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PRISCILLA: A STUNNING YET QUIET ODE TO YOUTHFUL FANTASY AND HEARTBREAKING REALITY.

Lilrose Hancock

The image of Elvis destroyed? The begrudging ex comes back to tell her story? If you were expecting a bitter, dramatic retelling of how the most famous wife in the history of rock and roll was ensnared and unjustly mistreated by the lorded-over figure of her former husband, you would be sorely disappointed. Instead, Sofia Coppola paints a subtle and tragic tale of a teenage fantasy turned horribly real, and the incredible loneliness of living in the shadow of Elvis Presley.

The film is based on *Elvis and Me*, Priscilla's 1985 memoir of her life and relationship with the king. Cailee Spaeny plays Priscilla, a 14-year-old girl bored of her quiet life, living within the parameters of a U.S. Army base in Germany. Meek, polite and desperately homesick, her life is changed irrevocably as she is invited to a house party where the famed Elvis Presley will be in attendance. Enamoured by his tender words and sad disposition, she is drawn into his fast-paced world. Separated from her parents, she moves to Memphis, Texas, to pursue a relationship with him, and is instead trapped between the oatmeal-beige walls of his Graceland Mansion, a doll within a dollhouse. She becomes like a dog answering his beck and call, left to entertain herself while he is away on movie shoots. The rest of the movie documents the decline of the bizarre romance. Elvis controls every aspect of their relationship; he chooses her clothes, makeup, and how she styles her hair. He even dictates their intimacy, the only redeemable element of the 10-year age gap the couple shares. Eventually, they get married, Priscilla gets a baby, and the infrequent involvement of Elvis in her life, his affairs and long show residence in Vegas leads to their divorce.



The rest of the movie documents the decline of the bizarre romance. Elvis controls every aspect of their relationship; he chooses her clothes, makeup, and how she styles her hair. He even dictates their intimacy, the only redeemable element of the 10-year age gap the couple shares. Eventually, they get married, Priscilla gets a baby, and the infrequent involvement of Elvis in her life, his affairs and long show residence in Vegas leads to their divorce. Cailee Spaeny absolutely embodies the movie's heroine. She successfully conveys the evolution of a lovesick girl to a woman with her own autonomy. **CONT. PAGE 2**

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS REGIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL

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Her portrayal is delicate and utterly engrossing; sometimes, it's hard to remember that she is just an actress, and we aren't seeing real-life footage of Priscilla's life. Jacob Elordi's subdued portrayal of Elvis is as remarkable as his co-stars; he manages to remove Elvis from his pedestal and humanize him- a difficult feat to do. Their on-screen chemistry is mesmerizing (helped all the more by the staggering height difference), making the couple's portrayal convincing and all the more tragic.



Coppola does not hesitate to paint an absorbing and intimate portrait of the couple's life. She subtly undermines the godlike figure of Elvis, peeling away at his glowing facade to reveal that, like every other legendary rockstar, he is but a man. The noticeable absence of his music in the film resonates with the fact that you take away his musical genius and legendary stage presence; he is reduced solely to a husband and a father and a poor one at best. Though the film remains largely a surface-level exploration of their relationship, Coppola presents to us exactly what we suspected of the Presleys' lives. Each scene is incredibly thought out; the scenes between Elvis and Priscilla are rigorously intentioned. The audience is never left to their own devices or left to question what a specific line or interaction means. A perfect example is an early shot of Priscilla's Chanel perfume, and a later one of Elvis complimenting the same perfume on another woman in front of Priscilla.



Priscilla is a visually stunning gem of a biopic. Coppola explores a superficial world of girlhood, illustrious montages of feminine objects, false eyelashes, ornaments, and the echoing but ever-present theme of loneliness. Not once does the film feel overly dramatized; in fact, the biopic remains maddeningly restrained. The relationship of the king and queen of America is still shrouded by a sort of mythical intrigue, no doubt intentional. The film remains a beautifully poignant story of how the couple's intense romance was not without sacrifice, a satisfactory nod towards the endured solitude and constrained life that Priscilla lived in Elvis's shadow. It's a testament to Coppola's steady hand that the film maintains a quiet dignity, immersing the viewers in a rich thematic world of youthful fantasies and heartbreaking realities.





