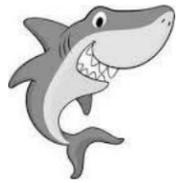




# THE TAG TIMES



## NATIONAL NEWS

### Transgender Bathrooms

By Angel and Hasthika

#### Who are we talking about?

Do you know what "transgender" means? Well, you might think you know what it is, but it goes a little deeper than that. So you have a little better insight in what the next part of the article is actually trying to say, we wanted a definition that didn't just come from Google. Therefore, we decided to go to a health teacher at TAG for information. You might know her as your Physical Education teacher... Ms. Smith!

Ms. Smith said that "gender" works on a spectrum. People identify and express themselves in many different ways. This idea is also applied to transgender individuals, but the basic concept works like this: A person is born and assigned a particular "sex" - either male or female. Then, as they start to get a sense of themselves, they internally identify as a gender and in this case that might mean the opposite sex/gender. They may express that internal feeling through the clothes they wear, or the words and gestures they use. But, do not get that mixed-up with a sexual orientation. Sexual orientation is the gender you are attracted to whether or not you identify as being heterosexual, homosexual, or bisexual.

#### Why are we talking about it?

The Trump administration is ending the protection that was given by former president Barack Obama who said that all students can use the bathrooms matching the gender they currently identify with - not necessarily the one they were assigned at birth. Due to President Trump's order, however, transgender people will lose this protection or support from the federal government to be able to use the bathroom of their choice. For example, the person who was born as male but identifies as female, cannot use the girls bathroom. This will not affect public schools immediately. The piece put in place by the Obama administration is only blocked temporarily.

A major issue that is affecting many transgender people is that they don't feel safe. 150,000 Americans between the ages of 13-17 identify as transgender. According to the study by the UCLA school of law. This is resulting in many attempts in suicide and avoiding school. This is the result Donald Trump's executive decision lifting the transgender bathrooms.

- **75.1% of transgender students feel unsafe at school because of their gender expression.**
- **63% of transgender students reported not using bathrooms**
- **41% of transgender or gender non-conforming people have attempted suicide**

For more information visit:  
<https://gsanetwork.org/about-us>

## HOW TO

### How To: Fool Your Friends

By Alexangeliz and Mohammed

*Since April Fools' Day is so close, we decided to show you some cool pranks that you can pull on your friends and family.*

1. Change some common words on autocorrect on someone's phone. You can change words like 'the' with, fake words or funny words from the top of your head.
2. The classic, put clear nail polish on soap, trick. A joke that will never get old, now matter how hard you try.
3. Put some saran wrap on the shower head. When someone tries turning on the water, nothing will come out, making you an epic troll.
4. Switch the mayonnaise with vanilla pudding. Make someone a sandwich or something, and put in the "mayo".
5. Dip a real egg into some melted chocolate so it looks like a chocolate egg. When they bite into it, it's a raw egg.
6. Put a piece of black tape on top of a remote control so they don't see the tape, and the tape won't allow the controller change the channel, or turn on/off the TV
7. Cover an onion and give it to your friend but make sure to put a stick on the onion and pretend the onion is a candy apple.
8. Switch deodorant with cream cheese and watch what happens!
9. Carefully cut out a small bottom piece of a Reeses and put wasabi or another spicy condiment inside. Then put the small piece back and give it to someone you know.
10. Find something they hate and find a way to just have it appear repeatedly during the day (like spiders, or a food they hate).



### How To: Pass Mr. Gee's Class

By Carina and Alondra

Mr. Gee is a 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade social studies teacher. Personally we believe that Mr. Gee has a lot of ways to teach and can sometimes make learning fun. Passing his class can be fairly easy as long as you are dedicated to learn and work in his class

**The Main Factors In Passing His Class:** The main factors in passing his class are to complete your homework and classwork, to have 100% effort everyday in class, and to stay after for extra help when you need to.

**Expectations On Projects:** In his class, there are many projects. In order for you to pass on your projects you need to follow his expectations.

His expectations on projects are to have a high quality project which means neat and have good facts, you have to complete the task that is given, ask for help when you need it, and use your time wisely.

**Qualities In Students:** Mr. Gee likes to see students that are good citizens in and out of school, students that are willing to take risks, students that have effort and quality, students that always do their best, students that ask questions, and students that participate.

**Pet Peeves:** Mr. Gee has some pet peeves. One of his pet peeves is students making excuses all the time when they didn't do what you had to do. Another of his pet peeves is when you disrupt other students learning when you are talking to them while they are trying to do their work. His last pet peeve is when students come to his class unprepared.

What Percent Counts As Your Grades:



Homework: 10%

Classwork: 20%

Quizzes: 30%

Tests/Projects: 40%

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

### New Students at TAG This Year

By Carina and Alondra

#### Odalys Batista

Odalys is an 8<sup>th</sup> grader. She is 15. She went to Agawam Jr High School. Her favorite subject is Science. She does not have a favorite movie and her favorite part of TAG is the students and staff.

#### Angel Anglada

Angel is a 7<sup>th</sup> grader. He is 13 years old. He came from Kealey. His favorite subject in school is Math. He doesn't have a favorite movie because he likes any movie. And he doesn't have a favorite part in TAG because he says that he likes it all.

