

Home Instruction Teens



Special Double Issue:
January/February 2012

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Send Parent Consent Form to:

Ms. Maura Kane

c/o Home Instruction Schools, P. 752Q, Room 226, 142-10 Linden Boulevard, Jamaica, NY 11436

MARCH DEADLINE:
February 15, 2012

HIT STAFF

Editors: Reshmin Jahan (Q)

Staff Writers

Kevin Arias (Q)
Colleen Baur (Q)
Pedro Bonilla (BX)
Kalyn Brown (M)
Lucila Charras (Q)
Keeshawn Diaz (B)
Oskarmali Diaz (BX)
Angela DiRe (Q)
Clayton Girard (M)
Barry Hantman (Q)
Jelena Jackson (Q)

Alexander Jacobsohn (M)
Karla Jacome (Q)
Reshmin Jahan (Q)
Haily Kaminski (Q)
Yein Kim (Q)
Lena Maffei
Avraam Matatov (Q)
Yessenia Moran (Q)
Cynthia Munoz (Q)
Thalia Perez (M)
Jason Quizhpi (Q)

Jasmine Ramos (M)
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Christiana Rivera
Kristian Roman (B)
Orlando Villalba (Q)
Siu-man Ruby Wong

Staff Illustrators

Eugene Gibbs (BX)

Teachers who have encouraged us

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Ms. DiPiazza (M)
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Our Principal

Ms. Ramona Pizarro

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Contact HIT MAGAZINE at: HITMAGAZINE@AOL.COM

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CONTESTS

Every month we try to include a list of contests which we hope you might enjoy entering. If you do, please let us know and also send us a copy of your entry so that we can print it in HIT. A number of our students have won these contests so you should really give it a try.

YCteen (formerly NYC- New Youth Connections)

Essay Contests

Contest # 211: The "Occupy Wall Street" protests have drawn attention to the fact that about 40% of wealth in the United States is controlled by the richest 1% of the population. Do you think taxes on the rich should be raised? Should government do more to help people who are struggling financially? What personal experiences or observations make you feel this way?

Deadline: March 9, 2012

Info: <http://www.ycteenmag.org/contests/ycteen.html>

High School Essay Contest

Sponsored by: Society of Professional Journalists

Topic: "Why is it important that we have news media that is independent of the government?"

Prizes: 1st: \$1000 scholarship, 2nd: \$500 scholarship, 3rd: \$300 scholarship

Deadline: March 8, 2012

Info: <http://www.spj.org/a-hs.asp>

AAA Annual Art Contest

Poster & Video Contest

Grades: k – 12

Deadline: March 15, 2012

Info: http://www.ny.aaa.com/safety/school_programs/

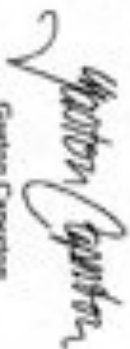
Click on: [AAA Announces Annual Art Contest](#)

AP


AP Scholar Award presented to

SIU MAN RUBY WONG

*in recognition of exemplary college-level achievement on
Advanced Placement Program Examinations*


Gaston Caperton
President
The College Board




Trevor Packer
Vice President, Advanced Placement Program
The College Board



Conferred: August 12, 2011

CONGRATULATIONS

Siu Man Ruby Wong

for winning the

AP Scholar Award!!!!



HELP WANTED

Editor-in-Chief (one more)

- Write monthly articles
- Help determine whether articles are appropriate for publication
- Contribute ideas and opinions
- Help lay out pages

Editor (several)

- Write monthly articles
- Help determine whether articles are appropriate for publication
- Contribute ideas and opinions
- Help with typing

Columnists (several)

Write a monthly column on a topic which interests you such as: sports, entertainment, hobbies, etc.

Special 11th or 12th grade columnist (1)

Write a monthly column on life in junior and senior year, thinking about life after high school, SATs, careers, college, etc.
We will help you with ideas and material

For more information, contact us at:

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HIKIDS@AOL.COM (for Home Instruction Kids — “HI KIDS”)



REFLECTIONS

Untitled

By Oskarmali Diaz (Bronx)

Teacher: Dawn Reyes

, was in the park when , broke my leg. , was riding my bike when ' saw people coming and' decided to turn. 'turned left. 'guess' hit the grass too hard, because' was thrown from the bike. My brother saw me fall and quickly called 911. He said, "Can you send an ambulance O the park? My brother fell off his bike and he can' get up." My mom had gone to the store, so my brother called her to come quickly. She came from the store.

The ambulance took me to the hospital. , went to two hospitals. At the first one they gave me four shots and' still didn't go to sleep. Finally, , went to Montefiore. 'had to wait a long time in the emergency room. They took x-rays and' had to twist my leg a little. They gave me one shot and told me to help it by trying to go to sleep. My leg was hurting so much it was a 10.

, was asleep when they put the cast on. They transferred me from bed to bed until they got me to my room. 'woke up when I was in one of the beds. When' woke up, I thought, "Where am I?" It took me a minute to figure out where' was going. Finally, we got to my room, and it was time to get into the other bed. They asked me to help them move my own leg since I'm the one with the broken leg, , know how to move it so that it doesn't hurt. They used the sheets to lift me up and put me into the bed. 'had to wait until they brought me my food to take a pill for the pain. I had to eat something before' swallowed the pill. 'had to wait for a little bit, but' was just watching TV so it was okay. When you are entertained by something, the pain isn't really bothering you that much. When they brought my food and I took the medicine, I was a little upset because it was taking a long time for the pill to start working and I was in pain.

The food in the hospital was not good. Normally, my mom would go there every day, and if not her, then my dad would come. Both of them would bring me snacks. I met new friends in the hospital. We played games and we had fun. And we watched TV.