QUEBECOIS GOVERNMENT DOUBLES OUT-OF-PROVINCE TUITION

Nyah Walker

On October 13th, the Quebecois Government announced a planned change in tuition structuring for out-of-province university students within Quebec, aiming to nearly double tuition fees for out-of-province students from \$8,992 to \$17,000. If instated, the tuition hikes would take place in time for incoming undergraduate students in 2024, but would not affect out-of-province Canadians already attending a Quebecois university.

The Quebecois' decision is motivated by the desire to protect the French language within the province's higher education system, guarding against out of province anglophones who come to Quebec for university and leave immediately after. The decision has faced immense criticism, partially for the drastic impact it could have on English speaking universities, all who boast a large out-of-province population. Previous Quebec Premier and alumni of Bishops University, Jean Charest, has openly criticized the decision, calling the plan a "frontal assault" on all English universities. Bishops has been operating as an English school since its inception in 1843, and is located in the English speaking town of Sherbrooke. Ironically, Charest made a similar plan to raise out-of-province tuition prices in 2012, a move that eventually led to his political downfall. From February to September of 2012, the Liberals and Charest faced massive protests against tuition hikes, with half of Quebec's student population protesting by April. The protests only ended in Fall of 2012, when the Parti Quebecois was elected and put the tuition increases to a halt.

Similar protests erupted in Montreal on October 30th, when students took to the streets armed with signs and chants of "Solidarité!" A representative from the group said "The plan to double tuition is politicizing access to education.. Montreal's diverse student presence should be celebrated." Isaac, a fourth-year Concordia student, is one of many expressing concern in the province's plan. "I don't think that by discouraging English speakers from attending schools in Quebec, the quality of education or the university experience will become any better; the Quebec government would rather have French schools than good schools"

Many also worry that this plan is simply another symptom of disintegrating social cohesion within the province. Bill 96, passed in May of 2022 as yet another effort of the Quebecois government to protect French, regulated the circumstances in which English can be spoken. As of changes to the bill added in June of 2023, some civil servants are required to write and speak exclusively in French, though exceptions to this will be made for Indigenous people and recent immigrants.

In the face of mounting debate, Quebec's higher education system hangs in balance. The government's decision could lead to a significantly different era in English schooling next year, and the ongoing debate remains heated. The implications of Quebec's next moves run deeper than tuition fees, but delve into the very fabric of Quebecois identity and the province it wishes to become.



Emerging	Developing	Proficient	Extending
I am beginning to formulate hypotheses and can generate limited and basic hypotheses or predict various outcomes. I have limited evidence of creative thinking in hypothesis formation.	I can formulate basic hypotheses and predict outcomes. I am working towards generating multiple hypotheses and considering diverse potential outcomes. Some creativity is evident.	I can consistently formulate multiple hypotheses and predict various outcomes with clarity and depth. I demonstrate creativity considering a range of potential results.	I excel in formulating several sophisticated hypotheses and can predict numerous, well-reasoned outcomes. I show exceptional creativity in exploring a wide spectrum of possible results, indicating advanced critical thinking skills.

A HATE LETTER TO STANDARDS-BASED GRADING

Lydia Jones

In 2023, the BC Ministry of Education mandated standards-based grading up to Grade 10. This was a great blow to humanity; more specifically, the educational standards of British Columbian students. Standards-based grading differs from traditional grading in its proficiency scale that measures an individual’s learning journey, rather than directly measuring their actual output. It’s a recent fad, and universally maligned, meaning the Ministry of Education took it upon themselves to implement it as widely as possible. The effects will likely be devastating, and contribute further to the ease with which most teenagers already experience life. Generally, this means a lack of any serious consequences, and an inability to take on any responsibility, lest it interfere with their prescribed worldview.

