

STUDENT REPORTERS

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HAMILTON VS. SIX: MUSICAL MADNESS

by Zamayah Hassan, grade 6

Musicals are loved by many. I am wondering what is more popular: Hamilton or Six?

Let's learn about the musical Six first. Six is about the wives of King Henry VIII (the Eighth) of England. The first wife was Catherine of Aragon who was from Spain. Catherine was the widow of King Henry's brother. When her first husband died, she was forced to marry King Henry VIII. Catherine was married to King Henry VIII for fifteen years before he divorced her. He felt like Catherine was useless because she produced no male heir. Then King Henry VIII married Anne Boleyn who was from France. Anne was very pretty and he married intending to make an heir for the throne. She had one baby, a daughter named Elizabeth. Elizabeth was

sent away due to her gender, and Anne Boleyn was beheaded due to Henry's belief that she had an affair. It was never proven to be true, but she was beheaded with a sword. Eleven days after Boleyn's beheading, King Henry VIII married Jane Seymour. She was a lady-in-waiting to Catherine and Anne Boleyn. Very soon after their wedding, Jane gave birth to the future king, Edward. She died just twelve days after giving birth. King Henry VIII was saddened by her death. Henry VIII then married Anne of Cleves. People thought she was pretty in her portrait, but when he saw her real face, he regretted marrying her. Soon enough King Henry VIII was tired of her and divorced her. Anne and Henry VII had become friends and he bought her a house to live in. Sadly, Anne was beheaded and she didn't have any children. Katherine

Howard was the fifth wife. She was beheaded after she was arrested for adultery like Anne Boleyn. The last wife is Catherine Parr. She was in love with a different man but she

sadly had to marry King Henry VII. However, something good happened: the king died and she was free to marry the man she loved.

You could say the musical Hamilton is more popular than Six. The musical Hamilton was inspired by the real story of Alexander Hamilton. The first song in the show describes his early life: his cousin committed suicide, his mother was bedridden and Alexander was found half-dead. By age 14 Alexander was placed in a job to provide for himself. He was a great writer. The songs in Hamilton are a timeline of his life and many are rapped. One of the most famous songs, "I am not throwing away my shot" is about Hamilton not missing the opportunity to begin a good life. Hamilton eventually meets the Schuyler sisters, Angelica, Eliza,

and Peggy. He marries Eliza and they have one baby boy. Sadly their son dies in a duel. Hamilton and Eliza the parents are devastated at the death of their son. Just as they were beginning to move on Eliza finds out Alexander is cheating on her with Maria Reynolds. Alexander begs for forgiveness for cheating on her, but the marriage is damaged and Eliza struggles to forgive the cheating. Some years later, Peggy died from stomach cancer. She died at the age of 42 it came as a surprise. Hamilton and one of his rivals, Aaron Burr, got into a disagreement and they duelled with each other. Burr shot Hamilton in the stomach and Hamilton died as a result of the wound. Fun fact: Eliza and Alexander had in total eight children. One was named after Angelica Schuyler.

What do you think? Which musical is more popular?



THE WORLD'S FIRST SERIAL KILLER

by Isla Feldman, grade 8

Jack the Ripper was the first modern serial killer. He was unidentified and never got caught. He killed 5 women, and possibly more, in the Whitechapel district of London in 1888. There was a large manhunt for him and an investigation by Metropolitan police. Jack the Ripper went by other names including "The Whitechapel Murderer" and "Leather Apron." The name "Jack the Ripper" originated in the "Dear Boss letter" written by an individual claiming to be the murderer. The letter is widely believed to have been a hoax. The "From Hell letter" received by George Lusk of the Whitechapel Vigilance Committee came with half of a preserved human kidney. Since technology in the late 1800's was not advanced there was no way to tell if the kidney was from one of his victims or not. There were a total of eleven

murdered women in the Whitechapel area. Five were thought to be the work of Jack the Ripper and were called the canonical five: Mary Ann Nichols, Annie Chapman, Elizabeth Stride, Catherine Eddowes, and Mary Jane Kelly.

