

Hello Fall

Blue Umbrella Issue | Fall 2017



The

BLUE UMBRELLA

A vast field of golden-brown soybeans stretches to the horizon under a clear blue sky. The field is densely packed with mature plants, and the background shows a line of green trees.

Contents

- 3** **Teacher Survey**
- 4** **Quiz Bowl**
- 5** **Fall Poem**
- 6** **West Side Story**
- 7** **Musical Theater**
- 8** **Hurricanes**
- 10** **The Modern Artist**
- 12** **The Great Chicago Fire**
- 13** **Honduras Mission Trip**
- 14** **Descendants 2**
- 16** **Fall Recipe**
- 17** **Clubs/Organizations**

WHAT NOT TO DO

By: Meghan J.

and How to Fix It.

AOA teachers provide students with answers for success

“What are some mistakes you often notice students make, and how can they be avoided?” AOA teachers were recently polled and asked these questions.

The most common responses included: students are not always reading the whole lesson or the entire project instructions. Students also should proofread their work before submitting it for grading. “Students don’t carefully read the instructions in the project template or delete the instructions/rubric. Checking over the instructions and rubric before submitting a project will help students find mistakes so they can receive full credit,” according to English teacher Miss Kristen Hogrefe.

Some other popular poll responses were that students are not calling in for help and are leaving answers blank. “Ask questions about the information you don’t understand. That’s what we are here for. To help you do your best and understand the material!” stated math teacher Mrs. Elizabeth Gamble.

On the topic of answering lesson questions, Mr. Thad Harrington added, “Unless the questions specifically says otherwise, answer all questions in complete sentences and make sure to capitalize the first word and punctuate all sentences properly. If an answer is a fragment, sometimes I have to guess at what it means, which is never ideal.”

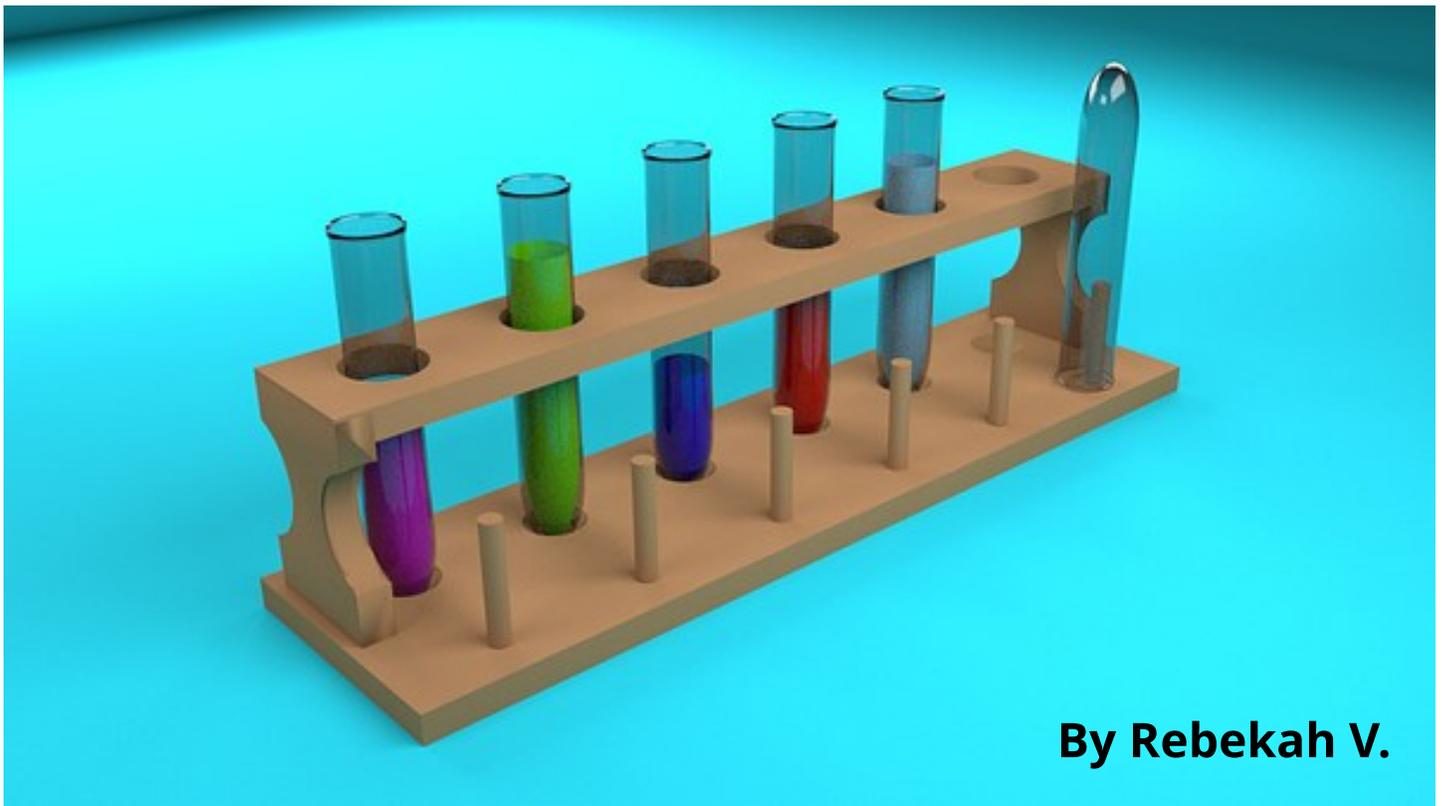
When students ask teachers for help, AOA teachers request that students ask specific questions pertaining to the material and that