High schoolers have generally been decreasing in independence and preparation for real life. Adding in standards-based grading just becomes another way we treat our young adults as if they can’t handle real life; as if having to let us face the consequences of our actions is unthinkable. As we grow more and more coddled, we fall into adulthood without any experience. Standards-based grading serves to sanitize our level of intelligence, hiding it under a scheme of core competencies and positive reinforcement. Doing genuinely poorly on something and having to come back from that teaches resiliency, and results in a drive to improve. The difference between getting an emerging in a course and 45% is that ultimately the emerging allows you to pass and move on, regardless of whether you deserve it. This can lead to students slacking off, especially if they don’t know the margins between the different ranks on a scale are negligible.

The simplest point to be made about the proficiency scale is its complete and utter subjectivity. There is no clearly defined “A” or “B”. Instead, there is a scale, given meaning not necessarily through actual achievement, but through each teacher’s unknown decision-making process about the vague void of a student’s real understanding of a subject. You can receive full marks on a test and still have your overall “grade” in the section as proficient. If perfection now qualifies as a 3 on a 4-point scale, how can students feel accomplishment in their results? Often, there are complaints of subjectivity and confusion in traditional grading, which can be easily solved with a rubric explaining the mark breakdown. The difference between proficient and developing is harder to quantify, as learning growth is a very abstract concept.

Throughout both elementary and high school, I’ve experienced both grading systems, and standards-based grading resulted more in an overall muted emotional response. Receiving a “proficient” or “extending” never let me be as proud of myself as a 99. For those of us who are athletically, musically, and most other skills challenged, academics are where we can excel. The “Most Improved” award didn’t do much for my ego, but the honour roll helped. Out of fear of hurting others’ feelings, we can no longer celebrate academic achievement. Students are no longer allowed to have an understanding of their talents, or lack thereof. If I tried to run an 800m, I’d probably collapse to the ground after about a minute, and my body would be trampled on by everyone with some level of physical fitness. And the winner would be quantitatively timed down to the millisecond, to ensure the failure coming in second is not mistaken as a success. I would love to outlaw all successful athletes due to my personal lack of ability, yet somehow they keep handing out North Shore banners. But, the concept of recognizing grades-based achievement in high school is too far. It’s important to have realistic expectations in high school, particularly when it comes to post-secondary education.

Being unable to gauge where you stand in your class gives an unrealistic concept of your position and abilities relating to others. There is evidence that standards-based grading improves student achievement. In elementary school, developing skills without the pressure of grades is important, as children don't need to receive letter grades or stress over a test mark. But things naturally change when you become older, and high school becomes a trial run for real life. No university is going to accept someone based on a "proficient" mark, so teenagers receiving them will not help them adjust to the rigours of higher education. And the switch in Grade 10 to traditional grading will throw students off-kilter when they're getting graded on their grasp of the material, and not on their growth. This is also right when grades start holding weight for university applications. In a job, you won't hear that you're developing your skills when you fail to complete an important task. You simply didn't complete it. The world will not always indulge your whims, regardless of how they'll make your life less complicated.

More than anything, this letter is a plea, to the Ministry of Education. Everyone hates it, why don't you? Teachers, parents, and students all have shown high levels of dissatisfaction with its enforcement. Standards-based grading lacks popularity, results in poorer standardized test results, and further pampers an already coddled generation. But no, let's implement it in high schools. BC can further fall in its education standards nationally and globally. But "we're doing it for the children". The children aren't interested.

