

# THE FERNELEY VOICE

ISSUE # 2



**"LEAVE**

**NO ONE**

**BEHIND**

**THE**  
**FERNELEY**  
**VOICE**



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# Welcome to The Ferneley Voice

Whether it's in digital or paper form, you have in front of you the second edition of The Ferneley Voice. When forming this newspaper, our main goal was to make sure all students possessed the freedom to explore their interests and express their views on topics they found important. Without the dedication and hard work of these students, this newspaper wouldn't have been possible; all creditability and thanks go to them and the passion they hold for their chosen topics.

If you have a fascinating topic that you would like to explore through the amazing world of writing, by all means, join the Ferneley Voice and become a part of our incredible team.

In the meantime, happy reading!

Lottie Clifton, Co -Editor.

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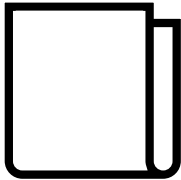
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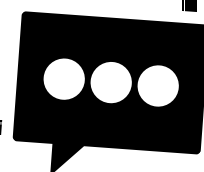


# News

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# Just Stop Oil... Or Just Stop Protesting?

Just Stop Oil are a controversial environmental activist group who are infamous for their debatable and dubious work. In recent years, they have committed many crimes, with Greta Thunberg at the face of a multitude of them. The group was founded in February 2022 and began protesting in April of that same year.

## What is their long-term goal?

Just Stop Oil describes itself as a “non-violent, civil resistance group demanding the U.K. Government stop licensing *all* new oil, gas and coal projects.” From its campaign description and public research document, the group claims that extracting new fossil fuels “will kill our children and condemn humanity to oblivion.” Additionally, they also say that human-induced climate change “will destroy human civilisation unless emergency action is taken to rapidly reduce our greenhouse gas emissions to zero in a very short timescale.” They are deeply passionate about their aim to reduce the use of fossil fuels, but how have they gone about showing this?



## Why do they have such a bad reputation?

As you may have seen, these climate activists have acted foolishly on countless occasions. For example, they have:

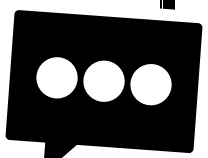
- Shut down the M25
- Blocked off the Dartford Crossing
- Splattered the 'Mona Lisa' with pumpkin soup

Aswell as these, they also managed to halt ambulances, which not only affects the people driving the ambulances, but also the people in them or awaiting them. This obviously caused a major uproar, as it put people's lives at risk. Busy citizens on their way to work and children just trying to get to school have also been affected by the group's controversial method of protesting.

## What are the positives of Just Stop Oil?

It is safe to say that one thing these activists has successfully done is get the media's attention, which is the perfect way to advertise the group. I have spoken to many students at our school and here is what just one of them had to say: “well, it's because of their protests that I am aware of the growing issue of oil usage and burning fossil fuels, and I now want to do my part in stopping it.” Another student even said, “I don't blame the group for their actions, something had to be done.” So, is this the new way of getting action to be taken? What do you think?

Emily Walking





# What is the Holocaust?

The Holocaust happened in World War 2 and was started by Hitler, once he came to power. No one has an exact reason to why he started this, but it lasted for 6 years before people were able to stop it. In this time, around 6 million Jews were killed because Hitler wanted to create the 'perfect race'. They were sent to different concentration camps, where they were either put to work or killed. To avoid the camps, Jews went into hiding. Anne Frank is one of the most famous ones, as she and her family hid for multiple years before they were found and sent to death camps, which Anne's father was the only one who survived.

Hitler didn't want the people in Germany to know of the camps, as they may have gone against him and protested. So, the camps were located outside of Germany, in places like Poland, that had been taken over by Germany, and placed in rural areas (e.g. Auschwitz). So, Hitler only ever told his followers that the Jewish citizens must be 'removed'.

## What is Auschwitz?

Auschwitz was a very famous death camp that the Jews were sent to. It is the most famous because it is where the Nazis ended up killing the most people, using gas chambers. This is in Poland, in parts that they had taken over during the war. This awful camp was founded in 1940 and Hitler called it 'the final solution'. They killed around 1.1 million people here.



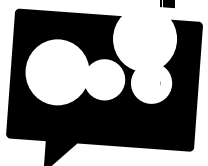
## Holocaust Memorial Day.