students are always respectful. “If you call a teacher and the teacher doesn’t answer, leave a message with your name and number. Don’t continue to call every few seconds. More than likely we are helping another student and if you leave a voicemail, we can call you back as soon as we are able to,” commented Mrs. Jackie McCartan.

Students should take notes when working on daily assignments. “Always take notes and don’t just count on your memory to help you prepare for a test or quiz. The thing is that God created our brains to work in such an exciting way. Did you know that you are more than 70% more likely to remember something if you wrote that information down by hand? I love that!” Mrs. Kimberly Smith was recorded saying.

Finally, a frequent stumble mentioned by AOA teachers was students are not leaving their names on emails, direct messages, voice mails, and projects. “Sending an email isn’t the same as sending a text message. You need to write that email the same way that you would write a personal letter with a proper address (Dear Mrs. or Mr. ...) and with a signature at the end with your first and last name. Please don’t count on your teacher being about to identify you by your email address or first name only. Also, it is proper to call your teacher by her last name but not her first. That’s just polite and respectful.” said Smith.

If students follow these tips, they will be on the path to a successful school year!



By Rebekah V.

AOA needs you to participate in 2017 Science Quiz Bowl

Calling all fellow 7th– 12th grade AOA students! The time has come for another amazing science quiz bowl! This year, your knowledge and trivia will be tested over various scientific topics such as life, Earth, and Physical Science sections. A variety of "True or False" and multiple-choice questions will challenge you as you race to win. You do not want to miss this year's quiz bowl!

For the first time in AOA quiz bowl history, spectators are invited to watch the event. Spectators are encouraged to attend the GoToTraining event and watch as the students compete in a Kahoot format. The event will take place Thursday, October 26th, from 10:00 am – 11:00 am CDT. For students, make sure to arrive by 10:10 am so you can participate. In order to make sure you have a spot reserved, register early at <https://attendee.gototraining.com/r/5128370007889438210>.

For the quiz bowl, 7-12th grade students are invited to compete in the scientific test. Questions for the competition will be read aloud during each match. However, discussion or explanation of the questions will not occur between matches. Winners of each section and the overall champion will be declared and also recognized in the Blue Umbrella. Good luck AOA!

FALL POEM

By: Charity H.

Crunch crunch—the sound of leaves is underway
Crunching under our feet every single day