Letter grade	Percentage
A	86 – 100
B	73 – 85
C +	67 – 72
C	60 – 66
C -	50 – 59
D	0 – 49
F	0 – 49



VANCOUVER FUN FESTIVITIES

Maya Spadavecchia

The weather is getting colder, lights are being put up, and your favorite Starbucks drinks have just come out. If you haven't realized yet, we're slowly entering winter, and all of the Christmas festivities that come with it. I'll be taking you through some fun festive events all around the city that will get you in the perfect Christmas spirit to kick off the season. Many of these events and activities are inexpensive and great if you need exciting winter plans with your friends.

One of my favourite things to do makes me feel like I am walking in a winter wonderland. It's going through the beautiful display of lights at the Capilano Suspension Bridge. These tickets are more expensive, however, it is worth the experience and the display is huge. It features a whole lower and upper terrain hung throughout the tall trees. The walk is around an hour long, but you can easily spend more time there checking out their delicious drinks and food. More affordable options of light displays are the Lights at Lafarge Lake in Metro Vancouver, where they also have many shows featuring dancers and lights. There are also usually many carollers singing beautiful carols along the path. Grouse Mountain is also a wonderful option. You can bring your sled to slide through, rent snowshoes, or simply just walk through the beautiful trail. There is one more "light event" that is completely free and will bring you together with the people in the community. This is the annual Tree Lighting Celebration in Downtown Vancouver. Many people gather together for this, all radiating the spirit of the Christmas season. There's entertainment, hot chocolate and cookies for a small price. All of these are a great excuse to get a coffee, bundle up and get a little exercise.

If you love skating, or have a friend who you'd have a good laugh seeing take a little slip, you can go to one of these three skating locations. The first is the rink on Robson Square, surrounded by Christmas lights. With your own skates there's free admission, and renting only costs five dollars. In the spirit of Christmas, it is also a great way to donate to Children's Hospital as you can choose to donate money to their organization. Down by the shipyards with a waterfront view is also a beautiful place to skate. The rink at Grouse Mountain, although small, is also one of my favorite places to skate because of the environment. There's always skiers, snowshoers, kids sledding and more to really get you in the winter scene.

Now, if there's one activity I recommend to you it's the most well known market in all of the Lower Mainland: the Vancouver Christmas Market. This market has everything you could possibly need. If you need to get some Christmas shopping done, there's crafts, goodies and knick-knacks to buy. There's a variety of entertainment if you want to watch a show. If your belly is feeling empty, there are different varieties of traditional food, sweet treats and drinks. There's plenty of lights too, and the decorations are absolutely fabulous. Trust me when I say you get your money's worth.

So from light walks, to ice rinks, and the Christmas market, there's so much to do in Vancouver to get you ready for the wonderful Christmas season. Be sure to take your friends, loved ones, and whoever makes your heart feel as warm as a hot chocolate in winter with you. Wishing you all a very cheery and exciting winter season.

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FALL ACTIVITIES FOR THE UPCOMING SEASON

Chloe Travers

The air is crisp, the trees are full of life and colour, and the leaves are crunchy; fall has finally arrived! There are so many reasons to love this season, with my favourite being all the fun activities available. I have many I love, starting off with going to the pumpkin patch. This is a very stereotypical fall activity, but it is a great way to spend your day. There are many different pumpkin patches around here, including my favourite, Laity Pumpkin Patch in Maple Ridge. Making the trip to Laity Pumpkin Patch every fall is such a fun tradition to have.



You can always rely on having fun, with hot apple cider, a corn maze, pumpkin pie, and naturally, the pumpkin patch! Walking around choosing your pumpkins and finding the perfect one gets you in the fall season. I highly recommend you go to Laity Pumpkin Patch, and start a new seasonal tradition.



My second recommendation for a fall activity is pumpkin carving. This works especially well if you go to the pumpkin patch and already have pumpkins to carve! There are so many great pumpkin designs you can do. From the classic square eyed jack o'lantern with a big smile, to a scary evil-eyed pumpkin with a grinning mouth so wide it doesn't look like it'll end, you can carve anything you can think of. I highly recommend making a fun night out of pumpkin carving. You can have your friends over, or have a night with your family. Turning on your fall playlist and eating snacks like candy corn, pumpkin gummies, popcorn, and any of your favourite Halloween candy makes pumpkin carving a whole event! If you do have a pumpkin carving night, then I also recommend saving the pumpkin seeds to roast in the oven, and adding butter and salt. They are so delicious and are always a great fall snack.



