sully's wife, Ney'tiri, killed the Colonel, clearly. He was shot in the heart twice with gigantic arrows. It can be good to have your audience in a sense of disbelief at the start of a movie, but that loose end was not tied up very well. The technology that the humans have can clearly give already living people an Avatar, but they didn't actually show how the humans took the DNA of the dead body, and somehow transformed that to create a whole separate life form. It didn't really show how that works.

Early in my viewing I was stunned by the visuals of the sea, ocean, and animals. The colors and animation really stood out. But, as time went on, it did get a little boring. While it was interesting to learn about the new tribe that lived on the island and so beautifully captured by these visuals, it was extremely slow and diluted with long, still shots of the water. This, I feel, created an awe-inspiring aesthetic, but it did not do a lot for the story. Even when they did show the children of the tribe learning to ride the sea creatures, it was very much like scenes from the previous movie, making it predictable and boring.



Things really get exciting when the Colonel discovers that Sully fled to the islands. In the process of searching for Sully, the Colonel burns down many people's homes. The acting was amazing here, and I really felt the sadness and anger that the natives were feeling while watching. Then, while hunting down whales, the humans find Sully's son and the Chief's kids as well. The battle started, and I found myself at the peak of excitement. Two types of Navi people teamed up. The writers really did a great job of building anticipation when the Colonel said that if Sully wanted his kids back, he had to come out alone. Sully was about to give in, but then the huge whale that the humans were hunting burst out of the water and absolutely destroyed the tanks and machine guns. I loved this part. It showed one of Sully's kid's allies coming in clutch. I was glad they actually used some of what they developed in the middle of the movie in this battle.

I think that the best part of the movie was when the reef people and Jake Sully teamed up, got help from a giant sea creature, and fought the Colonel. The art was great, and the acting was top notch through the whole cast for this part of the movie. I think that the worst part of the movie were the in-between periods where we were just looking at the ocean. Don't get me wrong, the colors were nice, but they just showed that for way too long. It made me lose interest a little and I wanted to know what happened next with Sully, or learn more about the kid's background stories. That was my least favorite part of the movie.

Overall, not a bad movie. It had strong acting, amazing effects through CGI, and a particularly epic last battle. I think the run time was a bit too long for the story that was being told. Some parts got a little slow and boring. However, the middle part of the movie aside, I would recommend this movie to people who liked the previous one. Family. Fear. Travel. Fresh starts, freshwaters, brave children, a worried father, and finally, a battle. These are all core elements that make Avatar: The Way of Water an exciting and captivating movie.

Album Review - *Midnights* Reviews

By: Rose Guinn and Lucy Wang

The *Midnights* album by Taylor Swift is amazing! It was released on October 21, 2022. The album consists of 13 songs (not including the *Midnights 3am* edition). These songs are *Lavender Haze*, *Maroon*, *Anti-Hero*, *Snow on the Beach*, *You're On Your Own, Kid*, *Midnight Rain*, *Question...?*, *Vigilante Sh*t*, *Bejeweled*, *Labyrinth*, *Karma*, *Sweet Nothing*, and *Mastermind*. Together, these songs tell the stories of 13 different sleepless nights in Taylor's life.

This album is different from others that she wrote for a few reasons. Jumping right into it, the first thing that sets this album apart from her less recent albums is it is pop, such as the song "Karma" which has a big backbeat and a pop-tune. The last two albums she made and released were *Evermore* and *Folklore* which were folk. Also, this album's aesthetic was more 1970s inspired, and none of her other albums are. One song that is 70's inspired is *Anti-Hero*. Specifically, in the music video the clothes that she wears and the style of the home she's in are both very reminiscent of the styles from that time. The last thing that makes this album so unique, so special, is how this album leans into a dreamy, mystical vibe. She has songs called things like, 'Lavender Haze'. The music video is shot under dim lighting with lots of swirling colors.

There are a few songs that really are the hits of the album: *Anti-Hero*, *Lavender Haze*, and *Snow on the Beach*. In a 24 hour period, *Anti-Hero* was streamed 17.4 million times, *Lavender Haze* was streamed 16.4 million times, and *Snow on the Beach* was streamed 15 million times. Each of them have a beautiful melody, giving synthy and mystical vibes. *Anti-Hero* is about how whether you are famous or just a normal person, everyone has insecurities and everyone has dark points in their life. Taylor herself said, "I don't think I've delved this far into my insecurities in this detail before." *Lavender Haze* is about a feeling of love. Taylor Swift says 'Lavender Haze' was "a common phrase that was used in the '50s where they would just describe being in love." *Snow on the Beach* include the lyrics: And it's like snow at the beach, weird, but f***ing beautiful, flying in a dream tars by the pocketful, you wanting me, tonight feels impossible but it's coming down no sound, it's all around. These lines, according to Taylor Swift, are about 'the strange moment when everything lines up in a relationship and you question whether it's a dream or real life.'

