

SEP 2021

ISSUE 1

# THE BAYAN POST

A NEWSLETTER WRITTEN BY BAYANIES, FOR BAYANIES



## NEW THIS MONTH:

TRIGGER WARNINGS

PAGE 3

BAYANIES ARE BACK IN THE GAME!

PAGE 8

BACK TO SCHOOL: MENTAL HEALTH CHECK

PAGE 9

THE FORK & THE EGG: A LIFE OF BALANCE

PAGE 17

# GOODBYE AND THANK YOU

**BY JUMANA BIN HUWAIL**

After two years, I am ready to put my pen down.

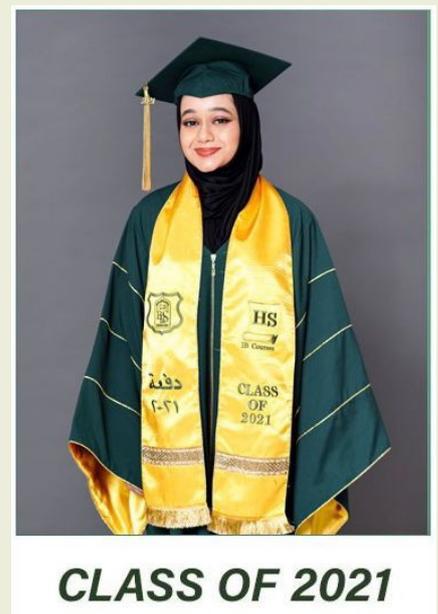
It seems only yesterday that I took over the Editor-in-Chief position from Mirna Ashoor. Despite the chronic lack of sleep, eyes glued to the computer screen 16 hours a day, and jumping from one article to another, I adored being Editor-in-Chief. Most of all, I am grateful to the dedicated and talented writers I was lucky enough to work with. None of this would have been possible without your commitment and selfless hard work!

To our advisor, Ms. Mirna, thank you for your invaluable advice and for keeping us on our toes.

To our readers— thank you to you too. It was because of your endless encouragement that we were able to push forward through this storm. Without you, there will be no us.

I will miss this paper, but I know that the Bayan Post will be in good hands. Congrats to the new Editor-in-Chief of the Bayan Post, Zain Al Hashimi! The Bayan Post will forever hold a large place in my heart, and I'm excited to see the student newsletter grow under your leadership!

Officially signing off,  
Editor-in-Chief Jumana Bin Huwail 2020-2021



# END OF AN ERA, BUT THE START OF AN AGE

**BY ZAIN ALHASHEMI**

After a year and a half of seeing each other through the screen, we are finally back! The Bayan Post is one of the main things that kept us going through such an abnormal time. The Post looks forward to bringing you all the latest news and topics regarding different subjects; entertainment, books, global issues, psychology, etc.

I am honored to be this year's Editor-In-Chief for the Bayan Post! Working with Jumana last year came as an opportunity to learn and expand on my capabilities and skills. You have been an amazing leader and we hope to make you proud.

This year, we intend to allow the post to depict various different themes and discussions that may ultimately interconnect. With new columns, like the free write and book recommendations, we hope the readers can enjoy reading creative pieces and come up with their own opinions and feedback.

We have such an amazing team of writers this year and I can't wait to see what you think of our upcoming issues. I really hope you enjoy them as much as we enjoy creating them for you. And I can't forget to wish you all good luck on the 2021-2022 academic year!

Editor-In-Chief,  
Zain Alhashemi



# TRIGGER WARNINGS

BY AYA AL DAAYSI & AL HANOUF AL MUBARAK

When disturbing content is shared online (ex. content showing violence), a trigger warning or “TW” is utilized. It's placed before the video or text to warn the audience of what's about to happen, in case it triggers their trauma or mental health. Trigger warnings are frequently used in content such as videos or topics on self-harm, abuse, or eating disorders. They assist people who have experienced trauma by eliminating risks when they are exposed to words or visuals that remind them of it.

Many people think trigger warnings are absurd and useless, but they're not considering the fact that we actually see them a lot in our day to day lives. For example, certain films are usually rated based on how graphic or explicit they are, and there's often a warning before the film begins. There are also the Parental Advisory labels, which are placed on music that is considered explicit. Another example could be the photosensitivity warnings which are often found in video games with flashing images, because they can trigger seizures for any viewers with photosensitive epilepsy. Although when trigger warnings are used incorrectly, they become essentially useless. Sometimes, all you see before a certain post on social media are the letters “TW”, without anything stating what the trigger warning is for. It could be anything from flashing images to blood, and the viewer wouldn't know. The correct way to use trigger warnings is to actually state what exactly is the possible trigger.

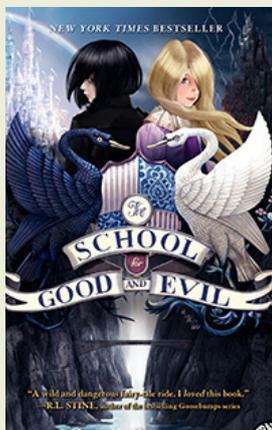
When utilized appropriately and not as a joke, trigger warnings can be quite beneficial. They keep people from having to go through their traumas again, and they can also help people recover from mental illnesses and eating disorders, as previously mentioned. Without a trigger warning, they'll be caught off guard; they'll see the image or read the text and want to relive it all, even if it's dangerous; you're triggering that thing; you're reminding them of it without a warning. Trigger warnings are for students who need preparation time so that they can best interact with the tough material. This is a plus since it does not startle or surprise them in a place where they should feel comfortable. Trigger warnings aren't about being too sensitive; they're about understanding and acknowledging everyone's different experiences.