There are so many more amazing activities, and things to love about fall. Although, going to the pumpkin patch and carving pumpkins are my personal favourites!

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FALL MUSIC RECOMMENDATIONS

Avery Mahony

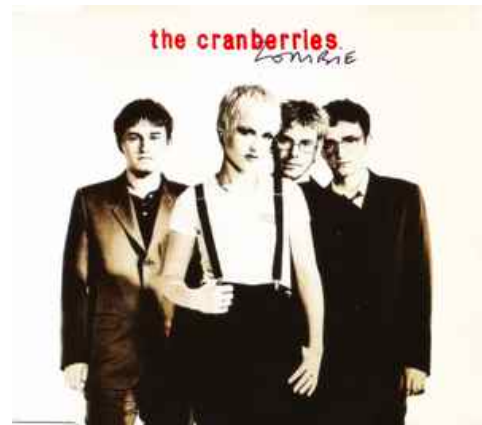
Fall is here and there's nothing better than listening to music on a crisp autumn day. From acoustic melodies to soulful lyrics, music can capture the essence of what this season is all about. At this time of year, many artists have managed to represent the feeling that autumn brings, for example Bon Iver or Hozier. This article will tell you all about fall music and what songs to add to your playlists!



Fall music is about capturing the cozy and nostalgic vibes of the season. The melodies might have a hint of melancholy, yet they also bring a sense of comfort and reflection. It's the perfect soundtrack for crisp mornings, pumpkin spice lattes, and walks down the street with your dog. An artist that especially captures the season's soul is Bon Iver, in songs like "Roslyn" to "Wash", and even "For Emma". He always manages to grab the season essence, music that is perfect to listen to on a rainy day.



Another band that is all about autumn is The Cranberries. They are a hit band that rose to fame in the early 1990's. Their songs seem to be perfect for those long walks, or the bus rides home from school. For example, their hit song, "Zombie", which you might have heard on tiktok, is a song that is perfect for the recent weather. They have so many other songs that fit for the season.



Additionally, another artist whose music is perfect for fall is Lord Huron, who you may know from the song "The Night We Met" and "Love Like Ghosts". They are an indie rock band based in Los Angeles, and have been writing and producing music since 2010, and haven't stopped making phenomenal music since. They have amazing albums like "Strange Trails", "Long Lost" and "Lonesome Dreams". Their music has that perfect vibe of the crisp fall nights sitting by the fire.



There are so many great artists and bands that embody the season, fall music captures the warmth and nostalgia that this time of year brings. So click to spotify and start listening.

**WHAT FALL STARBUCKS DRINK ARE YOU
BASED ON THESE RANDOM QUESTIONS?**

Neve Larson, Chantelle Oko

WHAT ANIMAL DO YOU LIKE BEST?

- A. Husky
- B. Cat
- C. Bunny
- D. Horse



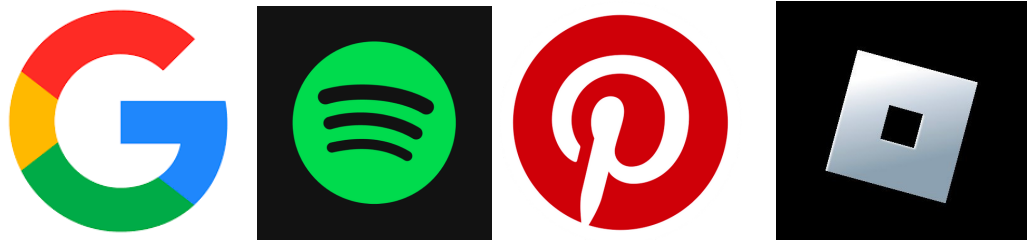
WHAT FOOD DO YOU LIKE BEST?