Our favorite songs are *Midnight Rain* (Rose) and *Vigilante S**** (Lucy). *Midnight Rain* is rumored to be about Tom Hiddamaleston He dated Taylor Swift for 3 months in 2016. *Midnight Rain* is about how her ex-boyfriend was a little too nice. It says, "It came like a postcard/ Picture perfect, shiny family/ Holiday, peppermint candy/ But for him it's every day" and "I broke his heart 'cause he was nice/ 'Cause he was sunshine/ I was midnight rain". *Vigilante S**** is about Scooter Braun. Some fans think that it is him because when she states, "She needed cold hard proof, so I gave her some" they think they are talking about how Braun was married to Yael Cohen-Braun and apparently, "Taylor alleges giving her enemy's wife evidence of an affair, which ultimately leads to a divorce." Next, in her song, Taylor sings, "Now she gets the house, gets the kids, gets the pride" she may be talking about how Braun now has to pay \$60,000 a month to Yael because she is raising their three children.

In conclusion, the *Midnights* album by Taylor Swift is a really great album because it finds its own unique way to the top. Taylor Swift has delved into so many different topics, tones, and genres of music. Every single one has been a hit. It's unbelievable that Taylor Swift has written over 200 songs in her career! Between 10 albums and special editions of each one, her creativity has no end.

Our Advice for Your Questions

By: Zephyr Brick and Robert Daly (Bobby)

Q: "I want to go to two different clubs but they are at the same time i dont want to do one week this club one week that though."

Q (rephrase): "I want to go to two different clubs, unfortunately, they take place at the same time. I do not want to alternate from doing one club one week to the next."

A: Your best bet would be to choose between the two. Of course, if you are really passionate about both of them, talk to the teachers to see if they could work something out. Whether it's attending one and making up for the other another time during the week or attending half of each. If neither of these work, just ask if the clubs will be available next year and decide which you want to do this year and which you want to do next year. Hope this helped!

