

**CAN YOU  
FEEL THE  
MONEY  
TONIGHT?**

**THE MO**

**VALENTINE.  
A DAY OF PURE  
CONSUMERISM?**

**CHINESE NEW  
YEAR  
AND WHAT TO EXPECT.**

**PLANET EARTH II:  
THE STORY BEHIND  
OUR  
W O R L D**

**NEW YEAR  
SAME ME**

**LES FERDINAND  
BEHIND THE GOAL**



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#### A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

*For the students, by the students*

Welcome back and it's a brand new year! It's an exciting time of crossed out '2016's and a plethora of New Year's resolutions that we vow to keep for the entirety of the year – but in reality know that we'll only manage a week (tops).

I have tried countless times to make a New Year's resolution, and always without fail after a couple of days. That's why this year, I haven't really made a resolution to do anything especially differently. Rather, I intend to approach 2017 with the outlook that, should I want to do something new, I will! Without a main goal in mind, I am hopeful for 2017 and I know that it is filled with nothing but promise.

Although the year has only just started, I can assure you that The MO will be packed to the brim and will be just a taster of what the rest of the year will have in store for us! Starting off this New Year, we have some articles on what to do in 2017, we have a reminder of how wonderful our planet is and we get creative with some arty articles. We hope you enjoy this new issue in 2017.

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# NEW YEAR **BUT THE** SAME ME

**W**ikipedia describes a New Year's resolution as a tradition in which a person resolves to change an undesired trait or behaviour. This definition surprised me as it implies that when a new year comes, that they've been doing something wrong for the last 365 days! This definition is probably a bit rubbish, and I should know better than doing my research on Wikipedia but, it got me thinking.

Without a doubt, I believe that wanting to improve yourself is a positive thing. However, sometimes people forget to do that same thing: be positive. It seems as if as soon as the 1st of January of a new year arrives, we are desperate to start changing all that we don't like about ourselves, almost as if we were running out of time – which is ironic seeing we have a shiny new year ahead of us. So, what do we do? We join the gym; ignoring the fact that it's filled with big muscular guys and skinny pretty girls looking amazing as these demi-gods work out... The mere thought of these people even exist terrify us. We buy a cool and ridiculously over-priced water bottle to encourage us to 'drink more', even though we know that it will be staying at home because there's no way we are going to carry such heavy thing all day. Additionally, we throw out all junk food even though we know that we'll regret it an hour later and will probably go out and buy some more.

Somewhere in amongst this mess of ideas about how we are supposed to look, act and feel, we are forget to give ourselves a little pat on the back and congratulate ourselves for making it through another year. I'm talking about 365 days where we have definitely had ups and downs (\*coughs\* Donald Trump \*coughs\*).

A year is filled with emotions that we have to, not only feel, but cope with. There are challenges that have probably never happened before, and you need to learn how to take these on board. There are changes, which are sometimes unexpected and you certainly don't want and need them at times, and sometimes the best we can do is to learn to adjust and continue moving along. New people have walked into our lives and even though some are here to stay and have taught us new ways to embrace life - others have probably wrecked it a little. Not only have people walked in to our lives, some have walked out too, most likely leaving sadness in our lives which we have to now try to accept and ignore. But hey, we're here and we're doing it. 2017 is ours for the taking.

We should step back and take a look of what we have achieved, what we have learned and consider what we should be proud of. Maybe, just maybe we may even laugh, and certainly cringe a little, but most importantly, we should try not to regret a thing.

Yes, you probably should have stayed in the weekend before your exams, and yes you probably should have carried on the conversation with the cute guy in the train that kept trying to speak to you whilst you were freaking out because you were embarrassed. But, none of that matters now, it's done and you can learn from it knowing that you won't make the same mistakes again... New Year's resolution or not!

XOXO C

# NEW YEAR, *NEW ME?*

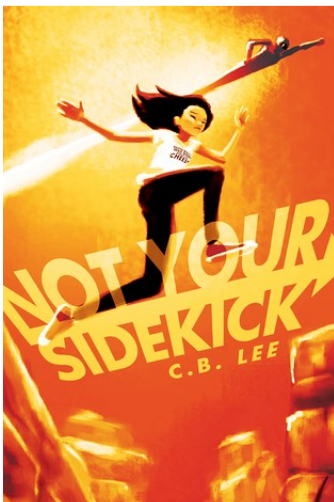
With a new year stretching out in front of us, many people will be thinking of their 2017 resolutions and goals for the year. Some may be counting down to an exciting event or holiday. A few may have actually been keeping to their resolutions (TELL US YOUR SECRETS) and planning out how to change their life around. However, the readers amongst us have already logged our good reads goals and are counting down the days until our most anticipated releases of the year. So today, I've narrowed down five Young Adult books that everyone should be looking out for! Here it goes:

## ***THE HATE YOU GIVE* BY ANGIE THOMAS**

If you plan on reading a book this year...read this one. Honestly, why would you not? With all the hurt 2016 has left behind for us, I think this book will be a real game change. *The Hate You Give* is inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement and is a powerful and gripping YA novel about one girl's struggle for justice. Advance Readers have reviewed this as emotionally breaking, raw, honest and what I like to call a rip-your-heart-out kind of book (that's good by the way). And also the film rights have already been brought with the main character to be starred by Amanda Stenberg (*The Hunger Games*)! So, what are you waiting for? – go pre order it!