#### Michael Amaro

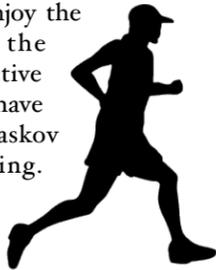
Michel is a 6<sup>th</sup> grader. He is 12 years old. He went to Teague Middle School in Florida. His favorite subject is Math and his favorite movies are Fast and Furious (all of them). His favorite part of TAG are his new friends which are Sergio O., Jamal D. and Ruben D. His favorite sport is basketball.

# CLUBS

## Running Club

By Matthew C.

The Running Club is an after school club for people who want to be athletic or for people that want to run. The club looks fun because Mr. Paskov is there and we all know how he is. The Club has Many things to look forward too and from what Mr. Paskov says, the girls on the run will be doing a 5K vs. all the other GOTR (Girls on the run) clubs in Mass. Tyshae and Kiah, both members of the running club says that they really enjoy the club. Tyshae has joined the running club to be productive and Kiah Joined to be fit. I have recently interviewed Mr.Paskov and it was very interesting. Mr.Paskov has answered a series of questions and say's the following:



Right now there are 18 members that come on different days of the week. Sometimes coach St. Martin will help sometimes, Mr. Paskov believes that running can help you mentally and he wanted to pass it on to the next generation.

## Girls on the Run

We have many fun activities to do here at tag. One of those things to do is girls on the run. Have you ever heard of girls on the run? If not let me tell you some information about it. First they are an organization that pays for schools to participate in the 5k. A 5k is a 3.1-mile distance run. They let you walk it, run it, and it's not all about winning. The coaches don't expect you to win or run fast. All they care about is teaching us how to work as a group of girls. This coaches include Ms. Jones, Ms. Saint Martin, Ms. Eisermann, and last but not least Mr. Paskov. Girls on the run provide you new running shoes, they also provide us with healthy snacks. They encourage us to try are best. We exercise and run laps, but don't worry if you get tired you can walk until you get your energy back, and you can stop to drink some water. Coaches expect you to be there all the time. If you miss 2 days they talk to you and you might have to explain why you were out. If you are interested please talk to Ms. St. Martin.

## Student Council

By Aleishka

You might be wondering what Student Council is. Student Council is a group of students who decide things that are going to happen in school.

You might be wondering how would you be able to get on student council. If you didn't know how could you get on student council or if you do, I am going to tell you anyway. To get on student council you will have to sign up in the beginning of the school year.

You could be wondering what kind of things the student council does. If you aren't just keep reading because I am going to tell you. The first thing that student council does is that they decide when the community meetings are going to be. And what the community meetings are going to be about.

They also figure out when they are going to do the spirit week.

You could be wondering how student council decides things as a group. If you do know than I am still going to tell you how. They first come up with ideas. Second they collaborate between each other. Third they would pick the first three that they liked the most. And then decide between those three. But those things that they pick should be looked over by Ms. St. Martin and Dr. O'Conner.

## Wright Flight

By Leverett

Along with a couple other peers, I am participating in a program called "Wright Flight." This ten-week, after school, program consists of lessons about the wonders of aviation. This includes the history of aviation, the science of flight and aircrafts, the tools and parts of different aircrafts, and even how to pilot a plane! It takes place at Smith College and Northampton Airport.



At the end of the ten weeks, the people participating will get to fly a Cessna 172 airplane! We have already learned about parts of aircrafts, the tools and gadgets pilots use, and the science and history of aviation.

I am excited to learn more about flight and flying a plane, and I'm sure my peers are too!

## Swimming

By Aleishka

Have you ever been to swimming club? There are many things that you can do.

The first thing that you will need to do to be able to go there is signing in with the math teacher Mrs. Carter. You might also find her when you are in math class or you can usually find her in the "Instagram" room. Instagram is one of the math rooms in the second floor. If you have math which is Teach To One you should know where her class is.

### When you get signed up you can do this:

- You can start swimming, but it has to be in the shallow end.
- You will not have to come every week.
- You may not be disrespectful to Coach Carter nor the Life Guard.
- You will find out what are the days to go swimming the days are Wednesdays if there are make ups it will usually be on Mondays.
- You can take your swimming test and pass you will be able to go to the deep end side of the pool.
- You will meet Mrs. Carter in the cafeteria right when the bell rings for dismissal



### After you are done what you will need to bring when it is cold outside:

- Bring a hat for your wet hair so you won't get sick.

- Bring a warm coat to keep yourself warm from the cold.
- Bring anything that will keep you warm.
- Swimming will be done at 4:10 so you will be able to change.

These are the things that you should do to be able to go swimming. And what you should do to do when you are done. And the time that you will go at. Have fun!

# SCHOOL

## Support Staff

By Pablo Torres

I noticed that some students thank the staff for what they have done to help the school, and some people don't. The purpose of this article is to show what they have done for the school.

Custodians have constantly cleaned the floor of every class, bathroom, and school area. Some students just leave trash lying around for the janitors to pick up. Students who have done that, try helping out the janitors by recycling the trash so they don't have to do any extra work.

Later throughout a day, I went to the cafeteria and asked the Kitchen Staff some questions. My first one said, "How did you get in the position/role you are in right now"and they responded, with "hard work and effort from doing as much as I can to get a fair education, I was able to get a job to support my life." My second question said, "Do you have a favorite student you like while working on your job?" and the staff member responded, "Honestly, a lot of kids that go through the line really make my day, and so I don't have a individual that is my favorite because a lot of them are my favorite." Finally, my last question was, "Is this the school you always want to work in?" and they responded, "Yeah, this is the school I would always work in as a lunch lady."