Most of the files for the investigation on the Jack the Ripper case were destroyed by the blitz (German bombing in London). The remaining files were looked through, and there wasn't much. More than 2,000 people were interviewed, "upwards of 300" people were investigated, and 80 people were detained. Butchers, slaughterers, surgeons, and physicians were suspected because of the manner of the killings. The murders were gruesome and intricate. Others believe that the killer was an educated upper-class man or even a doctor. Such theories

made people fear medical professionals or not trust them.

Throughout the Whitechapel murders, the police, newspapers, and other individuals received hundreds of letters regarding the case. Some letters were well-intentioned offers of advice as to how to catch the killer, but the vast majority were either hoaxes or generally useless. Hundreds of letters claimed to have been written by the killer himself, and three of these in particular: the "Dear Boss" letter, the "Saucy Jacky" postcard, and the "From Hell" letter.

In the immediate aftermath of the murders and later, "Jack the Ripper" became the children's bogeyman." Depictions were often phantasmic or monstrous.

At the time, the story of Jack the Ripper was insane. Now, people are still fascinated by the story.

DAYS OF THE WEEK AND OUR SOLAR SYSTEM

by Lauren Oswald, grade 8

Have you ever wondered why you might feel extra tired on Monday, or why you usually hang out with your friends on a Friday? The answer seems simple; it's because of the weekend, right? But actually, there might be a bigger reason as to why you feel differently or decide to do different things on each day of the week.

In astrology, each day of the week has a ruling planet. Depending on what the planet symbolizes, it decides what the energy of that day will be. Once you learn about what all the planets symbolize and how they correspond to each day, you can learn how to plan your week accordingly.

Monday: Monday is ruled by the moon. The moon symbolizes intuition, nurturing, and emotional needs. This day of the week is a good day for meditation and recognizing your emotions as you calmly take a step into the week.

Tuesday: Tuesday is ruled by Mars. Since the planet Mars symbolizes courage, action, and energy, Tuesday is the perfect day for tackling a task that you have been putting off or to initiate change in your life.

Wednesday: Wednesday is ruled by Mercury. Mercury symbolizes communication, learning, and ideas. This day of the week is great for making rational decisions and using our thinking and communication skills. It would also be a good day for doing some extra studying or schoolwork.

Thursday: Thursday is ruled by Jupiter. Opportunities, adventure, and possibilities are just a few of Jupiter's symbols. Thursday is the perfect time to travel or start a new project that you want to work out. It is also a big day for learning.

Friday: Friday is ruled by Venus. Venus symbolizes relationships, enjoyment, and art. On Friday, it is a good day to hang out with your friends or throw a party. It also would be a great time to make an extravagant purchase or to treat yourself to something fun.

Saturday: Saturday is ruled by Saturn. The planet Saturn symbolizes structure, hard work, and discipline. This means that this is a good day for organized and structured work, as well as achieving success with a practical approach.

Sunday: And finally, Sunday is ruled by the Sun. Since the Sun symbolizes self-confidence, purpose, and pride, the final day of the week is a good day for reflecting on the week and taking a day to care for yourself.

Now that you've learned more about each day of the week, you can learn how to harness this structure and get the best out of every day to reach your goals.

COMIC BITS

by Emma Brainard, grade 7



VOTE FOR CAT OF THE MONTH & TEACHER OF THE MONTH

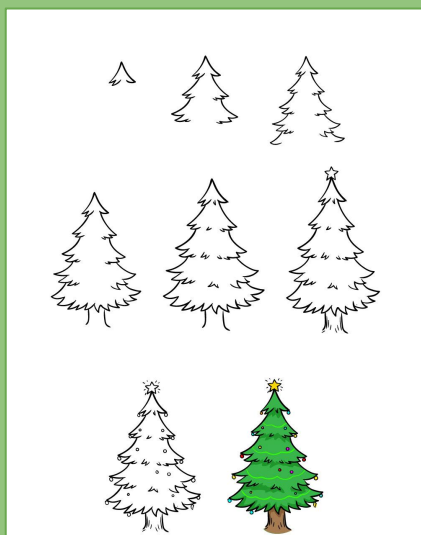
by Luna Flores and Anna Larsen, grade 8



HOW TO DRAW A CHRISTMAS TREE

by Eshani Ohneswere, grade 7

First, you are going to make a triangle shape with ruffles at the bottom but do not close the triangle off.



Next, repeat the pattern, getting bigger and bigger each time.

Then, close off the tree with ruffles all the way around the bottom.