Each color ranging from red to yellow
The squirrel quick and groundhog mellow

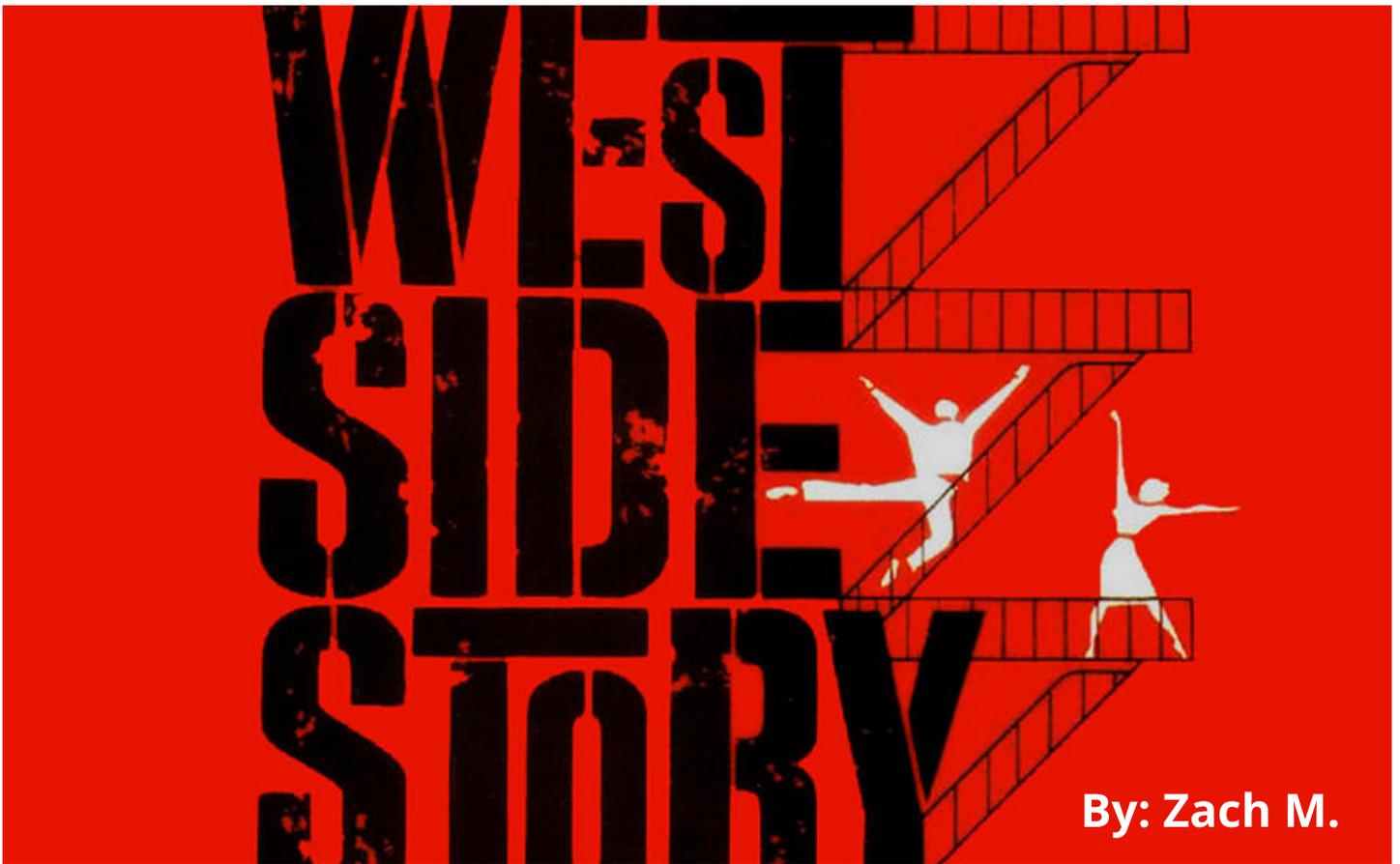
Have been waiting for the day when the leaves will fall
And the trees will glisten with auburn gold and the sparrow call

The air breaths calmly on our “fly-aways.”
Pleasant sights and windy days

All come during the time that we’ve waited for
To don scarves and boots—you can be sure
Precious Fall is knocking at the door

Knocking at the door
With a leisurely sound
Flying leaves brush past—*swish*
With the wind that plays around

The trees are toying with the breeze
The children laughing on their knees
Jumping into piles there
With heaps of color everywhere



“When you’re a jet you’re a jet all the way...” If you’ve been around for more than 10 years, chances are you’ve heard this line at least once whether it be TV, a movie, or you just heard your friend say it. This line gets thrown around a whole bunch. However, you probably don’t know where it came from.

That line in particular comes from the first vocal line in a musical I was recently in called *West Side Story*. Sound familiar? West Side has been around since the fifties and is among some of the most performed high school musicals. To put it simply, this is because it’s still relevant.

If you don’t know the story of West Side, it follows very closely the plot of Romeo and Juliet. But instead of houses, there are gangs fighting. And it’s not bloodlines that define them, it’s race. It’s a musical about the racial tension between the Americans and the Puerto Rican immigrants in the 1950’s. Its story of forbidden love and the dislike of those

who are different from us still holds true to today’s society, as sad as it may seem.

Now, though some of the phrases the actors use sure don’t carry into modern times, (Daddy-o, Buddy-boy,) the general story is just as timeless as the show it’s based off of. This show can be especially impactful when done by high schoolers because it holds true to them more than anyone. I see this in everyday life where people my age might be averted to people who think and look differently than what they themselves are, through no fault of their own. Despite how far we’ve come, there can still be this division between people who not only look different but think differently too. And this play showed me the consequences of such thinking.