The staff of Chestnut Tag have done many things for the school and for the students in it, and that's why I wrote this article.

## Reader to Reader

By Juan M.

You might be wondering what some of us 6th graders do during 7th period. We are involved with a program called Reader to Reader! Reader to Reader is a program where us as students pick a book of our choice and we get paired up with a college mentor. This program is designed to help students comprehend stories. In the chat that the student and their mentors have been put in, us students given questions by our mentor to answer to help us read in between the lines of the novel we chose. Us as students, are responsible to answer our college mentor with 8-10 sentences describing what we have read, answering the questions they asked us, or asking them questions about the novel.



Some of the major colleges involved are UMASS Amherst, Amherst College, and

Hampshire College! Our mentors come from many different backgrounds. Some of our mentors even come from different states to attend these colleges! At the beginning of the semester, our college mentors were responsible to introduce themselves, talk about what they like to do for fun, and talk about the things they are studying in college, their major.

On Wednesday, March 29, a group of us students graders will be going on a field trip to Amherst College. A tour guide from Amherst College will be giving us students a tour of the college. Some of us students will meet our mentors if they attend Amherst College.

### Reader to Reader Field Trip

By Aleishka

If you have heard that there was a field trip for the students who have Reader to Reader - you'd be right! The Field trip was to Amherst College. While at Amherst College the students did many things like taking a tour of a museum called the Beneski Museum of Natural History. The museum has many fossils of many different animals that have gone extinct. Then there was the library they saw which has 6 floors. In the library many college students go to study. We got told at the campus that Amherst is part of a group of colleges and a universities. The college is like a small city. If you have the chance to go next year, you should know what a great experience it was to go to a college with college students and our mentors.



By Feras

My favorite part of the Amherst College trip was the Museum. My favorite part of the museum was the fossils and the rocks. I like them because we get to learn more about the history of Massachusetts and Springfield and how was it formed. In the museum is one of the oldest fossils and the biggest fossils in the world. They have mammals such as mammoths, horses, rhinos and mastodons which is a mammoth like animal.



# SURVEYS

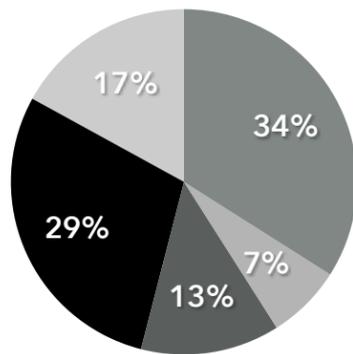
## Careers at TAG

By Emaley & Ava

A Career Survey was sent out to the advisories. There were 104 students that voted. We asked, what is your favorite job, and you had to pick from five jobs. Once we got the surveys back we tallied them up and picked the top two jobs. The top job that was pick was medical and in second place is lawyer. Emaley will be giving you some information about medical and her opinion. Ava will be writing about medical and then writing about her opinion.

Many people dream of doing exotic jobs when they grow up. But some people like to settle down somewhere where they are near their homes. And one of those "stay near home jobs" is being a nurse or doctor.

- Medical
- Cosmo
- Teacher
- Lawyer
- Officer



These jobs are very fun to do because you could meet some really fun patients that are really nice and you could make a new friend to talk to every day. Also this job pays very good money such as about 45 dollars per hour. And that is about 60,000 dollars a year if you work good hours. To become a doctor or nurse you first have to go to medical school. After you find a good medical school go to all the required years and they will be able to tell you if you are good enough to get your masters degree in medical. After that you have to go and find a good hospital that are looking for a bit of help around and if they have an open spot that you like then there's your new job!

Being a medical person would be a great job, but being a lawyer is also a great job. For our survey 29% out of 104 people want to be a lawyer in our school. That is 30 out of 104 people. Those kids who do grow up to be a lawyer will get a good amount of money. They will get about \$130,490 a year or \$62.74 per hour. Even though lawyers get a good amount of money I, Ava, would want to be a neonatologist. If you don't know what that it is than keep reading. A neonatologist is a doctor that takes care of newborn babies, sick babies and premature babies. So if I had to pick from the survey I would pick medical.

# OPINION

## NBA Team of the Moment

By Angel A

In my opinion, The Golden State Warriors are the best team in the NBA. I like this team because it has the most valuable players together. For example, this team has the person who can shoot and make more three-pointers in the history of the NBA and his name is STEPHEN CURRY. He has the

trophies of the NBA Championship 2015, NBA All Star leader 2016, NBA All Star 2014 to 2017, the NBA Most Valuable Player 2015, 2016, NBA leading scorer 2014 and two Olympics gold medals.

The Golden State Warriors also have the player that can make more steals in the NBA. His name is DRAYMOND GREEN.



Finally, the GSW also have Kevin Durant who has the trophy of the Most Valuable Player in 2014, the Rookie of the year in 2008, the NBA player in 2010, 2012, 2014, 2015, the USA Basketball Player of the Year 2010 - 2016,.

Too many people say that the Cleveland Cavaliers are better than Golden State Warriors or that they are their main competition, but I disagree and I have sufficient evidence that the Golden State Warriors are better than the Cleveland Cavaliers because we can compare the points of each player and I see the difference between of these two teams and I see this different of (Cleveland Cavaliers has 217.43 points) and (Golden State Warriors has 231.35 points). And I already compare the points per game of each MVP of each team and the Golden State Warriors has "60.5" points per game and the Cleveland Cavaliers has the sum of "59.2".

