

### STUDENT REPORTERS

### FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE:

Madeline Book  
Dakota Brinkman  
Isla Feldman  
Zamayah Hassan  
Annabelle Her

Anna Larsen  
Lily Murphy  
Eshani Ohneswere  
Lauren Oswald  
Ace  
Chloe Willhite

## BEING ROYALTY CHANGED MY LIFE

by Lily Murphy, grade 8

I am royalty in the Inver Grove Heights Scholarship program, but what does that really mean? Growing up I was always an introverted kid who didn't like to do sports or any extracurricular activities. My parents told me you should try something new, or you should join sports. I was so afraid to put myself out there. I had many family and friends who told me I should join the Inver Grove Heights Scholarship program and become royalty. For three whole years, I said I would never join because I was too scared.

When the fourth year came to run, I was told that my aunt was running for royalty and there might not be enough people to run. It was my aunt's last year of running before she went to college and I didn't want her

to not get a chance to run one last time. They didn't have a lot of candidate applications at the time so I said yes to running. I was super nervous because I was only 11 years old and I was terrified of talking in front of lots of people and being on stage. During candidacy, I had fun

getting to know the other candidates, helping with volunteer work, and doing many fun activities to get us involved. The candidacy runs from about the end of June to the beginning of September after school starts. After candidacy, we had our coronation which was the weekend after Labor Day, the same day as the Inver Grove Heights Parade.

My hard work paid off when I was crowned the 2022 Little Miss of Inver Grove Heights. I felt accomplished and proud that I did something so huge! 2022 was one of the best years of my life. We got the honor of going to fun events like parades, helping kids, participating in volunteer work, and



even the amazing opportunity to meet other royalty from different places. We also got to see other royalty get crowned. You have to cherish every second you get because it goes by so fast. I got close to the people in my royal court. By the end of the year, we all were practically sisters. I was sad for my year to be over, but I was excited to see new people lead this amazing

program. As soon as my year was over I knew I wanted to run again.

After I took a year off, I decided to join back this year in 8th grade. This time we got new candidates and I got to meet new people and learn more about them through candidacy. This year I was crowned as the 2024 Junior Miss Princess of Inver Grove Heights which is an honor because I get the pleasure of trying many new things and helping the community.



The year is already going by fast! I am so happy about who I got crowned with and we get to plan sleepovers, parties, going

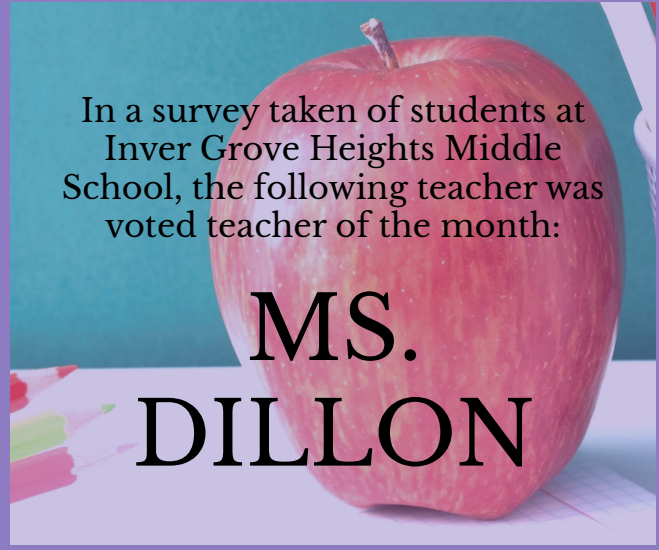
out to eat, and spending time together outside of the royalty events.

So to answer the question of what being royalty in the Inver Grove Heights Scholarship Program means, it means volunteering, working with kids, experiencing and trying new things, being in parades, meeting other royalty from different cities, and getting a wonderful experience overall. You get the time of your life doing many new things with people you might not have met outside of the program but have become best friends with. I am so glad that I became royalty because it was a new, exciting experience for me.

For more information go to <http://www.missigh.com/>.

# ANIMAL OF THE MONTH & TEACHER OF THE MONTH

by Anna Larsen, grade 8



## BOOK REVIEW

by Eshani Ohneswere, grade 7

I recently started reading "A Good Girl's Guide to Murder" series. I just finished the last book called "As Good As Dead." I thought it was an amazing book that kept me on the edge of my seat at all times. It had a brilliant plot and storyline. All the characters were amazing and were important to the plot of the book. There was also a perfect ending that had me wanting more. Overall, it was an amazing book!