If you’ve never heard the music, I implore you, listen to it. It’s a timeless classic with a single moral, and it might sound familiar, “Love your neighbor like you love yourself.”

Feasible *Footwork*:

The Art of Musical Theater



By: Erica L

Musical theater was started in the 5th century B.C. when the Greeks sang and danced to show their honor during sacrifices. Over the years, this way to worship has developed into a way to entertain that is known as musical theater.

The Phantom of the Opera is a famous example of musical theater. It was first previewed on January 9th, 1988 16 different times. The first performance was January 26th, 1988. It has been played almost 30 times with 12,350 performances, as of October 1st of this year, in 15 different languages. Playing in 35 different countries and 116 different cities, over 140 million people have watched *The Phantom of the Opera*. It won over 70 major theater awards and was the first British musical in history that entered the charts as number one.*

The use of acting and facial expressions is a little more important than dancing when

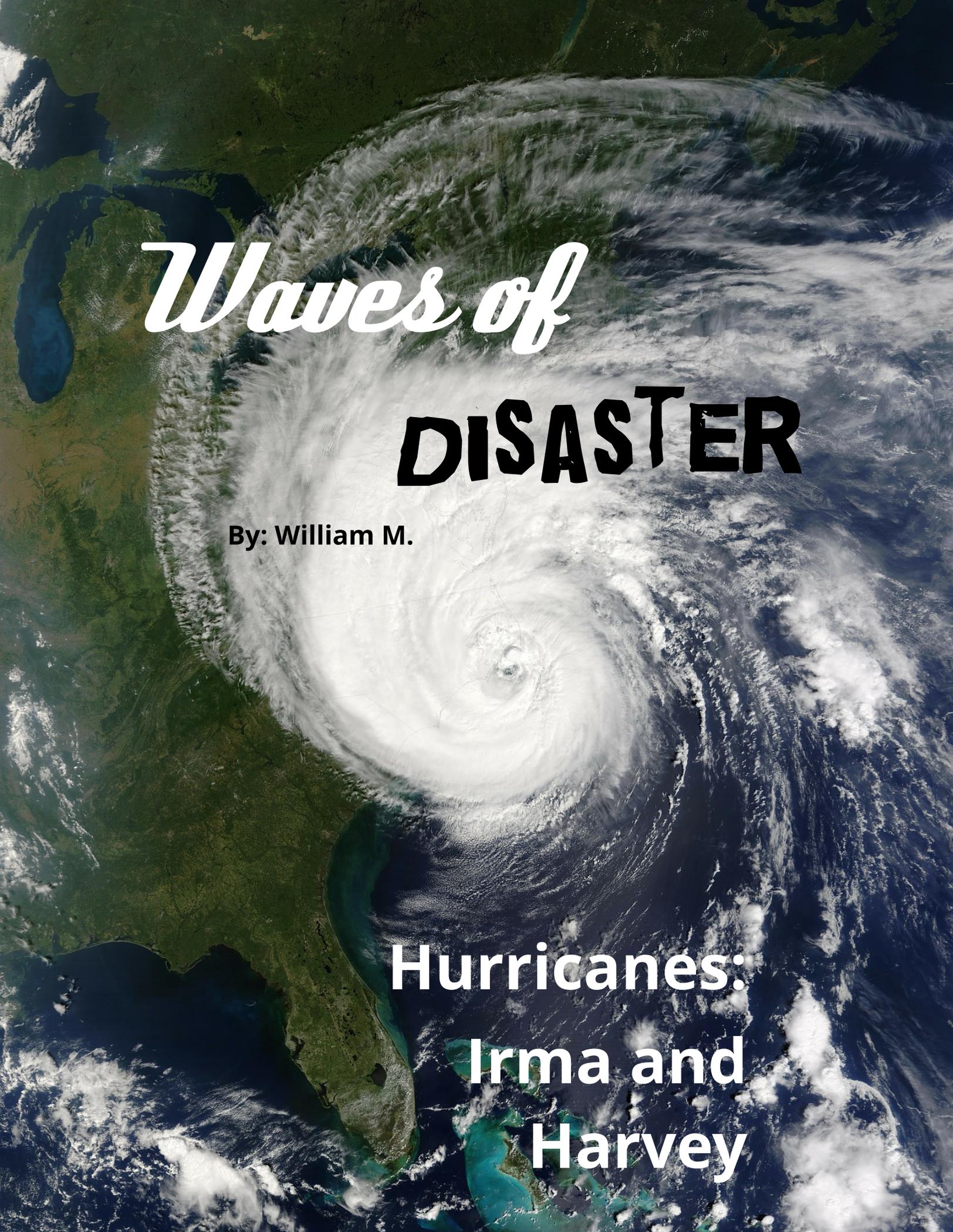


performing musical theater. Even when dancing, the way that the dancer uses the facial expressions is a way to act. Ms. Symmonds, the musical theater teacher at a dance school in Kansas, called this story telling acting. "The range of movement in musical theater is also more exciting for the audience than that of theater." With musical theater, the dancers are always moving with jumps, leaps, or any dance move that goes with the song or story. Theater may have the actor run or jump, but they are not constantly moving as a dancer does.