## ***NOT YOUR SIDEKICK* BY C.B. LEE**



This book was actually released last year, and its sequel is coming out this year. But despite this, I highly, highly recommend this to anyone who is desperate for a non-cliché teenage book. This book takes a fresh and diverse insight on a superhero world – except our main character isn't the perfect superhero; in fact she has no powers at all. With fast paced writing; delightful relationships; interesting complex characters and, interestingly, a female/female relationship! This book is certainly one of my favourites.

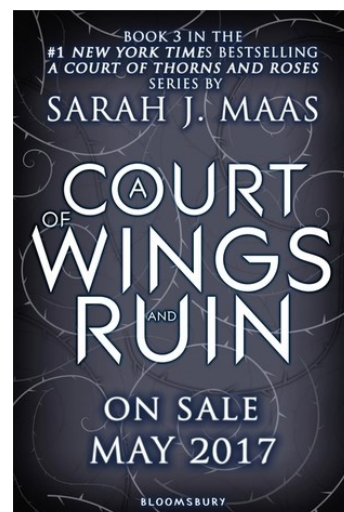
# NEW YEAR, NEW BOOKS.

## ***A COURT OF WINGS AND RUIN AND THRONE OF GLASS #6***

**BY SARAH J MAAS**

Okay, if you have not heard of Sarah J Maas or the *Throne of Glass* series...I'm sorry but have you been living under a rock for the past four years? This 30 year old woman has taken YA by the storm and has been ever since her debut novel – *Throne of Glass* – which she wrote when she was 16, was released in 2012. If you haven't read these amazing books, stop reading this and go read that. It's fantasy at its finest, believe me. Oh and both these books are being made into TV and movies, so you will thank me for giving you a heads up.

*(Disclaimer: The books that come later on in Throne Of Glass and A Court of Thrones and Roses are only suitable for mature readers. 15yrs+)*



## ***OUR DARK DUET BY V.E. SCHWAB***

I had the pleasure of reading *This Savage Song* last summer by this lovely author (also got to meet her which I was pretty chuffed about as well!) and this book is AMAZING. Think a dystopian twist of Romeo and Juliet but instead of the Montague and Capulets its monsters and humans – and the monsters are bred from crimes humans have committed. With *This Savage Song* finishing on such a cliff hanger I am desperate to get my hands on this book – and you should be as well!

## ***ALWAYS AND FOREVER, LARA JEAN BY JEN- NY HAN***

I did not actually expect this book to come out this year – mainly because *To All The Boys I Loved Before* was thought to be a duology. But I am so excited for this book. Lara Jean is one of the cutest and relatable character I have ever read. The best way to describe this series is like one giant cupcake – a perfect book for the romance lovers and the ‘snuggle with a hot chocolate’ readers! Check out the book store shelves for this one!





# MY NEW YEAR

新年快樂 (sen-nin feye-lor)! Happy new year!

The Lunar New Year is just around the corner, and the 15-day festivities will be kick

started on 28<sup>th</sup> January. This new year will be the year of the Rooster, and we can all hope for some good luck and good fortune!

Chinese New Year is a big deal in my family. Similar to Christmas, we bring out all of our decorations and transform our house into an explosion of red and gold. Fai chun will litter the place wishing good fortune and luck to everyone for the forthcoming year, and we will begin the preparations for having a big family meal as well as visiting friends and relatives. But that's not all!



On the lead up to the Spring Festival (yes, we have three names for this festival), everyone would be given new clothes and would have to cut their hair in order to signify a new, fresh start. On the day, I will undoubtedly wake up to the glorious sounds of Chinese New Year songs, which everyone in the house will sing along to at the top of our voices. Then everyone is given a lucky satsuma and an apple to be eaten to ensure that they will have a prosperous new year,. Younger members of the family would be gifted with lucky red envelopes that would contain a little bit of pocket money for luck. This is certainly a tradition that I adored as a child.

Without doubt, the Lunar New Year is a time where everyone is happy and filled with excitement for the forthcoming year. It's a time of hope and anticipation... a time of promise. If you take a trip down to China or Hong Kong, I assure you that there would be stalls upon stalls upon stalls of amazing decorations and delectable foods for you to take your pick from. Not only that, there would be plenty of performances from dragons and lions to wish you good luck and fortune, and if you're lucky enough, they may visit your home to give you good luck! But when night falls, the festivities don't end. The sky will be illuminated by the bright lights of





fireworks whizzing into the air, and the silence and slumber of the night will be gleefully broken with the sound of the firecrackers cracking, exploding and lighting the sky everywhere.

But if a trip to China is a little bit too far for your taste, then think of somewhere not too far from home: Chinatown. This little place is situated in the middle of bustling London, but when it nears the Spring Festival, immediately the place is packed to the BRIM with people. Much like China, they will have thousands of stalls and have the special performances. It would probably be a bit of a squeeze to get to a restaurant to sit down to eat, but once you do, it is worth it. Which makes a nice segue into my next point.

## FOOD.

Now, I love food. In fact, I love food a lot! But Chinese New Year, much like any other celebration, is a great excuse to eat some incredible



food! There is some truly amazing food that you just cannot eat unless that it is Chinese New Year, and it is for that very reason why you need to treasure and enjoy it. Perhaps the most important thing you can eat is nian gao (New Year Cake). It's not any ordinary cake because it is made of glutinous rice and you eat it after cooking it in a pan. The cake then becomes a challenge to eat because it is very sticky, and will probably stick your mouth together, but if you do manage to eat it, it will give you lots of good luck!