# FALL BOOK RECCOMENDATIONS

BY MAYA ZAINALABEDIN & ZAIN ALRAYES

## *The School for Good and Evil by Soman Chainani / ★★★★★*

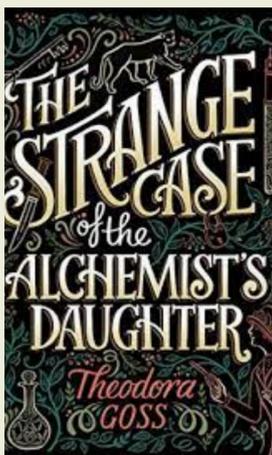


“The only way out is through a fairy tale.”

In a world where young boys and girls are trained to be fairy-tale heroes and villains for the most infamous tales in the mythical School for Good and Evil, live best friends Sophie and Agatha. Sophie has dreamed of joining the School for Good all her life, and devoting herself towards that goal. Meanwhile, Agatha is a seamless fit for the School of Evil. But in a shocking twist, their fates are switched and they have no choice but to navigate through their fairytale.

This middle-grade fantasy will leave you questioning your beliefs on good and evil, romance, friendship, and everything in between.

## *The Strange Case of the Alchemist's Daughter by Theodora Goss / ★★★★*

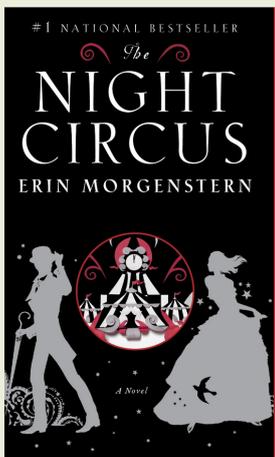


What if Dr. Jekyll had a daughter..?

Mary Jekyll, alone and penniless following her parents' death, finds herself drawn into the secrets of her father's mysterious past. Particularly the search of Edward Hyde, to reap the rewards of his capture to solve her financial struggles. With the assistance of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson, Mary continues her search for Hyde. Soon enough, they are surrounded by women created by gruesome experiments. Their investigations lead them to a secret society of immoral scientists. It is up to them to stop the Société des Alchimistes.

This Victorian gothic novel leads you through many thrilling twists and turns and definitely leaves you on the edge of your seat.

## *The Night Circus by Erin Morgenstern. / ★★★★*

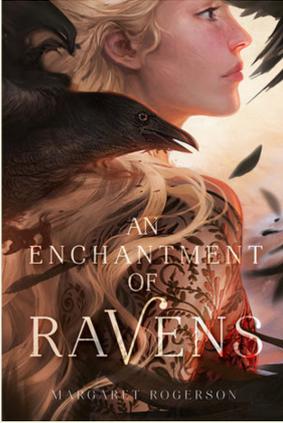


“Le Cirque des Rêves” - The Circus of Dreams

In a magical circus that travels around the world, arriving unannounced at sunset, a duel takes place between two young prodigies (Celia and Marco) who have been trained since childhood for the challenge they most surely did not choose to be part of. Along the way, readers get to witness the development in the relationship between the two prodigies.

This book would be a great fall read as it has a deep and rich atmosphere which the readers themselves get to experience through second-person point-of-view chapters, “But you think perhaps you can smell caramel wafting through the evening breeze, beneath the crisp scent of the autumn leaves.”

*An Enchantment of Ravens by Margaret Rogerson / ★★★★★*



“Every enchantment has a price.”

In a world where fae craves the Craft which they cannot master, a mortal Isobel is known for her Craft in oil painting. Isobel flicks her paintbrush onto the canvas and unintentionally captures the humane sorrow she noted in the far princes’ eyes. This was seen as a weakness. Therefore, to restore his reputation, Rook (the fae prince) spirits Isobel away with plans to take her back to the fae courts with him.

Cozied up in bed with some hot chocolate, this stand-alone would be a great companion. The writing style is vivid, and the atmosphere of the different fae courts is breathtaking.

# WHY RORY AND LORELAI GILMORE ARE THE WORST, BUT IT'S OKAY BECAUSE THEY'RE FUNNY! (SPOILERS AHEAD)

BY AYSHA ALSADA & DANA ALAWADHI

Cozy nights, crunchy leaves, and comfy clothes -- It's finally fall! Although these signs cannot be spotted where we live, we can still celebrate the new season by watching everyone's favorite show, *Gilmore Girls*. The series follows Lorelai Gilmore, a hard-working mother, and her daughter Rory Gilmore, a straight-A, Harvard-bound student. Lorelai and Rory have a friendship dynamic rather than a mother-daughter relationship, which is why most people have fallen in love with them. They may seem perfect to first-time viewers, but their flaws are revealed as the show continues.



Even back in Stars Hollow, Rory lived in a lovely house with a single working mom who did everything to give Rory the life she always wanted. Despite everything Lorelai has done for her, she still managed to miss out on Lorelai's graduation just because she wanted to spend time with Jess in NYC. When looking at this scene, we see just how selfish Rory is and how she takes everything and everyone around her for granted.

