

# What The Heck?

October 2024 – 6<sup>th</sup> Edition



In Association with Sixth Form  
Newspaper Enrichment

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**Welcome back** for the **2024-2024** academic year!

**This year** comes with special challenge for us, as we take on year 13, and consequentially, our **A-level examinations**. To combat the workload, we will be taking What The Heck a little slower, focusing on work first and then the editions. That is not to say you won't get them though! **Just maybe not every month.**

**To start, our October Edition!** We'd like to welcome a few new writers in, of whom you will see the articles of in this edition. They are bringing new ideas and focuses to the newspaper, and we are very excited to welcome them to the group, we hope you enjoy their writing as much as we did.

**This edition** has no specific theme, though a few people have homed in on Halloween as their inspiration.

Your editors,

**Alice Cheesbrough, Emma Dye**

Priestley

Clarke

Houldsworth

Bronte

## Upcoming Events

- House Dance Finals
- Inters Football
- House E-Sports
- Senior Debates Final
- House Drama Launch
- Staff University Challenge

## Children in Need fundraising:

**BBC CHILDREN IN NEED**

**YOUR FUNDRAISING HELPS MAKE LIFE LIGHTER FOR CHILDREN IN THE UK**

**£30**

**£5**

**£2**

**£15**

**If everyone in your form group brings in £1, the £30 you fundraise together will pay for 30 teenagers affected by social anxiety to attend an online youth group session, supporting them to build confidence, develop peer relationships, and manage their feelings**

**£5 pays for a food parcel for a young girl affected by poverty and mental health issues, ensuring she can access healthy food to improve her physical and emotional wellbeing**

**£2 pays for a hygiene pack for a young boy affected by poverty, providing them with toothpaste and body wash and supporting them to feel more confident**

**£15 pays for a 1:1 support session for a young boy affected by domestic abuse, helping them to talk through their feelings and to build resilience**

© BBC 2022 Reg charity England & Wales no. 802052 and Scotland no. SC899551

**BBC CHILDREN IN NEED £15,000 challenge!**

**WE'RE RAISING MONEY**

**WHAT** PUDSEY PARK

**WHEN & WHERE** Wed 13<sup>th</sup> Swann

**CONTACT** Mrs Kiddy - Skeddy

**BBC CHILDREN IN NEED £15,000 challenge!**

**WE'RE RAISING MONEY**

**WHAT** £10 Challenge!

**WHEN & WHERE** Anytime.

**CONTACT** Mrs Kiddy - Skeddy@hockgrammar.co.uk

**English Department**

**Book Sale: Donation Only**

**BBC Children in Need**

**Wednesday 13th November**

**12:30-1pm in the English Office**

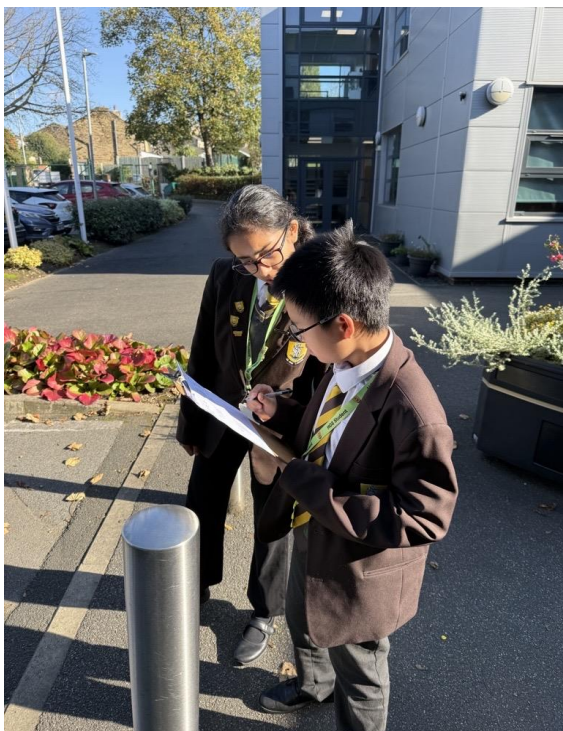




## ECO COMMITTEE 2024-25

### To do list

- ☐ Climate detectives school project
- ☐ Map school biodiversity
- ☐ RHS the big seed sowing
- ☐ Promotion assemblies to gain new members
- ☐ Green day 2025
- ☐ Litter picking
- ☐ Sapling restoration and flower planting
- ☐ Charity fundraising events
- ☐ Book swaps
- ☐ Update picture display board
- ☐ Reach our fundraising goal of £500



## THE HGS ECO COMMITTEE

JOIN US:

12:30 Monday A105



For more information Email/ Teams message 18ELinsell-Fraser

## October Breast Cancer Awareness Month:

Breast cancer. A serious health risk that affects many, awareness of which is vital. October arises hand in hand with spreading awareness around breast cancer, so this October, I invite you all to wear your pink ribbons and be educated further on breast cancer and to empathise and comprehend why and how it effects people all over the world. While it is advised to wear a pink ribbon to portray your personal support, I'd like to elucidate the idea that this disease entails more than a fashion statement, instead an overlooked, truly life-threatening illness.

### Who is affected?

You, your mother, your sister, your grandmother and potentially even your father could all be at risk. Breast cancer is the most common cancer in the UK, with 1 woman diagnosed every 10 minutes! Breast cancer does not just affect women. Men, consider this my formal asking for your attention on this issue too. 400 men are diagnosed annually, 85 facing death. Breast cancer deserves all of our attention, whether you're 11, or whether you're 18, regardless of age, breast cancer, clearly, does not care.

In recent news, US Office Star "Jenna Fischer" (or better known as "Pam Beesely") reveals her own personal diagnosis and battle with stage 1, triple positive, breast cancer. Having first been diagnosed in October 2023, to undergoing chemotherapy, the star currently remains cancer-free, and shares inspiring words for women around the world. "Should you get a breast cancer diagnosis, there is a village waiting to care for you."



### The History of Breast Cancer Awareness Month

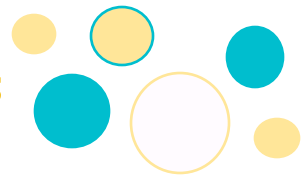
Breast Cancer Awareness initially began in 1985, as a week-long awareness campaign, instigated first by the American Cancer Society. Later gaining a greater support and advanced awareness when Betty Ford, former first lady- and wife to former American president, Gerald Ford, was diagnosed, and thankfully for her high social ranking, she was able to draw more attention to Breast Cancer Awareness.

### What can you do?

Make donations if possible and ensure that you are attending GP appointments. Spread the word via online posts – making sure that the information is correct before you do so. Misinformation is a massive problem for issues like this, with people thinking they are somehow immune to, or not at risk of, breast cancer.

Written by Zara Bostan





**“Arriva in West Yorkshire has been ranked England's worst bus operator”**

How did you travel today? 29% of children ages 11-16 in the UK travelled to school by bus in 2022, in fact more students chose this option rather than walking. With statistics so high we come to question the importance of reliability. Was your bus on time today?

Many people rely heavily on buses and continue to be left unsatisfied with Arriva's services, in fact just 66 per cent of passengers were satisfied with their last journey - a survey by watchdog indicated. With frequent reports of bus cancellations and constant delays, many people are forced to be late or even stranded due to the companies' terrible timings.

“I cannot tell you how many times my bus has been late this last year.” Exclaims a local. A statement of which I'm sure most reading this will relate to.

Out of almost 4,000 reviews on trust pilot, 93% were 1 star ratings, significantly highlighting the public's anger with the company. Arriva's customers are feeling continuously let down and neglected, with no choice other than to voice their distress online in hopes of future change.

A complaint posted on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2024 exclaims: “Absolutely atrocious service. 3 nights out of 5, I have been stood in the rain, waiting for a bus that doesn't turn up. 40 minutes minimum each night waiting around I'm at the bus stop 10 mins early as well. It's an absolute DISGRACE. I'm going to be writing to the local MP, enough is enough. People are getting in trouble for being late to work because of this terrible company. Pull a finger out and do your job properly Arriva.” – Just one example of many complaints.