But no Spring Festival is complete without a Chinese candy box. Inside, there will be a variety of sugared foods that we can eat to our heart's content, but the food isn't all there is; the box actually symbolises togetherness at this time of year. But the foods I've named are only a few of the many foods that you could eat, and some more are: tangyuan, lo bak go (turnip cake), and Chinese almond biscuits.



# VALENTINE'S DAY

## CAN YOU FEEL ... THE MONEY TONIGHT?

It is that time again. The time, in the blink of an eye Christmas sale stock disappears in making way for the shelves to be filled with: vibrant pink chocolate boxes; overly large teddies; fluffy red heart pillows and rows upon rows of glittery cards saying 'I love you'. The time when people show extensive amounts of PDA in stupid places and awkward school children unenthusiastically offer their 'girl/boyfriend' a present while their friends scream and holler around them.

Valentine's Day. Isn't just wonderful?

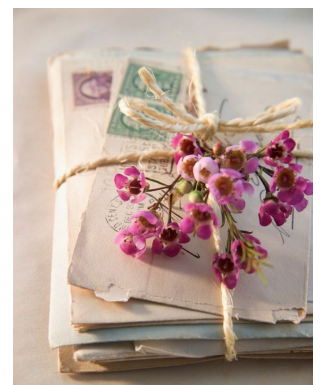
Don't worry, I'm not going to get all cynical on you complaining about the day of love because I'm single. I don't like Valentine's Day; not because I'm envious of everyone in love rather because society has dressed it up so much that it's really a day where people run around throwing cash in hopes that they can please their partner and show them just "how much" they mean to them. How has a day of love come to a day of plain consumerism? Society presses down on us so much that it's compulsory to buy your loved one something, and if someone forgets it's the first nail in the romance coffin.

Did you know that Valentine's Day actually originated from the time Saint Valentine, who was imprisoned by the Roman Empire for illegally marrying soldiers who were forbidden to marry. During his imprisonment he healed the daughter of the jailer and before his execution sent her a letter signed "Your Valentine". I think the original idea and concept of Valentine's Day is wonderful.

It's about remembering how a man, despite his fate, was so selfless that he saved another. The day is about remembering the purity of loving and appreciating your loved ones.

So, how did it steer so far away from its humble beginnings? I not that I think Valentine's Day shouldn't be celebrated, far from it. However, I do think we should take a few steps and consider being selfless. Why not make something for your loved one instead of grabbing the largest card in the supermarket? And not just your partner but your family and friends as well - don't we love them just as much? Don't they do just as much to deserve your recognition of their love? Maybe we need a little reminder that it isn't just romantic love that we can celebrate, but also platonic and familial love.

It's just something that got me thinking, so I hope when Valentine's Day does come around this year, you won't rush around last minute panicking that your flowers are not red enough or you haven't got the right chocolates. Your loved ones should appreciate the gesture enough that they don't care what you have given them and you should love them enough to know it's the thought that counts. Remember, this day is about celebrating love not celebrating what you buy to show that you are in love.





# STRAWBERRY & RASPBERRY

## CLOUD CAKE



### **Ingredients:**

#### **Base:**

- 150g plain sweet biscuits
- ½ cup desiccated coconut
- 1½tsp ground cinnamon
- 100g butter, melted

#### **To fill:**

- 2 egg whites, at room temperature
- 1 cup sugar
- 250g (1 punnet) ripe strawberries, hulled and sliced

- 1tbsp lemon juice

- 1tsp vanilla extract

#### **To decorate:**

- Fresh raspberries

### **Method:**

- Line the base of a 26-28cm spring form cake tin with baking paper or waxed paper. This makes it easy to lift the cake out later.
- Make the base by putting the biscuits in a brown paper bag and crushing them into crumbs by beating carefully with a rolling pin. Pour the crumbs into a medium bowl and add the coconut, cinnamon and melted butter. Stir well to combine.
- Press firmly into the base of the prepared tin. It doesn't need to be a thick layer – just enough to cover the bottom of the tin. Refrigerate the base while you prepare the filling.
- Place egg whites, sugar, sliced strawberries, lemon juice and vanilla in the clean, dry bowl of an electric mixer.
- Beat on high speed for about 6-8 minutes until the mixture is very thick and fluffy and the sugar has dissolved. To test whether it is ready, rub a bit of the mixture between your fingers. You should not feel any gritty sugar - if you do, beat a little longer.
- Spoon the filling over the chilled base, smooth the top, cover with a sheet of baking paper and freeze for at least 4 hours.
- To serve, cut cake into wedges using a knife that has been warmed in hot water. Garnish with fresh raspberries on top.

# PLANET EARTH II: THE FINALE OF 2016!

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With *Planet Earth II* becoming the highest performing television show of 2016, I wanted to discuss why we were so crazy about the show (and don't worry, I will mention the racer snakes).

Despite the downs... and even deeper downs of November 2016, as a nation we breathed a united sigh of relief as the visual masterpiece of BBC's *Planet Earth II* returned to our screens. The masterpiece, that had us itching for the week to end so that on Sunday night we could snuggle up and escape from our living rooms the farthest corners of the world, was back. Whilst some say, with striking enthusiasm, how dazzled and engaged viewers become when watching the show, others wondered what was so special about "just another Attenborough documentary?"