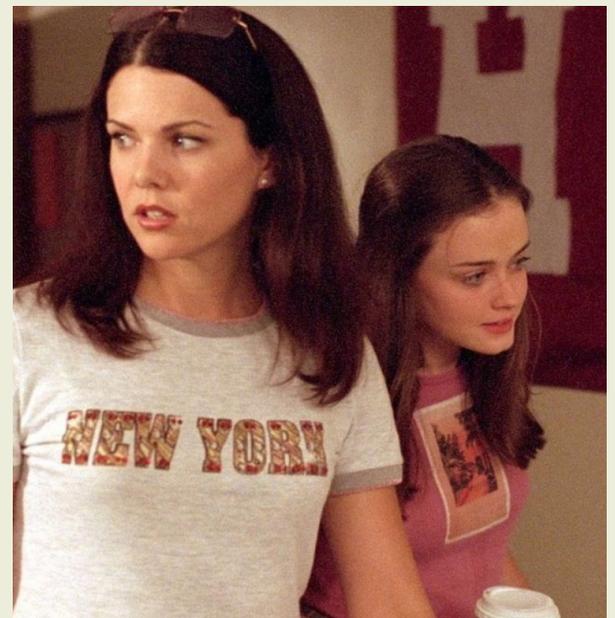
At first glance, Lorelai Gilmore is admirable. She's witty, rebellious, fun, and yet still a caring mother. One thing we dislike about her though is the way she treats her mother. Lorelai and her mother, Emily, have a rocky relationship. As the show progresses, we learn that it's mainly due to Lorelai viewing her mom as a controlling, strict, and unloving mother. Although we understand her perspective, we can't help but sympathize with Emily. Lorelai was just a rebellious teenager who wanted to spite her posh, upper-class parents. Emily wanted Lorelai to dress up for balls, go to private school, and marry into the family, but Lorelai wanted nothing to do with that lifestyle. We recognize that Lorelai has every right to want to refuse to be a part of that lifestyle, but she shouldn't take it out on her mother. Emily just wanted Lorelai to be happy, but miscommunication made her seem like a domineering mother.

On the contrary, Rory Gilmore was privileged and ungrateful. Regardless of having everything handed to her on a silver platter, she still disregarded her ex-boyfriend Logan Huntzberger's issues just because he was born rich. However, for anyone who has seen even just the first episode of *Gilmore Girls*, it is obvious that she too comes from a wealthy family who provides her with all it is she desires. Logan pretty much spoke what everyone thought when he said,

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**"WAKE UP, RORY, WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT, YOU'RE ONE OF US. YOU WENT TO PREP SCHOOL. YOU GO TO YALE. YOUR GRANDPARENTS ARE BUILDING A WHOLE ASTRONOMY BUILDING IN YOUR NAME."**

Although both these characters can be seen as terrible role models and have been sabotaged by the show's writers, it is okay because it is still one of the best shows in existence. We have to keep in mind that the show gives its audience realistic characters who aren't setting unreachable expectations. To sum it all up, we will DEFINITELY be rewatching the show, and you should too!



# TAYLOR'S VERSION

BY DANA ALSHAIKH



Taylor Swift made her way into the music industry in 2004, quickly rising to fame two years later at the age of sixteen. While we all know the famous singer and Grammy award winner, not many know the reason behind re-recording her previous albums. On April 9, 2021, Taylor released a re-recording of her famous album, “Fearless”, and went on to release a re-recording of “Wildest Dreams” on September 17, 2021. This is due to the fact that record executive Scooter Braun sold the master rights of her first 5 albums to Shamrock Holdings in 2020 without her consent or knowledge. Meaning that the artist will no longer get her well-deserved money for her music, and owns the rights to the lyrics only.

After bargaining for months and getting nowhere, Taylor has decided to re-record all six albums, and describes the journey as ‘exciting’ and ‘fulfilling’. Many see her situation as unfair, but Taylor has used this as an opportunity for more.

Thus, bringing us to the re-recorded version of “Wildest Dreams”, a song about a relationship doomed to end, and bittersweet goodbyes. This song revolves around a relationship that has no foreseeable future, yet both are too infatuated to let go, so she wishes that the person will remember her, even after she leaves. A relatable song about moving on and ill-fated wishes. Taylor released the song after fans got it trending on TikTok. She has stunned the world with this song, since she sounds more mature and sophisticated, while still maintaining the spirit of the song. Her fans benefit from this too, since they get to relive the previous eras of her music. Taylor’s journey is an inspiration to society, showing everybody how to rise even when people are out to get you.

# STUDENT HIGHLIGHT

BY YARA KHALAF



In the past two years, students have been through a lot. Let's face it, from going completely virtual, to going back on campus and having to cope with loads of new changes, it has been a struggle. With that being said:

## BAYANIES ARE BACK IN THE GAME!

**SCHOOL LIFE IS NOW AS NORMAL AS IT CAN GET, AND WE ARE DEFINITELY TAKING IT ALL IN.**

Starting off the year strong, NAHS and the BayMUN team collaborated to put together a wonderful Peace Day for all students. Our seniors, Zain Al Hashemi and Dana Al Awadhi, worked together with the Innovation Hub to create stencils that would later be used to spray paint numerous white shirts for the students to wear on Peace Day to celebrate. The International Day of Peace takes place on September 21st of every year and provides a globally shared date for all of humanity to commit to peace above all differences, and to promote global solidarity for building a peaceful and sustainable world. Peace Day aims to show that peace is not something that we can think about and then it happens. Peace, just like most things in this life, is something that needs to be worked towards. Sure, we are not going to achieve peace just by celebrating this day. But, the Bahrain Bayan School aims to push their students to take a more proactive approach to improve this planet, and that is a fantastic first step.