But will Arriva finally listen to its customers, most of whom have no choice but to rely on them? Taking accountability for their disgraceful timings would be a start.



**Written by Ruby Spotswood**



**Although** England managed to win the first two matches at Old Trafford and Lord's, Sri Lanka effectively fought back to claim an unlikely victory at The Oval grounds, in an enthralling series. Here is a summary of England's 2-1 series win, with mention to the high performers as well as those who struggled:



- <sup>1</sup> one-hundred runs
- <sup>2</sup> batting innings
- <sup>3</sup> the aggressive, positive brand of cricket that England have adopted since McCullum and Stokes took over

### A Variety of Strong Performers

In the first test, Jamie Smith made his first ever century<sup>1</sup> in only his fifth ever test match for England. The wicketkeeper-batsman played well for his 111 runs, which included eight fours and a six. This proved to be a vital knock<sup>2</sup> as England went on to win the test match.

Gus Atkinson made it onto the honors board twice at Lord's, with both the ball and the bat! In England's first innings he made 118 runs, in a superb display of batting, followed by bowling figures of 5-62 in Sri Lanka's second innings.

Joe Root recorded two centuries in the second test which means he now has the most 100s for England, in test match cricket (34). However, he still has 17 centuries fewer in test matches than Sachin Tendulkar, who has the record for the most test match centuries in international cricket (51). Could Root get near to, or potentially surpass this record?

### A Poor Series for Opening Batters

Dan Lawrence was the replacement for injured Zak Crawley, who suffered a fractured finger in a recent test match against the West Indies. However, the England opener was unable to make a meaningful contribution with the bat, averaging only 20 across his six innings. Ben Duckett also struggled with the bat. Despite scoring 86 in the final test, he only managed to notch up 100 runs across his other 5 innings.

Sri Lankan opener Karunaratne made one 50 in the series, but again, provided very little with the bat otherwise. Nishan Madushka was dropped from the team after the first two test matches. He scored a meagre 24 runs, at an average of 6 runs per innings. In the final test, Pathum Nissanka opened in place of Madushka. He was the only opener in the series that performed well, scoring 64 in the first innings and an unbeaten 127 in the second.



### Is Bazball<sup>3</sup> the future of test cricket?

England reached 260-3 on the opening day of the third test. Batting with confidence and positivity, the home team were in a very strong position, with runs on the board in favorable bowling conditions. However, many reckless shots followed, which ultimately cost England the game. This brings about the question: Is 'Bazball' the future of test cricket? England adopted this new 'Bazball' approach from head coach Brendon McCullum, who wanted to bring about a positive mindset to his players when batting. The outcome? England have seen some good results, winning 5 out of the 6 test matches this summer. However, England have been far superior to Sri Lanka and the West Indies for a long time, so were these outcomes that surprising? It would be difficult to argue that England have improved this year based on these results alone.

The final test match in particular, has raised many questions ahead of the two upcoming test series against Pakistan and New Zealand. Regarded as stronger opposition, these two teams will provide a tougher test for McCullum's side, a challenge they must overcome if they want to be a dominant force in test cricket.

Article written by **George Heald**

For Sri Lanka, Pathum Nissanka played beautifully with the bat in the third test. He got a fifty in the first innings and an unbeaten century in the second. Ultimately, it was his determination with bat in hand that led Sri Lanka to a famous eight-wicket victory.



## Part One

The importance of pain

Feeling pain is essential to our everyday lives, allowing the body to distinguish dangers in our environment and avoid injury. Since childhood, it has been the warning system which tells us not to touch a hot pan or to immediately drink a scalding cup of Yorkshire tea.

Congenital Insensitivity to Pain (CIP) is a rare genetic disorder in which a person cannot feel pain as their nociceptors (nerve cell endings which respond to pain) are either non-functional or they have failed to develop correctly. This often results in severe burns as a result of insensitivity to temperature changes, and infections from unknown injuries. Without the feeling of pain some injuries are undetectable, and when left untreated, could be fatal.

The Withdrawal Reflex

Our body can perform many different actions automatically: for example, the nervous system can detect certain stimuli and respond accordingly before we can even process the stimulus. A reflex arc is an example of an automatic response. This is an involuntary response to a stimulus, usually a pain stimulus, and takes place instantaneously. After the action has been performed, information can then be processed so that the person becomes aware of what has happened. The pathway followed by a nerve impulse during a reflex action is called the reflex arc.

The Withdrawal Reflex is the reflex arc taken to protect the body from a harmful stimulus such as pain or heat, activated when the receptor receives a pain stimulus. It is a polysynaptic reflex passing more than 1 synapse in the central nervous system, involving sensory, relay and motor neurons as well as many synapses. The process of this is as follows:

- Receptors, found at the ends of sensory neurons, detect a stimulus. The main receptors involved are thermoreceptors and the nociceptors. Thermoreceptors detect the change in surrounding temperature whilst nociceptors are nerve endings which can perceive different damaging pain stimuli (should have defined this before when used previously).
- An action potential (changes in the voltage across a membrane) is produced and passed from the sensory neuron to the relay neuron. It is then processed and then passed onto the motor neuron where the information is passed onto the effector muscles including the response.
- The effector organ then responds. This could be a muscle flexing which pulls away from a hot pan.

Painfully categorizing pain

There are different types of pain which require different pain management strategies. This usually depends on whether the pain is acute or chronic. Acute pain is caused by something specific such as an injury and lasts as long as the body needs to heal. Chronic pain can either be ongoing pain after an injury has healed or can arise with no apparent cause, and lasts for a significantly longer period, including life-long pain.

Acute pain can usually be split into 2 categories:

- **Nociceptive pain** - Pain detected by the nociceptive receptors at the end of sensory neurons. This can be from sprained ankles, fractured bones, headaches or from surgeries. This type of pain will usually get better as the body heals itself.
- **Neuropathic pain** - Pain from damaged nerves or from incorrect signaling affecting the nerves.

Chronic pain includes:

- **Migraine pain** - The cause for migraine pain is usually unknown but can be accompanied by nausea, vomiting and an insensitivity to bright lights. Some people experience an aura which is an early warning sign and is the point when taking medication is most effective.
- **Chronic inflammatory pain** - This type of pain can affect many body tissues and systems and is often associated with conditions such as arthritis and inflammatory bowel disease.
- **Cancer pain** - Pain caused by tumors pressing on bones, nerves and other organs in the body as well as chemotherapy and radiotherapy.

Pain management strategies

Since the root cause differs for each type of pain, unique strategies are used to treat each one. However, it is key to note that pain cannot be totally 'cured' but can be brought to a tolerable level where the patient can feel comfortable going about their daily lives.

Nerve pain medication

Neuropathic pain does not stem from inflammation but from damage to nerves or the misfiring of neurons. This is why both antiepileptic and antidepressants can be used:

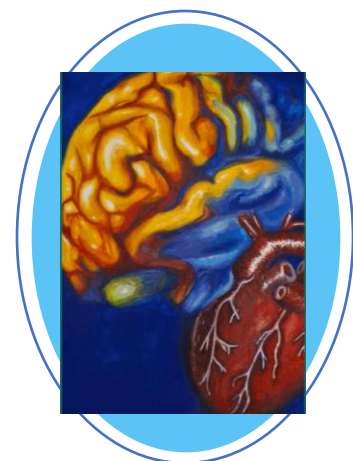
- Antiepileptic drugs are used to control the misfiring of neurons. They can do this by blocking the ion channels between the neurons to reduce the frequency of electrical activity. Other drugs will also reduce the excitability of neurons.
- Even when depression is not a factor of the condition, antidepressants seem to act as a pain relief. They may increase neurotransmitters (chemical messengers) in the spinal cord that reduce pain signals. They work after a few weeks and can be used for moderate pain relief.



**Managing chronic pain**

Pain is signaled to the body through multiple pathways that signal tissue damage to the brain. Some of these pathways can morph together, amplifying pain signals. This can cause chronic pain long after the pain is needed to signal damage. Since chronic pain is often unbearable, stronger painkillers are used.