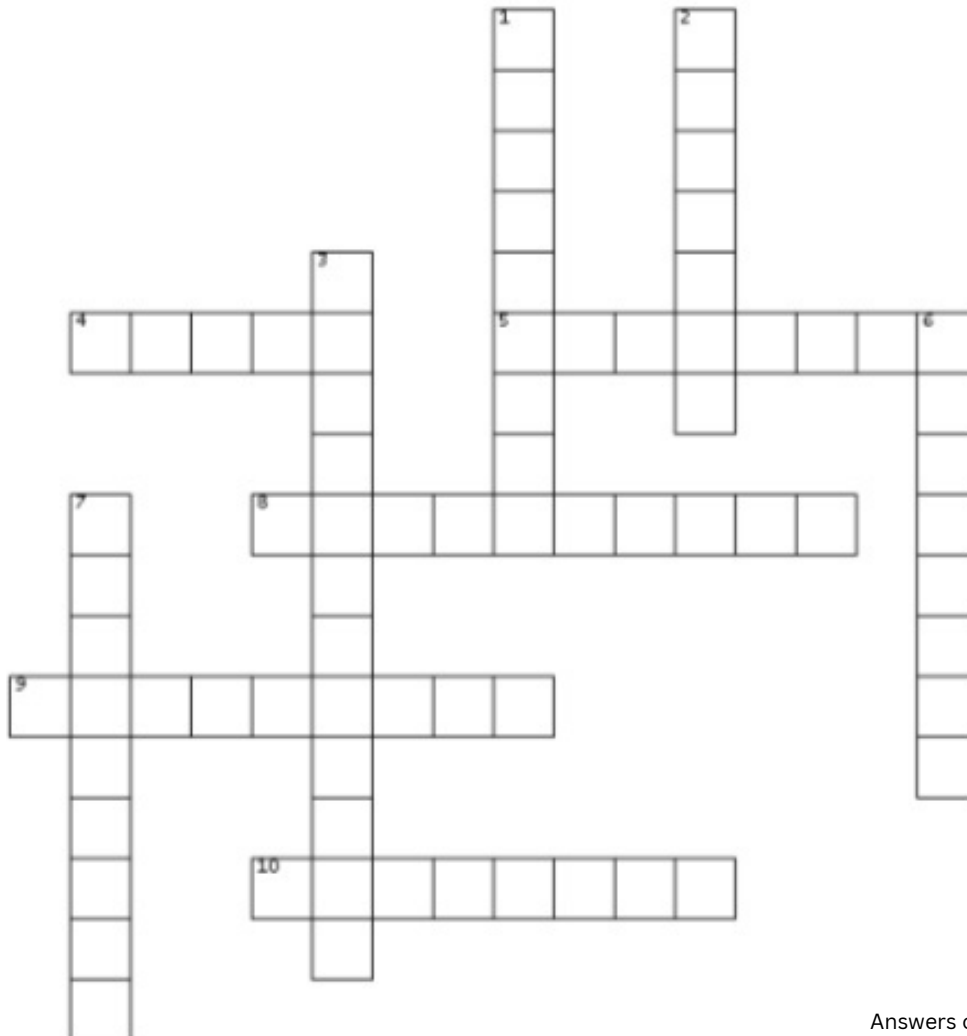
Crossword

ACROSS

- The class where we do projects and read books
- The amazing people that teach us what we know
- The last core value
- What you found this crossword in
- When you do not finish work at school so you do it at home

DOWN

- What sits in the middle of the hallway in this school
- What the 'S' stands for in SLA-MS
- When you put all you learned in one thing and show it off for a good grade
- What we call the kids in this school
- When there are many different people; different races, genders, backgrounds