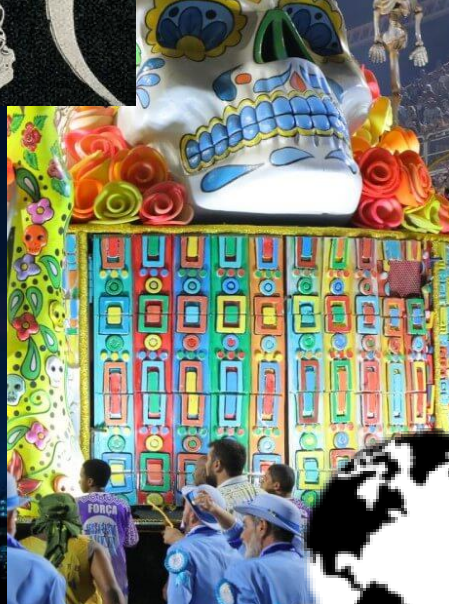
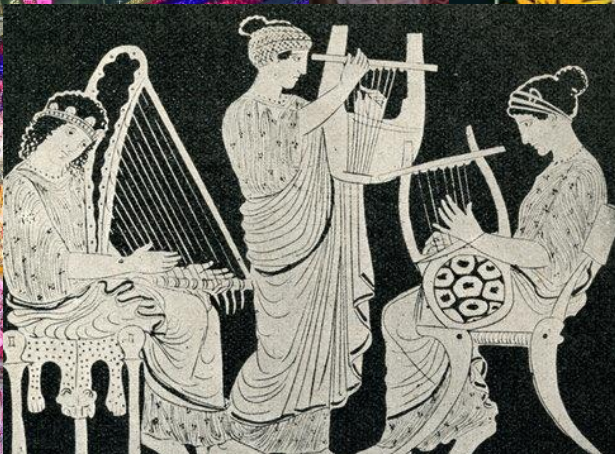
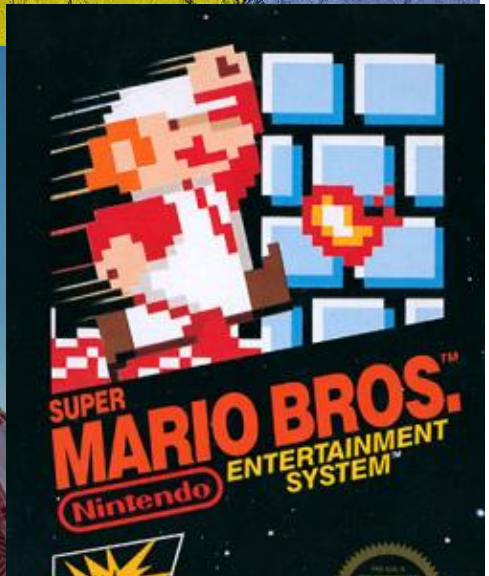
This is a day that happens every year on the 27<sup>th</sup> of January. We have this day to understand and remember everyone who died due to Hitler and Nazis. Around this time, we have an assembly at school and a history lesson dedicated to the event. This ensures that we understand the losses that happened during this time and that we learn from this tragic event.

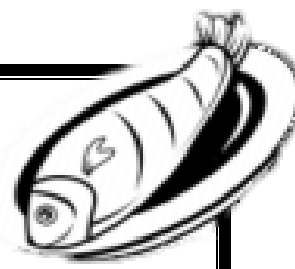
## Anne Frank.

As previously stated, Anne Frank was a Jew who went into hiding to avoid concentration camps. Her and her family hid in an upstairs annex in Amsterdam, where her father worked, and were looked after by his co-workers. Whilst hiding, Anne wrote a diary about her life and what it was like. Eventually, when the Nazis found Anne and her family, she left her diary in the annex. After the war, when the only survivor of the family, Anne's father, went back to the annex, he found it. Upon finding this, he then published the diary.

Hannah Potter



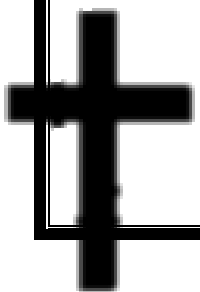


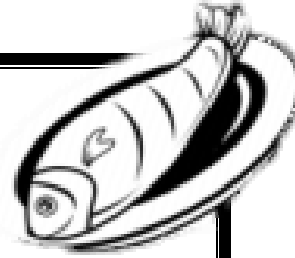


# Culture

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# Your Guide to This Term's Cultural Events Around the World

## **8 - 14 January: International kite festival, India**

Gujarat Uttarayan, a western state in India, celebrates an important occasion on the Indian calendar every year, marking the change from winter to summer. Residents prepare large, elaborate, bright, and ornamental kites for months on end. It is a stunning sight. Since its beginning in 1989, the festival has grown to be one of the largest and most significant in all of India. Because of this, Ahmedabad, the capital of the state, always celebrates in grand style and turns into an exciting centre for cultural events in the weeks before the kite display. During the outdoor festival, kite flying will be visible to onlookers from morning to evening.

## **27 January: Wakakusa Yamayaki, Japan**

Residents of Nara meet at dark to kindle a bonfire in the mountains of Wakakusa Yamayaki, east of Nara Park, on the fourth Saturday of each January, weather permitting.

Temples in the area participate in the ceremonial lighting of the bonfire. Viewers stand by while the grass on the mountain is lit on fire, and an amazing fire work display frames the fires as Wakakusa Yamayaki burns into the night. Some claim the ritual originated when rival temples in Nara fought over territory, and others say the grass was customarily burned to scare off any wild boars that could have been present.

## **3 February - 10 March: Lantern festival, Taiwan.**

Taiwan's renowned Lantern Festival will take place in Tainan in 2024.

The festival is regarded as Tainan's first significant event in many years, and the city was chosen to commemorate its 400th anniversary.

On February 24, hundreds of bright lanterns are released into the night sky nationwide to celebrate the end of the Lunar New Year.