- A. Spaghetti and meatballs
- B. Fried rice and chicken
- C. Sushi
- D. Burgers and Fries



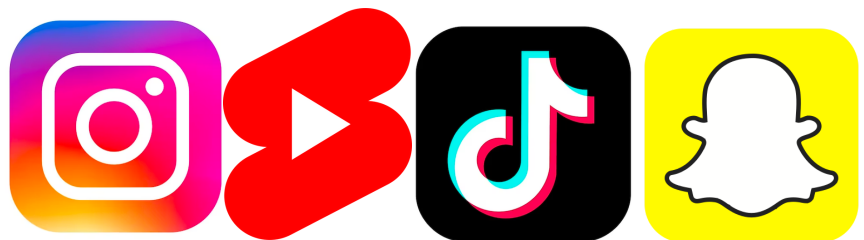
WHAT APP DO YOU LIKE BEST?

- A. Google
- B. Spotify
- C. Pinterest
- D. Roblox



WHAT VIDEO VIEWING SERVICE DO YOU LIKE BEST?

- A. Youtube shorts
- B. Instagram Reels
- C. Tiktok
- D. Snapchat Spotlight



WHAT INSECT DO YOU LIKE BEST?

- A. Bee
- B. Dragonfly
- C. Butterfly
- D. Dung Beetle:



WHAT WEATHER DO YOU LIKE BEST?

- A. Cloudy
- B. Snowy
- C. Sunny
- D. Rainy



RESULTS

Mostly A's: Pumpkin Spice Latte

Mostly B's: Pumpkin Cream Cold Brew

Mostly C's: Iced Pumpkin Cream Chai Tea Latte

Mostly D's: Iced Apple Crisp Oat Milk Shaken Espresso





delicious
PUMPKIN BUNDT
CAKE RECIPE
to try this fall

Fail proof pumpkin bundt cake

Adapted from Sallys Baking Addiction

Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 350°F (177°C) and grease a 10–12-cup Bundt pan.
2. Whisk the flour, baking soda, salt, cinnamon, ginger, cloves, nutmeg, and allspice together in a large bowl. Set aside. Whisk the oil, eggs, brown sugar, granulated sugar, pumpkin, and vanilla extract together until combined. Pour the wet ingredients into the dry ingredients and use a mixer or whisk until completely combined. Fold in chocolate chips or nuts, if using. Batter is thick, and you'll have around 5 cups total.
3. Spoon/pour the batter into the prepared Bundt pan. Bake for 55–70 minutes or until a toothpick inserted into the cake comes out clean with just a couple lightly moist crumbs. This is a large, heavy cake so don't be alarmed if it takes a little longer in your oven.
4. Once done, remove from the oven and allow to cool for 2 hours in the pan set on a wire rack. Then invert the slightly cooled Bundt cake onto a wire rack or serving plate/cake stand.
5. Allow to cool completely
6. Optional: Add some whipped cream on top
7. Cover leftover cake tightly and store at room temperature for a couple days and/or in the refrigerator for up to 5 days.