Firstly, when you think of *Planet Earth II*, you don't associate it with a 'typical' documentary. In fact, the 6 part show feels more like a movie, with a beautiful introduction by the legendary David Attenborough (*in a hot air balloon might I add*). Then an explosion into the depth of the natural world, from sandy plains, to mountains, from islands to cities. And finally, Attenborough makes his final plea for the safety of our planet by saying that: "It's surely our responsibility to do everything within our power to create a planet that provides a home not just for us, but for all life on Earth". It's this truly inspirational message that morphs this educational documentary into a piece of artwork.

Secondly, how did they do it? I mean, **HOW DID THEY DO IT?** How were they able to capture: the pygmy Sloths swimming; golden eagles flying; hundreds of bears dancing in our living rooms and then there are the racer snakes. Back in 2006, the critically-acclaimed *Planet Earth* was the first documentary to be shot in HD. 10 years later,

the show has wowed the viewers once again by shooting in Ultra-High Definition! However, it's not only the UHD that has us engrossed, it's the great lengths that the cameramen went to capture these natural scenes so perfectly. They travelled to 40 different countries, made 117 timing trips and took almost 6 years to film. Putting it in context, they were filming when I was a young Year 6!

In addition, the actual shots captured defines the ruthless reputation that nature has. Shots like the desperate giraffe chase, the snow leopard show-down and (of course) the deadly mob of racer snakes against the baby marine iguanas (which went viral on social media and with Hans Zimmer himself saying that "it was one of the greatest action sequences ever filmed"). It was these nail-biting 'cat-and-mouse' scenes that had the population (the once life-long viewers of the X Factor) hooked. Indeed, the Mountains episode engaging 1.6 million viewers (with an age bracket of 16 to 34), whilst The X Factor had 1.4 million viewers.

Finally, the captivating Hans Zimmer, score the cutting-edge technology used and the fact that Britain's national treasure, Sir David Attenborough, presented the show were the final ingredients that made this show the most watched natural history documentary in more than 15 years. And there's no doubt, it's going to keep that title for many years to come.



# PHILOSOPHICAL RAMBLINGS:

## PREFERENCE UTILITARIANISM

*Philosophical Quotation – “The notion that human life is sacred just because it is human life is medieval.” Peter Singer*

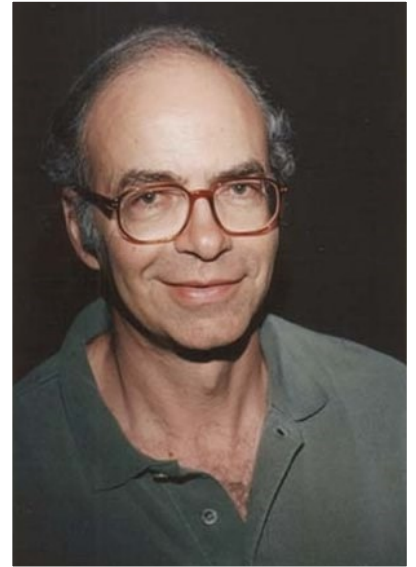
I am starting off the New Year with the greatest good for the greatest number, or in other words, utilitarianism.

Essentially, utilitarianism suggests that our actions should be defined by what causes the greatest pleasure and least amount of pain for the greatest number. There are different variations of this principle, which include Act, Rule, and Preference utilitarianism. In this rambling I'm going to talk about preference utilitarianism as it is my favourite form of utilitarianism.

Preference utilitarianism comes from philosophers such as R.M.Hare and Peter Singer, and contrasts other forms of utilitarianism by looking at people as individuals rather than society as a whole. Preference utilitarianism doesn't take an objective standpoint when looking at what causes the greatest good, but instead looks at those involved in a certain situation and recognises what would cause the greatest good for each individual. Usually most philosophers would include an analogy linking to some form of death or murder at this point, but I'll go against the grain and present preference utilitarianism in the form of ice cream.

Imagine you and your five friends have gone to the ice cream van, but the ice cream man says that you can only choose one flavour and that the six of you, despite the vast and varied menu have to have the same flavour. Now, your friends love

chocolate, but you hate chocolate, most utilitarian theories would say that your friends should buy chocolate and you get nothing; which, by the law of average seems fair. However, preference utilitarianism would say that yes, your friends should get chocolate but instead of you getting nothing, your friends should buy you something else like a vanilla milkshake (a boring milkshake after all is better than nothing at all).



As you can see, preference utilitarianism involves negotiating a situation to satisfy everyone's individual needs. This could help with situations such as giving criminals with mental disorders the actual help they need, rather than locking them up in prison or an asylum where treatment is poor and likely to make them worse. In that situation what would be good for both those criminals and society would be helping them, even though what might be easier for society is not caring.

Peter Singer also applied preference utilitarianism to animal ethics, stating that humans and animals deserve the same rights and should be treated similarly. This includes not hunting them or experimenting on them, as what would be in the animals best interest is to live comfortably.

Ultimately, I like preference utilitarianism as it takes into account how morality is subjective and different for each individual, meaning that each individual's preferences are different and no universal rules or premise can apply to everyone's idea of happiness. I wouldn't say that preference utilitarianism is without its flaws as all philosophical theories do, however I would say it's one of the best at looking at the world in a realistic manner rather than applying some almost impossible structure of morality.