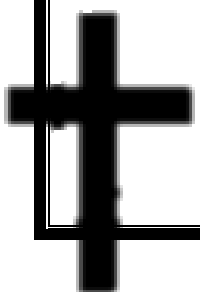
Each year has its own theme.

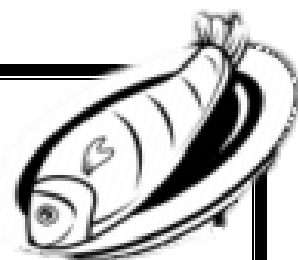
The subject of 'Glorious Tainan' in 2024 will centre around the historical background of the city.

## **9 - 17 February: Rio carnival, Brazil**

In one sentence, expect vibrant parades, incredibly loud music, and a rainbow of colours in the form of feathers, costumes, and decorations to capture the essence of Brazil's party culture.

Even a stadium cannot hold the thrill of Samba Schools, who compete and perform in a specially designed Sambadrome.





### **24 - 25 March: Holi festival, India**

In India, locals celebrate the Holi festival at the very beginning of spring. The 'festival of colours' is an opportunity to express gratitude for an abundant crop, victory over evil, and Lord Vishnu. Revelry can be expected in Rajasthan, Mumbai, Australia, Mauritius, and the UK. The festival is mostly concentrated in Vrindavan, Uttar Pradesh, where Lord Vishnu is known to have spent his childhood giving the celebrations a special significance.

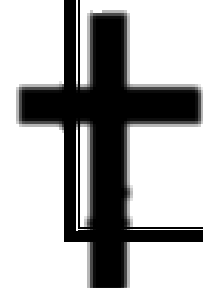
### **13 - 15 April: Songkran, Thailand**

In Thailand, the water splashing festival marks the beginning in the Buddhist new year. Buddha images are submerged in water and overtime the celebration turns into a full-fledged water battle and visitors and residents are attacked!

### **10 - 27 April: Al Ula Skies Festival, Saudi Arabia**

More than 200 vibrant balloons soar over the historic city of Hegra and the UNESCO world heritage site throughout the festival, providing a breathtaking sight for onlookers. That's not all. Along with events honouring the desert nature, there is also stargazing and other exciting activities to take part in.

Donna Stephen



# The History of Music: Unveiling Our Melodious Past

Music is now part of our everyday lives. This is by playing, listening to, and performing the endless genres. There are also many ways to listen to it nowadays, like on Spotify, Apple Music, and Amazon Music. However, it has not always been like this. Let me take you back to where music first began...

## **PREHISTORIC**

Music began almost 6 million years ago when humans and chimps had a common ancestor. Most ancient instruments found in Europe were in the Upper Paleolithic. This could also be when singing began, but it is impossible to be sure. The oldest instrument to be discovered is the Divje Babe Flute which was made from a young cave bear femur. It originated in Slovenia and whether it is a true instrument or just an object is up for intense debate. Other than this, there are no surviving Middle Paleolithic instruments today, which could be compared to visual art.



The first object that is widely considered an instrument were bone flutes from the Swabian Jura, commonly known as Germany, dated to the Aurignacian period (the Upper Paleolithic). These were used by Early European humans for entertainment and collecting people from other tribes. Out of the eight examples that were discovered, four of these were made of mammoth ivory and four were made from tiny wing bones from small birds. There was a wide variety of the uses of music. It is thought it was used when food or other necessities were in short supply. There are also speculations that music is heavily connected with nature. For example, bird calls could be considered music because certain notes and pitches have meaning.

## **CHINA**

The earliest instruments in China were 12 flutes made from something called Gudi bone. This, in English, just translates to 'bone flute'. The only instrument related to the Xia dynasty are two small bells. Due to the minuscule evidence of this time, creating a whole story of this is impractical. The first harp dated somewhere near 1800 BCE.





## GREECE

This history begins in Ancient Greece, where music is a massive part of everyone's lives. There were mixed-gender choirs used for entertainment or celebratory reasons. The instrument that originated from this era is the lyre. This is a small string instrument that is plucked. The Greeks used a special kind of lyre called a kithara.

## INDIA

Most sources of music in India originate from ancient literature and scriptures of artists with their instrument. Many pieces of writing refer to the epic poem 'Silappatikaram', a tragic love story that is over 5,000 lines long. There is not much known about what traditions there are, but the little evidence there is suggests it is remarkably diverse. Most music in the country originated from the Gupta period.

Next time in The Ferneley Voice: learn about the evolution of Classical and Modern music and how it has developed into what we know it as today.

Layla Dugmore

# The Evolution of Video Games: A Journey from Pong to Pixels

The history of video games is a fascinating tale that begins in the early 1970s, marked by the birth of an industry that would eventually become a global phenomenon. From humble beginnings to the technological marvels of today, the evolution of video games has been a journey filled with innovation, creativity, and a relentless pursuit of pushing the boundaries of what's possible. In this first part of our series, we'll explore the genesis of video games and their progression from the 1970s to the early 1990s.