Next, add a stump at the bottom and a star at the top.

Lastly, add lights on the tree and color.

Hope you had fun making a Christmas Tree!

YOU ARE WRONG (AND THAT'S OK)

by Annabelle Her, grade 8

You are wrong. You have heard it before, felt it before. You have been wrong multiple times before. You could've gotten a test answer wrong. Maybe you shouted out the wrong answer in front of your class. Maybe you slipped getting onto your bus.

When you make a mistake it can feel bad, maybe even humiliating, especially in front of others. It makes you feel like you are stupid, like only if you did one thing differently everything would be great!

Even though mistakes may feel bad they are actually really good for you! Mistakes are essential in growing. How will you know what's wrong when you don't do anything wrong?

Famous inventions like velcro, microwaves, matches and x-rays were all made by accident. Mistakes are good, even if you don't make a life-changing invention from it. Mistakes teach us lessons and motivate us to be better. We can even learn from the mistakes of others so we don't slip up like them. In the end, mistakes are essential in a growth mindset, allowing yourself to

see where you need to improve. No one is perfect, and that's good. Mistakes are what make us human and help us become who we are today.

THE TRUTH WITHIN THE LIES

by Kali Fisher, grade 6

CHAPTER 1: THE SAD PART

One dark night a girl was with her friends in the woods...

Hi, my name is Iline. I'm 13. I'm from America but moved to Mexico 2 years ago. Now I am fluent in Spanish. My family moves a lot. Next year we are moving to France. My parents work with the CIA and that's why we move a lot. We came to Mexico to protect people. People here disappear almost every week.

My friend's names are Allie, Sammy(my bff), and Max(my crush). I've known Allie for 16 days and found out that girl is a SNOB. I've known Sammy forever. She's a girl. She's lesbian. We've been bff's forever and we have lived together forever. I don't know what to say about Max. He's been my crush ever since he first talked to me. We're

he first talked to me. We're all friends. Today is the day I will tell Max I have a crush on him.

As we're walking through the woods Sammy pulls me to the side and says "In case we don't come out of here, I have something to tell you."

"What is it, Sammy?"

"Um, I like you."

"I like you too, I mean we're BFFs," I say knowing what she means.

"I mean I like like you."

"I don't know what to say," I reply. "I'm ... sorry."

"What do you mean 'I'm sorry'?" Sammy asks.

"I mean, I just don't feel the same way."

"It's ok. I just felt I needed to tell you."

"I just have a crush on Max and I was planning on telling him today." As I said that, I looked around and saw Max and Allie standing there. I say "H- how much of that did you guys hear?"

Max says: "All of it."
"So what do say? Will you go out with me?"

"I'm so sorry but I can't. I'm dating..."

Allie butts in very rudely and proudly says "he's dating me!"

I am surprised and mad. I yell "YOU'RE DATING T-THAT SNOB?" My rage takes over and I have tears in my eyes.

Allie looks like she's ready to fight me. "Who are you calling a snob?" Allie swings at me.

"Stop Allie! Please stop! Please!" Max yells.

"No, but I am sorry that you are friends with her," Allie yells.

Max looks at her and says "I was gonna say this when it was just us, but Allie, I'm sorry. I'm dumping you."

Allie is stunned. She says "But why would you dump me? I'm the one who made you popular!"

I'm the one who made you noticeable!"

"Because you're a mean stuck-up SNOB."

"Do you want this to happen to you too?" as she hits me. Max goes and hides away. Then I passed out. When I wake up I'm in an ambulance. I turn to see Max on the side. I say weakly "w-what happened? And why are we in an ambulance?"

"Allie punched you and you passed out."

"Where's Sammy?"

"She ran out crying"

"I'm sooo sorry about this"

"It's ok. Your parents are on the phone."

"Thanks." I grab the phone with my hands shaking saying "Hello Mom and Dad."

...To be continued.