Dear students, even through these difficult times, you have shown that you are resilient and capable of making the best out of every situation, and we are thrilled to say that we are looking forward to seeing what this incredible school year has in store.



# BACK TO SCHOOL: MENTAL HEALTH CHECK

BY MUNEERA AL SHAMLAN & ZAIN ABU RUMMAN

During the time spent in isolation, apart from family and friends, some can say they've experienced loneliness. Friendships may have soured or gotten tense due to being away from each other. Having friends was an important source of support during the pandemic. Returning to school and reconnecting with peers may cause anxiety in young people. Although it's a positive thing, returning to school after a long while is a great thing! It will allow you to reconnect with people you haven't connected with in so long. As well as help you build new friendships. It is far better than staying home and sitting on a chair for 8 hours. You're in school around people, which automatically allows you to socialize and converse. Going back to school is a great opportunity to help rebuild that connection that was lost during the pandemic. Many can also say that learning virtually is extremely challenging. Staying focused on the lesson during virtual learning was a challenge to some due to distractions and diversions such as our phones, family members, and other electronic devices taking our attention.

To some, virtual learning has felt like an option rather than serious. So, many students can say that they have not learned as much as they would in a classroom due to these distractions. Therefore, to those who are seeing the return back to school as a negative thing, look at it from the positive side. No more wifi cutting off mid-presentation or test. No more distractions causing you to lose focus during the lesson, and no more sitting on the same chair for 8 hours alone with no one to socialize with. With the new school year starting and new changes arising, whether it comes from the shift back into on-campus learning after a year and a half of virtual learning; or the start of a new chapter in your high school journey, the integration back into the school environment can be difficult. With the current challenges being faced whether it comes from starting IB or dealing with unfamiliar high school obstacles, mental health can often be neglected.

Some helpful tips that have allowed me to reach the current point in my high school journey can be grasped by; getting adequate sleep, making a list, listening to music, freeing up time to spend with friends and family. Getting the right amount of sleep may seem negligible when there is a looming deadline, but it is essential to give your body enough time to recover from a good day of work. Additionally, making a list has kept me on track of my assignments and upcoming assessments and it is satisfying to cross items off of a list. Listening to music is a great way to spend the breaks in between working to wind down and relax. It can also keep you focused on your tasks when having downtime to yourself. Lastly, making time to spend with family and friends. As your school journey is starting to come to a close, it is crucial to spend moments when you can be surrounded by familiar faces. Showing restraint and stepping back from work to go and have fun is an important skill that will help keep you sane and motivated throughout this upcoming academic year.

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**SHOWING RESTRAINT AND STEPPING BACK FROM WORK TO GO AND HAVE FUN IS AN IMPORTANT SKILL THAT WILL HELP KEEP YOU SANE AND MOTIVATED THROUGHOUT THIS UPCOMING ACADEMIC YEAR.**



While the stereotypical student may view staying up late and sleeping in as a fun time to play video games or catch up on TV shows, it is important not to neglect your school work and health by trying to keep up with sleep deprivation. Getting seven hours of sleep each night will help you stay more alert during the day and give you more energy for those times when you are studying or working at your part-time job. This makes it easier to remember what you are learning during class. Also, getting about an hour or so of exercise every day can help reduce stress which helps everyone be able to focus better.

All in all, it is important to find balance in your daily tasks to promote a balanced life. We recommend finding out what works best for you and making sure that whatever activities take up most of your time is done at the appropriate times throughout the week so that they don't interfere with one another.

# THE MET GALA

BY MARYAM ALALAWI

The Met Gala, also known as the Met Ball, is an annual fundraising gala held in New York City to benefit the Costume Institute of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. It's the start of the annual fashion show exhibit at the Costume Institute. The Met Gala, named "fashion's biggest night of the year," returns this year as a smaller, more private occasion than in previous years. It occurs on the first Monday in May. Due to COVID-19, the event was canceled last year and rescheduled for this September.

Since The Met Gala event is so exclusive and your attendance needs to be approved by the fashion icon Anna Wintour herself, designers usually go all out to create show-stopping looks. Many Famous celebrities get invited to this prestigious event to represent several different brands. These celebrities and influencers have the brands make them customized outfits specifically for the Met gala.

Every year has a unique theme, this year's event was themed "In America: A Lexicon of Fashion" or "American independence", which was co-chaired by singer Billie Eilish, tennis pro-Naomi Osaka, actor Timothée Chalamet and poet Amanda Gorman.

One of the co-chairs, Billie Eilish attended in a peach-colored Oscar De La Renta gown. The gown had sheer shoulders, a big tulle, and a long sheer train. Its inspiration was Old Hollywood Barbie, Marilyn Monroe, and Grace Kelly. Timothée Chalamet, another one of this year's co-chairs, also attended The Met Ball. Although he chose a surprisingly simple look, he still made a statement with his arrival. The renowned actor chose to wear a white satin tuxedo jacket by Haider Ackermann with black lapels, paired with white sweats and Converse sneakers. Chalamet also wore a few Cartier vintage pins and brooch, both from the 1920s. Emma Chamberlain, an American influencer and another one of the attendees, wore a Louis Vuitton gown with a mini skirt and a side-swept train with chain-like straps. Her outfit was a modernized version of 1960s American fashion, which really caught the audience's eye. Dixie D'amelio, an American influencer who was attending her first Met Ball, was dressed in an infamous Valentino look with an ostrich feather hat, paired with white leather gloves. She went with an Audrey Hepburn Breakfast at Tiffany's look which is a classic old Hollywood movie. Gigi Hadid attended The Met in a classic Prada gown, it was a white gown with a contrasting black bodice underneath and was paired with leather gloves and some huge diamonds. The outfit was a nod to American '50s and 60's fashion, and she also mentioned that she took inspiration from the first lady looks. Kendall Jenner also went with an Audrey Hepburn reference, which was a take on the iconic dress from the film, "My Fair Lady". Givenchy wanted to show the classy elements of Audry but bringing them into contemporary fashion. Kendall's look was a fan favorite and brought the audience to a shock.