## **The Birth of an Industry:**

The story starts in the early 1970s, when the world was introduced to the very first commercially successful video game, "Pong." Created by Atari co-founder Nolan Bushnell and released in 1972, Pong was a simple tennis simulation that captivated audiences in arcades around the world. This iconic game featured two paddles and a bouncing ball, offering players a basic yet addictive gaming experience.

As Pong's popularity soared, it paved the way for the establishment of the video game industry. Soon, other companies like Magnavox and Nintendo joined the fray, introducing their own home console systems. In 1975, Magnavox released the Odyssey, the first home video game console, marking a significant step in bringing the gaming experience to living rooms.



## **The Rise of Arcade Games:**

The late 1970s saw the emergence of arcade games as a cultural sensation. Games like Space Invaders (1978) and Asteroids (1979) became instant classics, enthraling players with their engaging gameplay and cutting-edge graphics. The success of these titles fuelled the arcade boom, transforming dimly lit game parlours into bustling social hubs.

The advent of microprocessors allowed game developers to explore more complex and visually appealing designs. Games like Pac-Man (1980) and Donkey Kong (1981) became *iconic*, setting the stage for the evolution of

gaming into the 1980s. The concept of high scores and competition fuelled the competitive spirit among players, creating a sense of community around the arcade culture.



## The Introduction of Home Gaming:

While arcades were flourishing, the home gaming market was evolving as well. In 1977, Atari released the Atari 2600, a ground-breaking console that brought gaming into homes internationally. The 2600 boasted a diverse library of games, including hits like Space Invaders and Adventure. This marked the beginning of the home console revolution, providing a new avenue for gaming enthusiasts to enjoy their favourite titles without leaving their living rooms.

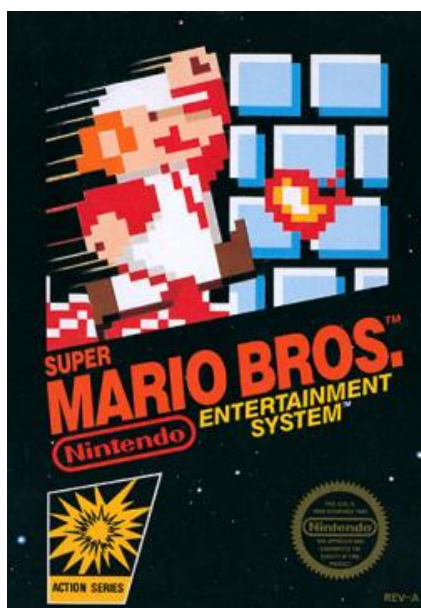



## The Video Game Crash of 1983:

Inevitably, the rapid growth of the industry also led to challenges. The market became oversaturated with low-quality games, and consumers grew wary of investing in new titles. The industry experienced a significant setback in 1983, commonly referred to as the Video Game Crash. Several factors, including market saturation, lack of quality control, and the proliferation of subpar games, contributed to a decline in consumer confidence.

## Nintendo and the Console Wars:

In the aftermath of the Video Game Crash of 1983, the industry was in dire need of revitalisation. Enter Nintendo, a Japanese company that would play a pivotal role in reshaping the gaming landscape forever. In 1985, they released the Nintendo Entertainment System (NES) in North America, a console that not only regenerated the home gaming market, but also established itself as a cultural wonder. The NES featured iconic titles such as Super Mario Bros. (1985) and The Legend of Zelda (1986), setting a new standard for quality and gameplay. Nintendo's strict licensing policies also ensured that only high-quality games made their way to the platform, rebuilding consumer trust in the gaming industry. The success of the NES sparked the infamous "Console Wars," a heated rivalry between Nintendo and Sega that would dominate the late 1980s and early 1990s.





## The Rise of 16-Bit Gaming:

As the 1980s progressed, technology continued to advance, leading to the introduction of 16-bit consoles. In 1989, Sega released the Sega Genesis, which showcased improved graphics and sound capabilities. Sonic the Hedgehog (1991) became the Genesis' flagship title, solidifying Sega's position as a formidable competitor in the market. Nintendo responded with the Super Nintendo Entertainment System (SNES) in 1990, introducing classics like Super Mario World (1990) and The Legend of Zelda: A Link to the Past (1991). The 16-bit era marked a significant leap forward in gaming technology, providing players with more immersive and visually stunning experiences.



## The Beginnings of Handheld Gaming:

While home consoles were thriving, handheld gaming also took a giant leap forward in the late 1980s. Nintendo's Game Boy, released in 1989, revolutionised portable gaming with its monochrome screen and a library of titles that included the immensely popular Tetris (1989). The success of the Game Boy laid the foundation for the portable gaming industry, demonstrating that gaming could be enjoyed on the go.

## Technological Advancements and the Dawn of the 1990s:

As the 1980s drew to a close, the gaming industry had undergone a remarkable transformation. Technological advancements continued to push the boundaries of what was possible, setting the stage for the next decade. The 1990s would see the emergence of 3D graphics, CD-ROM technology, and the birth of iconic franchises that would shape the gaming landscape for years to come. In the next part of our series, we will delve into the dynamic decade of the 1990s, exploring the impact of 3D gaming, the advent of CD-ROMs, and the cultural phenomena that defined this exciting era in the history of video games. Stay tuned for a journey through the dawn of a new technological age in gaming...