The music used for musical theater was more old school jazz in the early years, but now almost any song can be used. Songs used for performances at the studio I attend range from 'Poor Unfortunate Souls' from *The Little Mermaid* to 'Step in Time' from *Mary Poppins*.

* *Though Phantom of the Opera has all these amazing accomplishments, Cats is actually the longest running musical on Broadway.*



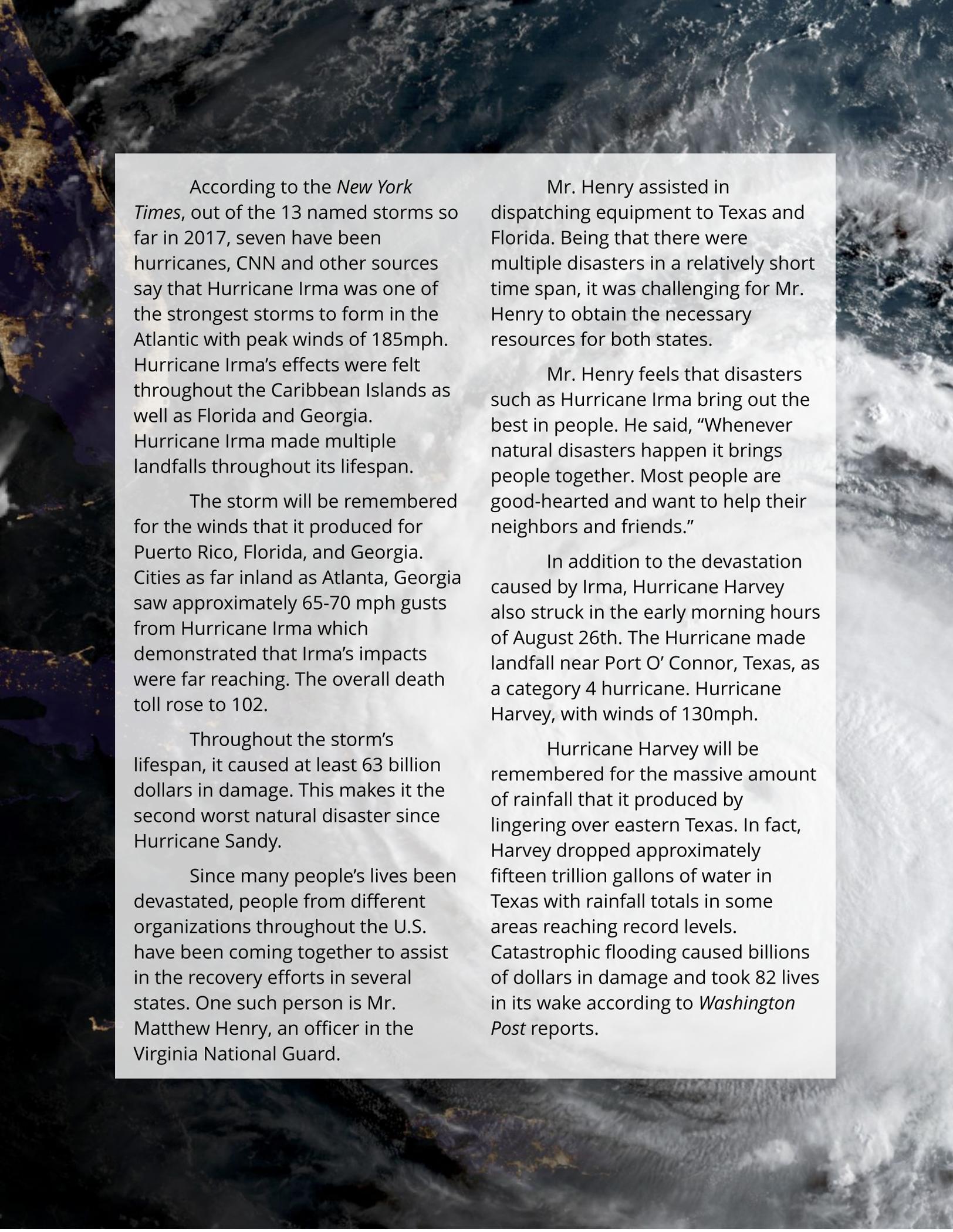
A satellite image of a large hurricane with a well-defined eye and spiral cloud bands, positioned over the Gulf of Mexico. The surrounding landmasses, including the United States and Mexico, are visible in shades of green and brown. The ocean is a deep blue, and the hurricane's clouds are bright white.