By Doctor Edwin Murray



# CREATIVE

# WRITING

# STORIES

## MEDUSA

Despair, hatred and self-loathing slithered through her body; she couldn't face looking at her reflection in the meandering, piercing river whose specular quality seemed to taunt her. Why her? She thought with a burning resentment in the pit of her stomach. Why was she punished for one moment of weakness? For a gender, she had no choice in? Suddenly, she uncoiled her arm and thrashed the surface of the river, sending ripping waves in every direction. The glimmering, translucent wave acted as a tool of hypnosis and suddenly (without consent or desire) Medusa found herself being transported into the deepest and darkest recesses of her memory.

Awakening at dawn, she crept through the shadows of the sleeping city. The rat-infested pathways were no place for a lady of her kind. Swiftly and concisely, she looked behind her. Flooding into the gates of her mind a state of paranoia overcame her, she quickly took a sharp right turn down a shady alleyway. She met a man in dark robes, his skeleton-like frame towering above her. Cold, lifeless and empty that's all Medusa saw in front of her. He radiated a great power and magnetism despite his perceived coolness. She was drawn to him; she had to be with him, to know him.

She carefully watched his psychotic eyes twitch, whilst saliva frothed from his mouth like a mad dog poised by the devil. She cursed at the man grabbing his attention immediately. The shadow of a man gave a soulless stare... ordering her to follow him down the rest of the alleyway. Why did she follow? Though she has turned this thought over in her head repeatedly, she found herself without an answer. That's the power Poseidon had. What chance had she back then? A mere mortal caught in the snares of a God.

Pain cursed through her veins as this memory loomed in her mind. She was ruined by Poseidon and punished for his crime. What was it women that suffered at the hands of men? Why are the innocent punished, whilst the guilty roam free?

The agonising pain was too much for Medusa to handle. She decided to reopen her eyes and tend to her broken heart. Blood red tears flew out of Medusas violet eyes, staining the white marble floor. Then, unexpectedly, a cruel laugh escaped her now-thin lips exposing her row of pointy fang-like teeth. See, even monsters can shed tears.

*She has allowed herself to be a victim once, she was not going to let herself be one again...*





# EVERY LOVE STORY IS A GHOST STORY

You could say we tried.  
She was younger. I let her love me despite  
better judgement.  
She moved to Portugal for me. If only  
grand gestures could make a relationship.  
I remember she called me an idiot.  
Tried pushing me out of the car while driving.  
My name tattooed on her arm.  
Hurled my coffee table at me.  
Called my mother, told her  
she was going to marry me.  
I got a cheque in the mail  
The memo read, "for the table."  
I wrote back.  
I hadn't bought the table,  
only the brokenness.

By Bly Wilding

## ALONE?

It was quiet... too quiet. I knew, as soon as I set foot on the ground, that I shouldn't be here. The place reeked of trouble. The trees, one by one as I passed them, seemed to scream at me to turn around, but against my better judgement, I carried on. The mist loomed in the distance, almost but never quite in reach. Scattered on the ground, the skeletons of dead leaves made me question whether they were ever alive at all. I wondered if this entire forest had ever seen any life.

Every minute, the shadows seemed more threatening. I was reluctant to glance behind me, even just for a second. Who knows what evil spirits were following me, if they were foolish enough to even enter this maze of horror. I considered turning and sprinting, but the trees all seemed to be identical; all towering menacingly over the muddy ground with their bony arms casting wicked shadows below. Even with the path ahead I would get lost.

The wind whistled as it weaved its way through the trees. I had never noticed the sound of my heart racing before, and I didn't know if it was from fear or adrenaline. The leaves below my feet rustled, lacking enough structure to crunch. The silence was disturbed by nothing but nature taking its course. It was oddly unsettling. My instinct told me to turn and escape before it was too late, but today I was curious. The prospect of uncertainty appealed to me, and I ignored the voice in my head. Today, the mysterious, almost frightening, atmosphere of the forest had me intrigued.



# KEEPING

# CREATIVE

## DEATH

**Death.** That thief in the night,  
the extinguisher of light.

The thing that left me  
With no feeling of bright

**Death.** This is so strange.  
For I never believed in change.

This was what I thought.  
As I looked across the grange.

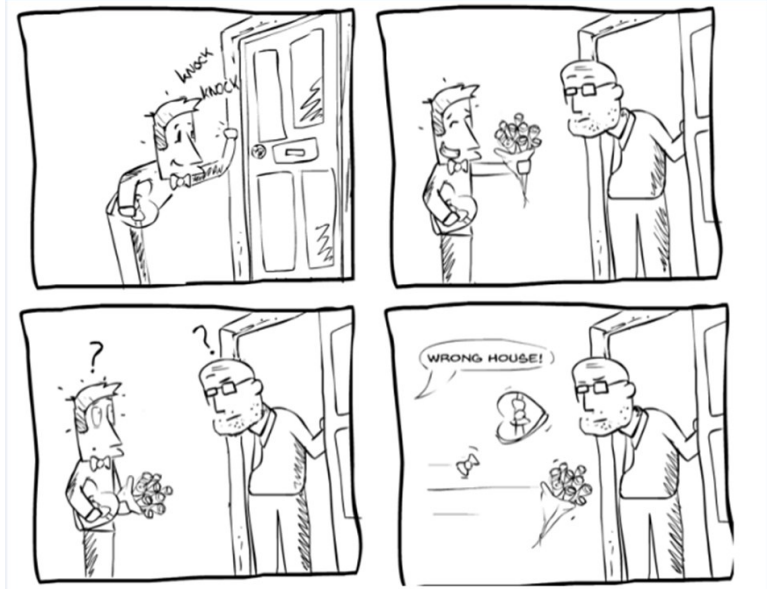
**Death.** That fateful sting.  
I picked up the phone,  
Due to the deafening ring.  
The message chilling me to the bone.