To conclude, The Met Gala is a breathtaking exhibit of art as fashion and vice versa, demonstrating how both styles are linked in the modern cultural fabric. The Met Gala has had the greatest impact on the luxury fashion industry. And this year's 2021 Met Gala was a successful yet smaller event than the past years due to COVID-19.



# A SMART LEAP

BY ALI AL JEHSI

Every year, as a new phone gets released, we see many customers blindly upgrading their phones from the previous year's model. While phone manufacturers want you to do so, as customers, we should ask ourselves, is it worth it? With technology advancing as I speak, there aren't many groundbreaking upgrades among the latest smartphones and their predecessors. For instance, with the current iPhone 13, it is apparent that not much is changing for the average user compared to its antecedent. Nevertheless, upgrading your phones every couple of years is imperative since security updates might not be available for older and outdated models. As for new phones, updating them every year can be taxing on the environment.

Before bezel-less displays, we saw how phones were evolving year after year at an incredible rate. As we began taking full advantage of the screen sizes on smartphones, it became our current limitation. There was virtually nothing new to create or innovate that would spark the attention of buyers.

## SO IS THIS THE END FOR REVOLUTIONARY SMARTPHONE UPGRADES?

No. As I mentioned earlier, technology is improving by the minute. Scientists, engineers, and innovators are committing many hours to create revolutionary pieces of technology. Recently, folding phones have emerged and will most likely take over the existing flat-screened mobiles over the next few years. For the time being, they are still in the development phase, so customers are not targeting them. While folding phones are supposed to create a brand new experience for consumers, people are eager to obtain holographic smartphones inspired by television shows and movies. Holographic smartphones will open up a realm of endless possibilities that will mark an era reborn! However, these will not be available for a long time due to scientific constraints and shortcomings, although smartphones might become obsolete at that point.

What is the takeaway from all of this? For the next decade or so, smartphones will gradually begin altering, hopefully in a positive way. Consequently, nothing is certain yet, and we are hoping to see groundbreaking features soon.



# HOW COLORS HAVE AN IMPACT ON OUR MINDS

BY FATIMA A. RASOOL & NORA YOUSIF

We may not realize it, but colors have a great impact on how we think, feel, and perceive our surroundings in everyday life. Color psychology is the study of how the human mind reacts, makes decisions in terms of color, and how it affects our moods and behavior. A very broad example of this can be warm colors versus cool colors, and the responses each of them evoke. Warm colors can be associated with a range of emotions from warmth and coziness, to anger and rage. While cool colors can be viewed as either calm and peaceful, or sad and sorrowful. Idioms in language sometimes tie into color and the emotions that come with it, such as the phrase “feeling blue” which is similar to “feeling down,” further showing how cool colors can bring about a feeling of sadness. In everyday life, color can affect many aspects of our day-to-day tasks. For example, blue makes you lose your appetite while orange increases it, and the tone of a certain environment can affect your perception of temperature. Research has also shown that blue street lights can even lower crime rates! Hence, the use of color can be wisely implemented to achieve desired results; This is especially useful in marketing and advertising and is sometimes even used in therapy.

Now, with an understanding of color theory, think about some of the most popular superheroes, and pay attention to the colors of their outfits. They’re normally blue, red, and yellow. Some outfits have other colors like green, white, black, etc.

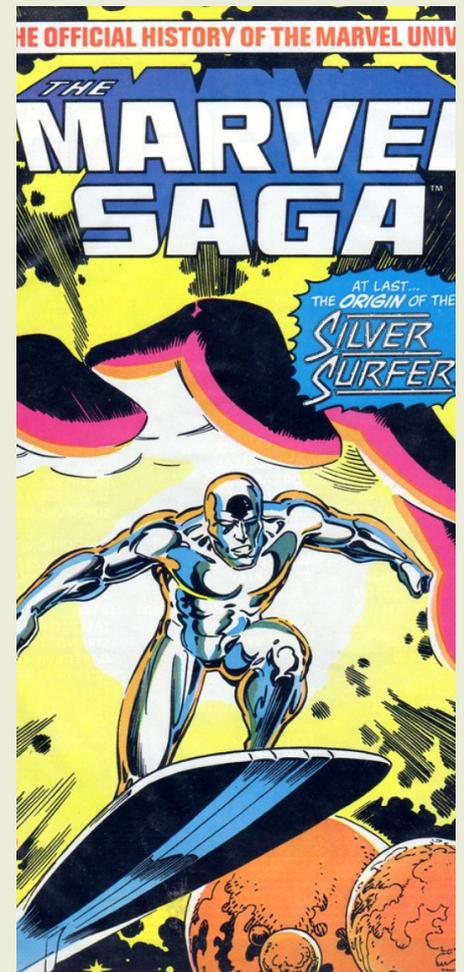
<b>Red</b> Excitement Strength Love Energy	<b>Orange</b> Confidence Success Bravery Sociability	<b>Yellow</b> Creativity Happiness Warmth Cheer	<b>Green</b> Nature Healing Freshness Quality	<b>Blue</b> Trust Peace Loyalty Competence
<b>Pink</b> Compassion Sincerity Sophistication Sweet	<b>Purple</b> Royalty Luxury Spirituality Ambition	<b>Brown</b> Dependable Rugged Trustworthy Simple	<b>Black</b> Formality Dramatic Sophistication Security	<b>White</b> Clean Simplicity Innocence Honest

The following image showcases the traditional meaning of colors. Some of the most popular Heroes include Superman, Wonder Woman, and Captain America. Their outfits are primarily red and blue, which represent strength, trust, loyalty, and love. There are also yellow and white accents on the heroes as well, which is a symbol of safety and honesty.