## RESTAURANT WARS

by Lily Murphy & Dakota Brinkman, grade 8

By: Dakota Brinkman & Lily Murphy

Restaurants	Votes
Applebees	
B52's	
Buffalo Wild Wings	
Lucky 13's	
OUTBACK	
Olive garden	
Texas Roadhouse	
None	



WE SURVEYED 20 PEOPLE AND THE 2ND MOST FAVORITE WAS LUCKY'S 13 BUT THE OVERALL FAVORITE RESTAURANT WAS OLIVE GARDEN.

# CROCHET VS. KNITTING

by Lauren Oswald, grade 8

You've probably heard of people knitting sweaters and scarves or crocheting bags and blankets, but really, what is the difference? These two popular hobbies have many similarities, but to understand how crocheting and knitting work, you have to understand what is different about them.

To begin, crochet and knitting use yarn, hooks, and needles to create objects of use. These may include stuffed animals, clothing, blankets, scarves, bags, keychains, and so much more. According to craftyarnCouncil.com, more than 50 million Americans know how to knit, crochet, and craft with yarn (including myself)! They are both popular hobbies that many people pick up for fun or just simply to learn something new.

Now that we know what it's all about, let's learn about knitting. Knitting uses two knitting needles, which are thick metal rods with a point at one end. There are many of needles, and the type varies based on what project you are working on and what yarn you are using. To make a stitch, you have to loop the yarn and move it from the left needle to the right needle. At the end of a row, you must



turn around your project and continue. When you knit, all of the stitches are held on the needles, and the end result has a smooth, thin texture. Fun fact: knitting tends to use less yarn than crocheting!

What about crochet? Instead of two needles, crochet uses only one hook. These hooks come in many different sizes that are used based on the necessary yarn that is for a project. To crochet, you wrap the yarn around and pull it through an existing stitch in your project to make a new stitch. If you make a mistake, you have to rip and redo it, which can be a pain. While you crochet, you also have to count your stitches, and lots of people (including myself) use stitch markers so they do not get lost. Crochet pieces tend to look more segmented and can be thicker since they use up more yarn. Since there are so many different patterns and stitches, crochet can look like almost anything!

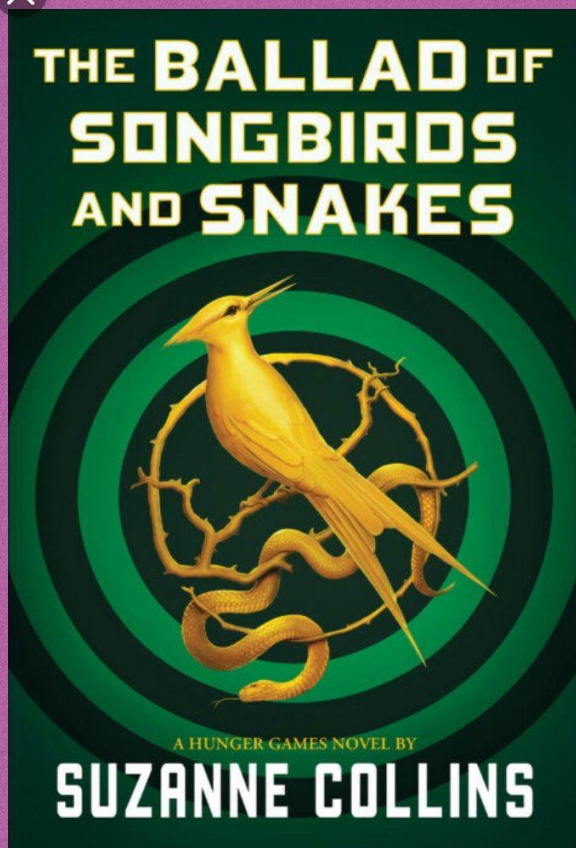


Knitting and crocheting are two popular pastimes throughout the world. They have many similarities and differences, but above all else, they are both fun and worthwhile skills. Now that you understand the difference, you will be able to identify them easier without confusion.