Myles Mulholland





# New Discoveries

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# Recent Archaeological Discoveries Around The World.

## **Europe:**

Recently, in southern Germany, a grave was discovered which contained a 3,000-year-old sword. The weapon barely shows its age. It has remained so well-preserved that it "almost still shines," says Bavaria's State Office for Monument Protection in a statement. The sword itself shows some wear and tear and is believed to have been used in battle. It is thought to have been created in the 14<sup>th</sup> century B.C.E. Given the soft nature of bronze used to make the sword, historians have previously wondered whether such blades served a ceremonial purpose, rather than a practical purpose on the battlefield. A few years ago, scientists even staged sword fights in order to learn more about how the Bronze Age weapons could have been used effectively in battle, despite being much easier to damage and harder to repair than their iron successors.



## **Asia:**



In Vietnam there was a discovery of 10,000-year-old skeletal remains recently in northern Vietnam. The skeletal remains estimated to be 10,000 years old have been unearthed in northern Vietnam at the Tam Chuc Pagoda Complex by researchers from the Vietnam Institute of Archaeology. "This is the first time that human remains dating back 10,000 years have been discovered in Vietnam," said Mai Thanh Chung of the Ha Nam

Department of Culture, Sport, and Tourism. The bones, recovered from three graves, belonged to children and adults. Mollusc shells and the remains of small animals were also found.

### North America:

Evidence of South Carolina's slaveholding past has recently been discovered when students from the College of Charleston decided to excavate part of their campus. They found a copper slave tag labelled '1853' – these tags were used to prove that an enslaved person was authorised to work for someone else besides their owner. Most likely the tag was worn by an enslaved person who was hired out to work in a kitchen that existed on the site in the mid-19th century.



### South America:

Archaeologists found a 1,200-year-old ritual complex built by the Wari empire at the Pakaytambo site in southern Peru. The D-shape temple complex was built on a large platform in a strategic location among the Andean highlands and coastal valleys of Arequipa.



### Africa:



Recently in Zambia, what is believed to be the world's oldest structure has been discovered. This discovery shows that humans have been using wood for 476,000 years. The discovery has highlighted the activities of hominins (early relatives of homo sapiens) such as chopping down trees to make digging tools and larger structures.

### Oceania:

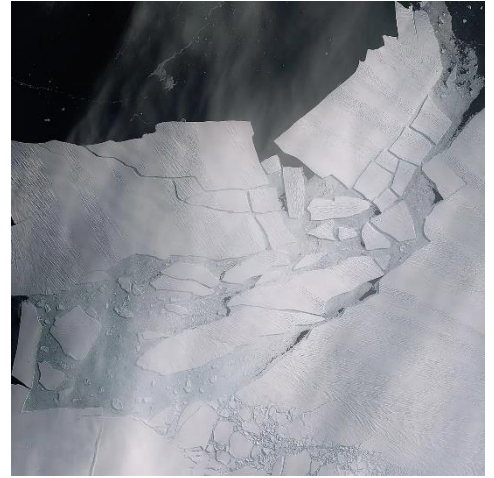
Off the coast of Australia, a recent landmass has been discovered showing a city that has since been submerged under the sea. It was once believed to be home to hundreds of thousands of people. They even found artefacts and signs of human life at the site, located near the northern region of Kimberley on a landmass that connects to New Guinea. The landmass has been revealed to be 1.6 times the size of the UK.





## Antarctica:

It has recently been revealed that a vast, hidden landscape of hills and valleys is 'Frozen in time' under the Arctic ice for millions of years. The area has been discovered to be bigger than Belgium and has remained untouched for 34 million years. However, now it is threatened with exposure due to global warming. The only current way to view the area is by flying a plane over while using radio waves and analysing the echoes. It is believed that the area is less well known than the surface of Mars. The ice sheet covering the area is believed to be fully melted in the coming decades leaving the area on view.



Olivia Sharpe

# Artemis

The Artemis missions aim to land a new generation on the moon, including the first women and person of colour. It is named after the Greek Moon goddess and twin sister of the god Apollo, of whom previous NASA lunar missions were named. It is the name of the latest group of missions planned by NASA to explore the moon. NASA will collaborate with commercial and international partners and establish the first long-term presence on the Moon, while considering future missions into deeper space especially to Mars.



Innovative technology has had to be designed to accommodate the progress that has been made since the Apollo missions 50 years ago. In addition to discovering ways of which our astronauts can live and work on the moon's surface for prolonged periods of time, they are making new and exciting scientific discoveries.

## Spacecraft and rockets

It is also necessary to build new specialised spacecrafts and rocket systems for the Artemis missions these include:

Space launch system rocket (SLS) – a new and special designed rocket for missions deeper into space it is the only rocket able to carry the Orion craft, astronauts, and cargo to the moon in a single mission. It is currently the most powerful rocket in the world.

Orion spacecraft – the spacecraft responsible for carrying the astronauts from earth into lunar orbit and back again.

Gateway – a spaceship in lunar orbit from which astronauts will transfer between

Orion and the lander during Artemis missions. It will remain in orbit for more than a decade providing a place to live and work close to the moon.