Paracetamol and NSAIDs are weaker pain medications than opioids so alone they would not be able to control chronic inflammatory pain to a comfortable level. This is why combination tablets made from codeine alongside either paracetamol or an NSAID are used. Codeine is an opiate which is found naturally in the sap of the opium poppy. These painkillers work by interacting with opioid receptors located in the brain, spinal cord and other parts of the body. This blocks the pain signals but can also induce a 'high' since the opioids activate the body's endorphin system.

**Anti-inflammatory painkillers**

When an injury occurs, inflammation occurs in the area, causing swelling and redness. This is detected by the nociceptors which then causes pain. Therefore, reducing inflammation reduces the severity of the pain. For injuries resulting in nociceptive pain, anti-inflammatory painkillers are the way to go. However, in instances such as major surgery or breaking bones, immediate stronger pain relief may be warranted so opioids or opiate derivatives such as morphine may be administered.

Migraine pain can also be targeted with anti-inflammatory drugs but in cases with severe migraine attacks, prescription medication which reverses the **volume of blood flowing to the brain is preferred**.

brain blood dilation is preferred.

Anti-inflammatory painkillers work in various ways:

- Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) such as ibuprofen and aspirin work by blocking an enzyme called cox undergoing a biological cascade, which will produce an inflammatory chemical called prostaglandins. Therefore, reducing the pain felt. Ibuprofen works by temporarily blocking the cox enzyme's active site so it cannot work. Aspirin, on the other hand, enters the active site and breaks away, leaving half of it behind. This permanently blocks the active site, so it can no longer function. Since NSAIDs block enzyme activity, it can cause further damage because inflammatory responses are used in other bodily functions. This can lead to further issues such as irritated stomach lining and kidney failure. However, these over-the-counter drugs are safe when taken as per the recommended guidelines.
- Corticosteroids, such as prednisone, also work by reducing the inflammatory chemical prostaglandins. It is very effective in doing so but can cause severe side effects such as liver damage.
- Whilst paracetamol is not an anti-inflammatory drug, it also inhibits cox enzymes and therefore has similar pain-reducing effects as NSAIDs.

Whilst opioids are an excellent short-term pain relief, they have an opposite effect in treating long term chronic pain. When we feel pain, neurons detect the pain and send signals to the brain which are interpreted to allow us to get help and to treat the injury. Our body then releases natural painkillers called endorphins to balance the pain, activating opioid receptors that 'turn off' pain signals. When we use opioids as a pain killer, it can also activate these opioid receptors, since they share similar characteristics as endorphins. However, these opioid receptors are also found on dopamine inhibitors, resulting in a rush of dopamine causing the feeling of euphoria or a 'high'. Over time, dopamine inhibitors work harder to release the dopamine, so a higher dose of opioid is needed to feel the same comfort. This can sensitize someone to pain, eventually leading to opioid addiction. Genetics and environmental factors can put some people more at risk of opioid addiction than others.

Therefore, when managing chronic inflammatory pain there is a limit to the type and strength of the painkillers used. Instead, other pain management strategies are used to manage pain including cognitive behavioral therapy, physical therapy and mindfulness.

Cancer pain and chronic inflammatory pain are both categorized as chronic pain. However, in the case of cancer pain it is pain that lasts a long time but not in the same area. As the cancer spreads the pain spreads, which eventually can become unbearable. This is why using opioids in this instance is not harmful because it is like treating acute pain that appears in different areas. Necessary?? May be sensitive

In summary, the body is incredibly complex, which makes diagnosing and treating conditions incredibly difficult. On top of this, pain can be very subjective and not all treatments are suitable for everyone. This is why having an open and honest relationship with medical professionals whilst also being curious and involved gives the best treatment outcomes.

A useful video on this topic:

[This Is What Happens to Your Brain on Opioids | Short Film Showcase \(youtube.com\)](#)



**Self-driving cars** have been a hot topic in recent news: their futuristic, almost supernatural ability, has the potential to revolutionise driving forever. But with this sci-fi fantasy becoming a reality, it brings a host of ethical concerns. Many people feel confused and intimidated by the capability of this new technology, and wonder what it means for safety and their future. This is a brief overview of some of the key aspects of self-driving cars, including the history, technology, ethics, and the future of autonomous driving technology, to give you a greater understanding of exactly what it involves.

### How does it work?

Self-driving car technology utilises sensors, cameras, radar and LiDAR, combined with Artificial Intelligence (AI) to navigate roads and abide by traffic laws while driving. Using sensors, they create an internal map of their surroundings, then software processes this information, plotting a path, and sending signals to the car's actuators to control functions such as acceleration, braking and steering. AI is an essential element when driving, to allow the vehicle to differentiate between a motorcycle, bike and pedestrian, for example. Most of the systems used currently require a human driver to step in at moments of uncertainty

In the 16<sup>th</sup> century, Leonardo da Vinci designed a three-wheeled, self-propelled wooden cart that incorporated clockwork techniques such as springs for propulsion, pre-programmable steering and a remote rope braking system. This was regarded as one of the first self-driving vehicles and was recreated by historians in 2016. Since then, the world of self-driving vehicles has expanded beyond anything Da Vinci could ever have imagined.

Fuelled by the fascination surrounding this new technology, Normal Bel Geddes created the first true "self-driving car" in General Motor's 1939 exhibit. This was an electrical vehicle guided by radio-controlled electromagnetic fields, utilising magnetised metal spikes in the road. The current could be manipulated in sensors called pick-up coils to move the steering wheel left or right.



In 2004, the US Defense Advanced Research Projects Administration (DARPA) set the challenge for autonomous vehicles in development to compete in a race for a prize of 1 million dollars, to help accelerate military vehicle development. However, the challenge to take the vehicle across 142 miles of sand and dirt ended up in chaos. Most crashed, flipped or rolled over, with the most successful car making it a total of seven miles.

In 2009, Google launched its self-driving car project, employing DARPA ex-challenge competitors. They developed systems that could handle California's most tricky roads, all within 18 months.



Science fiction has held wild and fantastic depictions of driverless cars since the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, with films such as Terminator and Knight Rider perpetuating these ideas of fully autonomous robots and cars.

The Stanford Cart was first built in 1961 and could navigate around objects, utilising cameras and an early version of AI by the 1970s. This was designed to mimic the precise and quick movements of an animal such as a cockroach, facing challenges such as sensing, processing, and reacting to its environment. However, it needed 10-15 minutes to plan its every move, rendering it slightly less efficient than modern-day autonomous cars.



The next year however, 5 cars managed to finish the course. By the 2007 Urban Challenge, these cars managed to do more than just avoid obstacles and stick to routes: they could follow traffic laws, park and make safe and legal U-turns.

A few years later, Elon Musk announced that self-driving systems would be built into Tesla's cars. After that, companies such as Ford, General Motors, Nissan and Mercedes began to pour billions into developing their own autonomous systems to keep up with the developing technology.

### Levels of autonomy

There are different levels of autonomy which identify self-driving vehicles:

**Level 0:** All major systems are controlled by humans.

- This encompasses most 'standard' cars you may be familiar with. However, you may be surprised how many new cars have some level of autonomous technology.

**Level 1:** Certain systems, for example cruise control or automatic braking, can be controlled by the car.

- This can include many different features such as adaptive cruise control, blind spot monitoring, lane keeping assistance, parking assist and driver alertness detection. While these features should not be relied on, they improve the overall safety of the vehicle in small ways that can make driving easier.



**Level 2:** At least two simultaneous automated functions such as acceleration and steering are offered by the vehicle. However, humans are required to ensure safe operation.

- Whilst this is more like the image you may have of a 'self-driving car', the driver should always be in the driver's seat, ready to take over at any time. Tesla Autopilot and Cadillac Super Cruise systems both qualify as Level 2.

**Level 3:** The car can manage safety functions under certain conditions, but the driver is expected to take over when alerted.

- Whilst the boundary between level 2 and 3 is subtle, the key difference is that level 3 vehicles can make more informed decisions such as overtaking a car in a traffic jam, but still require human override if the system cannot make a decision.