Waves of

DISASTER

By: William M.

**Hurricanes:
Irma and
Harvey**



According to the *New York Times*, out of the 13 named storms so far in 2017, seven have been hurricanes, CNN and other sources say that Hurricane Irma was one of the strongest storms to form in the Atlantic with peak winds of 185mph. Hurricane Irma's effects were felt throughout the Caribbean Islands as well as Florida and Georgia. Hurricane Irma made multiple landfalls throughout its lifespan.

The storm will be remembered for the winds that it produced for Puerto Rico, Florida, and Georgia. Cities as far inland as Atlanta, Georgia saw approximately 65-70 mph gusts from Hurricane Irma which demonstrated that Irma's impacts were far reaching. The overall death toll rose to 102.

Throughout the storm's lifespan, it caused at least 63 billion dollars in damage. This makes it the second worst natural disaster since Hurricane Sandy.

Since many people's lives been devastated, people from different organizations throughout the U.S. have been coming together to assist in the recovery efforts in several states. One such person is Mr. Matthew Henry, an officer in the Virginia National Guard.

Mr. Henry assisted in dispatching equipment to Texas and Florida. Being that there were multiple disasters in a relatively short time span, it was challenging for Mr. Henry to obtain the necessary resources for both states.

Mr. Henry feels that disasters such as Hurricane Irma bring out the best in people. He said, "Whenever natural disasters happen it brings people together. Most people are good-hearted and want to help their neighbors and friends."

In addition to the devastation caused by Irma, Hurricane Harvey also struck in the early morning hours of August 26th. The Hurricane made landfall near Port O' Connor, Texas, as a category 4 hurricane. Hurricane Harvey, with winds of 130mph.

Hurricane Harvey will be remembered for the massive amount of rainfall that it produced by lingering over eastern Texas. In fact, Harvey dropped approximately fifteen trillion gallons of water in Texas with rainfall totals in some areas reaching record levels. Catastrophic flooding caused billions of dollars in damage and took 82 lives in its wake according to *Washington Post* reports.

THE MODERN ARTIST

By: Charity H.
and
Sammy C.

Over the course of the school year, I got to meet the most wonderful young lady and artist that I had ever known. Some of you may recall that she was "Student of the Month" in August. Now, she has returned to the stage with a little advice, inspiration, and support for

us readers and all inspired artists out there.

Please welcome Sammy C., from Bogotá, Colombia as she tells us what it takes to become, "The Modern Artist."

~ *Charity H.*





Q: How long have you been doing this art?

A: I started drawing in 2014, my first year of homeschooling. I had more time for myself so I decided to try to draw. I created an Instagram art account, and so far I have received much more support than I expected. Along the way I have got some friends who encourage me to continue.

Q: What inspires your work?

A: I am inspired by beautiful people, my favorite singers or actors, or even friends and family. Other artists' art also inspires me; whenever I see something I like (it can be a picture or drawing) I use it as a basis. But then I switch it up a little and change main features or details to show my own style. I learn through other artists and their art, but most of all the tips that my mother has given me are the ones that have helped me grow the most.

Q: What is your favorite type of art to draw?

A: Throughout these 4 years I have tried different art styles, like visual designs with markers, landscapes with watercolor, portraits with colored pencils, and my most recent one, Digital Art in my iPad. Even though sometimes is easier and faster to work on my iPad, I definitely love working with colored pencils. I love that each time I can see more improvement. One area always helps me discover things in the other.

Q: What advice can you give to other aspiring artists?

A: The best advice I can give is do not give up, learn from others, and pay attention to detail. Most importantly, enjoy! I can always count on art to relax. Anytime I feel stressed or worried, I take some time to draw.

Q: Are you going to include your artistic skills into a future career?

A: I do wish that I could use my talents in my future jobs. It has always been a dream of mine to illustrate books (who knows, maybe one day I'll write a book and illustrate it myself). I want to share stories through art, to celebrate, to remember, and to inspire others.