After I came home, , still had to go to more appointments so the doctor could check to see how my leg was healing. At my first appointment, they cut open the cast with a special saw that had a vacuum cleaner attached. I never knew how they put on a cast until my appointment. First, they took x-rays. Then' had to wait for a few minutes until the doctor got the x-rays. Then we went to a different room so , could put on the cast. , asked where the cast was and he said it was right there. It was a tiny roll. He opened the little plastic bag, took out the roll and wet it with cold water. Next, he wrapped it around my leg as he unrolled the little roll in order to take the shape of my leg. My mom had to fill out paperwork for the next appointment. The cast was just about dry by the time' got home. My leg is not in pain anymore. The doctor says that my leg is healing up properly. My next appointment is in 1 month, and the doctor may tell me if I can start going to school. Even though I am being home schooled, it is not the same thing as going into school. I want to go back to school and meet the teachers. I miss my friends, and can't wait to see them again.

By Jennifer Rivas (Grade 11, Queens)

Teachers: Kathy Hanlon & Ms. Hunter

Article submitted by Mr. Danny Rayder (Queens A.P.)

For those who don't know me, I'm Jennifer Rivas, a junior in CTEA, and I would like to share my story. When I was born I was diagnosed with sickle cell anemia. It was a disease that affected the blood that causes great pain and a great number of health problems. This disease didn't start reacting on me until I was 14 years old. I started to have severe pains on my legs and arms because the blood wasn't circulating on those areas. In order to control this pain I had to take painkillers and blood transfusion every three weeks during the fall and winter, since that's when they affected me the most. So my hematology (blood) doctor recommended us to have a bone marrow transplant since he didn't want me to suffer the rest of my life.

When I first heard about this, I was scared, every time the doctor explained to me what was going to happen I felt much intimidated. Who wouldn't? It's not like I'm going to be in the hospital for one or two days looking and feeling normal then boom I'm home and healed, no, even though I wish it was that easy. Then I realized I didn't need easy I just need possible. In order for me to have a new bone marrow, I need someone else's who was a perfect match for me. Of course who wouldn't be more perfect match than my sister Kelsey who is 15 years old? Yes she is 100% match for me. Now you guys are probably thinking just cause we are siblings we would obviously have the same blood or bone marrow type. WRONG! Only 1 out of 4 siblings turn out to be bone marrow matches, which is like 25%. If you don't have matches from your siblings, they would search for donors from around the world! A friend of mine who did the exact procedure as me had a donor from another country because she doesn't have any siblings of her own. She waited for years to get a match since it's that easy to find a perfect one.

'Well now that I have a donor that part of the procedure was done. I had to take a lot of tests to make sure I was healthy enough to do this. I passed and the next thing you know I'm in the hospital. I'm stuck in a room for one month and you can't get out! Actually is [not that bad as it seems. What I did all day was really just watch TV and chill on the computer. Okay now you guys know I was a couch potato for a month, and yes that did bother me because an active girl like me, I need some exercise! There was not that much room for me to walk around so I think stretches was enough. While in there I receive chemotherapy, and A LOT of medicine. Just because I received chemotherapy doesn't mean that I have cancer! Instead I got a low dose of chemo to kill my original bone marrow so that my sister's marrow can go in. it wasn't so bad since I only got it for 10 days. After those 10 days I finally got my sister's bone marrow through a transfusion on August 2. My sister was fine, just weak from all that blood that came out of her pelvis. It gets boring in there after a while, I really wanted visitors my age other than my sister, and I could use my friends' entertainment but I wasn't allowed.

Anyways after 3 weeks since my transplant I can finally go home. I felt really comfortable staying at my own house, sleeping on my own bed and walking around. However I was still in isolation since my immune system is still low since I got the chemo. For 100 days I have to be in isolation, the only time I

can go out is when I have a doctor's appointment in the hospital which was every week, I find that very annoying. Not only my immune system was low but also my energy so I still can't exercise as much as I want to, and besides that, I can't eat certain food that I like. For example, I can't eat any fast food, Chinese food, or take out restaurants, why? Because those foods have bacteria that I can't fight, while my family can, since they are normal. Eventually I survived since I can only eat what Mom makes out of the kitchen. Still the temptation kept rising, not just food but getting out of the house. At one point I got really mad and sad since I'm still not allowed to do what other people do. When the first day of school started, wow I felt really depressed because I had a doctor's appointment that day and I dropped of my sister Kelsey to school. As I drove by the school, I saw my friends walking, talking to other kids, all in their CTEA uniform, and probably complaining because summer is over. I really wanted to be there with them, I have been doing that all my life and this year was the first year I didn't start school the same time my friends did. The reason I can't go to school yet is the same reason I can't go out to places, my immune system is low. You think the school is clean? No way! That's the least place my doctors want me to be but to me is where I wanted to go. Also I don't want anyone to see me since I look different from the others, Yeah eventually my hair fell out and it's not an easy thing to get use to, especially if you're a girl. I mean girls care about how they look, and if that happen to any of those girly girls out there, I don't think they wouldn't gotten far or successful as I am. Not that I'm scared to face everyone, it's just that, a lot of teenagers these days will make fun of you with anything. I'm not going to go through with that because I don't care what people think because as long as I'm happy with it, I'm not going to fell terrible but for now I'll avoid it. Hey did you actually think I want to go for schoolwork?! Trust me I don't want to think about that! The real reason is that I wanted to see my friends, and become a normal girl again -- Not that "sick girl" anymore.

I may not be that popular in school but I definitely have people who love and care about me, even teachers, who I am blessed to have during my hard times. I'm being home schooled right now, but I won't be for long because I'm coming back, and I'm coming back feeling normal, doing everything what couldn't be done before and shining my brightest. I also thank God for his love in giving me this miracle, the strength and my sister. There's a quote that implies to all of us in our lives, especially during the hard times "All the broken pieces of my life are nothing more than a beautiful mosaic of my future". I won't be there for Christmas but since Christmas is about love and not just some holiday, I'm giving my love gift to you. Merry Christmas!