Artemis base camp – a base for astronauts to work and live from on the surface of the moon current concepts include a lunar cabin, rover, and a mobile home.





# Galactic collision

The Andromeda–Milky Way collision is a cosmic event predicted to occur in approximately 4.5 billion years. The milky way galaxy, home to our solar system and planet earth, will collide and merge with our closest neighbour galaxy in a unique but not uncommon important cosmic event. Although we must keep in mind our planet is estimated at 4.5 billion years old already. So, sadly, it's unlikely that we will be here as a witness when this event does eventually occur.

Both the Milky Way and Andromeda galaxies reside within the local group. This is a group of approximately 85 galaxies that are bound to each other by gravity. This means, in the far future, it is likely many more collisions will occur as all the galaxies are relatively close to each other. However, it does still span a volume of roughly 10 million light-years.

## The Milky Way

The milky way galaxy is home to our solar system and is a barred spiral galaxy, this means it has a central bar structure surrounded by spiral arms. At the centre, there is a supermassive blackhole with the name Sagittarius A. This is also known as the galactic centre of our galaxy and is the point of which all the matter in the galaxy orbits every 200 million years. This also means that the earth has never made a complete orbit since it was formed nearly 5 billion years ago.



Containing 100-400 billion stars and with a diameter of 100,000 light years, the milky way is the second largest galaxy in the local group. Our solar system resides on the inner side of the Orion arm and is 27,000 light years from the galactic centre. So, no need to worry about being swallowed up by the black hole since we are always travelling away from it.

## Andromeda

The Andromeda galaxy is the nearest major galaxy to the milky way and is one of the brightest objects in the night sky when observed from earth. It can be found in correspondence with the constellation Andromeda. It currently lies about 2.5 million light years away from earth though that is changing. Andromeda is the largest galaxy in the local group with a diameter of 152,000 light-years and containing 1 trillion stars, though, interestingly, it's estimated to have a similar mass to the milky way.



### The collision

The milky way and Andromeda galaxies are currently moving towards each other due to their gravitational attraction, travelling at about 300 km per second. Recent observations made using the Hubble Space Telescope revealed Andromeda is travelling towards the milky way much faster than it is moving in any other direction.



Consequently, we can be sure it will collide in approximately 5

billion years. However, before they do, it is possible that both galaxies will swirl around each other until finally their supermassive black holes at the centre collide and merge. Although both galaxies combined contain well over a trillion stars, it is highly unlikely that any will collide due to the vast distances between them. However, it is almost impossible to predict what the gravitational changes will do to the structures of both galaxies.

The view from earth if any life were around to see it would change dramatically. The number of stars in the night sky would be more than double the current amount, changing all familiar and recognisable features and constellations. It could also mean that the day and night become brighter especially as the Andromeda galaxy approaches. It is unimaginable that in 4.5 billion years by just looking up at the sky it will be possible to see an entire galaxy close.

Lois Hilton



## The Fermi Paradox and The Mystery of Extraterrestrials.


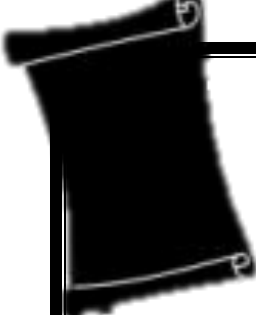
'Two possibilities exist: either we are alone in the universe, or we are not. Both are equally terrifying' – Arthur C. Clarke, a sci-fi writer who co-wrote 2001: A Space Odyssey. There is something called the Fermi Paradox that says if the universe is full of so many planets then some should be habitable. So, where are all the aliens? It was created by Italian physicist Enrico Fermi, the creator of the first nuclear reactor and winner of the Nobel prize for physics in 1938. The story started with Fermi having lunch with his fellow physicists when he suddenly blurted out 'But where is everyone?' and the Fermi Paradox was born.

Earth is around 4 billion years old, and the earliest date life could be formed was 3 billion years ago. The universe is 13.7 billion years old, so this means that life on Earth has only existed for around 30% of the universe's history. Don't you think it's strange that no life has formed in at least 70% of the universe's history? If intelligent life exists and is broadcasting radio signals just from day-to-day activity, then we should have detected that by now. This begs the question, where are they?

A scientist tried to answer that question and he made something called the Drake equation. Now I'll spare you the details, but the equation uses low probabilities, and it calculates the number of advanced alien civilisations that can contact us right now. When putting in the number of stars in our galaxy, you get somewhere between 1,000 and 100,000,000 alien civilisations in our galaxy alone. This is using extremely low probabilities like the chance of life forming. In 2007, NASA found planets in the habitable zones of other stars, so it is definitely possible for alien life to evolve. So where are they?

If advanced alien life exists, it would want to take as many planets as possible. Using technology we have on Earth now, we could colonise the Milky Way in only 5 million to 50 million years. In a galactic time frame, this is quick and this ignores any technology that is beyond our understanding. Aliens should have visited us by now whether through civilisation or probes for exploration. In addition, if alien life was sufficiently advanced, they could build mega structures like Dyson spheres (a dome of solar panels built around a star to capture most of the energy produced) and would do so to gain more energy. If they did this, we would see the effects of it with just a telescope. Also, they would see that all the energy problems they have are solved which means no climate disaster or nuclear war over remaining fossil fuels. If aliens wanted to find us they could. We are broadcasting signals everywhere and it would be extremely easy to do so. So, again, where are they?