**Death.** It has to be easy  
Cause life to be hard.  
It has left me feeling, physically,  
mentally  
and emotionally scared

**Death.** I'm on bended knee.  
Can't you just take me.

Death. Why?

By Bly Wilding



## Friends

Written in a text and sealed with a kiss,  
You're my friend, so please answer me this:

Are we besties, or are we not?  
You told me once, but I forgot.  
So tell me now, and tell me true,  
Will we always stick like glue?  
Of all the friends I've ever met,  
You're the one I won't forget.  
And if I get there before you do,  
I'll always sit and wait for you.  
I'll give your phone one more ring  
And risk missing out on everything.  
There isn't a thing I wouldn't do,  
To have a friend just like you!



# ELECTRIC UMBRELLA

Our very own resident musician, Mr Billington, fronts the Electric Umbrella. The Electric Umbrella is a vibrant and energetic mixture of adults with learning disabilities and music industry professionals.

They run a diverse programme of events that provide a range of opportunities that allow the company to create and perform music through regular workshops, football stadiums, theatres, festivals, live radio and even our own Da Vinci hall.

What's so wonderful about the Electric Umbrella is the fact they are challenging the perception of people with learning disabilities by empowering and enriching lives through music. This was something that became really apparent when they the group took to the stage to perform songs that they love and enjoy, as well as debut their new Christmas single, 'Christmas as a Punk', in a brilliant and vibrant video.

Mr Billington who is also the co-founder and Artistic Director of Electric Umbrella, produced and mastered at the world famous Abbey Road Studios, the music moguls among us will know how iconic this address is, and can only admire the accomplishment that this is in itself. Not only this, the track features musicians and producers with a dazzling array of credits to their name including Robert Plant, Hans Zimmer, Melanie C, Rick Parfitt and Gary Barlow.

The event was one of the first in the Electric Umbrella tour to publicise the single and is a song about a punk rocker who feels uncomfortable with the social etiquette and niceties of Christmas. In

many ways, it is a metaphor for people who feel out of place and are misunderstood and misrepresented by society revealing that there is no "us and them".

From the very beginning, the performance in Da Vinci Hall had everyone grabbed; from the bright rainbow-coloured umbrellas to the enthusiasm that was infectious to us all. The brilliant band started off with some songs of their own before moving into others that we knew and recognised. Perhaps one of the highlights of the performance was when we got to meet all of the fantastic musicians; like singer Joe, and also get to see them rock out on their individual instruments. Close to the end, students in the audience were given the chance to get up and sing with Electric Umbrella on stage. For their song choice, they had picked an energetic Katy Perry song, *Roar*, to encourage the sing-alongs, regardless of whether we knew the words or not, and rocking of musical instruments.

One member of the audience spoke of the energy in the room, saying that there was "a real buzz and energy." Another member of the Sixth form stated that the song is "great" and that the lead singer of the band "had real charisma which meant you couldn't help but want to sing along!" Needless to say, all students and teachers alike left the room with a catchy tune in their ear that stayed with them for the rest of the day.

If you want to hear the single again 'Christmas as a Punk' can be downloaded on the Electric Umbrella website, plus it is available on CD for £5 plus £1.50 postage with all proceeds going to Electric Umbrella.



# LES FERDINAND

**The Mo Sport's reporter, Sammy Parker, has a candid conversation with one of English football royalty, Les Ferdinand.**

This month I sat down with QPR director of football 'Sir' Les Ferdinand. He spoke about his career and what the future holds for himself and Queen's Park Rangers.

In regards to his early career, Ferdinand started playing semi-professional football for Southall. He played youth football and worked his way up playing for both the reserves and eventually the first team. Whilst playing for Southall they reached the FA Vase final, where Ferdinand made his first appearance at Wembley. After the final the Southall team disbanded and Ferdinand went to Hayes, where he stayed for 6 months. QPR then began to show an interest, and eventually signed Ferdinand for around £30,000. When playing semi-professional football, Ferdinand revealed "the reason I was driven was that I liked playing football. I played football without the focus of becoming a professional footballer and I just wanted to play for enjoyment."

Very rarely do English footballers decide to go abroad to further their footballing career, but in 1988 22 year old Ferdinand joined Turkish, Besiktas, on loan from QPR. He highlighted how getting away from his normal life in London helped him discover his own potential. He called his experience in Turkey "not only the making of [him] as a footballer, but also as a man."

Les Ferdinand scored 212 career goals, and out of these he picked his stand out three. Firstly, the Turkish Cup goal in 1989 for Besiktas which was the winner, which he described as "one of his favourites." Next, a 30 yard goal against Manchester United for QPR, and finally was his first goal for Newcastle United, which Ferdinand saw as a significant goal. "I didn't realise how big the number 9 shirt was up there, until I scored my first goal." He went on to describe the stadium eruption as "something special".