On Friday, November 23, 2011, I went to observe Ms. Hunter, a Queens home instruction teacher. She was teaching Jennifer Rivas, an 11th grade student from CTEA who has been diagnosed with sickle cell anemia.

After the observation I was able to speak with Jennifer and her mother and learned how this family has coped with this condition and how they want to share Jennifer's experience with others. Jennifer submitted this article to CTEA and also wants to share this with everyone who reads HIT Magazine.

Jennifer was hoping this could make the December issue of HIT.

-- Daniel Rayder (Assistant Principal, Queens Home Instruction)

Reflection

By Ruby Wong (Queens)

Teacher: Ms. Alexander

Trip to the Statue of Liberty and Elise Island

Today, I visited two places that are representative of the American culture--- the Statue of Liberty and the Elise Island. These two places gave people hope, just like the country itself. While standing there, multiple thoughts came across my mind.

The statue did not only represent freedom but also showed France's ambition. At this time, America controlled "sea to the shining sea" and had already settled their most pressing issue--- slavery. Now, the world began to see America as a rising nation. When French gave America the Statue of Liberty as a gift, I think it was a way for France to warn the world that they allied this great nation and were not to be messed up with.

In addition to the France's ambition, the statue itself was a great human accomplishment. Edouard de Laboulaye and Bartholdi's brilliant idea combined with the most advanced techniques at that time that produced a masterwork unmatched by anyone else prior to 1887. I also like the fact that Bartholdi chose Bedloe's Island (also known as the Liberty Island); because I could visualize entering the US port and this statue being the first landmark that I would see. Seeing a statue that symbolized hope and peace would have relieved all worries I might have had upon entering a new country.

Standing in the hall of Elise Island Museum, I could imagine all the hardships immigrants had to go through in order to start a new and hopeful life in America. Although they faced many difficulties, such as leaving their loved ones and memories in their homeland, they chose the voyage because they saw America as a symbol of hope and opportunity.

As an immigrant, I can connect this to my own experience. Recalling from my own departure five years ago; I missed everything I had in Hong Kong. Even things that I once viewed as common became precious. However, there is hope in this country, such as better education and healthcare that I would not have encountered if I had stayed in Hong Kong.

Generally, I love going on trips because I can actually see events that took place, and the subsequent memory of it settles in my mind for a longer period of time. Also, I like learning about new things from trips and/or from the media because it is not as tedious as reading a textbook. Unlike other trips, this one was unique because I was able to connect American history to my own experience.



Taken on my ride to the Liberty Island

“Reading thousands of volumes of books cannot compare to traveling thousands of miles of road.”-
Chinese Proverb

POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CHANGES IN THE SOUTH
DURING RECONSTRUCTION

By PEDRO BONILLA (Bronx)

Teacher: Dawn Reyes

1870-1877



Reconstruction. Some changes were good for the citizens of the south, and others were bad. There were different kinds of changes that caused many effects. These changes affected the social, political and economic way of life for southerners.

Social changes were some of the good things that happened in the south. Slaves became sharecroppers. They planted crops and sold some of the harvest to earn money. Now they could afford their own land. Although they became sharecroppers they still had very little money.

Health care improved because of the increased number of hospitals. They built 40 new hospitals so that the African Americans could have better access to health care. These hospitals were segregated.

The freed slaves children were more educated because of the new schools that were built. In fact, 4,000 schools were built for children during Reconstruction. To get an education was very hard for the freed slaves because of a shortage of teachers. In order to get past this tragedy they had to build 74 more schools to train enough teachers. Colleges were made for the young African American high school graduates. All men got the right to vote. Since all men got the right to

vote, sixteen African Americans were elected to Congress. Because of Reconstruction laws, the African Americans were able to enter politics. In the new state governments African Americans were elected to jobs.

Not all these changes were positive. Segregation laws were created in many places. Under these laws whites and blacks had to be separated. Whites and blacks had to drink from different fountains. Their educations were different because they had to go to different schools. Because of all these situations racism got worse.

African Americans were able to get jobs. As a result of them getting jobs, they could now afford to buy their own things without depending on other people. This independence caused a reversal of their lives from then on. This meant plantation owners no longer had free labor, so many of them went out of business.

The changes I have summed up in my essay show the improvements that took place in the south during Reconstruction. Everything I have written shows that some of the effects were good and some were not. I wish every kid could see how good we have it now.



A Visit to the New York Historical Society

By: Barry Hantman (Queens Home Instruction teacher)

The New York Historical Society building, completed in 1908, just reopened after a three year renovation. This majestic museum is located at Central Park West and 77 Street. Admission is \$10 for students and \$15 for adults.

Upon entering the Society, visitors head straight into an auditorium for a rousing and uplifting short film called "New York Experience." Images of old and modern New York fill the screen as we are transported to various ethnic neighborhoods across the Big Apple. The city skyline as seen from a helicopter takes us over Manhattan. No wonder the late Kurt Vonnegut called Manhattan "Skyscraper National Monument." If you are a native New Yorker, it is impossible to sit through this video and not feel a tremendous pride in our city, "capital of the world." The film even ends in style, blaring Jay-Z's "Empire State of Mind."

These are my favorite objects at the museum:

1. The 2 pistols used in the 1804 duel between Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr
2. A 1788 draft of *Federalist Paper #64* by John Jay
3. The famous Gilbert Stuart portrait of George Washington (4th floor)
4. Tiffany lamps (4th floor)
5. A large religious-themed Tiffany window from 1909 entitled "Good Shepherd and Flock"
6. A haunting 1856 white marble statue by Thomas Crawford entitled "The Indian: The Dying Chief Contemplating the Progress of Civilization." The sculptor carved a muscular Native American man with downcast head in a thinking pose. His eyes and mouth reflect his inner agony. The chief has on a feather headdress, loincloth, and moccasins. He sits upon a large animal skin with a tomahawk sticking out from the bottom. This work is like thousands of history books and documentaries reduced to one large stone piece! Very powerful.