**Level 4:** The car is fully autonomous in some driving scenarios, though not all.

- Level 4 vehicles can intervene in the case of a system failure or when things go wrong, whereas level 3 vehicles cannot. These can operate in self-driving mode but only in a limited area – this is called *geofencing*. Therefore, these are often used as taxis – for example, Alphabet's Waymo.

**Level 5:** The car is completely autonomous in every situation.

- These vehicles do not require human attention and may not have steering wheels or pedals within the car. They will not be bound by geofencing. No level 5 vehicles are currently available to the public.

*(described by the SAE International J3016-Standard)*

### Ethics

Whilst we do not currently have the technical capability to have level 5 autonomous vehicles on the road, statistically, autonomous vehicles are safer than human-driven vehicles ([University of Central Florida](#)). Additionally, 86% of all self-driving accidents are due to human error rather than malfunction of the technology itself ([gov.uk](#)). Despite this high success rate, a survey by the [Institute of Mechanical Engineers](#) finds that 2/3 of people in the UK are uncomfortable with the idea of travelling in a driverless car. So why are we so uncomfortable with this new technology?

Well, this fear isn't entirely misinformed. The [University of Central Florida study](#) also found that accidents are 5.25 times more likely to occur at dawn or 1.98 times more likely dusk. Currently it is too complex to prepare a car for any road, situation or problem it may encounter, hence why level 4 vehicles are geofenced. As well as technical issues, there is higher risk from cyber-attacks for self-driving vehicles, as these hackers potentially have power over an entire vehicle, leading to catastrophic consequences. There are many discussions about how level 5 vehicles make decisions in an accident: should it choose to save the driver, the pedestrians nearby, or as many possible people as it can? And would *you* buy a car if you knew that, given the chance, it may choose to sacrifice your life for two others?

Another issue may be legal liability: in tricky scenarios the driver may be asked to take over, but are they responsible for what happens next, and are they given suitable time to make a reasoned decision? Is it fair to market a 'self-driving' car that could ask you to take over at any moment? And will these self-driving features incorporated into new cars make driving 'too easy', meaning people won't learn valuable skills in how to drive safely? Whilst we may not see level 5 vehicles driving the streets in the near future, this raises a lot of questions about the technology and humans behind -the wheel.

### The future of self-driving cars

Self driving cars such as Waymo, GM's Cruise, and Tesla cars are already revolutionising the autonomous vehicle industry; however, it is predicted that there will not be any fully self-driving cars on the roads until 2035. Hopefully, in the meantime, incorporating AI technology into new vehicles will reduce accidents and air pollution through autonomous taxi services. The future of self-driving cars is unclear, but they have the potential to bring drastic change to our cities and the way we travel.



EASY

7		3		1				
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MEDIUM



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HARD

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					4			1
		3			5	2		
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## Riddles and Logic Puzzles:

There are one hundred people standing in a circle. They count off beginning at one and ending at one hundred. Since they are in a circle, ONE is next to TWO and ONE HUNDRED. ONE has a sword and kills TWO. He passes the sword to THREE who kills FOUR. And so forth. NINETY-NINE kills ONE HUNDRED and passes the sword to ONE. Then ONE kills THREE and passes the sword to FIVE. This goes on until only one person is left standing. Which number is he?

Four people need to cross a rickety bridge at night. Unfortunately, they have only one torch and the bridge is too dangerous to cross without one. The bridge is only strong enough to support two people at a time. Not all people take the same time to cross the bridge. Times for each person: 1 min, 2 mins, 7 mins and 10 mins. What is the shortest time needed for all four of them to cross the bridge?

Every day you make a trip from A to B, 2 miles away. But your trip is unpredictable. On 50% of the days, you can walk between A and B without any obstruction. The other 50% of the time, a troll appears at the halfway point, blocking your trip. The troll also activates an invisible barrier that blocks 1 mile perpendicularly in both directions, forcing you to walk around it to complete your trip.

You cannot see the troll or the barrier until you are halfway from A to B, so you cannot plan in advance whether you need to walk around the barrier. You do know the troll appears randomly 50% of the time.

If you can walk in straight lines to any points between A and B, what is your best strategy so you walk the least distance on average? What is that distance?

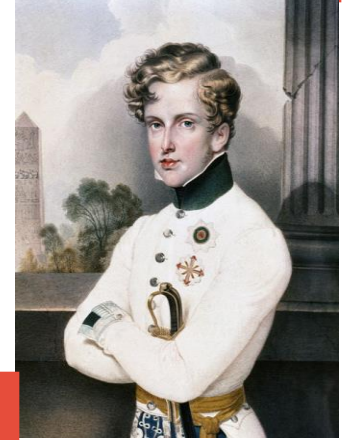
Everyone is more than aware of Louis XVI and Napoleon I of France, based largely on the way they dominate popular culture, ranging from Coldplay songs to an excellent if inaccurate flick by Ridley Scott, but when studying their successors, something quickly becomes apparent, the next king of France was Louis XVIII and the next emperor of France was Napoleon III, so who were Louis XVII and who was Napoleon II? This article will answer that question.

The tale of Louis XVII is a tragic one, and the more interesting of the two. Born Louis-Charles, Duke of Normandy, he would be born a spare, not an heir, but the death of his older Brother - of illness - on the onset of the 1789 revolution which saw him ascend to become the Dauphin. Of course, the Bourbon family did not have a prosperous few years following the revolution, and in the ensuing years, Louis himself would lose his life of luxury and suffer miserably.

Regardless of how the revolution happened, I don't have the words to explore it in any justifiable depth, Louis XVII clearly suffered terribly, following the failed flight to Varennes. Louis was imprisoned with a cobbler, and a man who treated the poor Dauphin so miserably I will not even grant him his name. But Louis himself, in spite of regular and severe beatings, would be by far the most scarred by being forced to testify against his mother, the **Austrichienne**, Marie-Antoinette, amidst the reign of terror. He lied under duress, and his mother was put to death for crimes of incest relating to the young **Dauphin**. Louis died a few years after his beloved mother, in 1795, at the age of ten, and it is said he never spoke a word again after he spoke to the tribunal.



King Louis XVII



Now for the story of Napoleon II, an admittedly far less interesting, though luckily less tragic tale. Napoleon was originally married to Josephine Bonaparte, as is widely known, but he was forced, if he desired to turn France into a hereditary empire he would have to marry Marie-Louise - the Duchess of Parma, and an Austrian Archduchess - after Josephine proved too old to bare children. To this woman, he had a son, Napoleon Bonaparte, in 1811. Napoleon I was deposed twice, once in 1814, when Napoleon II reigned for 2 days. And then again in 1815, when Napoleon II reigned for some 15 days. Tsar Alexander I, the mad Tsar of Russia, constantly floated the idea of making Napoleon II emperor for life. However, it was struck down during the Congress of Vienna, for fear of a Napoleon 2.0. The young Napoleon was placed in the Austrian army in which, like his father, he excelled, and, the former Holy Roman Emperor, like many others, feared a return to constant war seen under the boy's father, and refused to grant him the roles he deserved, and he was limited to the role of commander of a battalion, though he never made full use of it, as shortly afterwards, Napoleon II died in 1832, at just 21 of pneumonia. When his cousin, Louis Napoleon Bonaparte rose to prominence in France after the 1848 revolution, becoming first Prince-President then Emperor, he took the title Napoleon III, in honour of the brief reign of his late Cousin.

Article written by  
Oliver Marques



The story does not end there for the young King. When his Autopsy was carried out, the royalist sympathizer coroner stole the young boy's heart in accordance with Bourbon tradition and encased it in crystal. Louis XVIII would be presented with his heart following the Bourbon restoration, but refused to believe it could belong to his beloved nephew, who he had honoured by becoming Louis XVIII. His heart was interred with his mother and father in the early 2000s. It is my belief that Louis XVIII carried major Trauma from what happened to his brother's family during the revolution, whilst he was in the court of the Holy Roman Emperor, and that is why he refused to believe it was his nephew's.