## “Futbol” Team of the Moment

By Angel A

In my opinion, the team Barca of Barcelona is the best team in all the league of soccer in Spain. In particular, I am a super fan of Lionel Messi because he is the best player of soccer in this age. He has the streak of penalties and normal points in a normal kicks that has the sum of 12 points vs the Real Madrid in the last season, where the Barca were the champions.

In all his career he has made 365 goals. The trophies of Messi are 8 Liga League championships, 4 Copa League championships, 3 Supercopa Continental League championship, 7 Supercopa Nacional championship, and an Olympic gold medal.

But not too many people know that he was diagnosed with Autism when he was 8. He doesn't care about that because he continues to be the most valuable soccer player.



Besides Messi, Barca also has Neymar de Silva who in the last season he was the MVP of the season, but I think that is not too much the Barca has too Luis Suarez who has the trophy Pichichi, the golden boot of soccer and the FIFA/FIFpro word XI.

## Is Disney World Really Dismay World?

By Dominic M.

Several people have died or have been injured while riding attractions at Walt Disney World theme parks. For example, from the first quarter of 2005 to the first quarter of 2006, Disney reported four deaths and nineteen injuries at its Florida parks. Do you know these rides? And would you consider riding them after these deaths?



In splash world On November 5, 2000, a 37-year-old man from St. Petersburg, Florida, was critically injured while trying to exit the ride vehicle while it was moving. He told fellow passengers that he felt ill and attempted to reach one of the attraction's marked emergency exits. He was struck by the following ride vehicle and died at a local hospital.

What about It's a Small World? On August 18, 1994, a 6-year-old girl from Miami, Florida, fell out of one of the ride's boats while it was in the loading area. Orange County authorities believe she was then struck by an incoming boat. The girl suffered a broken hip, a broken arm and a collapsed lung, but was expected to recover fully. The ride was closed for an inspection and re-opened the following day.

Do you know Indiana Jones, what about Harrison Ford? The main character of Indiana Jones. Well this ride in Disney World were very fatal to multiple people. In one incident, a performer fell 30 feet when a restraining cable failed. A performer fell 25 feet when a prop ladder collapsed unexpectedly. A third performer was pinned by a malfunctioning trap door. At the time, OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration)cited Disney for failing to provide adequate fall protection, including padding and other equipment. Later, while rehearsing a new, safer routine, another performer fell 25 feet onto concrete. In a rehearsal on August 17, 2009, 30-year-old performer Anislav Varbanov died after injuring his head while performing a tumbling roll. Performances for the next day were canceled out of respect for Varbanov.

All these were due to malfunctions in the mechanical work, is DisneyWorld really a place you would like to visit? Notice these aren't all the deaths that happened. Many, many, many, MANY more happened in DisneyWorld. "World best place to visit"? I think not! Well that is just my opinion maybe not yours and you will still go visit, that's ok with me. But I really think that's not the best place in the world.

- Negligence on the part of the park, either by ride operator or maintenance.
- Caused by negligence on the part of the guest. This can be refusal to follow specific ride safety instructions, or deliberate intent to break park rules.
- The result of a guest's known or unknown health issues.
- Act of God or a generic accident (e.g. slipping and falling) that is not a direct result of an action on anyone's part. Etc

All info can be found here:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Incidents\\_at\\_Walt\\_Disney\\_World](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Incidents_at_Walt_Disney_World)

## Messi vs Ronaldo

By Josh Johnson

Who is better? Who is the world's best? Who is the best futbol player? You might hear these questions a lot. This rivalry between Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo has gone on since 2009 and there is still a debate on who is better at soccer. Both Messi and Ronaldo have different playing styles. Their contrasting personalities are also that set them apart. Although debated, Ronaldo seems arrogant and has depicted to show off, while Mess is humble and shy.

### Messi

Lionel Messi was discovered at the age of 13. His debut with the national team was a disaster: he entered the game in the 18<sup>th</sup> minute and was sent off 47 seconds later with a red card.

#### Messi's Achievements

- All time top goal scorer in La Liga
- Only player to score 5 UEFA in single champions league game
- 400<sup>th</sup> goal on September 27,2004

**Messi's Strengths:** His ball skills are second to none, his runs from midfield are usually lethal and he is almost impossible to tackle when he gets his head down. His balance when running at speed is incredible.

**Messi's weakness:** Too often he searches for a way to finish moves by himself without looking for teammates in a better position to shoot at goal.

**Messi's Style:** Quick, incisive, balanced, a stylish runner with the ball.



### Ronaldo

Cristiano Ronaldo name Ronaldo came from his father's favorite actor, Ronald Regan.

#### Ronaldo's Achievements

- All-time top scorer for Portuguese national team
- 61 goals in 133 appearances since debut
- Goals in 3 World cups
- Goals in 4 UEFA European championships

**Ronaldo's Strengths:** Ronaldo will take on any defender with searing pace and mesmerizing footwork to boot. His ability to beat a player and to find the goal from any angle in open play, and at set pieces.