With a vast range of current English talent, Ferdinand believed it could be Ross Barkley who could surpass him and others and reach over 150 Premier League goals. He drew comparisons to Chelsea



legend Frank Lampard, highlighting both their abilities to get goals from midfield.

As a striker at the top of English football for just under 20 years, Les Ferdinand faced all sorts of defenders, however he stated Tony Adams was the toughest he had ever come up against. He described Adams as "the catalyst of George Graham's well-drilled defence". With four Premier League titles to his name, it's no surprise Ferdinand had a tough time up against the former Arsenal man.

Playing against family in any sport or game always gets slightly competitive, but facing your cousin in a top flight football match, like when Les Ferdinand had to face Rio Ferdinand, must have been very different. Tottenham played West Ham in 2000, where the Ferdinand cousins lined up on opposing sides, with Ferdinand and Tottenham coming home with all three points on the day. He labelled the experience as "a rivalry." He went on to describe Rio as "a tough competitor ... quick and good in the air".

Les Ferdinand also revealed how he and Rio never knew each other until they got into football. He explained – "Rio was here as a kid and he came up to me and said he was my cousin. His dad then explained to me how they were related. Then the next time I saw him he was 6 foot and playing for West Ham." As a famous footballing family, very few people know that without football, Les and Rio may never have even met.





Surprisingly, Ferdinand only received five England caps, despite his prominence in the domestic game. But he believes that it is Tottenham star Harry Kane who is most capable to lead the England line, not only now, but in the future too. “I used to work closely with Harry, and I think if he can carry over his Tottenham form into the England team, which I think he will, then he could be the one”.

When asked about a top tip for any young aspiring footballers, he replied “you’ve got to play for enjoyment and not think about playing professionally.” He continued, “if you have an end goal, the end goal has to be for the right reasons. I didn’t become a professional footballer because I wanted to earn lots of money and be famous. I played football because I loved playing football.”

Now, Ferdinand is director of football at QPR, where he played for eight years. Speaking about what his role entails, Ferdinand explained that “in some countries, a director of football is in charge of buying and selling players, along with running the football aspect of the club for the chairman. [It is also about] facilitating the manager and assisting him with the players he requires.”

Following on from this, Ferdinand alluded to his close relationship with both QPR manager Ian Holloway and Chairman Tony Fernandes.

“The chairman is a football fan and loves the club, but he doesn’t understand football so he needs some guidance.” Ferdinand went on to express his gratitude for the “massive role” he has been given within the football club. In regards to what the aims at QPR are this season, Ferdinand seemed very optimistic. “The long-term aim is to make a sustainable club back in the Premier League.” However he was clear to point out that they are “going through it in a different process to what the club has done before.”

Commenting on the club’s relegation, he said “the club threw a lot of money away and brought a lot of players into the football club who were past their sell-by date.” With QPR still in the hunt for the play-offs this season he commented that “the club still see [being promoted] as a realistic target.”

Playing for a number of clubs throughout his career, Les Ferdinand spent his longest period at one club with QPR. Ferdinand seemed very appreciative that he was now back at the club, as part of the management team. He called it “a great honour” to return to the club, but made it clear to clarify it’s “not [his] idea to run the club this way [spending less money than they used to]”. He was adamant that the way the club is being run now is the correct way.

Although his time as director of football has only just begun, Ferdinand was clear he would like to go into management one day. He confirmed “I have done all my coaching badges.” Ferdinand had a little spell at management alongside both Tim Sherwood and Chris Ramsey back in 2014 at Tottenham, however he wasn’t in full charge.

“It’s one option I will have to take up during my career or my life or I will feel unfulfilled – [but] I wanted to be a football director even when I was doing my badges with Tim [Sherwood] and Chris [Ramsey]”.

Out of 520 coaching jobs in England, currently only 20 of them are filled by people of ethnic minority. This is something that Ferdinand voiced his opinion over. “It’s a concern for the players I played football with and current players as they don’t want to get their coaching badges as they believe there is no opportunity for them to get back into football. If you look at the FA, there are no people of ethnic minority in a senior position, which can’t be right.”

With ethnic minority coaches at a worrying low, the only way to bolster the numbers is to start at the top and slowly integrate more ethnic minority coaches into the game as you move further down the spectrum.

Football is a rapid growing market around the world; with billions being spent a year, player’s wages and transfer fees are sky-high. Ferdinand was quite controversial on the matter and he commented “it’s a tough one because it’s a billion dollar industry and that money is made because of the players in that industry. The players that are playing, the people are paying to come and watch them play.” However he was very quick to point out “a lot of people are now focusing on how much money can be earned rather than the enjoyment of football”.

This view highlighted Ferdinand’s real passion for the game and how he wanted the beautiful game to be played for the right reasons.

# JOURNALISTS

On an ordinary day, you may think that what you write may not have an impact; but for a group of students selected for an ACES day, they had the opportunity to write something incredible. Working with their teachers, peers, and a journalist, students worked on their own hard-hitting articles on anything and everything, which could grab people's attention. There were two students that were lucky enough to have their articles featured in the *Herts Advertiser* on 29<sup>th</sup> December, and we have included them in The MO so you can get a chance to read what they wrote.

## Social media takes lives by Amy Persaud

Suicidal acts and attempts have recently increased. Teenagers in our day are being pressured by social media, and as a result many more youth suffer from mental illnesses such as anxiety and depression.