In addition to the Historical Society's permanent galleries, a current special presentation is also worth a visit -- "Revolution! The Atlantic World Reborn." This exhibit explores the connections among the American, French, and Haitian revolutions. It "traces how an ideal of popular sovereignty, introduced through the American fight for independence, soon sparked more radical calls for a recognition of universal human rights and set off attacks on both sides of the Atlantic against hereditary privilege and slavery. Among the astonishing, unforeseen outcomes was an insurrection on the French possession of Saint-Domingue (now Haiti), leading to the world's only successful slave revolt and the

establishment in 1804 of the first nation founded on the principles of full freedom and equality for all, regardless of color."

This exhibit details how Haiti was the richest colony on earth, producing 40% of the world's sugar and half its coffee. Sugar and its byproducts (molasses and rum) were like gold. But it took countless slaves, worked to death by the French, to produce all of this wealth for the mother country. (It is ironic that King Louis XVI used some of this money to finance his support for the American colonial struggle against England). After viewing the display, one can better put into context Haiti's own struggle, led by Toussaint L'Ouverture, to throw off French oppression.

"Revolution! The Atlantic World Reborn" also contains another haunting piece -- the famous 1789 print of the Liverpool slave ship *Brookes*, showing the African captives closely packed on its lower decks. This engraving, reproduced in all our history textbooks, was issued by an anti-slavery group in Plymouth, England. Next to the *Brookes* print is a stirring yet modern image -- a 1979 album cover for the Bob Marley record *Survival*. Flags of African nations form a border around the *Brookes* print. A sign reads "If Noah's Ark is the cultural emblem of harmony in the face of danger, the *Brookes* is an anti-Ark, an emblem of inhumanity."



The New York Historical Society contains a treasure trove of items relating to our proud state and national heritage. But this museum is also unafraid to examine tainted aspects of this nation's legacy, such as its treatment of Native Americans and its tolerance for slavery.

Update from the Associated Press: The New York Historical Society will start displaying a rare Abraham Lincoln-signed copy of the 13th Amendment on February 1, the 147th anniversary of the signing of the law that constitutionally banned slavery. The document, one of at least 14 Lincoln-inked copies of the 13th Amendment, once belonged to Schuyler Colfax, Ulysses S. Grant's vice president. It will be on view until April 1.

A Fun Summer Trip

By: Colleen Baur (Queens)

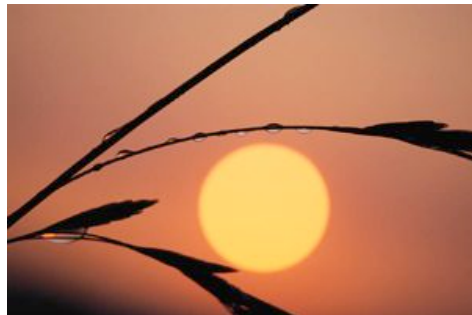
Teacher: Barry Hantman

Last summer, I went on a trip to Michigan to visit my family. My mom's side all live out there. My mother has 4 brothers and sisters: Uncle Dennis, Uncle Kevin, Uncle Brian, and Aunt Donnalee. My twin sister, Cortney, and I used to never be able to see them because the only time we went on vacation was to go to Florida to visit our grandma each winter. But now my sister and I were old enough to visit Michigan on our own. We stayed with Uncle Kevin and his wife, my Aunt Mary. They have 5 kids named Bobby, Patrick, Kelly, Erin, and Kim. They are all a few years older than us but we get along fine. We had stayed with them the previous summer so we knew this trip would be fun.

The best part of my vacation was spending quality time with my family. We went bowling, shopping, and swimming. A lot of swimming, since my uncle owns a house right on the shore of beautiful Lake Angeles! They own a boat so my uncle and aunt thought it would be a good idea to teach my sister and I how to wake-board and water-ski. Let me tell you, it's not as easy as one would think. I was OK at wake-boarding but just couldn't seem to get the hang of water-skiing. But Cortney was good at that.

The only bad part of the trip was that my two closest cousins are in college and their semester began while we were visiting. So they left for college about 3 days before we headed back to New York. Now we were left at the house with just the adults. But Cortney and I still managed to have a great time.

I would definitely go back to Michigan. In fact, my sister and I are already planning a return trip there next summer.



Vacation in Pennsylvania

By: Yein Kim (Queens)

Teacher: Barry Hantman

This past summer I went on a trip to the Poconos with my family and a few family friends. The drenching rain, the picturesque waterfalls and the challenging hike made it all so worthwhile. The scenery was breathtaking and although I was exhausted at the end of the two days, I would do it again in a heartbeat.

The first day we traveled to Pennsylvania, which took us about 4 hours. The car ride was not as boring as expected. It rained all throughout the first day of the vacation and the rain continued during the night. The hiking trail had several waterfalls that were just incredible. The water was brown and murky because of the heavy rain but the rocks looked as if they had been stacked by a baby giant playing with his blocks. Can you imagine it? The calming sound of the rain, mingled with the torrential noise of the various waterfalls, added to the already tranquil ambiance. The waterfalls grew in size as we got deeper into the hike. At one point, two waterfalls were right on top of each other, so the sound was massive and unbelievable. There were wooden bridges as soaked as we were on the trail and I did worry about rotting wood softened by the rain, but they held up just fine and looked nice against the background of moving water.

The trail was especially difficult, filled with precarious staircases and slopes. It took almost 3 hours to complete, and it didn't help that we got lost. The ground was muddy and the stones slippery. I teetered off the edge of a narrow staircase and almost slipped and fell into a waterfall! When we were near the end of the hike, we waded into a flat bank below a waterfall. The water was cool and refreshing, and it felt nice to just take a breather. Even with the rain, there were sounds of the forest and they chimed into the rush of the waterfalls. I felt in tune with nature, and it put a smile on my face being outside and enjoying something other than my computer.