THE GREAT CHICAGO FIRE OF 1871

By: Rebekah V

The night of October 8, 1871 will always be remembered as the beginning of a long, grueling battle with a fast, destructive force--fire.

Flames ripped through homes and shops on the southeast side of Chicago and spread to the north and east corners of the city. A dry wind aided the spread of the fire, and the people could do nothing as the fire spread quickly and consumed the wooden structures.

The Great Chicago Fire began near the property of Patrick and Catherine O'Leary. The cause of the spark has never been known, but Encyclopedia Britannica provides some different theories such as vandals,

spontaneous combustion, or the most popular assumption, the O'Leary's cow knocked over a lantern and the barn caught fire.

Regardless of how the fire began, the aftermath of the fire was devastating. History.com tells us that an estimated 200 million dollars in damage was done, around 17,000 structures were destroyed, 100,000 were left homeless, and about 300 lives were taken. The fire lasted until the 10th, when a downpour of rain brought relief to the firefighting efforts.

Not only was the loss horrible, but the disaster encouraged looting and lawlessness among the people. Soldiers were stationed in Chicago to

control violence, and martial law was later declared. According to History.com, martial law was lifted once reconstruction efforts began.

As the city rebuilt, Chicago continued to grow in population. By 1880, the population reached half a million, and industry began moving into the city. Although the Great Chicago Fire placed fear and loss on everyone's heart, the world was introduced its first skyscrapers that were built during the reconstruction efforts.

Cool fact: the Chicago FD training academy is located on site of the O'Leary's property where the fire began.

Building Hearts

By: Rebekah V.

Building Lives

This Summer, one of our AOA students followed the call to an unknown land--to Central America. There, she discovered the great strength and love that comes from helping those in need. With God's help and guidance, Rebekah V. experienced, "Honduras."

Welcome to life of Las Brisas, Honduras. This is a village located about an hour and a half away from the city with barely any means of communication. With weather consisting of 100% humidity filled days mixed with rainy moments here and there, it is a community of 14 families surrounded by a mountainous jungle full of trees and creepy-crawly scorpions, and days filled with the sweaty work of cooking, cleaning, and building.

My church was planning a mission trip to Honduras to build a kitchen for the people in the community there. They also planned to put on church services for the people in the community and reach out to the hearts of the lost. I was excited for the church and for their opportunity to go there, especially for my youth pastor and his family, for they were



answering God's call to move there to become missionaries. And then, God invited me to partake in this journey. At first, I was filled with fear. "God, you want me to go to a different country where I do not even speak the language and work in the heat and get bit by fire ants?" Yes, He did.



So, I set off with 14 other members of my church and arrived in Honduras. Beginning our journey, we hiked to the community out to the middle of nowhere and spent a week loving on the kids, helping the ladies cook, and working alongside the people to accomplish our goal, which was to build a much needed and anticipated kitchen for the nearby church.

During the week, I was able to strengthen my relationship with God as I was faced with many challenges and overcame them by relying on His strength and glorifying Him in all I did. I thank God for the week that He called me to spend with Him in Honduras doing something that I love: spreading His name and love to those who need it.



In 2015 Disney premiered *Descendants*, a movie that took over the world with amazing music, choreographies, and creativity showing the life of the descendants of the Disney princesses and villains. Mal (daughter of Maleficent) and her friends Evie (daughter of the Evil Queen), Carlos (son of Cruella deVil), and Jay (son of Jafar) traveled from the Isle of the Lost, (where all the villains lived) to Auradon, the place that united all the kingdoms of the Disney princesses. At Auradon, the Villain Kids found Prince Ben (son of Beauty and the Beast) who tried to give them a chance to live a different life. In this movie, the characters learned that they were the ones who were supposed to choose between good and evil.

This year, Disney is premiering the sequel *Descendants 2*, which introduces new villain kids: Uma (Ursula's daughter), Harry Hook (Captain Hook's son), Gil (Gaston's son), and Dizzy (Drizella's daughter). Mal is now struggling to fit in at Auradon, and Uma is full of resentment and anger towards Mal.

These movies go beyond just entertainment. It is important to always analyze what we watch because we can discover beautiful lessons. *Descendants 2* gives viewers eight different lessons.

Love

Growing up as the daughter of the worst villain of all, Mal never received love from her mom Maleficent. She never knew

that someone could ever love her; she felt that she was not good enough or worthy of love. Ben showed her that everybody deserves to be loved, no matter who they are, where they come from, or what they have done. In the end, she learned she was loved by her friends who stood next to her, fought for her, and supported her. By receiving love, she learned how to love others. What wasn't said in the movie is that even when our friends and family let us down, God's love is perfect.