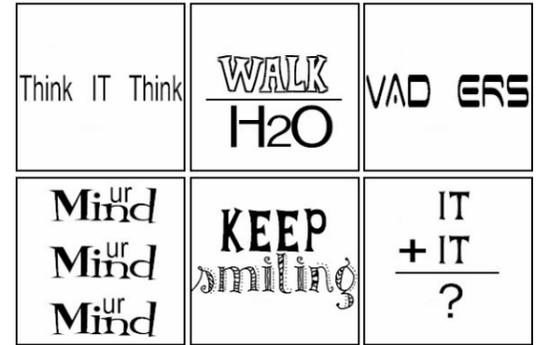
**Ronaldo's Weakness's:** On occasion, he goes to ground far too easily which attracts the fire of supporters tries a trick when a simple pass will do.

**Ronaldo's Style:** Fast, tricky, powerful, and a world-beating phenomenon

## EXTRAS

### RIDDLE ME THIS

1. *You answer me, but I never ask you a question. What am I?*
2. *Two girls were born to the same mother, on the same day, at the same time, in the same month and year and yet they're not twins. How can this be?*
3. *What goes up a chimney down but can't come down a chimney up?*



## OTHERS

### 10 Facts About North Korea

By Feras and Meshach

Did you know?

1. They only have 3 TV channels, which are controlled by the government. Two of which are only available on weekends, while the other is broadcast in the evening. Because of this, South Korean soap operas are among the most popular items accessed illegally.
2. Marijuana is not illegal
3. Electric power largely shuts down at night.
4. Schoolchildren provide their own desks and chairs, and money to pay for heat.
5. North Koreans must abide by one of 28 approved haircuts.
6. Nearly all property belongs to the state.
7. North Korea spent about one third of its national income on the military, according to a 2011 report from the South Korean government.
8. Only military and government officials can own motor vehicles.
9. As many as 2 million people died as a result of famine in the 1990s caused by erratic government farming policies and flooding,
10. The border between North Korea and South Korea is one of the most militarized in the world, according to the State Department.



## DATES!

Q3 ENDS  
April 4th

ELA MCAS  
April 11-12th

REPORT CARDS  
April 13th

VACATION  
April 14-23rd

# CREATIVE CORNER

## Narratives

By Ms. Leveille

**This year's 6th graders have been working hard to perfect their narrative writing skills in preparation for the MCAS next month.**

**One of the essays students will have to write is a narrative. Usually, the test will ask students to read a short story and then either: Write what happens next, write an alternative ending, or write the same story from another point of view.**

**Below is the story students had to read, and just after are two student essays:**

from *Magic Elizabeth*

by Norma Kassirer

- 1 It all began one rainy night at the end of a summer.
- 2 "As if we didn't have enough troubles!" groaned Mrs. Chipley. "There it goes and rains on us!"
- 3 Sally, clinging to Mrs. Chipley's plump hand, was almost running to keep up with her. The bright feather on Mrs. Chipley's black hat, which had started out so proudly erect, had gradually wilted, and now drooped sadly down the back of that lady's stout neck. Sally's red suitcase, its handle firmly gripped by Mrs. Chipley's other hand, bumped in a steady rhythm against her right leg. But Mrs. Chipley strode purposefully on, as if she had no time to notice small discomforts.
- 4 The two of them had come all the way across the city on the bus, and during the ride the sky had darkened and the street lights had bloomed all at once. High-piling storm clouds snuffed out the light of the round orange moon. As they stepped off the bus, the branches of the tall trees rattled like bones in the wind.
- 5 And now it was raining—a nasty, cold, stinging rain, mixed with wet leaves torn from the groaning trees. It splashed and flew about them as they hurried along the gloomy street, as if the faster they went the more they stirred up the fury of the night. Their coattails snapped behind them. Rain flew into Sally's eyes and even into her mouth, and it dribbled unpleasantly beneath the collar of her coat. Raindrops hitting a large mailbox echoed like drumbeats down the street. Sally's long red hair, fluttering bannerlike behind her, gave their small procession a brave look. And yet Sally, at least, was not feeling brave at all. Quite the contrary.
- 7 "I don't remember her at all," panted Sally. "I was just a baby when she went away to California."
- 8 "Going back again too, pretty soon, your ma tells me," said Mrs. Chipley. "Only came back here to sell the house. But never you mind, honey," she went on, without slackening her furious pace at all, "she's your own kin, and the only one you have here in town. I'm sure I didn't know what else to do but call her, what with your mom and dad away on that business trip, and we don't want to spoil it for them, and it's not as if you'd have to stay with your aunt forever. A few days, and I'll have my daughter straightened around and come back. And it was your own ma left her name in case of an emergency."
- 9 "I wonder what she's like," Sally said. But Mrs. Chipley did not seem to hear her.

### Leverett

The big, gloomy house appeared at the end of a long driveway. Only a few lights were on around the first floor. Mrs. Chipley hurried even faster now, and was pulling Sally along. They reached the front steps, climbed up them, and stood before the large front door. Mrs. Chipley took a deep breath, exhaled, and straightened out the front of her blazer.

Mrs. Chipley leaned toward the door and extended her arm. Just before she was able to grip the knocker, the door swung open and loud classical music and exited barks burst out.

"Oooooohhhhhh, how nice it is to finally meet you!" Exclaimed Aunt Sarah's dark silhouette. "Come in! Come in!" She gestured her arms to invite the two inside. Sally saw her Aunt's wine stained teeth and static hair when she turned into the light. "Oh, please take a seat!" Sally turned into a large living room and Chipley. Sally explored the room with her eyes. She first noticed it's size. This was a very large room inside a large house, indeed. She then noticed the rooms marble pillars and decor and chairs. Sally came to the conclusion that this was not her Aunt's house, especially considering her liking. Besides, why would anyone sane person sell a house like this if they did actually own it? No, this was certainly Sally's Uncle's house. She did remember when her mom told her that her Uncle had passed, and this was only a few months ago. Perhaps Aunt Sarah's

wine and isolation helped her cope with her husband's death.