There are a few solutions to the Fermi Paradox but one of the most interesting is the dark jungle hypothesis. The dark jungle hypothesis states that alien life is everywhere but not broadcasting radio signals or revealing its position. This is because there is a predator in our galaxy, an advanced alien civilisation that will eradicate life as soon as it finds it. In addition, it is scientifically possible using the Dyson spheres I mentioned earlier. Instead of using solar panels you use mirrors to focus a star's energy on a single point and fire a laser towards a planet destroying all life on it. Think of the death star firing in Star Wars. Worst of all, if this hypothesis is true, it means humanity is doomed as we have been broadcasting radio signals for a long time.



On a more positive note, some simple solutions to the Fermi Paradox are that humans and life are unique or humanity is the very first civilisation in the galaxy. Additionally, intelligent life is not advanced enough to communicate. Also, mass extinction events (like the asteroid that killed the dinosaurs) might commonly wipe out new life. An interesting one is that alien life is too alien to be civilisation as life like intelligent rocks or gas or something we cannot fathom. So, we can't look for clues that life is somewhere like oxygen given off during photosynthesis. A pessimistic theory is that new civilisations commonly kill themselves with global war or climate change or other means.

Finally, the last solution I have to the Fermi Paradox is the Great Filter. The Great Filter says that every major step for forming intelligent civilisations is a ridiculously low probability. These steps include life starting, the planet and solar system being right, intelligent life forming and all the many steps towards broadcasting signals. As these steps increase, the probability of becoming more advanced decreases rapidly and civilization will die if it fails at one of these steps. The Great Filter is the step of civilization that all new civilisations fail and die on. There are two possibilities: the Great Filter is behind us or ahead of us. If the Great Filter is behind us, this means humanity is the lucky civilization and we will be the most advanced one in the universe. If the great Filter is ahead of us, then we will all die on the next step most likely from our own hand.

On the other hand, many may not believe in aliens and say things like "it's ridiculous", or "you're crazy. Stop your conspiracy nonsense", or things like "humans and life is special, and the idea of aliens is a fabrication of the media". However, to them I say you can't ignore the numbers because in the infinite universe there is an infinite number of possibilities that can happen including a galaxy full of aliens.

But there is no way to know for sure. We may be living in the galaxy where we are alone, but we may not be. I hope my speech has changed your view on alien life, thank you.

Aidan Kinghorn



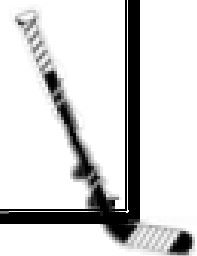


# Sport

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# Pathways and Opportunities in Rugby

This article will highlight the different rugby pathways you can take if you want to go on to play professionally. Girls and boys have slightly different pathways, but each are just as competitive. Many players now have the aim to go pro in sports and rugby is still growing. This means the opportunities are endless...

## **Girls:**

School is normally the starting point for girls playing rugby. This sits alongside age grade rugby (your club team). This is split into multiple age grades including under 14, under 16, and under 18. When you reach under 16 level you play much more competitively, and you must be chosen by your coach, so you need to be highly skilled. However, to get into a county team or DPP, you normally must be in the top 10% of players for your age group.

When you get to under 18s, you can join a centre of excellence. To do this you have to previously have been a part of DPP or county. For some girls who join later this can really limit their options and make it a stressful experience especially if they want to go pro. Centre of excellence runs alongside college rugby and is great opportunity to be chosen for premiership teams such as the Leicester tigers or Loughborough Lightnings. While playing for your college, you can be chosen for the England under 18s team. This is a spotlight for younger players.

## **Boys:**

The boy's pathway is slightly different to the girls one as they have more academy opportunities. This means they have more chances to progress than girls do. The boys start at a club like girls do. This helps them develop friendships and basic motor skills for the game from a young age.

The difference between the girl's and boy's pathway in my opinion is unfair as boys are given a lot more opportunities and chances than girls. Boys have academies for teams like Leicester tigers. However, currently girls do not have the chance to be a part of this and this gives them less exposure. At the age of 16, a boy can be a part of these academy's along with DPP and county teams. Girls are only given  $\frac{3}{4}$  of these opportunities.

Typically, both girls' and boys' pathways are very different, but both are achievable, and you can make it to the England team through either. You do have to be in the top percentage of people to be successful in professional rugby, but that is the same in all competitive sports. Rugby is a tough sport, and women's rugby is no exception. The fact girls and boys have different pathways can be seen as a disadvantage for women, but it is a reason for you to work 10 times harder. The popularity is growing, therefore becoming a part of it will make it grow even faster.

In conclusion, you should join the program. If it interests you, why not commit to it? It is a great accomplishment for many and being a part of a group that loves rugby is amazing too. Additionally, it's a remarkable thing to tell people that you play for a national under 16s team. It is always a good conversation-starter.