ELF ON THE SHELF

by Janiyah Garrett, grade 6



**SNACK TIME
FOR ELVES
TIS THE SEASON
TO BE JOLLY**



ANOTHER STRANGE STORY

by Anna Larsen, grade 8

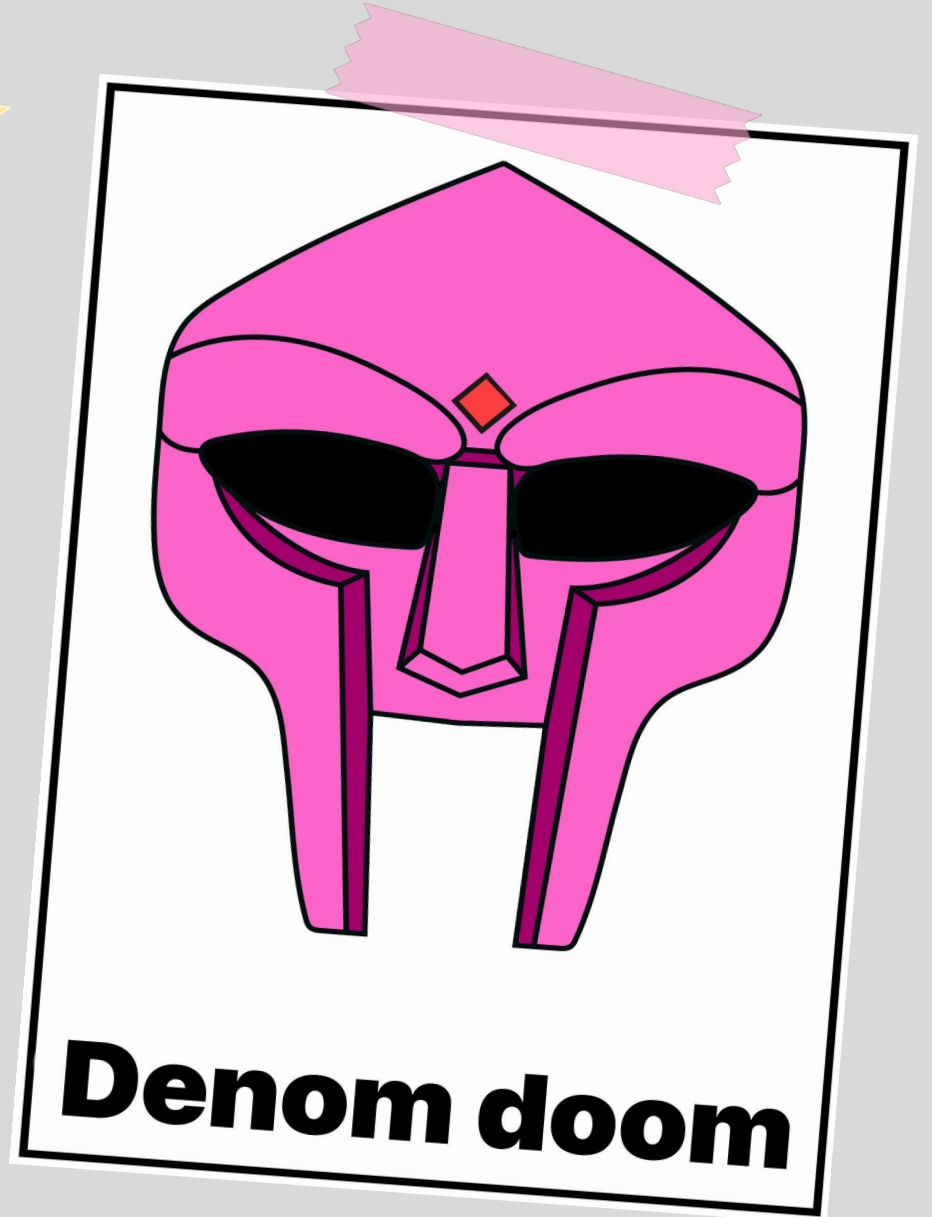
Six people drowned while trying to rescue a chicken that had fallen into a well in southern Egypt. An 18-year-old farmer was the first to descend into the 60-foot well. He drowned after an undercurrent in the water pulled him down. Police said his sister and two brothers, none of whom could swim well, went in one by one to help him but also drowned. Two elderly farmers then came to help but were pulled by the same undercurrent. The bodies of the six were later pulled out of the well in the village of Nazlat Imara, 240 miles south of Cairo. The chicken was also pulled out and survived.

COMIC BITS

edited by Isla Fischer, grade 7



by Jessie Briones Herrera, grade 8



by Ace, grade 7



by Eli, grade 8