Normally, superheros with multi-colored outfits are more popular than superheroes with single-colored outfits; The reason for this is due to the lack of aesthetics in terms of the outfit. For instance, take a look at Silver Surfer. You could argue that he isn't that popular since other Heroes have been in movies or have their own TV shows, but Silver Surfers has been in a lot of Marvel comic books, as well as some video games. Observing his outfit, Silver represents a myriad of things such as eternity and pureness. Any other superhero with these traits would be considered serious, like Robin; However, Silver is considered a light-hearted character due to the color difference of his outfit. It's interesting the influence color has on our perception, don't you think?

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NOW, WHAT DO THESE COLORS MEAN IN TERMS OF CHARACTERIZATION?



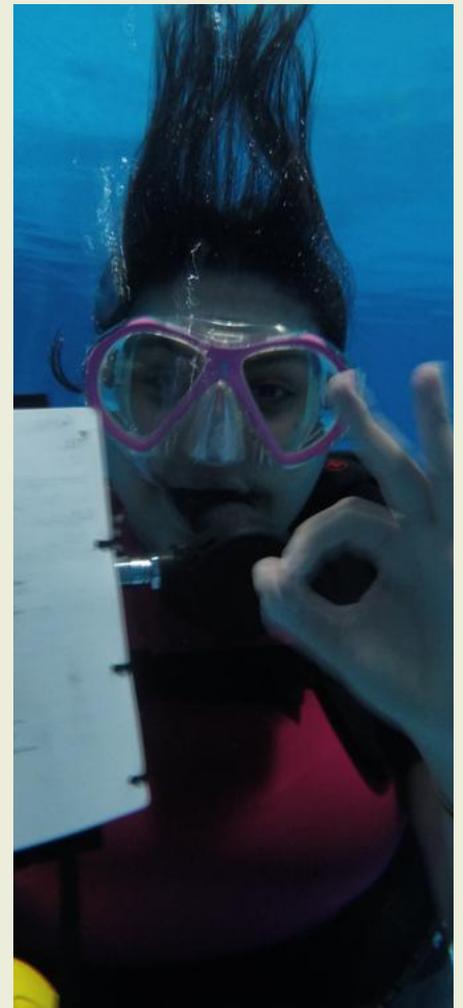
# BBS DIVERS

BY LAYLA AHMADI

The Bahrain Bayan school CAS students have been training to pass their diving test, and have licenses to dive below ten meters and to clean/protect Bahrain's coral reefs. It's a pressing matter as the coral reefs in Bahrain were the most extensive in the southern area of the Gulf. We've been having a decline in the coral population as Bahrain has undergone land reclamation as well as sea temperature rise over the past four decades. Only 5.1% of Bahrain's reefs are covered in corals. They're in danger, with most being covered in Algae. The Bahrain Environment Society's (BES) scientific consultant Khalil Adnan Al Wedaei said, "Most of the coral bleached, lost its symbiotic algae, and died when the algae was not regained. Another is land reclamation and overfishing which affected stocks." Land reclamation helped develop Bahrain's regional financial hub, however, coral reefs have gone under pressure from landfill operations, oil spills, trawling, bleaching, and much more.



**THE CORAL REEFS IN OUR COUNTRY NEED TO BE PROTECTED.**



Around 16 CAS students began taking online classes with Mr. Tony and Miss Amy who are licensed divers that dive deeper than 40 meters. They've begun diving lessons in the Gulf Aviation Indoor Pool, where they start off diving up to 2 meters. After their indoor diving session, they'll be moving onto open water diving, where they will hopefully be able to be tested, then have a written test. All in all, this CAS project will be open to 11th grade full IB students and anyone else who wishes to join and save the environment. It will be a credible extracurricular to have on your CV as well as CAS project.

# INTERNATIONAL LAW AND HUMANITARIAN ISSUES

BY MUNEERA AL SADEH & NOOR AL BINFALAH

Humans have lived for centuries, often passing over the corruption that has plagued our world through the ages. Some state that such injustice is a norm, that there is no way to eradicate it, due to the fact that it is simply embedded into human nature, yet that prompts the question: who decides what is up for change?

The United Nations, a renowned organization striving continuously to promote international peace, security and cooperation, had established in the year of 1947 the International Law Commission, which to this day, remains one of the most significant achievements the organization has implemented. It is, as stated by the UN themselves, “to promote the progressive development of international law and its codification.” A council composed of 34 members, all of whom represent the “the world’s principal legal systems” addresses pressing issues which relate to international relations between nations. The presence of such a body dedicated to “advancing monetary and social turn of events, just as to propelling global harmony and security.”