Girl Power

Lonnie (Mulan's daughter) wanted to enter the sword fight team. According to the rule book, the team was supposed to be composed of a captain and eight men; girls weren't allowed. Jay, the current team captain, noticed how brave and helpful Lonnie was when she helped them fight Uma in the Isle of the Lost. When they came back to Auradon, he gave her the title and place as the new team captain; he showed everyone that girls are strong and can do anything men can do, still without breaking the rules, because there was exactly one captain and eight men on the team.

Friendship

As we hear the song "Space Between" that Mal and Evie sing together, we can see what true friendship is about. Mal felt out of place. Evie finds her and tells Mal that no matter where they are their hearts will always be together.

She also says that she is not someone to stop her from doing what her heart feels is right and that nothing will change between them even if they take some time apart. They can always count on each other, because their friendship is a big part their lives. As Christians, however, we should understand that not everything our heart desires is Godly and right. We should support one another in love, but we should also admonish one another if we see our friends going the wrong direction.

Think of Others First

When Mal left to Auradon in the first movie, she left Uma, who used to be her friend, alone in the Isle. That made Uma very angry, and resentment and hate grew in her heart. Mal should have thought of her old friend and not left her behind, because once someone is hurt, it is very hard to heal the wounded heart. As Christians, we are taught to love one another as Christ loves us. In the movie, Mal eventually tries to reach out to Uma, but Uma lets pride get in the way.

We Shouldn't Change Who We Are.

In the movie, Mal started using her magic to try to fit in at Auradon. She was changing who she was to be something she wasn't. She started by changing her physical appearance, dying her hair and wearing uncomfortable dresses. Tired of being fake, she stressed out and had to leave. The lesson we can learn from Mal is that everyone is different and original. We are all created in God's image and shouldn't try to change what He has already made perfect.

Don't Forget Where You Come From

When Evie is back at the Isle and meets with Dizzy again, there is something that Dizzy tells her that has a great impact in Evie's heart: "You can take the girl out of the Isle, but not the Isle out of the girl." When she stayed in

Auradon, Evie became a big fashion designer and tried to forget the life she had at the Isle of the Lost. But, what she had not noticed was that her experiences and memories from where she came from made her special and gave her a unique style. The Isle would always be a part of her. She couldn't change her past, but she could decide how to continue with her future. God has made us new creatures, and we should not forget our lives before Christ so that we can appreciate our lives with Him today.

Help Others

Dizzy showed Evie all the accessories she worked on while Evie was away. Surprised by her talent, Evie felt bad that a little girl with such abilities was stuck in an Isle that did not give her the opportunity to grow. At the end of the movie, Evie asks Ben if she could invite Dizzy to Auradon. Evie wanted more kids to have more opportunities than she had. She was blessed and now she wanted to share her blessings with others, giving them a chance to change the path of their lives and have a greater and better new generation.

Resist Temptation

Mal had to make a decision. She had two choices: stay at the Isle of the Lost and continue with her old life as a villain-stealing, hurting, and being evil; or go back to Auradon and have a different lifestyle (being a better person, of course, not changing who she was.) It was hard, but all that had been achieved couldn't just be thrown away. By giving up, she was showing others at the Isle that she was not strong enough and that it was not a good idea to go to Auradon. But by standing up and fighting for the good, she showed that even if she could do it, others also could have the chance to be free. As Christians, we must be a light to the world and flee from temptation.

Fall Recipe

"The Pumpky"

By: Enoch C.

Ingredients:

- 7 cups of pumpkin
- 1/4 cup of milk
- 1/4 cup of chocolate milk
- 1/2 cup of yogurt
- 2/3 cup of peanut butter

First cut the pumpkin into small pieces, as small as possible.

Then take 7 cups of them, put it into the oven. Bake for 1 hour at 390 degrees (F).

After one hour, take them out to cool for about 2 minutes.

After that, put the diced pumpkins with the rest of the ingredients into a blender and blend it into a smooth liquid.

Take this time to put your liquid into fun shapes or just normal cupcake tins.

Put it into the oven and heat it for 5 minutes at 380 degrees (F).

Take them out and enjoy!



Clubs and Organizations



Click to see the "Online Classroom Schedule".



Students participate in monthly cooking challenges!

Look for it on the

"Online Classroom Schedule."



Ever get stuck writing? This club will free your mind and pen. Meets 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month.



Look for it on the

"Online Classroom Schedule."



The Blue Umbrella

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