Fail proof pumpkin bundt cake

Adapted from Sallys Baking Addiction

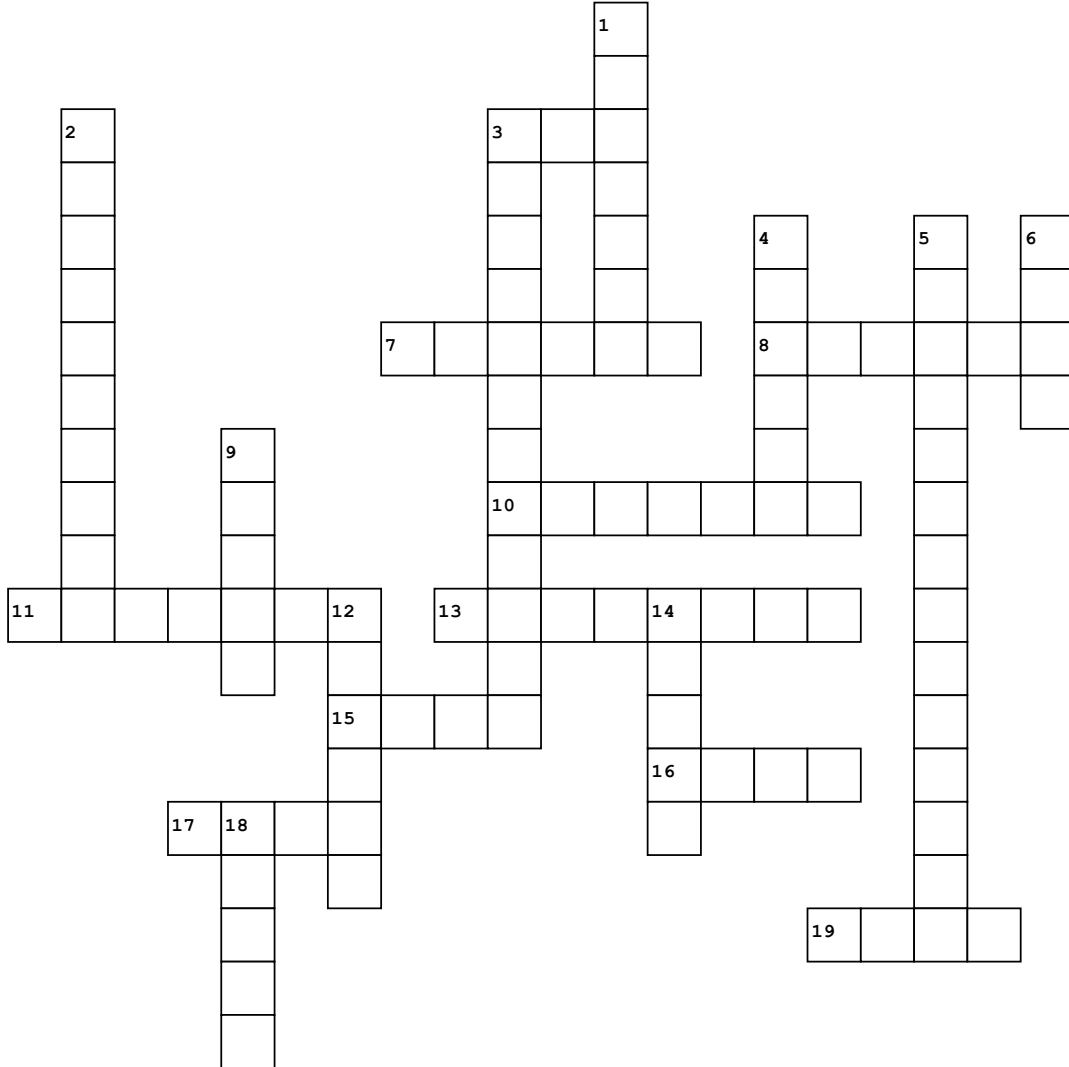
Ingredients

- 2 AND 3/4 CUPS (344G) ALL-PURPOSE FLOUR(SPOONED & LEVELED)
- 2 TEASPOONS BAKING SODA
- 1/2 TEASPOON SALT
- 2 TEASPOONS GROUND CINNAMON
- 1/2 TEASPOON GROUND GINGER
- 1/2 TEASPOON GROUND CLOVES
- 1/2 TEASPOON GROUND NUTMEG
- 1/2 TEASPOON GROUND ALLSPICE
- 1 CUP (240ML) VEGETABLE OIL OR OLIVE OIL*
- 4 LARGE EGGS
- 1 CUP (200G) PACKED LIGHT OR DARK BROWN SUGAR
- 3/4 CUP (150G) GRANULATED SUGAR
- 1 15-OUNCE (425G) CAN PUMPKIN PUREE (NOT PUMPKIN PIE FILLING)
- 1 TEASPOON PURE VANILLA EXTRACT
- OPTIONAL ADD-IN: 1 AND 1/4 CUPS SEMI-SWEET CHOCOLATE CHIPS OR CHOPPED WALNUTS/PECANS