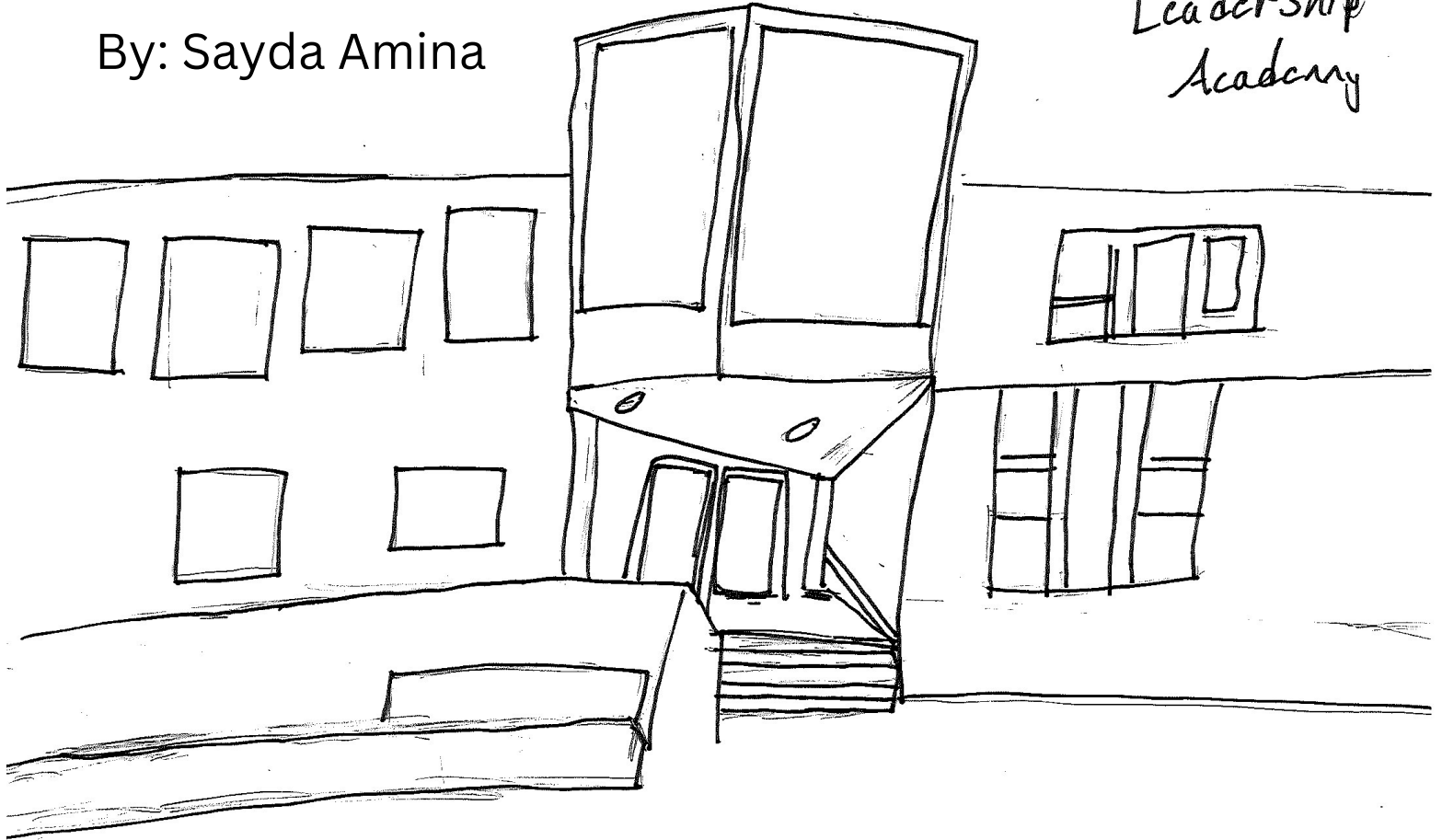


Answers can be found on the last page (pg. 19)

Art Submissions

By: Sayda Amina

Science
Leadership
Academy

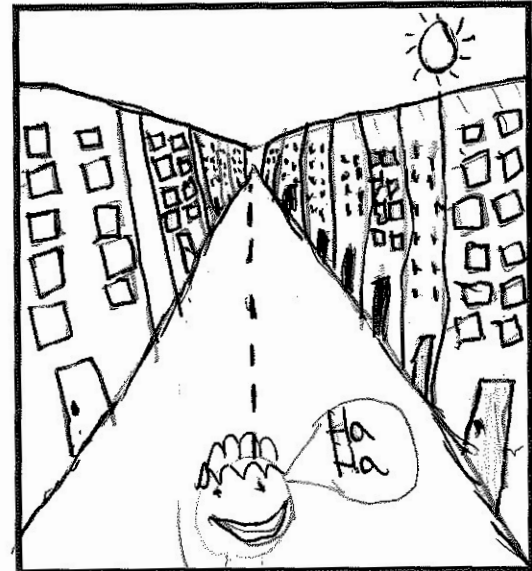
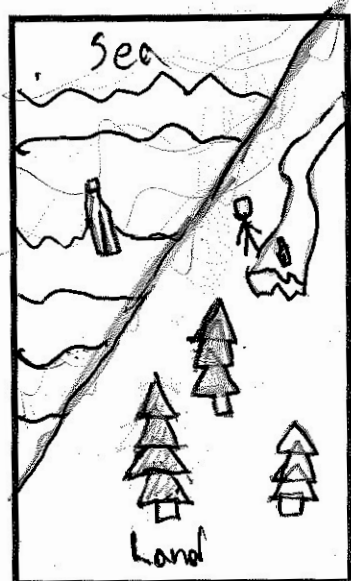
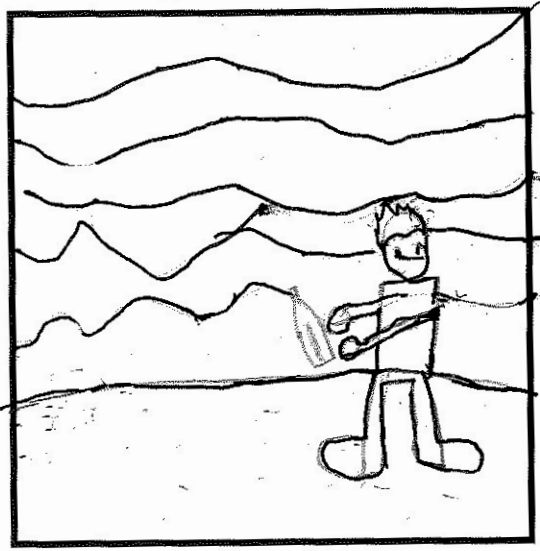
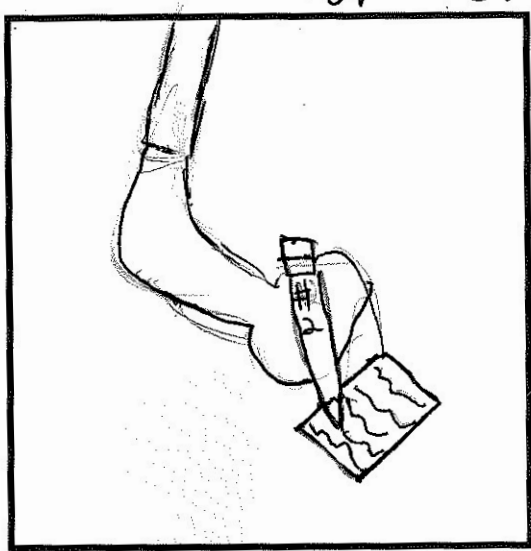


By: Elliott Zelinger

Comics

By: London Touhey

Lier lost At sea



Crossword - Answers