I enjoyed my memorable trip to the Poconos. The allure of just getting away from it all was terrific, and not once did I think about updating my Facebook or texting my friends.

My Mandala and Mandala Essay

By: Orlando Villalba (Queens)

Teacher: Barry Hantman

My English teacher at high school assigned us to draw a mandala about our lives and then explain the symbols we chose. Mandalas were first created in Tibet over 2,000 years ago. What is a mandala? My homework sheet explains that "A mandala is a circular drawing made to represent the harmony and wholeness of life or the wholeness of a person. Tibetans used mandalas for calming themselves and for thinking about the meaning of life. Today people often create mandalas to from a simple representation of who they are . . . The shape of a mandala is a circle because a circle is the most simple and universal shape in the world. Also, since there is always a center to the circle, as you look at a mandala it exercises your mind and draws you into the center of yourself or your topic."

There are 3 circular bands on the outside of my mandala. They are the colors of the Mexican flag. Green represents hope for the future, white is for unity among the people of Mexico, red is for the blood of the heroes who fought for independence from Spain.

The first symbol in the center of my mandala is a rainbow. This shows how people should treat the environment. They should show respect and not cut down so many trees. That is why I put New Jersey to go with that symbol -- my relatives there care a lot about the environment.

The second symbol I use is the dove. It is a symbol of peace and love. Puebla, Mexico is a wonderful place to me because that is where all my grandparents live.

My third symbol is a heart. The heart indicates love. I use a heart to show all my love for my mother, Prudencia, and for my uncle, Roman.

The fourth symbol is people shaking hands. This figure represents the friendship, love, and support of my Uncle Roman.



My Dog, Maya

By: Cynthia Munoz (Queens)

Teacher: Barry Hantman

I had a dog named Tiffany who passed away and we were looking for another dog. It was Christmas time a few years ago when I got Maya. I got her from the North Shore Animal League. My mom and sister were feeding another dog when I was feeding Maya. Instead of Maya eating the food in my hand, she was busy nibbling on my fingers. Then my mom and sister walked over. I asked a worker what kind of dog Maya was and he said "a German shepherd mix with a mutt." My mom and I love German shepherds so that was a great answer. Right then we decided to take Maya home.

Maya has light brown and dark brown fur. She has dark eyes. She is a large, playful, and energetic dog. If you met Maya for the first time she would lick your whole face!

If we ask for her paw she would give it to us and then we take both front paws to get her to stand on her hind legs and walk with us. In addition to dog food, Maya likes to eat chicken, steak, rice, peanut butter, sometimes milk, and bread. And of course, Milk Bone biscuits.



The Meal, Ready-to-Eat (MRE)

By: Kevin Arias (Queens)

Teacher: Barry Hantman

An MRE is a waterproof and lightweight packaged meal used by the military for combat or field conditions. MRE's were developed to replace heavy canned goods that soldiers on foot used to have to carry around. MRE's don't look very appetizing but some of them taste awesome.

My father served in the Marines so for many years during Fleet Week we visited the Intrepid aircraft carrier. MRE's were available to the public and I got to try a few of them. I liked the chicken and rice MRE and also the meatballs and pasta MRE. I didn't like the hot dogs and mashed potatoes type (the potatoes tasted like hot dog). I like the MRE's that require you to add water but I didn't care for the newer models that don't need water.

The way you prepare most MRE's is very easy. Simply open the packet and add water to the fixed line. Then you shake it up. In the old days tank units could use the tank engines to heat up their MRE's. But in 1992 "a Flameless Ration Heater (FRH), a water-activated exothermic reaction product that emits heat, allowed a servicemember in the field to enjoy a hot meal."

An MRE weighs from 18 to 26 ounces, provides about 1,200 calories and has a shelf life of 3 years. There are variations that the United Nations uses for refugees and displaced people. Similarly, the Food Packet, Survival, Abandon Ship and the Food Packet, Survival Aircraft, Life Raft are fitted into lifeboat storage areas.

Reflection of the Anderson Cooper Show

Student: Avraam Matatov (Grade 11, Queens)

Teacher: Ms. Cheryl Alexander

The Anderson Cooper Show is a talk show/reality that I went to as a class trip with my teacher, Ms. Alexander, on Thursday 11/3/11. I loved it! It was a great and unforgettable experience. It was running for about 1½ hr.

I got to experience how they actually made these talk shows. It was really interesting. I always wondered how these hosts talk and perform so perfectly. But now I saw the trick and the secrets behind it, it was really something to witness. I saw that Anderson, the host, as he was speaking he was reading what he had to say from the computer in front of the cameras. I was like making myself look nice and sit in a good position because I would be on national TV. I was never on TV before.

Anderson was interviewing a mom who is a drug addict and wants to stop but can't. She is taking drugs so she can be active and be able to do house work like a normal woman should do. So Anderson was trying to change her life for the better. I think Brittney, the drug addict, should believe in her and let people to help her. I had a question that if people knew that she was a drug addict, then how come she is not in jail yet? She is getting the drugs, as she says "Medicine", illegally, right? Plus, she is telling what she is doing on national TV! I think she is risking it. Anyways, I'm glad that she will be in rehab and the doctors/nurses will help her to overcome her addiction. All the best for her!

The second interview, Anderson was interviewing a director of a girls scout. A boy named Bobby, 7, wants and acts to be like a girl. He's trying to change his gender. So he once tried to try out for the girls scout team. I think that people, who try to change their gender, have problems. Just be happy who you are and live your life! You got other things to worry about than changing your gender and embarrassing yourself, as Anderson said that kids at school were and are picking at Bobby.