**Austrichienne** – a derogatory nickname coined to describe Marie Antoinette, combining *Austriche* and *Chienne*

**Dauphin** – French title for the heir apparent

### ----A Story Of Murder and Controversy ----



**Lyle and Erik Menendez** were raised in New Jersey by their parents, José and Kitty Menendez. In 1988, the family moved to Beverly Hills, California, where just a year later, on August 20th, 1989, the brothers shot and killed their parents in the family's lavish home.

The chilling events of that night are often recounted as follows: after killing their parents, Lyle and Erik disposed of their shotguns on **Mulholland Drive** before heading to a nearby movie theatre to buy tickets as an alibi. Upon returning home, Lyle made a frantic 911 call, screaming, "Somebody killed my parents!"



In the aftermath of the murders, the brothers began spending their parents' fortune recklessly, splurging on Rolex watches, luxury cars, real estate, and business ventures. Despite their extravagant behaviour, which raised some suspicions, authorities didn't immediately link them to the crime. It seemed as though they had covered their tracks—at least for a while.

The case took a dramatic turn when Erik, burdened by guilt, confessed to the murders during a session with his psychotherapist, Dr. Jerome Oziel. Normally, confidentiality laws would have protected Erik's confession from reaching the police, but Dr. Oziel, in a breach of ethics, recorded their sessions to impress his girlfriend. It was she who turned the tapes over to authorities. By March 1990, both Erik and Lyle Menendez were arrested.

The trial began on July 20th, 1993, with the brothers facing the possibility of the death penalty if found guilty of first-degree murder. In a shocking revelation, Erik and Lyle claimed they had endured years of sexual abuse at the hands of their father, José Menendez. Their defence argued that the killings were an act of self-defence against their controlling and abusive father. The prosecution, however, painted a different picture: they claimed the murders were motivated by greed, accusing the brothers of killing their parents to inherit their wealth. Evidence that the brothers had purchased the shotguns days before the crime suggested premeditation.

The first trial ended in a mistrial, but in October 1995, a second trial began. This time, the gruesome details of the crime were put under even closer scrutiny. After lengthy deliberations, Lyle and Erik were found guilty of first-degree murder and sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.



Article written by Saarah Jogi

Fast forward to 2025, and the Menendez case is once again making headlines. New evidence has surfaced in the form of a letter Erik wrote to his cousin, Andy, in 1988, in which he describes the torment he felt under his father's control. Lawyers argue that this letter provides concrete proof of the abuse the brothers endured. The Los Angeles County District Attorney's office is currently reviewing the case, and this new evidence could potentially lead to a resentencing or even a new trial for the Menendez brothers.





## The Accession of the Sun

I stand atop a balcony,  
The sun is blinding, painfully so as it rises  
behind the people beneath me.  
Its immense light shrouds them in pitiful  
darkness as they look up at me

Economists and theocrats stand beside  
me,  
They exist on my plane of intelligence yet  
not of existence in God's eyes,  
Though I think now, and I ponder has God  
forgotten all I have done for him?

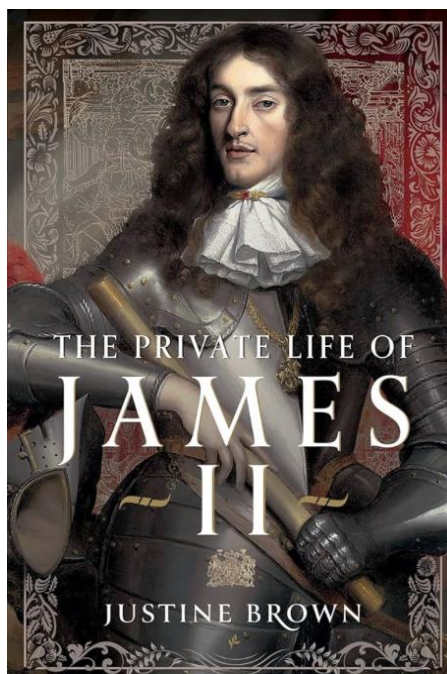
In each man's eyes,  
I see those of another, a brother perhaps-

In my life, a father more likely, whose eyes  
fell hollow a decade ago.

A hall of mirrors stands behind me,  
The reflection makes me an enigma, a  
darkened silhouette to them;  
No light escapes my eyes nor my mouth,  
and through that I remain popular.

I look down at them beneath me.  
To me, I am nothing but a man, nor are  
they more than men.  
They look up to me, and I down at them,  
nothing needs to be said -  
I am your king.

## *Book review: the Private life of James II – Justine Brown*



Buying a book by a first-time author you follow on Instagram is often a risk, after all, does insightful commentary on baroque artwork correlate to writing a high-quality biography of one of the most lied about kings? The average Englishman does not know anything about James II, and those that do, are massively misinformed about him based on Williamite propaganda, so how did Brown do?

This book is absolutely amazing, it felt like real history and portrayed James as he, and the Jacobites, would have liked him to be remembered. The book somehow manages to leave an image of our nation's stupidity in your mind, and a vile taste in the mouth when it comes to King William III, without even needing to say a word against them. The irrefutable fact that this book is constantly circling is that James II was not an unreasonable man, he was not some religious tyrant attempting to revert England to Catholicism, no, he was just the opposite, reasonable, and in pursuit of compromise.

## Poem written by Oliver Marques



Above:  
The  
Palace  
of  
Versailles,  
Paris,  
France  
at  
Sunset

The book is particularly excellent in how it refuses to acknowledge the fact that what she writes goes against the grain of tales about James II – except on the blurb that is – she allows us to reach our own conclusions, which always are in favor of the old rover. Speaking of Aphra Behn, there is an excellent strand of this book constantly tying itself the artwork and culture contemporary to James, of course, if the restoration period is remembered for anything, it is its vibrant cultural scene, and Brown excellently works this into her text to really improve the feel of this being a depiction of the restoration sweetheart he was.

Overall, a smashing read, by a smashing author, on a smashing king, and I would 100% recommend it to anyone, but especially any A-level history student as they complete notes on the fall of James II, to realise, sometimes history, even in a textbook is just, as Napoleon said, 'a set of lies agreed upon'.

**Whilst** the importance of art within the modern world is often contested in comparison to its rival sectors of work, the cultural and historical impact it has bestowed upon the world cannot be denied, and as we - as a society - continue to grow and develop into the future, the arts will warp and bend to accommodate to a society demanding of seemingly much more, in a time where the arts themselves are wanted much less.

### But are they really becoming less desired?

Think about it, your bedroom – used to ensure comfort at the times you need it the most – barren of all personality and colour. Now, remove the bed, the wardrobe, the decoration, and the walls. That is a world without art, one that most of you would say, is undesirable.

**Now, what is art?** There is no logical answer to outline the definition of ‘art’. As a concept it is, perhaps, moulded by centuries upon centuries of creation and philosophical ideas. We will define it as such: ideas that have not only shaped and informed the way people have done things, but also inspired people *to do things and live certain ways..*

Even though the development of AI (artificial intelligence) has brought up recurring ideas of the importance of physical art, an outlying, yet prevalent question is one of: is *AI generated art, art?* Using the definition outlined previously, the answer would be ‘no’. Instead, art must, at its core, have shaped and informed society to therefore allow for the inspiration of new ideas in generations to come. Think of Van Gogh, a famous character who often acts as the face of modern art, yet at the core of his artistic works was the philosophy surrounding post-impressionism. Those like Monet and his concept of capturing life as we see it with fluidity, often using realistically ‘rougher’ interpretations of his subjects, therefore acted as a source of direct and overwhelming inspiration for Van Gogh and his creations later in life. Whilst it could be inferred that AI takes inspiration from existing artists just like Van Gogh did, the key word would be ‘inspired’, something AI is not able to do. It instead ‘copies’ and in most cases ‘steals’ artwork to create a sense of ‘pastiche’ - a musical, literary, or artistic work that imitates the style of previous work or is made up of selections from different works - in its outcomes, meaning the development of art stagnates and a lack of inspiration is able to be derived from these AI sources. So, no, I would say that if it came down to it, AI art cannot be ‘real’ art and instead allows for the distraction from the real cultural and historical social impact that art has managed to build a reputation of over an insurmountably long period in time. This social impact I speak of is, of course, creativity, amongst other things.