Aunt Sarah came back into the living room, now with a second glass of wine.

"Would you like a glass?" Aunt Sarah asked.

"Oh, umm... no thank you." Mrs. Chipley tried to put in a friendly smile. Aunt Sarah raised her eyebrows and exhaled through her nose, then poured the rest of her glass into the already full glass and took a sip.

"Vintage Pinot. 1982." Aunt Sarah executed a small smile.

"Okay.. Well, I guess I'll just leave Sally here with you and I'll be on my way." Mrs. Chipley hugged Sally and started towards the door. "Take care!"

"Well!" Exclaimed Aunt Sarah startlingly, "I'm your Aunt Sarah, but you can call me Aunt Sarah." Aunt Sarah snorted and shook Sally's hand. "Where do we start? Oh yes!" Aunt Sarah jumped up from her chair and frantically searched the house. She ran down into the basement and Sally suddenly heard a loud crash and a pronounced, "Ouch!". Aunt Sarah ran back upstairs and into the living room with a big book. "Now, let me tell you about the time your

Mother got arrested." She flipped open the big book to a page with a picture of a police car.

Sally tried to smile. She was not excited for her stay. Even a few more hours with this lady would drive her crazy.

A few hours later, Sally, unfortunately for herself, was still sane. By this time, her and Aunt Sarah had finished a second scrapbook, even though she was more interested in the fly exploring her Aunt's face the entire time. Finally, Aunt Sarah noticed the time on her watch that she most certainly did not buy for herself.

"Oh my, it's this late already! Well Sally, go hurry yourself upstairs to your bedroom. Aunt Sarah's got to finish off this glass."

Sally definitely "hurried" up the stairs with her suitcase. She was exhausted, and the bed awaiting her upstairs was all she could think about. She collapsed onto the sheets and before she could even change, she fell asleep.

### Inari Jade

Sally glanced up at the droopy feather that was atop Mrs. Chipley's head, still keeping her quick pace. "I feel a lot like that droopy feather." Sally woefully sighed to herself.

"Quit mumbling and keep up now Sally dear." Mrs. Chipley stated this in a stern yet kind way, it shut Sally up and sure did keep her moving.

"Just you wait, your ma will be back in the quick blink of a wink." Sally knew that Mrs. Chipley was trying to reassure her but because she had said it so many times by now, it seemed as though Mrs. Chipley was only trying to reassure herself.

The rain was coming down especially hard now, stinging the hand of Sally's that was in the tight grasp of Mrs. Chipley's own. As they neared a corner, Mrs. Chipley suddenly came to a halt. She flattened Sally's hair and straightened her blouse. "Here we are." Mrs. Chipley chirped with a smile.

They both turned and there, in front of them was a beautiful cobblestone house, and as if part of a perfect picture, a beautiful woman with a large coat and umbrella stood on the porch, waiting. When the woman who Sally assumed was her Aunt Sarah saw them both, a soft, friendly smile stretched across her face. "Hello there Mrs. Chipley, Sally, my my haven't you grown!" She exclaimed.

Mrs. Chipley guided Sally up the steps and on to the porch. "You came at the perfect time, I just took some delicious homemade brownies out of the oven."

Sally glanced up at Mrs. Chipley as she pleasantly smiled and motioned to the door after saying "May we.."

Aunt Sarah's face changed to one with a very frantic expression on it. She was a very nervous person. "Oh yes, yes, I am so sorry making you wait outside in the rain like this." She took both Mrs. Chipley and Sally's coats and quickly escorted Mrs. Chipley and Sally to the living room, re-positioning two pillows on the way to the coat rack.

Mrs. Chipley sat, leaving Sally standing awkwardly for a moment. Finally Sally took a seat in a large chair next to the couch Mrs. Chipley had seated herself in. The rain poured outside and struck the windows of the house as the frantic Aunt scurried to the kitchen to cut the brownies and finally brought a plate to the coffee table in front of Mrs. Chipley.

"Sally, why are you sitting so far away dear?" Aunt Sarah said with a giggle.

Sally gingerly made her way over to the couch, making sure not to disturb the beautiful furniture. She reached her hand out for a brownie,

"Sally!" Mrs. Chipley dramatically shouted. Sally's hand snapped back to her lap.

"Sorry" Sally whispered softly.

"Oh it's fine dear, go on ahead." Aunt Sarah assured. Sally hesitantly outstretched her hand again, watching Mrs. Chipley give Aunt Sarah a look of disapproval.

"She needs to be disciplined Sarah." She stated harshly. Aunt Sarah seemed extremely uncomfortable.

"Well I suppose I am no longer needed here, Sally you are to take your suitcase up to the room your aunt shows you to." Mrs. Chipley snatched her coat off the coat rack and stiffly stormed out the door...

"Well... Do you like the brownies?" This was Aunt Sarah's attempt at lightening the mood.

"Yes they are absolutely wonderful." Sally enjoyed them very much, so much in fact that she ended up eating too many, this caused her stomach to start to ache."

"Pardon me Aunt Sarah, where is your bathroom?" Inquired Sally.