My trip to the Anderson show was amazing! I have learnt a lot from this experience. This trip really paid off. I would defiantly go back again and also may go to other talk shows/reality shows. THANK YOU MS. ALEXANDER!! ☺

The Day I Met Zac Efron

By: Christiana Rivera

Teacher: Mrs. Wagner

I couldn't believe this was happening. I've been dreaming about this ever since I was 12. I'm guessing you're trying to figure out what I'm talking about, right? Well, tomorrow I'm going to see Zac Efron at the 'Live with Kelly' show. You're also probably wondering "Who's Zac Efron?".

Well, he's a 24 year old actor that I've been admiring ever since I was 11 and I'm now 16 going on 17. I've spent the whole week working on a somewhat scrap book/ appreciation book. I ended up finishing the book at 2:30 am on Wednesday, which was two and a half hours before I had to leave to go to the city. "BEEEEP BEEP BEEP" , waking up to the obnoxious alarm on my ipod was horrible, since I never use an alarm, and I never wake up that early. I Jumped out of bed , threw some clothes on and ran out the door. I kind of felt bad for my mom because she's was scared that I was going on the train to go to the city at 5:00 in the morning by myself. I was also afraid because I strongly dislike going out in public because I get anxiety attacks, but I some how still managed to leave the house.

I impatiently waited for the trains to come. I wanted to be early because I wanted to be in the first or second row in the audience. The train came 20 minutes later, and I was on my way to 'Live with Kelly' to meet the one and only, Zac Efron. An hour later, I was there and right in front of the studio and one of the first few people on line. Hours passed, as I waited outside in the pouring rain to get inside the studio. It was around 8:30 AM now and they finally let everyone go into the studio and got us seated. I

was lucky enough to be seated in the second row.

Shortly after the show started, I was sitting there nervously waiting for Zac holding the book I made for him.

"PLEASE WELCOME, ZAC EFRON" were the words I heard. My emotions were going crazy! I didn't know if I should've cried, screamed, jumped up or clapped like a maniac; so I just sat there, smiled and clapped. I couldn't take my eyes off of Zac. He was talking about his new movies and projects while he was there. Shortly after, there was a commercial break. That means the tape stops rolling, and we all get to talk freely and the guests and staff members get to interact with the audience.

"ZAC! ZAC!" I shouted as Zac turned to me, giving me a soft head nod which he usually does as a

"Heyyyyyyyyy". "I MADE YOU THIS BOOK... I MADE THIS GIFT FOR YOU" I shouted once again.

"Really? for me?" he questioned and flashed a shy smile. I responded by saying yes, so he got up from his seat and walked towards me.

"For you, Zac," I said nervously as he approached me. He took the book, scanned through the pages and this bright smile appeared on his face.

"Wow this book is amazing, thank you," he said while gently grabbing my hand. I was basically dying on the inside and thoughts were running through my mind;

"ZAC TOUCHED MY HAND", "ZAC'S SO PERFECT" , "I LOVE HIM" were some of the things I was thinking. His piercing blue eyes looked me in the eyes, he winked, flashed a smile once again and walked back to the producer. It was his cue to leave the show now since he had to go do another interview somewhere else. As he walked off Zac turned around, pointed at me and shouted "THANK YOU, ONCE AGAIN".

I couldn't help but giggle. Till this very day (a week and a half later) I still get those butterflies in my stomach when I watch his movies, hear his name and see his pictures.

That was my experience on meeting Zac Efron. It was a day I'll always remember.

Such A Great Memory

By Jasmine Ramos

Last night I wasn't tired and I couldn't sleep so I layed on my side and reminisced some GREAT memories that I had with my family, I remembered the time my mom, step dad, an old friend, her husband my sister Jessica, my brother RJ and my brother Nico went to Sesame Place which is in Pennsylvania. I was 9, Jessica was 10, RJ was 3 and Nico was 1 or 2 (not sure). We rented a wheelchair accessible mini van and drove to Sesame Place which is a long ride but even WORST when you get lost. We left our house around 11:00 Am, got in the mini van, loaded the bags in the truck and took off! We were all so excited. The mini van had a TV and VCR so my sister and I took some tapes from the house to watch in the car. So we were in the car enjoying the ride, watching Barney and eating snacks. Then we got lost. It was dark outside and I remember driving by a cemetery (by the way NEVER go to a cemetery at night). My brothers were getting restless and I was getting EXTREMELY uncomfortable because at the time I had a wheelchair (which WAS NOT my best friend). When we finally reached our destination it was 12:00 midnight. We were all so happy to finally get there and I was soooooo anxious to get out of the UNCOMFORTABLE wheelchair. As soon as we got to our room mom put the bags down and INSTANTLY put me on the bed. I saw heaven. I didn't want to be touched, moved or nothing. I was EXTREMELY sore from sitting up for 14 hours straight (I mean who wouldn't). When we were done unpacking it was time for bed and I had to share a bed with Nico (which was the WORST experience). I almost fell off the bed because Nico kept pushing me with his foot. The next morning we woke up, got dressed and ate breakfast with the Sesame Street characters. Then we went to the water park, walked around, got pictures with characters, played at the arcades, won stuffed animals and saw the Sesame Street parade (which was AWESOME). Our hotel had a pool outside in the back (which my sister LOVED). The ride home was another long ride but at least we didn't get lost!

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Book Review -- Wooden: A Lifetime of Observations and Reflections On and Off the Court

By: Haily Kaminski (Queens)

Teacher: Barry Hantman

John Wooden is probably the most famous college basketball coach ever. He coached UCLA to 10 NCAA championships in 12 years (from 1964-1975). Many of his players, such as Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Bill Walton, went on to star in the NBA.

This book features the wisdom and guidance of Coach Wooden. His lessons apply to both basketball and life. For example, one of the things his father taught him was something called the "**two sets of threes**": Never lie, never cheat, never steal. Don't whine, don't complain, don't make excuses.