**Now imagine your bedroom** – bright and colourful, busy and bold. That is the impact of art. It is a visual language, much like how you would verbally communicate to family and friends, art allows for the non-verbal communication of ideas and personality, history and theory in a way that would otherwise not be possible. Yet, in contrast to verbal communication, art allows for the breakdown of a barrier intrinsic in the writings of modern society. That is, different languages. As a visual language, art can transcend these barriers and difference, the meanings and representations being able to be interpreted differently no matter your nationality, ethnicity, location or belief. Excluding no one and including everyone. The development and eventual creation of Architectural structures, whether tall or small, all generate from the same initial idea, which leads into an initial sketch and design, snowballing into the overwhelming structure you would see it as today.



Guess which one is the original artwork and which one is AI:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Condensed and shortened down in a way that excludes many points: that is the impact of art. Something too complex to be described through written word, art maintains its point of being a visual language with endless opportunities for interpretation and impact.

**When** you learn Psychology in school, as I'm sure a few people reading this will know, you are often told that a 'weakness' of a given study is that it is deterministic in nature. At first, I didn't question this, because of course, if researchers don't recognise the human ability to choose, then it should be criticised. But then, I remembered a vital piece of information. I don't believe in said choice. To me, free will is merely an illusion of control over one's actions. So, I started to question the validity of the evaluative properties of these studies identified as deterministic.



In this article, I will briefly outline what people tend to mean when they talk of 'free will', the logical path to disbelief, and how this might affect your life when you attempt to reconcile with your newfound lack of choice in the world.



Free will is a term that has been in circulation since approximately the 4th century CE. It is thought to have been originally proposed by Christian philosophy. Traditionally meaning that human will has a lack of necessity, (the ability to choose) hence why heaven and hell exist in their own rights. Other societies had other terms, referencing the same concept, notably Greek philosophers and Hebrew texts. In the modern era, free will is referred to as a belief that humans choose their own actions, and are not determined by anything. Commonly, it is believed in by theists and atheists, as a way to grapple with responsibility and pride in their actions. The vast majority of theists must believe in free will as otherwise, their Gods would be necessarily 'evil' if they knew and **caused** all the actions that someone commits, and still punished them for something they have no control over.

Otherwise, a common explanation for belief is that people want to believe that their actions have value. Imagine you receive the best grades possible in the coming year, but you get no praise or reward because really, it wasn't your hard work that got you there, because you can't make any choices, including doing extra homework or revision. That is why people like to believe in free will, because they have to know that their 'good choices' were commendable and worthy of praise, and that others' relatively 'bad' ones deserve punishment.

Article written by Emma Dye

Now, how do you go about unbelieving in free will? Think about this logically. Determinism is the proposal that all events, all human actions and thoughts, are determined by pre-existing causes. Let's use a simple example. You are deciding what you want to eat for lunch at school. The choices are a pasta pot, or a jacket potato. Now you choose.... Why did you choose the one you picked? Maybe you ate the other one recently, and don't want it again. Maybe you just prefer one. But... What made you prefer it? What made you eat the other one last time? You don't choose your food preferences, just like you don't choose your height, or shoe size. Determinism suggests that all of our choices are merely the product of a causal sequence that started with the Big Bang, and that in each and every action, you can find another thing and another thing to rest the responsibility of choice upon.



Now, this realisation can be confronting. If it's true, it seems that we are all puppets of the universe, unable to choose what we eat, or whom we love. This can inspire existential horror in people, as they suddenly find themselves believing that none of the choices they've made mean, well, anything. Moreover, it appears to place at our feet a moral dilemma. How can you dish out punishments and blame to murderers or sing the praises of freedom fighters, if both are products of a formula outside of their own control. It makes no sense to look down on prisoners, or to even have prisons at all. These people had no choice.

The concept is admittedly ethically complex, and even when people cease to believe in free will, they live under the assumption that it does in fact exist. It is easier to blame others for things than it is to forgive every action - even when they are not at fault if they are merely observing the life they claim as theirs. It is easier to be angry at reckless drivers, rather than to think that their disposition for forgetting what an indicator is may be related to what tribe their ancestors were from a hundred thousand years ago. If you take anything from this article, let it be the knowledge that the illusion of free will is what you have been living with this entire time, nothing changes now you recognise it for what it really is.





In the wake of New York fashion week, discussing high fashion feels necessary. Clothing influences the perception of a person deeply; fashion designers' jobs are to decorate people. Clothes cover the body, but they can showcase more about a person than their skin. Overall, the world has a poor understanding of high fashion, usually because the fashion industry doesn't like to explain itself to people out of the inner circle. Extortionate prices, exclusivity and at times debatable ethics also play a factor in discouraging people.

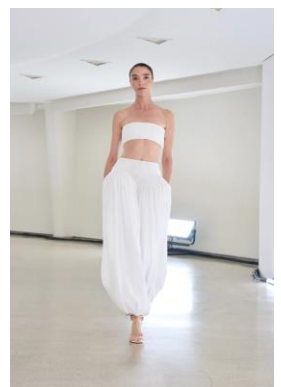
Despite its issues, high fashion fundamentally determines what is in your wardrobe, trends you see every day in clothing trickle down from the top. Large brands with high budgets create innovative new collections that mainstream designers take inspiration from or in many cases outright copy them. Why not go straight to the source and enjoy the creativity that's abundant in fashion?

Fashion collections are released traditionally in “spring summer (s/s)” and “fall winter (f/w)”. Depending on the brand, resort and cruise collections might be released in-between the seasons. Most brands show women's and men's collections separately. Collections show all around the world at a variety of places, most notably Paris, Milan, London and New York.

Haute couture shows showcase looks made by artisan specialists that must take more than 100 hours to create. These garments usually cannot be bought and are intended to showcase the skills of the fashion house at producing unique pieces. Then high-end customers commission clothing tailored to them based on the styles seen in the latest collection, or can request to purchase the specific runway looks for archives.

Ready to wear (or prêt-à-porter) collections show looks that represent clothing produced on a relatively large scale for retail. Usually, the runway looks are higher quality than the items in stores.

Alaïa had one of the most striking ready to wear shows of New York fashion week this year, set in the Guggenheim Museum - an iconic example artistic innovation. The collection centred around modern design. It embraced current streetwear trends featuring bandeau tops, wide bottom trousers, and emphasised triangular silhouettes but twisted the expectation of the garments to fit the striking surroundings. Looking into the small motifs of the collection, things get even more interesting: spirals, tight pleats, and careful use of organza made the clothes have a compelling natural movement as the models walked.



Article  
written  
by  
Eleanor  
Stott

Whilst talking about modern design, Pieter Mulier the creative director acknowledges that he wouldn't be here if it wasn't for prior designers who laid the foundation for his work. He feels older American designers specifically are overlooked by the fashion industry in favour of the classical European houses. His decision to show in New York this year was a strategic acknowledgment of the support America has always shown for Alaïa as a brand. The collection expands on this by revising the iconic English American designer Charles James' puffer jacket. It is one of the most iconic examples of transforming a lifesaving garment into something fashionable to this day.

Starting a new school year can be daunting, as well as exciting. It definitively marks the start of something new – something that can fall back into the exact same patterns or instead into something truly and inspiringly different. This is where we all begin. Because, in this moment, we are like Perseus<sup>1</sup> and Heracles<sup>2</sup> and even Theseus,<sup>3</sup> from the Grecian myths - with so much ahead of them. In this moment we are Daedalus and Icarus with their wings of feather and wax, about to take an epic flight across the now-named Icarian Sea. Admittedly, a few of those mentioned met less-than-stellar fates<sup>4</sup>, but that is why it's a good thing we aren't actually a part of those stories (at least to our knowledge). School acts as a springboard for the rest of our lives, and it can be motivational to know that this concept has always been represented in literature.