THE HAGUE INTERNATIONAL COURT

Syria is one of the highly-affected countries on humanitarian grounds. As a result of the civil war, Syria is faced with one of the most heinous, sadistic cases of human rights violations. Over twelve million of the population have been left with no other choice than to flee their own home or be killed in their very nation which was supposed to be a ground for peace and safety. The prospect of a global pandemic was a one with consequences the Syrians were not prepared for.



THE SYRIAN CONFLICT

The International Law Commission has been looking at this impending crisis, going to trials and seeing that those who have aided in this crisis are brought to justice. As stated in the article “What Justice Can International Law Bring Syrians,” published on *Opinio Juris*, “On 24 February 2021, the Higher Regional Court in Koblenz, Germany, delivered the first-ever guilty verdict against a former official of the Syrian regime. Eyad A., a former Syrian secret service agent, was sentenced to four and a half years in prison for aiding and abetting crimes against humanity, including torture and arbitrary deprivation of liberty.” The verdict represents a moment of true hope and promise for while the prosecuted had not been of high rank, “the symbolic significance of former regime officials being brought to justice and one of them, thus far, actually being sentenced for his crimes is huge ... Such an outcome may also encourage other people to file cases in countries willing to fulfil their obligations under international law and bring those allegedly responsible to justice by applying the principle of universal jurisdiction.”

In these current times, the presence of an international institution dedicated to delivering peace, security, human rights and development would be necessary to achieve global justice. As highlighted by the UN’s 2030 Agenda, our world is in dire need of insurance against injustice through the “promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.”

The fact remains that the heavy weight of oppression, injustice and corruption works only to impede people, to inhibit them from unleashing their infinite potential, and who are we to decide that freedom is simply a privilege reserved only for some?

# EL FENOMINO

BY MOHAMMED RAIS



Ronaldo is widely regarded as the greatest talent we've seen since the retirement of the late Diego Maradona. Ronaldo is known for his immense bursts of speed, extremely clinical shooting, and quick feet making him one of the most unstoppable players to ever grace the pitch. Ronaldo has won pretty much everything there is to win in football. Such as two Ballon D'ors in 2002 and 1997, two World Cups in 2002 and 1994, and won domestic trophies in the Spanish Italian and Dutch leagues. Additionally, Ronaldo had won one of the greatest prime periods in football history, and as a young player, less than a handful have matched his level of prowess. Ronaldo joined many clubs in his illustrious career. He started PSV in the Dutch league and quickly became the center of lots of clubs' scouts' attention, then the legendary Newcastle manager Sir Bobby Robson signed the young Ronaldo to Barcelona, where he had 0.96 goals per game ratio, and single handedly won Barcelona two titles in his first and only season with the Catalans. Then, Ronaldo was transferred to Ac and Inter Milan and did the exact same thing in the Italian league, winning every domestic trophy possible. Moreover, Ronaldo's most successful time as a player though was in the white of Real Madrid, he played alongside some of the greatest players of his generation like Zidane, Roberto Carlos, Raul, Beckham, and many more. Although Ronaldo did not have the best Uefa Champions League or domestic league campaigns collectively, he was very successful individually, scoring almost every game. Sadly Ronaldo's career was cut short because of a ruptured cruciate ligament. To add, Ronaldo was notorious for his poor diet, after his second knee injury, he decided to hang the boots and end his legendary career. The article was dedicated to Ronaldo El Fenomeno since he is the greatest player to have his birthdate in the month of september, thank you Ronaldo for changing and innovating the modern days' striker position, a true great!

Every once in a while, we get a special gift from the heavens. Some say a phenomenon, and especially in football, all its fans have the same desire, which is to find the next great talent. And without further ado, I present

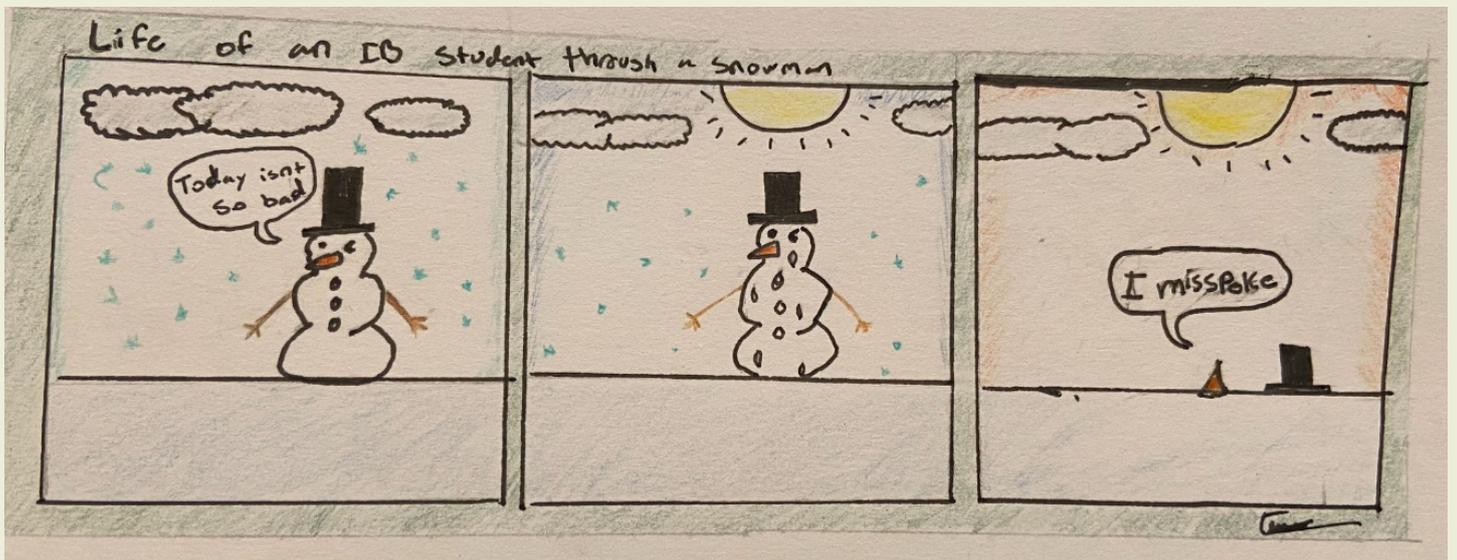
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**THE GREAT AND UNIQUE  
RONALDO EL  
FENOMENO.**