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## BOOKS BOOK REVIEW

by Madeline Book, grade 8



## The ballad of songbirds and snakes

By Suzanne Collins



THIS BOOK WAS ONE OF MY FAVORITES! IT'S A FOLLOW UP ON THE WELL KNOWN TRILOGY THE HUNGER GAMES. THE STORY FOLLOWS A YOUNGER CORIOLANUS SNOW, AND THE 10TH HUNGER GAMES. THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A MENTOR FOR THE HUNGER GAMES BEFORE AND STUDENTS AT AN ACADEMY HAVE BEEN CHOSEN TO BE THEM, CORIOLANUS WANTS A GOOD TRIBUTE SO HE CAN GET THE PLINTH PRIZE, TO SUPPORT HIS FAMILY. AND HE GETS LUCY GREY FROM 12 ONE OF THE WORST DISTRICTS. BUT SHE SEEMS INTERESTING SINCE SHE'S ALWAYS SINGING. WILL HE MANAGE TO HELP HIS FAMILY AND WHO IS THIS LUCY GREY?

Rating



# DOLL ISLAND

by Isla Feldman, grade 8

Russ came up from the water. He felt stuck, he couldn't find a new adventure. He'd been trying to find something new for a couple of months. After he came back from the Parisian Catacombs, he had been all over the internet trying to find something new. Now he's swimming and walking on every beach in California trying to find something, but so far he has been unsuccessful. He was getting tired so he walked back onto the hot sand. He finally found all his stuff after looking for a couple of seconds, he realized that he had been swimming for 3 hours, and he swam a long way from where his stuff was. He was lost in thought, thinking about what he should do next in his life. A phone ringing snapped him out of his own mind. He picked his phone up.

"Hello?" An enthusiastic voice answered him.

"Hey, Russ!" He recognized the voice to be his old college roommate; Clay.

"Oh hey, Clay" He responded.

"What have you been up to?"

"Nothing sadly," Russ replied. He hated when people asked him that when he was not doing anything exciting.

"Well, I think I have the opportunity of a lifetime for you!" Clay exclaimed with a thrilled voice.

"What is it? Please say you're not trying to sell insurance to me." Russ said in a joking voice.

"Hahahaha, no. I have something way better for you. Would you like to come see this really cool attraction with me at Xochimilco, Mexico? It's a doll island" Clay said in a hopeful tone.

"Yeah, I would love to go with you!" Russ said in a delighted tone. Clay explained all the details of how to get there, what time they would meet up, and everything about the Island, except for one small detail..

A couple of weeks later, Russ and Clay were on a private yacht ride to the Island. Russ asked how long they would be staying on the island. Clay said that they couldn't actually go on the island because it's dangerous. Russ was confused and frustrated because he wanted a real adventure, he wanted danger, excitement, and most of all a fun time.

When they finally get to the island, they are only like 20 yards away from the island. Russ realized that he could probably get away with sneaking off the boat and swimming to the island, he is, after all, a really good swimmer. So he said that he was going to go take a nap below deck and wake him up when they got back to the mainland. That would give him plenty of time to go to the island, then when they realized he jumped off the boat, they would go back and go get him.

So Russ jumped off into the ocean as quietly as he possibly could. The

chilly ocean hit his skin. He didn't realize it was going to be this cold but if he swam fast enough he could beat frostbite. He got to the island in 15 minutes, luckily he was a fast swimmer.