It is during times like this, the beginnings, that it is worth looking back to our past (and that of others), if we can bear it. Looking back helps us make room for the future and to have a foundation from which to build on. Janus is the Roman god of new beginnings, but he is also the god of endings (hence his literal two-faces). And although he has been relegated to the singular month of January, named after him, he is relevant here and now, and maybe even always. Because where one door closes, another opens, and vice versa. Every choice accounts for something, but we must not be afraid to make the leap, to make a choice in these times, just like the faraway mythological characters we know. Looking back to those previously mentioned, Perseus chose to uptake the task of slaying Medusa, though he was young and naïve, which led him to find, save, and marry his wife Andromeda. Heracles (or Hercules, as per his more popularised name) chose to atone for his guilt and become the most renown Greek hero, before finally resting with godhood under his belt. Theseus found his father and his home after travelling the perilous roads to Athens instead of taking the route by sea.

In summary, and to keep this article relatively short, we are like Telemachus, son of Odysseus, as he sets forth to try and battle the weight of expectations, as we are Aeneas trying to find a new home for his people in the wake of the Trojan War<sup>5</sup> or any of the other multitudes. We are all on the cusp of a great adventure if only we are willing to try and grasp it. And it is with that, the lengthy analogies come to a brief end. I wish you all the best for this coming school year.



Article written by Shyla Velasquez-Fox



## Foot Notes

1. The Medusa-slayer
2. Of the Twelve Labours
3. As in the defeater of the Minotaur, the half-man, half-bull
4. Some... very gruesome, as is the case of Narfi and Vali, the twin sons of Loki, in Norse mythology
5. Featuring Achilles, Patroclus, Odysseus, Hector as well as countless other heroes

## Halloween Film Quiz

- 1. Which science fiction horror series from Netflix is set in the fictional town of Hawkins?
  - 2. In *What We Do in the Shadows*, what specific type of vampire is the character Colin Robinson?
  - 3. Who plays the title character in mystery crime drama *Jonathan Creek*, which first aired in 1997?
  - 4. In the *Friends* episode 'The One with the Halloween Party', the characters dress in memorable - but not particularly spooky - costumes. What did Phoebe dress as?
  - 5. On 31 October back in 1992, the BBC petrified the nation with *Ghostwatch*, a scripted drama that duped viewers into believing it was a live transmission from a haunted house. Which trusted TV veteran presented it?
  - 6. What iconic phrase do *Scooby Doo* monsters and villains usually say when they're captured by the gang? [
  - 7. How many of the five types of infected 'zombies' can you name from *The Last of Us*?
  - 8. Which sister from the famous Kardashian-Jenner family starred in *American Horror Story: Delicate*?
  - 9. Name the actress who played Wednesday Addams in Tim Burton's *Wednesday* reimagining for Netflix?
  - 10. *Bates Motel* starring Freddie Highmore is the prequel to which classic horror film?
  - 11. What is the name of the young woman who vanishes in David Lynch's cult series *Twin Peaks*?
  - 12. What is the surname of Sabrina the teenage witch?
1. Stranger Things  
2. An energy vampire  
3. Alan Davies  
4. Supergirl  
5. Michael Parkinson  
6. "I would have gotten away with it too, if it weren't for you meddling kids"  
7. Spellman  
8. Kim Kardashian  
9. Jenna Ortega  
10. Psycho  
11. Laura Palmer  
12. Spellman

## Fall Word Search

P	Y	A	I	M	N	L	M	E	O	N	L	T	E	C
A	W	C	Z	G	R	Q	W	N	F	W	H	T	E	X
C	N	S	E	P	T	E	M	B	E	R	S	R	F	Y
O	Q	O	B	S	J	W	A	B	A	Q	T	E	A	U
R	X	E	V	D	I	N	U	H	M	U	J	E	L	S
N	Q	N	D	E	X	T	X	Z	A	B	T	S	L	W
S	T	G	B	C	M	A	C	O	R	R	S	U	V	K
W	A	A	N	U	X	B	D	I	C	Z	V	Z	M	R
E	H	P	C	Q	I	T	E	Y	D	T	I	E	Q	N
M	Y	P	K	C	O	C	Z	R	J	E	O	Y	S	M
L	G	L	E	M	H	U	W	J	Y	C	R	B	E	T
J	V	E	A	R	I	P	K	P	U	V	O	W	E	X
H	D	S	W	E	A	T	E	R	Y	P	O	M	Z	R
N	M	C	B	G	J	E	X	P	V	G	D	U	T	W
S	N	R	U	K	S	C	A	R	E	C	R	O	W	Y

SEPTEMBER  
HARVEST  
ACORNS  
TREES

SCARECROW  
SWEATER  
CIDER  
APPLES

OCTOBER  
AUTUMN  
FALL  
NOVEMBER

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## HALLOWEEN WORD SEARCH

C	S	J	P	X	G	S	P	G	K	I	W	U	W	S
C	A	Y	Y	A	T	K	C	P	U	M	P	K	I	N
Z	R	N	L	A	R	F	U	G	H	O	S	T	U	E
M	N	E	D	O	P	T	U	F	I	S	D	X	U	V
U	A	Z	E	Y	F	F	Y	V	C	J	F	C	W	V
L	I	B	V	P	S	L	B	O	O	K	O	O	G	H
A	M	T	W	A	Y	T	A	V	S	F	P	S	O	A
L	S	O	S	S	M	F	V	S	B	B	J	T	B	U
O	P	W	N	O	C	P	M	L	H	A	Y	U	L	N
J	O	N	J	S	A	Q	I	Q	K	L	N	M	I	T
Z	O	U	S	L	T	U	Q	R	R	L	I	E	N	E
H	K	S	C	V	D	E	J	G	E	P	D	G	G	D
Q	Y	P	A	U	I	V	R	S	C	R	U	Y	H	F
S	G	W	R	A	M	M	R	Z	R	D	H	M	R	T
Z	M	K	Y	Z	G	T	X	Y	D	Z	G	G	S	V

FLASHLIGHT  
COSTUME  
PUMPKIN

MONSTER  
HAUNTED  
VAMPIRE

CREEPY  
GOBLIN  
GHOST

BOO  
SCARY  
PARTY

CANDY  
SPOOKY

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Tim Burton's spooky creation returns this year with Beetlejuice Beetlejuice. After the critical success of the 1988 classic, Burton supported the idea of a sequel, but fans were left waiting for 36 years due to scripts falling through, and losing approval, by their studios. Throughout the years multiple different writers have been hired to write scripts, ultimately creating scripts for 'Beetlejuice Goes Hawaiian', 'Beetlejuice goes West' and 'Beetlejuice and the Haunted Mansion'. Eventually, Warner Bros. hired Seth Graham-Smith, who had collaborated with Burton on previous works, to write and produce this sequel.



This musical addition to the bizarre franchise follows the, now-adult, TV sensation Lydia Deetz (played by Winona Ryder, the original actor) and her daughter, Astrid. They are driven apart by Lydia's supernatural abilities and preoccupations with her new self-obsessed partner. While Astrid seeks solace in her isolation with a new friend, Lydia visits a familiar one...