Here are Coach Wooden's **Eight Suggestions for Succeeding**:

1. Fear no opponent. Respect every opponent.
2. Remember, it's the perfection of the smallest details that make big things happen.
3. Keep in mind that hustle makes up for many a mistake.
4. Be more interested in character than reputation.
5. Be quick, but don't hurry.
6. Understand that the harder you work, the more luck you will have.
7. Know that valid self-analysis is crucial for improvement.
8. Remember that there is no substitute for hard work and careful planning. Failing to prepare is preparing to fail.

John Wooden said that you should first strive to be a good human being, then maybe you'll have a chance at being a good basketball player. This country really needs his old-fashioned values!

My Favorite Movie

By: Yessenia Moran (Queens)

Teacher: Barry Hantman

My favorite movie of all time is "The Notebook," a 2004 war romance film directed by Nick Cassavetes and based on the novel written by Nicholas Sparks. The film stars Ryan Gosling and Rachel McAdams as a young couple who fall in love during the early 1940's.

The main characters are Allie Hamilton (Rachel McAdams) and Noah Calhoun (Ryan Gosling). Noah Calhoun is the movie's narrator. He is a good and kind man who falls in love with Allie. She comes from a wealthy family. Allie is casual, has brown hair, and likes to wear red lipstick. She soon falls in love with Noah.

An elderly man reads from a notebook to an elderly woman about a story between two young lovers, Allie and Noah. The story begins during the summer of 1940 on Seabrook Island, South Carolina. Allie is a high school student spending the summer on Seabrook. At a carnival, she meets Noah, a poor local boy who finds Allie to be attractive. After putting him off over several tries, Allie finally agrees to go on a date with Noah. They both fall in love with each other over the summer. Once Allie's rich parents meet Noah, they disapprove of him. After an argument with her parents, Allie is forced to leave Seabrook a week earlier than planned; leaving her unable to say good-bye to her beloved Noah.

After waiting several years for Noah to write to her, Allie becomes engaged to Lon. But when she sees Noah's photo in a newspaper, Allie travels back to Seabrook to check on Noah. While there, she realizes that she still has strong feelings for him. Allie is then forced to choose between her fiancée and her first love. Throughout the movie, flashbacks show the elderly man and the elderly woman reading from the notebook. It is revealed that she is Allie and he is the one she chose. He is Noah. Allie has developed Alzheimers. They die in each other's arms.

I was asked to describe my favorite scene. Well, my favorite scene of "The Notebook" is . . . the whole movie! I love this film. It was very powerful the way Noah tries to bring back the memory of the one he loves so they could die peacefully together. I give "The Notebook" 5 stars and recommend it to anyone who likes romantic movies.

Movie Review: "Bridesmaids"

By: Jason Quizhpi (Queens)

Teacher: Barry Hantman

"Bridesmaids" is a very funny film starring Kristin Wiig and Maya Rudolph from Saturday Night Live. This movie is about a bride, Lillian, whose old friend and new friend both compete to take over the planning of Lillian's wedding.

The old friend is Annie, a friendly blonde who is a little depressed now because of how her life is going. The bakery she opened didn't do well and she was forced to shut it. Also, she is having a relationship problem with a rich man. Annie sometimes is jealous of others and can get crazy at times. The new friend is Helen, beautiful and rich. a person who tries to be perfect. Annie tries to satisfy Lillian but somehow the rich girl does things better and fancier. It's a constant war between Annie and Helen.

In the beginning of the movie Lillian is happy because she just got engaged. She tells her childhood friend, Annie, all about it and then asks Annie to be her bridesmaid. Soon there is a bridal party and Annie gets to meet the fiancée's family and friends. This is when Annie meets Helen and starts to get jealous. In the rising action of the movie all the bridesmaids get together and plan out the wedding details. In the climax of the film Annie ruins the wedding planning and she and her best friend, Lillian, stop talking. In the falling action, Annie gets kicked out of the house she shares with a two others, loses her friends, has no job, and must move back to her mother's house. Annie tries to fix her problems. In the end she goes to Lillian's wedding with Rhodes, a Wisconsin state trooper who has been pursuing her the whole time.

My favorite scene in "Bridesmaids" is when Annie, Lillian, and all the bridesmaids go to a store to choose dresses for the big day. They had just gone to lunch at a place Annie picked out -- a cheap Brazilian meat restaurant in a bad part of town. All the bridesmaids get food poisoning except for Helen (she didn't eat any meat) and they run to find a bathroom. Their yelling and panic was crazy and made me laugh a lot.

POETRY PLACE

Colors

By Lena Maffei
Teacher: Rebecca Mason

Blue is for freedom.

Green is for peace.

Red is for anger.

Yellow's for cheer.

White is for dreams.

Black is for darkness.

Orange is for warmth.

Pink is for attractiveness.

As for violet...

I don't know what purple stands for yet...

Sledding

By Lena Maffei

Teacher: Rebecca Mason

Crunching, crushing underfoot,
Running up the hill.
Sliding, gliding down the slope,
This is such a thrill!
But beware;
Even the smallest bumps
Can send you flying into the air!



This poem was inspired by my sledding trip to Hidden Valley in Colorado. You should go there and see it for yourself. It's the most beautiful in wintertime-- the way the trees ring the hills is amazing. But what else do you expect?

I Am Just Like You

By Jasmine Ramos

My name is Jasmine Ramos,
I am sixteen years old,
I have SMA,
But I am just like you.

I don't need your pity,
And I don't need your tears,
Just a little tender love and care.

I don't need people
that stare at me like I don't belong in this world,
I need and want people to be my friend,
Because I am normal just like you.

Please don't be cruel,
Talk to me,
I am just like you.

?