# LIFE OF AN IB STUDENT THROUGH A SNOWMAN

BY TAMIM BUHIJI



# THE FORK & THE EGG: A LIFE OF BALANCE

BY LEYANA AL DAJANI & MOHAMMED AL NOAIMI

Oftentimes, what we think is enough can be overbearing. Due to this, we tend to ignore the relevant alternative of turning a new leaf. A leaf of reshaping, no altercation. This is what Arlo Little had needed.

Arlo Little had a big mind in a little body. He had learned the art of absorption and application. No doubt, Arlo Little was as imperfect as every credulous teen. Ambitiously and impatiently eager to understand the mysteries of life, Arlo Little pays a visit to his dearest relative. However, he had a secret. For Arlo Little was not a happy child. Grandma Little greets her champion in a deep embrace and a wide smile, during which Arlo sighs heavily. Observably upset, Grandma Little takes him to a garden greener than a five-thousand-year-old Jade stone. She claims a picnic would be fit for the evening, as evidently, food is the way to the heart.



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THE SIMPLE THINGS ARE  
ALSO THE MOST  
EXTRAORDINARY  
THINGS, AND ONLY THE  
WISE CAN SEE THEM.

- PAULO COELHO

Upon situating her preferred position, Arlo Little lets out a heavier sigh. Setting aside the stuffed basket, Grandma Little asks what might be captivating his attention.

“GRANDMA, YOU’RE PRACTICALLY ANCIENT. TELL ME, HOW ARE YOU ALWAYS SMILING? LIFE IS CRUEL AND UNFAIR.” HIS GRANDMA MERELY LAUGHS AND SHAKES HER HEAD DISAPPROVINGLY.

“ALLOW ME.”

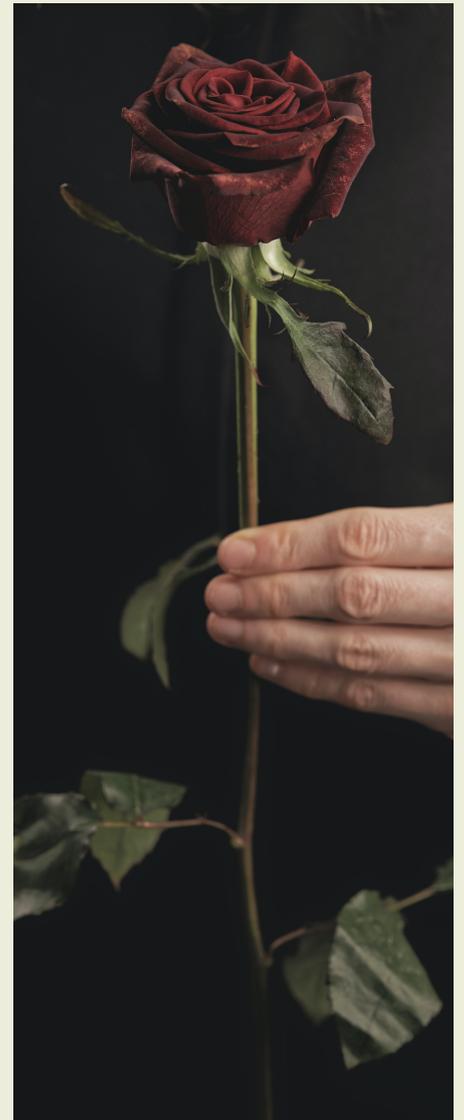
Grandma Little instructs her silly nephew to walk a four-meter distance away and back to her, all while holding onto an egg balanced on a fork. Arlo Little looked puzzled and scoffed in annoyance. Carrying the fork delicately, he makes his way across the garden, staring intently at the objects in hand. Skipping proudly to his grandmother, he excitedly exclaims his victory which was shortly followed by a distinct *phooey*.

“Oh my lovely Arlo, you might have brought back the egg uncracked, but have you looked at the greenery? Did you stop to see the duck pond, glistening under the sunlight? Or the sweet girl wishingly gazing up at her pregnant mother?”

Confessing to solely focusing on the egg, Arlo Little was forced to go back and view all the wondrous sights. Swiftly returning, he tells his grandma of the glory of nature and its enchanting beauty. Although looking down, the egg was nowhere to be seen.

Grandma Arlo chuckles and says, “the secret to happiness is to see all the marvels of the world, and never forget the fragile eggs in your life.”

In the end, Arlo Little learned that true happiness can't be found in any single aspect of life. If you want to have a fulfilling and happy life, then it's important to find a balance between your work and social life, as well as other aspects like sleep or exercise.



# MEME GALLERY

BY BUDOOR ALI