"Oh yes, through that door and to your left, you can't miss it!" Sally shuffled uncomfortably out the room trying not to upset her stomach any more. She made it to the restroom and stared into the mirror, massaging her stomach she began to feel better. She was fine she concluded.

While opening the door of the restroom she realized something was still bothering her. She released the doorknob from her grasp and returned to the mirror. I miss my ma she thought. A single tear escaped from her right eye but she vigorously wiped it away. She recollected herself and galloped back into the room she had begun her evening in.

"Aunt Sarah may I phone my mother?" She asked this with the most innocent tone she could muster so as not to concern Aunt Sarah. She knew that Aunt Sarah would inquire about any hints of her being uncomfortable and sad and although she knew it would only be because she wanted to help her, she didn't want to be bother. Sally dialed the number of her mother on her aunt's home phone and patiently waited for her to pick up. She did not.

Disappointed, Sally plopped down on the couch and slouched. "No answer?" Aunt Sarah asked rhetorically.

"No." Sally growled in response.

"Well I believe it is bedtime none-the-less. Get your night gown out your suitcase and be quick, it is late." This was the sternest Aunt Sarah had been and it left Sally in shock for a moment. She snapped into movement.

Tired and frustrated she couldn't reach her mother and receive a good night from her, Sally grabbed her night gown and nearly ripped it while climbing up the stairs to the room she would be staying in. "Bring your suitcase up with you darling." Aunt Sarah's voice had returned to its typical soft voice. Sally came back down the stairs and grabbed her suitcase. Carrying it much like Mrs. Chipley had, the hard red plastic thumping up against her leg. She was going to miss her ma but if Mrs. Chipley had been speaking the truth, she would see her soon.

## Bonus Narratives

The following are two creative writing assignments completed by Jimmy and Derek Ar.

### Jimmy

Once in a middle school, in a music room, there were many instruments that lived in comfortable cases. One particular instrument wanted to go and explore the big world and play for all the people that lived in it. He was a saxophone who was as shiny as gold and played as melodious as a bird.

The only problem was that everyone was always interested in the other instruments like the clarinets or the trumpets. Even though, the saxophone was shiny, it had a few dents in it and sported no reed or ligature to hold it in place. "Man, I wish someone will one day repair me and help me achieve my dream." A clarinet that was always used and which was right next to the saxophone said with sneer, "Oh, please. No one will ever even want to even glance at you when they're finding their instrument." The poor saxophone said nothing for he had nothing to say towards her comment. He wanted to let her know one day that he will show her that he will pursue his dream but her words filled his body with sadness and longing for someone to find him.

The next day, a young girl by the name of Chrystal had just started in the new school and wanted to pick an instrument. She was always interested in music and loved playing instruments. She walked in the classroom and asked the music teacher Mr. Jackson for an instrument. The young man smiled and said, "Sure Chrystal, you can use one of the clarinets or one of the trumpets. There's also a saxophone but no one wants to play it." Chrystal asked the teacher if she could look at it and he walked over to the woodwind room and set the box next to her. She opened it and saw the saxophone with

its dented body and no ligature. She felt so sad for the poor instrument that she quickly closed the instrument and asked the man, "Why haven't you repaired it yet." Shocked, Mr. Jackson replied, "Since no one has a desire to play it we don't feel the need to fix it." Chrystal dearly wanted to fix it but she couldn't because she didn't have the money and maybe because the teacher wouldn't let her. But she had to try. The teacher let her borrow it because he said that a broken, undesired instrument took up space in his room.

Since she didn't have the money, Chrystal began trying to raise money from fund raisers and bake sales, wanting people to buy muffins or cookies. Slowly but steadily, she was able to get the saxophone fixed, buy a new reed and ligature and also was able to begin playing it. When she brought it in the following day, many people began asking her questions about her and the instrument. "Why did you want to fix that busted thing when you could've just chosen one of the instruments that people are able to use," said a boy named Thomas. Chrystal smiled, "I fixed it because I wasn't interested in the other instruments and wanted to try. I saw this one and figured that I will be able to play it one day which is now." Thomas smirked and walked away.

A few weeks later, Chrystal was playing her saxophone at school and in her home, always repeating the scales and reviewing the notes to the songs that she practiced. Everyone was amazed at how well she played. In about a week, there would be a concert that she had to perform in. When that week came, Chrystal set her saxophone down with all the other

instruments that would be used in the concert. "Well, at least you're not an eyesore anymore. But sadly, that girl is the only one who is interested in you." With his big and low voice a tuba murmured, "Give the instrument a break. He doesn't know that he'll never accomplish his dream." The saxophone said nothing.

When the concert began, all the instruments played as best they could with the people playing them correctly. Chrystal played her saxophone as best she could and at the end of the concert, many people began commenting on her performance. "That was amazing.", said the adults. "Good job.", said the students. Even Mr. Jackson said, "Amazing job with that saxophone. Maybe one day you will be a musician." That was exactly what Chrystal wanted to do. She wanted to go around the world and show how great she was with her instrument. The saxophone wanted to do the exact same thing.

One day after another amazing performance by Chrystal, a man walked up to her and said, "Awesome job young lady. Perhaps you'd like to join my band." Astonished, Chrystal automatically replied, "Of course I would like to join it. It has been my lifelong dream." "Splendid." Said the man. "I'll see you tomorrow after school." Chrystal smiled and walked away. She put her saxophone in the woodwind room and left.