By Thalia Perez (Manhattan)

Teacher: Mary Bradley

WHY PUT A STRONG FACE ON
WHY WEAR THAT S ON MY CHEST LIKE NOthings WRONG
WHY LIE TO YOU AND WHY LIE TO ME CUZ EVERY ONE SEES IM NOT OKAY
AND RIGHT NOW IM IN A DAZE I NEED TO WALK UNTIL IM THERE

WHERE AM I GOING ?

IM GOING TO FIND THE PLACE WHERE I BELONG
THE PLACE THAT WELCOMES ME WITH OPEN ARMS
WHERE I WONT BE PUT DOWN OR BE TOLD TO STAND DOWN
WHERE I CAN BE FREE AND BELIEVE IN ME

WHY ?

SO I CAN PROVE MY STRENGTH AND ABILITY TO MOVE ON
SO I CAN DO ALOT BUT HAVE THE OPTION TO DO SO MUCH MORE
SOMEWHERE ILL CRY FOR HAPPINESS MORE THAN ILL CRY FOR PAIN AND
SORROW
SOMEWHERE I CAN VENT AND NOT FEAR WHAT I SAY

BUT UNTIL THEN I GUESS IM JUST GONNA HAVE TO DO ME MY ON WAY...

TEMPOORARY GOODBYE

By Thalia Perez (Manhattan)

Teacher: Mary Bradley

I FEEL LIKE MY HEART IS GETTIN TORN INTO PIECES IM TIRED OF LOSING
FRIENDS FOR THE MOST STUPIDEST REASONS IT SEEMS LIKE I WASNT MADE TO
HAVE FRIENDSHIPS, ALL THEY DO IS FALL APART HOW CAN YOU FIGHT FOR
SOMETHING THAT YOUR GONNA LOSE ANYWAY THERES
NOWHERE TO GO FROM HERE THERES NO PLACE TO TURN TO
MY LIFE HAS BECOME EVERYTHING I WOULD NEVER WANT FOR MYSELF IT
FEELS LIKE I HAVE DRAMA WRITTEN ON MY FOREHEAD OR
STAMPED ON MY HANDS

I CRY BECAUSE I DONT WANT TO LOSE YOU I CRY BECAUSE IT SEEMS LIKE ITS
THE ONLY WAY TO SAVE YOU I CRY CAUSE ITS HARD PEOPLELALWAYS USE TO
SAY CHOOSE YOUR FRIENDS WISELY BUT WHEN I DO I LOSE
SOMEONE IN THE PROCESS

I CHOSE YOU BECAUSE YOU WERE REAL I CHOSE YOU BECAUSE YOU DIDNT
FEAR I CHOSE YOU CAUSE I UNDERSTOOD
BUT I JUST DONT GET YOU ANYMORE I DONT UNDERSTAND THE ISSUE I FEEL
LIKE IM CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE AND IT SUCKS I GAVE UP A LONG TIME AGO ON
MY MAKING NEW FRIENDS AND HAVE BEEN SATISFIED WITH THE ONES I HAVE
AND THATS MY MISTAKE I DONT GRASP NICELY ON CHANGE BUT I DEAL WITH
IT. MY FRIEND I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU MY FRIEND I WILL ALWAYS HAVE YOU
ON MY MIND MY FRIEND I WILL ALWAYS BE THERE FOR YOU BUT FOR NOW ITS A
TEMPORARY GOODBYE
UNTIL WE BOTH CAN GRASP ONTO OUR LIVES AGAIN UNTIL WE UNDERSTAND
AGAIN UNTIL WE KNOW WHAT WE'RE DOING AGAIN UNTIL WE BELIEVE IN OUR
FRIENDSHIP ITS A TEMPORARY GOODBYE

ANGEL

By Thalia Perez (Manhattan)

Teacher: Mary Bradley

THE DAY OF JANUARY 14TH AN ANGEL
WAS BORN A BEAUTIFUL GREEN EYED
ANGEL WHO GREW UP TO BE A
WONDERFUL MOTHER OF 8
AND AGRANDMOTHER TO SO MANY

I THANK GOD FOR LETTING ME BE A PART
OF HER GRANDCHILDREN.

I CALLED HER MAMITA FOR THE
SIGNIFICANCE OF HER BEING ONE OF
MY MOTHERS AND MY GUIDE TO BEING A GOOD DAUGHTER, MOTHER AND WIFE
WHEN THE TIME COMES

I THANK HER FOR GIVING ME THE MOTHER I HAVE AND THE AUNTS AND
UNCLES WHO I LOVE SO MUCH

ON THE EARLY DAY OF JUNE 22ND AN UNFORTUNATE THING HAPPENED
GOD CALLED FOR THIS ANGEL THIS BEAUTIFUL GREEN EYED ANGEL.



Fear VS. Love

By Thalia Perez (Manhattan)

Teacher: Mary Bradley

Fear is something that has too many meanings like love but when fear and love cross each other's path can you separate them? I fear to love because love is a fear... to lose to gain to never have or always have to forgive to forget it all comes back to how much we all love to fear and fear to love... when is it ok to be fearless and admit to being wrong or when is it wrong to love being right?... pride comes into play and I am too proud to admit to love and I am too proud to admit to being scared but sometimes I will have no other choice and just have to put my pride aside... I am scared, I'm scared of love because losing it hurts whether it's family, friends or a relationship how much more can you lose before you learn to put a wall up and not love at all you put on the pedestal for being heartless, cold and a bitch when it all really about being scared it's a superficial strength that no one will know the difference but you so crushed inside that just one more blow can ruin the facade you've been putting on for so long how do you surpass it?? whether it is ignoring it or facing head on it hurts none the less and I understand you but who will when it's

FEAR VS. LOVE

ART GALLERY



By Eugene Gibbs
Teacher: Dawn Reyes



By Eugene Gibbs (Bironsa)
Teacher: Dawn Royen



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