Parents also have said that more arguments have been caused in the household due to their children's stress. This increasingly worrying issue has to be addressed. These problems have affected many people lives and continue to on a regular basis.

"As a society we should work together to find a solution," a member of the local government said to our reporters.

Psychologists say that therapy just isn't enough to help children who suffer from anxiety anymore and should tackle it from the source. In a recent act of suicide close family want to educate young teens on the effects of cyber bullying and pressures of social media.



Parents believe this would be extremely beneficial. Reporters spoke to relatives of the recent suicide act.

"On some days I feel angry at the young people who were involved in his life, why would his friends and fellow classmates who all go through the same situations not stop?" More action will be taken going forward to prevent these heart breaking acts and stop social media's effect on so many lives in a negative way.

**Remember, you are never alone. If you need to talk to somebody about any of the issues raised in Amy's article please to talk to your tutor, a member of the pastoral team or Mrs Aylward.**

# N THE MAKING:

## Virtual Vive by Daniel Howell

Imagine walking in space, without a suit. Imagine playing retro games, in first person. Imagine swimming with sharks without getting wet. Well imagine no more as major advancements in virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) have been creeping up on the world for nearly a hundred years now, and you can now afford it with products being made from cardboard to high quality plastics and with software running on PC systems to mobile apps.

The first-ever VR creation was invented by Edwin Link as a virtual flight simulator to help train novice pilots. But new software is being developed such as PlayStation VR, which allows people to play a wide range of HD games and travel through incredible experiences.

Currently, VR has a wide range of uses including training, gaming, media, therapy, exercise and much, much more. VR equipment is becoming accessible in many retailers, both “virtually” and in “reality”, with products ranging from £5 (Google cardboard) that is used with a mobile device, to nearly £760 (NTC Vive) that works on a computer.

Now lots of big companies are competing for the best VR rigs, some of the best include: HTC Vive, Oculus Rift, Samsung Gear VR, Google cardboard and Carl Zeiss. Keeran Richardson, 12, says: “It’s a cool and immersive way to view video games. It’s amazing that VR has been around for so long.”



## **BREAKING YOUR NEWS**

What our ACES helped show is that the news is there, and it is your for the taking! If you have a story, or an idea for a story email

[thmo@marlborough.herts.sch.uk](mailto:thmo@marlborough.herts.sch.uk)

Alternatively, hunt out Natasha Chen, Sophie Brown or Ms Redfern who will help you pen your first article.



# CULTURE WEEK

## GARDEN FIELDS SCHOOL

In the midst of the festivities, Garden Fields Primary school kindly invited reporters from The MO to come and see what the children had been doing for their Cultural Arts Week.

The week started with an explosive performance from Nama, an academy of martial and performing arts, which “launched” all students into the atmosphere for the rest of the week. The performance certainly left a lasting impression on the children as they couldn’t stop giggling when recalling how the lion kept on “bobbing in and out” of the crowd. Years 1 to 5 were given the chance to take part in a dance workshop as well as try on the lion and dragon costumes that were used during the performance. Many children were impressed at the mechanics of the lion costume and enjoyed regaling the team with stories of the eyes that would blink and how it was a team effort to move the magnificent costume.

But the festivities didn’t stop there, far from it! Parents were invited to come in to school and work with the children to create arts and craft. Children in Year 1 worked to create colourful firecrackers and paint dragons, whilst Year 4 made oracle bands (bands which were used to receive answers from ancestors) and hanging decorations with the Chinese symbols for “friendship”, “fortune” and “luck” on them. Although not all years participated in the festivities, core lessons were inspired by the Asian culture they were surrounded by; lessons involved creating stories about Mei Ling (a girl who was tasked with slaying a dragon), learning about an Asian country of their choice, the legend of Mulan and the Shang Dynasty.

Along with the reception children The MO reporters were able to experience a carousel, of different activities. In one class, the children got to make pictures of cherry blossom trees for good luck, in another they tried their hand at twinkly lanterns with Chinese calligraphy, and lastly, the children showed off their dance skills by performing a dance routine as dragons, which involved a lot of turning, twisting and hopping. The excitement was palpable as the children went from class to class to find out their activity, and when we asked, they said that it was a “fantastic” week and that they couldn’t wait for what was coming up.

It was easy to tell that the children had thoroughly enjoyed cultural week the school had arranged, and they still had the rest to go; sadly, however, we wouldn’t be in attendance! On Thursday, children in the whole of Year 6 would

be creating a 3D dragon, and their combined efforts will definitely be a piece of art work of epic proportion! To end this explosive week, we were informed



that the pupils of Garden Fields would gather for a celebration assembly where all of the hard work they have been doing for the week will be displayed. What’s more, in the afternoon, a giant feast is planned where the hall will be split into each continent. Parents will be bringing in food - which is not just exclusive to Asian cuisine - and according to one teacher will include over 50 different dishes around the world! Children will then be given a passport to get stamped whenever they try a different country’s dish. Understandably, everyone is very excited for the feast, and hopefully everyone would have tried something new that they haven’t had before.

Although this was the first time Garden Fields had arranged a Cultural Arts Week, it is clear that it is a roaring success with many children saying that it is “one of the best weeks ever” and “one of the funniest times of my life”. To think that this was initially only a small idea, and that it had only “grown and grown” makes me smile. I can only hope that the next time Garden Fields holds another activities week for the school that we can get to experience the festivities again and get the scoop!