FALL CROSSWORD

Gabriella Kasabashian, Kiki La Pica



Across

- 3. Abbreviation for school musical this year
- 7. In the fall we set our clocks _____ an hour
- 8. It follows summer and precedes winter
- 10. Halloween is always on the 31st of _____
- 11. Another word for gathering crops before winter
- 13. Not allowed at school anymore
- 15. Tool to clean up leaves
A vegetable with kernels
Bundles of hay
Covers your face on halloween

Down

- 1. A fruit you carve
- 2. Centrepiece for thanksgiving dining table
- 3. A cocoa based drink
- 4. A colour that leaves turn
- 5. A popular disliked vegetable
- 6. Another word for breeze
- 9. Drink made from apples
- 12. Thanks giving main dish
- 14. Where you go to get a pumpkin
A crisp red fruit

ENGLISH LIT PIECES, ENGLISH LIT POETRY

English Lit 12

Last month, students of Ms. Mattia's English Literature 12 class examined excerpts of Beowulf, an Old English Epic poem detailing the heroic exploits of the legendary Geatish warrior. The readings focused on Beowulf's daring battle and victory against Grendel, the monstrous being that terrorizes the men of the Danish King, Hrothgar.

Beowulf's verses are written in the specific style of Anglo-Saxon verse. It requires that each line consist of four beats, with a caesura (or pause) between the first and last two. Most importantly, the sound of at least one of the two stressed syllables/beats before the caesura must be alliterated in at least one of the two stressed syllables after the caesura.

Each student created a 30 line extension of the story of Grendel and Beowulf, written in the style of Anglo-Saxon poetry. The following are excerpts from their works- enjoy! The alliterations are highlighted in the first piece.

**In the ebony murk where nobility met end,
Like bells, screeches rang through rampaged halls.
Animation fading, the shadows grew frightful,
Grendel's bloodlust enduring, man's bravery unavailing.**

Oliver T.

**Together they sailed across the sea
To the Land of the Danes to confront the demon
That bringer of death would die by hand
As Beowulf had said, his sword tossed aside.**

**The Dragon Slayer, and daring princess
Together till death, their love triumphant.
Sneaking about, in halls and armories
Stolen kisses, and stifled laughter
If Hrothgar knew, he'd have his head.**

Sarah C.

**The Soldier's deeds, shadowed by the death
Of their fallen friends, forgotten underfoot.
No one but Cain's slayer's could see
The awful apparition's twisted turmoil.
So Beowulf set forth, steering his steed straight.**

Lilrose H.

**Her pointy sword stabbed Shrawn's tough scales
A blackish blood burst through his chest
And spewed out onto the soldier's skin
The deliverer of darkness let out a daunting howl
As he dropped to the ground in gruesome pain.**

Neve L.

**The fearless fighter used his force and strength
And with one swing Beowulf's victory would ring.
The fight wasn't long King Sigma's legacy ends
Crowds were pleased with the action presented.
Applause roared loud, the fearless attacker smug.**

Chantelle O.

For Grendel's wrath was great and scary
The geats were strong, in strength and courage
As the geats were called, to give their life
To slay the beast, the spawn of Cain.

Nathan C.

But his men lived in fear of fate's Hollow Monster.
Though hunting to bring honour to his prior victims,
And seeking their vengeance before more suffer greatly,
Were afraid their own souls would soon fall to fate.

Rebecca B.

My legend will be great and large
I will and forever be the greatest and unforgettable
The battle with the belligerent beast
Grendel where I wrestled and wasted.

Sam W.

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