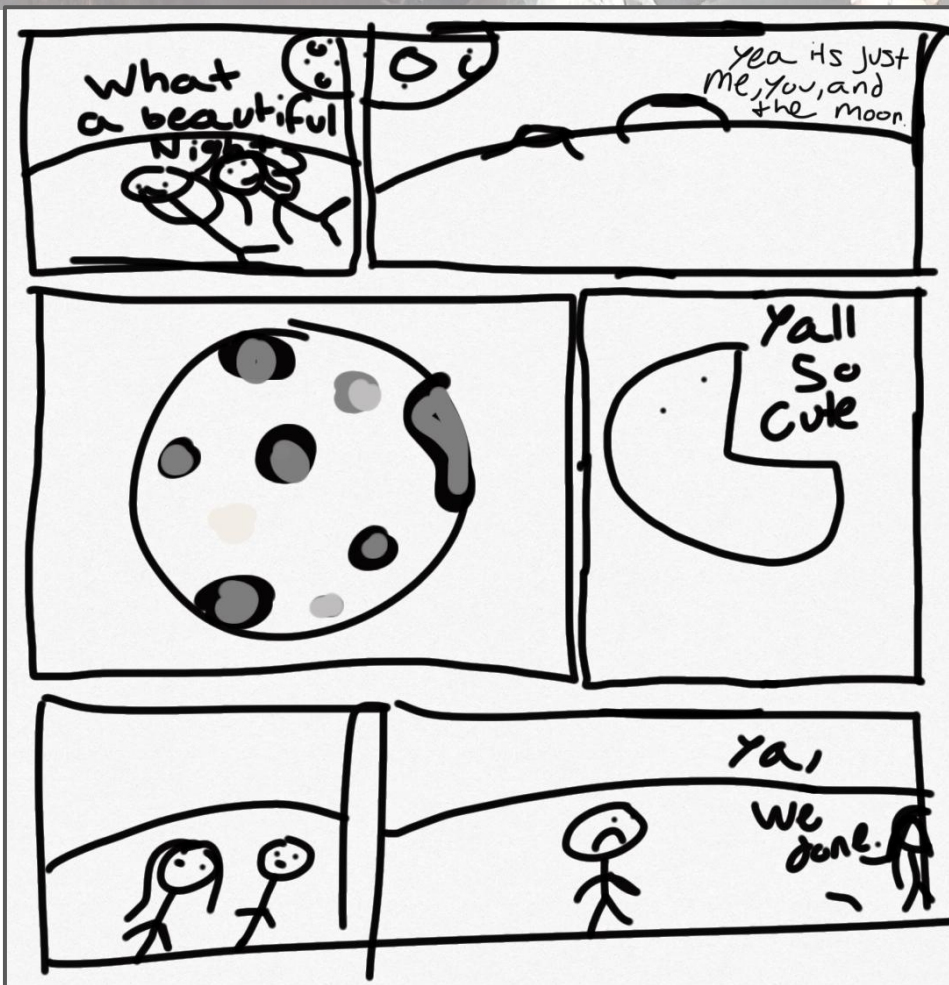
Russ walked onto the scorching hot sand. He sprinted to the grass without thinking and he looked up. He was shocked by what he saw. A huge tree was right in front of him, the long branches filled and filled with hundreds of worn-out dolls. A chilling breeze washed over him, and he shivered. He thought that was weird because it was an 80-degree day. Fortunately, the chill didn't last long. For some reason, he felt like somebody or something was watching him. He explored the hair-raising island more.

Russ felt like he'd been waiting there for more than 5 hours - it was starting to get dark. He was getting hungry and tired. He decided to sleep on the beach while he waited for Clay and the yacht to get him. Russ slowly fell asleep, still feeling like that thing watching him was getting closer and closer.

By the time Clay realized that he had left Russ on the island it was too late. Russ was nowhere to be found. Clay hired a team of investigators to find him but after a month of looking, they found his body in the bottom of a creek, the same creek where the person who put all the dolls up was also found dead.