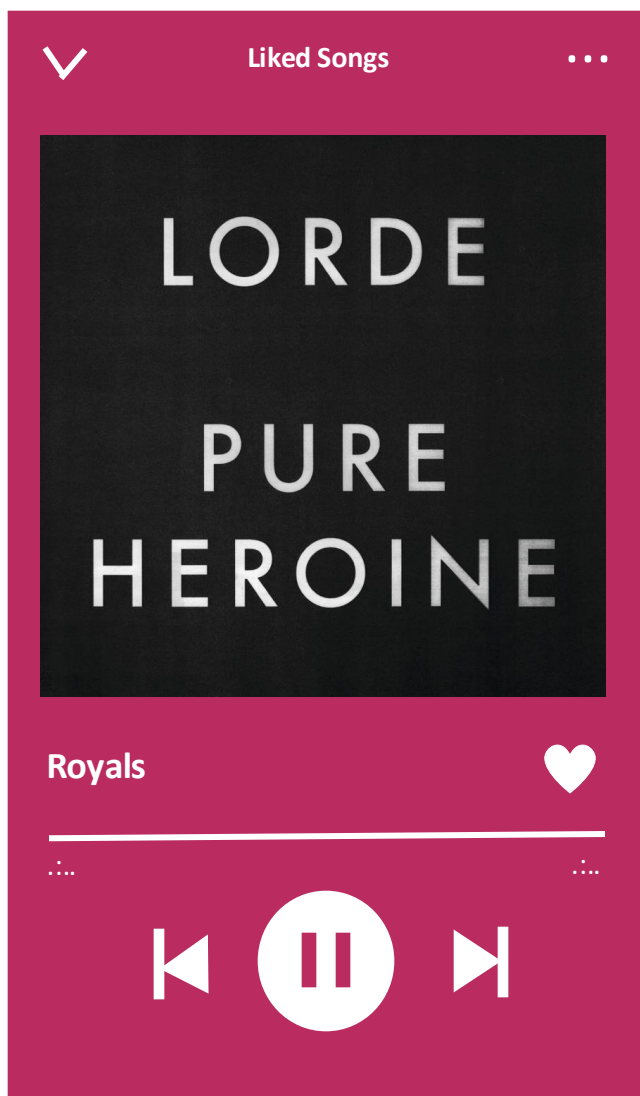
While the film acts as a sequel to Beetlejuice, it feels modern and adapted to the current era, and even acknowledges some of the outdated ideas presented in the original (like the significant age gap between Beetlejuice and Lydia, the character who he desires to marry). Plot points are cleverly developed and interweaved, while Tim Burton's signature craziness still shines through, maintaining a comedic and light-hearted nature throughout.

Amongst all the director-composer pairings throughout the history of film, the duo of Tim Burton & Danny Elfman is certainly one of the most iconic. This is their eighteenth collaboration together and, as ever, Elfman's unique orchestration perfectly complements the whacky, comical style of the film as he utilises his usual assortment of unorthodox timbres throughout the score; featuring synthesisers, a fairground steam organ, a church organ, celeste and female choir (his signature). In his typical style, he creates a unique, overly comical yet dramatic atmosphere through a combination of driving motifs (the most recognisable of which is the 'oom-pah' idea that can be heard in the original film's theme as well as his score for 'Batman Returns', 1992) and intense textural and dynamic build-ups created by complex layering of parts. The way he uses ideas from the original film reflects the style of the sequel, recreating the old version with a modernised feel.

Burton used his method of in-camera filming (creating special effects live rather than in post-production) to recreate some of the special effects that established the original film as a classic, such as prosthetics, stop motion and puppetry. Burton's intention in both films was to replicate the style of "B movies": a type of low budget, poorly made commercial film characterised by their use of purposefully cheap and fake-looking effects. The various ghoulish creatures throughout the film are brought to life by puppeteer Neal Scanlon, who has worked with Burton on a multitude of films, and Fabrice Pieton, a Stop Motion animator. The costume designer, Colleen Atwood, makes a nod to the original with Lydia's symbolic red wedding dress making a comeback: featuring a Victorian-inspired silhouette, it is one of many references that appeal to more seasoned fans of the franchise. This choice may also link to an old marital superstition, "Married in red, you'll wish yourself dead," building on the eerie atmosphere created by Burton. Of course, the signature black-and-white striped suit worn by Beetlejuice returns, yet looks more "worn" than the almost-pristine one worn in the original – a detail by Atwood to emphasise the time that has passed.



Whilst there is a clear appreciation for aspects of the original film, this witty sequel also stands perfectly on its own, in keeping with Tim Burton's signature features. We would recommend it if you want to watch something which isn't too serious or complicated, like the film equivalent of 'easy listening'.



Drawing upon her experiences as a teenager living on the coast of New Zealand whilst having a writer as a mother, she was naturally drawn to express this overwhelming sense that she may be living her life to the fullest, and how this feeling is fleeting, through songwriting. 'Pure Heroine' released in 2013, and to this day is identified as the perfect encapsulation of the teenage experience and all the sincere feelings that accompany it.



The 10-song track list unsurprisingly features songs you may know, such as, 'Royals' which has surpassed 1 billion streams on Spotify, all the way to 'Ribbs', which has to be the fan favourite when it comes to the idea of departing childhood and the welcoming of adolescence.

## Review: ....

### Part One

'Pure Heroine', which was nominated for a Grammy and crowned Album of the Year, brought global attention to the voice of the "future of music" as said by David Bowie himself.

Ella Marija Lani Yelich-O'Connor, known by the name Lorde, sat down at 16 years of age with producer Joel Little in the heart of Auckland, New Zealand and created a showcase of all that she was at the time: a teenager.

Article written by Simren Saleem

Tennis Court starts the album off. It brings in isolated vocals and shortly after then features a steady mid-tempo beat, giving it a pulse-like effect, reflecting her nerves before the brewing storm of her career. Her line 'it's a new art form showing people how little we care' insinuates the indifference that stereotypically teenagers have indicating they're 'cool' and how she and friends follow. Lorde recognises this as a trait that her and her friends also uptake and reiterates it further when she tells her friend to be the 'class clown' and she will play 'the beauty queen in tears' acknowledging the roles and characters they play as teenagers in society.

## Lorde – Pure Heroine (Part 2)



Her bridge features a moment of intimacy where she sounds like she is almost speaking at this point, conferring with the listener that she will get 'caught' but she will 'fall' apart and invites the audience to watch this transient fame decline, humorously laughing it off as she believes it won't affect her.

'Let's go down to the tennis courts and talk it up' alludes to the historic event of the 'Tennis court oath' where parties swore an oath not to separate until they had created a new constitution for France. Lorde illustrates a similar idea through the invitation to her friends to meet up at the tennis courts, and live freely, rejecting societal expectations of what fame will look like for her and how the world tries to shape young adults.

Royals places number three on the track list and delivers a critique on the materialistic music world, focusing on the extravagance of Hollywood movies and how it is synonymous with America. She 'cuts her teeth on wedding rings in the movies' which suggests the superficial world that she has come to know, seen through the movies and how these films present themselves in this brash manner. Similar to the opening of 'Money' by Pink Floyd, Lorde lists these materialistic items quickening in pace leaving no space for breath, mirroring the extravagance that modern day celebrities indulge in.

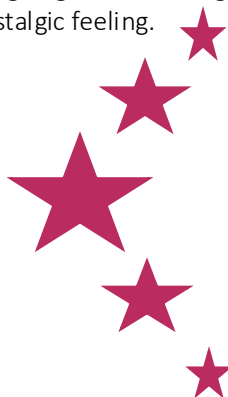
However, the climax is quickly swayed where she exclaims 'we don't care', capturing the listeners attention and emphasises the rejection of these symbols of opulence through her light-hearted remark of 'we're driving Cadillacs in our dreams' linking back to her idea of the ownership of these possessions provides no real joy that can't be replicated by simple things, even dreaming.

Lorde is empowered by the rejection of royalty through her lament 'we'll never be royals' ultimately showing her acceptance of fate, reiterating her clear outlook on life with her youthful, teenage eyes.

Article written by **Simren Saleem**

'Ribs' is written almost like a love song to her younger self and her childhood memories. By introducing the song with lush synths, the use of use of electronic keyboards and vocal layering, which increase in volume, it all combines to create a dreamlike atmosphere which reflects the reminiscing of childhood and the memories which make it up.

""Lover's spit" left on repeat' sets up a visual of a song playing again and again after a party has ended symbolising the departure of her childhood friends and the moments she had with them. Ostensibly, she seems to be talking to the audience using 'you' in 'it drives you crazy getting old', however, an alternative approach could emphasise the idea of speaking to herself in the past. The bridge and refrain seem to adopt this type of structure of repeating the lines back to one another and showcases the warming image of 'laughing till our ribs get tired' which evokes a nostalgic feeling.



From the moment it was released in 2013, the album felt like a revelation, not just in terms of Lorde's artistry, but also in how it encapsulated the rawness and complexity of teenage life.



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