The saxophone was so happy that he didn't care about what all the instruments had to say about him joining the band. He only felt happy and excited that Chrystal took the opportunity and that he would help her along the way.

When Chrystal practiced in the band, she was surprised to learn that the band traveled around the country. "That's right, Chrystal. We travel around the country to let everyone hear our splendid music.", said the leader of the band.

When Chrystal grew up and graduated from high school, she still played in that band with her saxophone. In his mind the saxophone thought, "Hey instruments back in that school. Look at where I'm at now, achieving my dream while all you guys doubted me."

So, even though Chrystal kept growing up, she always played her saxophone in bands and she was able to make it possible for her and her saxophone to live their dream of playing for everyone and traveling around the world to do so.

### Derek Arroyo

Jimmy was assigned to finish reading a fairy tale that he was working on since last week in English class. The name of the novel is called THE FAILED QUEST. The novel was about a kid named Hivigo, who went on a journey to slay a mystical being from another dimension. The magical being's name is BLOODSTONE. BLOODSTONE had magical powers he possessed at the age of 13 by the council of gods. The gods only give this much mystical power to only the most evil or good heart. BLOODSTONE chose to be evil and killed the council after they gave him his powers. He then

visited Earth and cursed the world to no light and no rain for eternity until someone can defeat the all-powerful BLOODSTONE.

Hivigo was the brave man, chosen by the elders of the universe at the age of 25 years old. The elders told him that the journey would be a great danger with many traps and wild animals, but he accepted anyways and went to his quest. He promise on the way to risk it's live for the world. He was a famous trumpeter and wizard, was single man with no kids. On the way to throughout the journey, Hivigo walked hundreds of thousands of miles through deserts, forest, and weird places BLOODSTONE made to challenge him, and even the wild animals were even more wild than normal. Hivigo almost died in the 2 month journey, when he finally found BLOODSTONE hiding in a man-made cave in the highest mountain of the world, Mount Everest. It took him an extra month to get to the very top of the mountain, were no person has.

When at the top, the young man and BLOODSTONE battled for 5 whole days and night nonstop. In his young years, Hivigo had learned to cast a giant wave with his trumpet. BLOODSTONE preferred to use fire and dark magic, even if he wasn't very good at it. This was a battle of fire vs water, with the two clashing in the middle so hard it caused the mountain to shake a little. They were both very tired of fighting, so they decided to sleep for 9 hours to continue the battle. Because both men were not promise breakers, they slept in peace. On the next day, the 5th day, the battle for good and evil continued to progress. BLOODSTONE used his magic to break Jon's trusty trumpet, knocked him out, and trapped him in his bubble called THE BUBBLE OF THE MAD. Then BLOODSTONE put an evil guard with infinite eyes to guard the bubble from any stranger, and if any approached the bubble, he ordered him to kill them or imprison them until he returned, for the Hivigo had failed to rescue his planet and slay down BLOODSTONE.

The world was cursed to no rain and light for eternity for the great hero had failed his quest. The people and the elders though Hivigo had died in the battle and had no hope of saving the Earth. But they were wrong for Hivigo was still alive and conscious inside the BUBBLE OF MADNESS. While training how to us magic, Hivigo also learned how persuasive even the most hard-headed minds. Because Hivigo had no trumpet, he used the persuasive technique to escape the inferno the bubble was. As of how he wasn't mad, well, before he had left to his journey the guardians had put a spell to prevent any curses to the mind. He got out of the bubble and before the guard could kill him, he used the technique and convinced the guard BLOODSTONE wasn't paying him that much money and if he let him go, he would give him a raise. It took 2 hours of pursuing, but at the end, the guard let Hivigo go, and he kept his word of a raise of money after he defeated BLOODSTONE. By the time he got out of the cave, it was 9:00 PM

When BLOODSTONE heard about Hivigo's escape, he got very raged and made a second and more specific curse. He said the Earth and every living thing in it will be destroyed if Hivigo didn't beat him by the brisk of dawn. Hivigo was worried about this curse because he had lost his only weapon and he did not know what to do next. He went to the elders, who told him BLOODSTONE's one and only weakness. They also got all the pieces of the broken trumpet and bonded them together with new pieces to make an even more powerful weapon. Hivigo thanked the elders and tracked down BLOODSTONE to the battle field, which was his own dimension. When Hivigo arrived, BLOODSTONE changed his previous course to take the time limit out.

BLOODSTONE wanted his own people to see his victory of the destruction of human kind. He allowed that media to record the battle. Again they battle for, this time for 10 days and nights! The battle was ruthless, leaving destruction everywhere they went. People of earth were praying for Hivigo to win the battle. Every night, they rested in peace, for both of them needed the rest. Finally, Hivigo remembered his weakness, which was popping his back eye. He used the rest of his magic he had left and made a giant ice monster. The Ice monster went for the eye, but BLOODSTONE SAW the attack coming (jokes for days!). He dodged the attack with great speed, and melted the monster to the ground. Hivigo collapsed. BLOODSTONE took advantage of this and crushed him under a rock. Again and again he lifted the rock and pushed it down until Hivigo was finally dead. It was the end, the world was going to be destroyed. BLOODSTONE laughed long and hard, for his greatest challenger was now dead. With all his might, BLOODSTONE took the last of his power left and destroyed the earth in a flash.

**Email Ms. Leveille your creative writing piece to be included in the next issue: MAY 1st!**