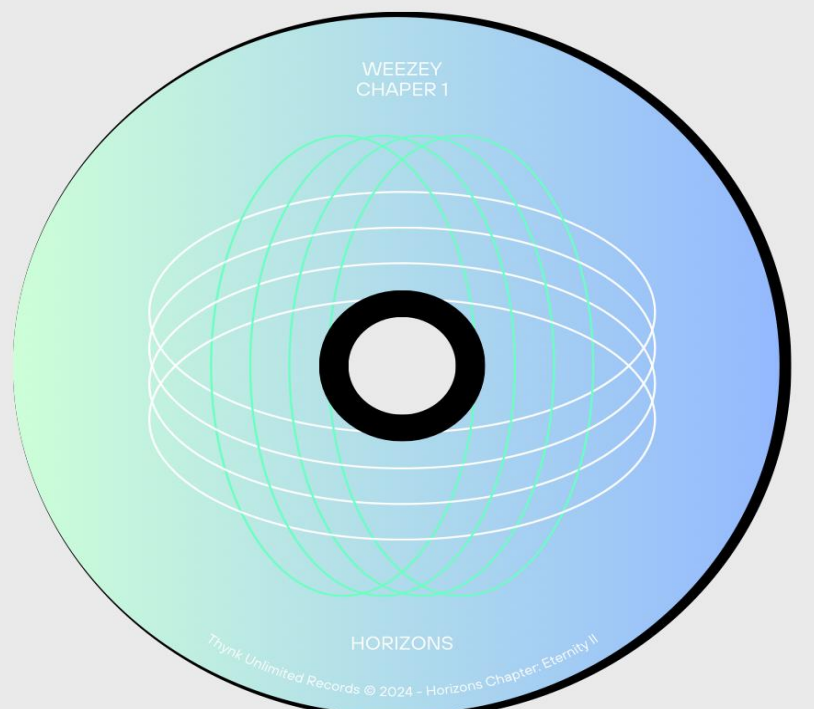
## COMIC BITS

by Chloe Willhite, grade 6



## ALBUM COVER

by Ace, grade 7



# THE HUNGER PROBLEM

by Anna Larsen, grade 8

Many places around the world are struggling to get the food they need to survive. Some of the countries that are struggling include Afghanistan, Ethiopia, and Haiti. "The problem is access and availability, both of which are disrupted by things like extreme weather, food waste, and worst of all conflict" according to World Food Program USA.

Over half of Afghanistan's population lives below the poverty line due to ongoing conflicts. Many people are returning to the country from Iran and Pakistan which is making food availability scarce. Afghanistan has the highest number of people facing hunger with 6.6 million people as of 2022. There have been reports of people in desperation, some even being forced to sell their children. Nora Hanssanien (Save the Acting Country Director) said, "In Afghanistan, we are finding that children are so hungry that they don't remember what they learned in school. As a result of malnutrition, they are also more susceptible to life-threatening diseases such as cholera. We are also seeing a worrying increase in damage coping mechanisms such as child marriage and child labor."

Ethiopia is another country struggling with hunger. 22.8 million people in Ethiopia lacked food as of May 2023. In the past six months, about 400 Ethiopian people died due to starvation and millions more are still in need of help. According to Betsy Reed (Journalist for The Guardian US), "Nothing goes to waste. After eating the flesh of the berry, they grind down the pits to get to the seeds inside. Each handful is enough to stave off hunger for a few more hours." Families plant on the small bits of land that they own but nothing grows due to drought. Families are then forced to survive by selling their livestock and when they have nothing left they turn to neighbors for donations of cups of grain. Often the neighbors have nothing to spare or very little themselves. Many of the fields in Ethiopia are dust bowls filled with dead crops because of the lack of rain. Over the past 4 or 5 years thousands have died from either starvation disease, or massacres. There are some troops from other countries, ransacking people's homes taking animals, sacks of grain and farming tools. The troops sometimes even burn what they cannot carry.

Haiti is another country with some of the highest levels of food insecurity in the world. According to World Food Program USA nearly half of Haiti's population (4.35 million people) don't have enough food to sustain themselves. 22% of children are suffering from malnutrition. Many events in Haiti have contributed to their hunger problem: an earthquake in 2021 that destroyed buildings, shops, and farms. More recently there has been gang warfare and outbreaks of disease in 2022. The country has also had low rainfall which is making extreme droughts more frequent. As of August 2023, 2664 households in a Haitian town were interviewed and almost 2596 were only getting one meal a day.

Hunger has affected countries all around the world and is a problem today that people do not pay attention to. As of October 2023, over 670 million people are facing hunger. There are many ways we can help these countries, like donating to an organization that helps people get the food they need. If people help we might slow the spread of diseases and prevent people from dying. Hunger is the cause of 45% of all children's deaths. Ending hunger is the greatest challenge of our time, but together we can make a difference.

# Q & A WITH MS. GARTEN

by Zamayah Hassan, grade 6

Q. What made you want to be a counselor?

A. When I was younger, my brother got into a lot of trouble while he was in school. He disliked a lot of the people at the school he attended. He and my Mom always told me that his counselor was always there for him. I wanted to be that person for others."

Q. Are you and Ms. Maloney good friends?

A. Yeah. We've worked together for 8 years and we are raising the same age kids together.

Q. How many years have you been a counselor?

A. 13 years.

Q. What challenges have you faced while being a counselor?

A. With all the years I have been a counselor, there are plenty of things I still need to learn.

Q. Is it fun being a counselor?

A. 80% of the time I love being a counselor and it is everything I ever wanted it to be, and 20% is not fun.

Q. Have you only been a counselor for Inver Grove Heights or multiple schools?

A. Multiple.

Q. Do you have adoration for your job?

A. I think my job is impactful, especially because I work with all students. I definitely have adoration for some parts of my job, but I also question other aspects.

Q. What's your favorite food item?

A. Turtle sundaes from Culver's.

Q. What's your favorite school subject?

A. When I was in school, it was math.