Libby Hill



# How Spain Won Their First Football World Cup.



It has been over 14 years since the 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa. However, Spain's mark on World Cup history is still talked about now. I'm here to take you back 14 years while highlighting the tournament's best moments, games, and excitement.



On the 11<sup>th</sup> of June 2010, tension and excitement within fans and the players was running high. The groups were randomly decided, and the tournament was under way, rapidly gaining popularity with its global group of loyal fans. The group stages were full of entertaining moments and powerful goals that caught people's attention. The score boards were piercing through the hearts of players and fans alike. Their passion, pride, and excitement to watch their team play was astounding to see.

The group stages were full of career-defining moments such as South Korea's 2-0 win against Greece, Germany's 4-0 win against Australia, and Argentina's 4-1 South Korea win.

But that was just the first stage, the next would be the always thrilling round of sixteen. The remaining sixteen teams were then, based on their group standings, placed into brackets. On Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> June, the first game of the round was played...

The round of sixteen produced some memorable clashes including an age-old and very heated rivalry renewed in Germany vs England. Fans were infuriated as Frank Lampard's goal in the 39th minute was controversially disallowed despite the ball clearly crossing the line. Had this goal been allowed, Fabio Capello's England side would have equalised at 2-2 and potentially changed the complexion of the entire tournament. Another eye-catching match was Spain vs Portugal. As neighbouring countries and two of the favourites to win the tournament, it was a high stakes game. An underwhelming 1-0 win would be enough to see Spain through to the quarterfinals.





Heading towards the main event, after the round of 16, only a few countries had made their way out of the wreckage, bringing the competition to its third stage. The quarter finals.

Spain could've seen their world cup dreams slip away in the quarterfinals. A late winner was needed by Spain to advance to the semi-finals and David Villa delivered. A simple 1-0 win over Paraguay. However, more thrilling matches were to come. Netherlands with the shock of the round, defeating a favourite to win in Brazil, Germany found four goals against Argentina surprisingly easy, and Uruguay needing penalties to overcome Ghana.

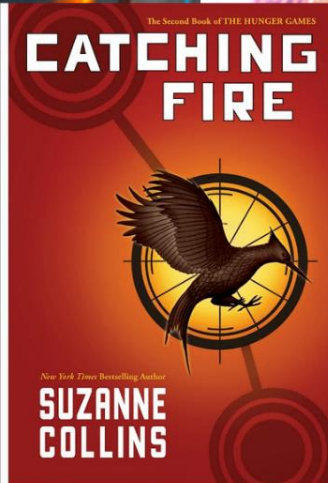
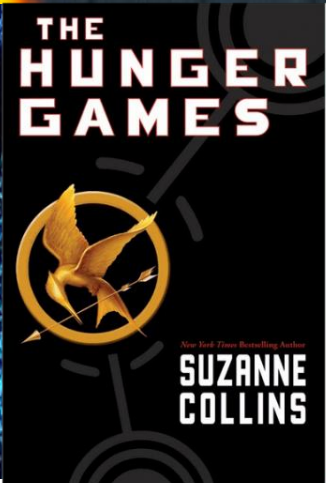
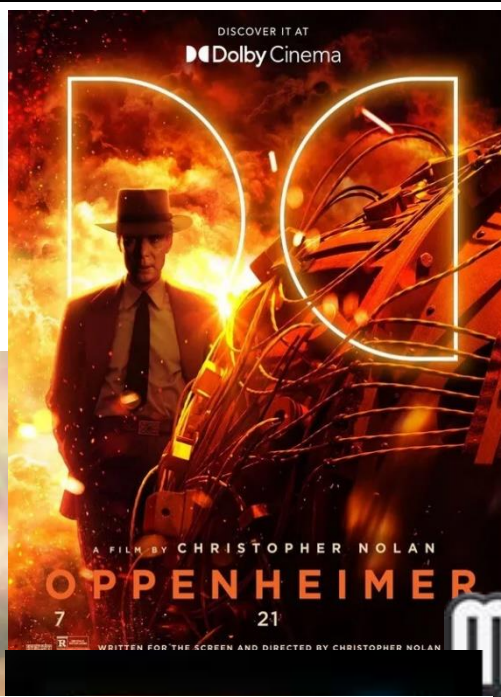
After battling their way through the quarter finals and barely scraping by, Spain entered the semi-finals. With only four countries left, there were only two that could make the finals. Spain had secured a spot after clashing with Germany in a final-worthy contest. The other two countries fighting for the last spot in the final were Uruguay and Netherlands. The Final score ended 2-3, Netherlands inching past Uruguay comfortably despite the scoreline. Now the final was set. The Germans and Uruguayans were directed to the fifth stage of the world cup (the third-place playoffs). Germany's win against Uruguay 3-2 would put them in third place. But who would be second and, more importantly, first?

Finally, the main event everyone was waiting for. Exactly a month since the first game of the tournament, Spain had reached the final. With Spain energised and set to face the Netherlands, they were ready for anything. Both teams were then ready to fight for the star over their country's crest. The time was 19:30pm, at The Soccer City in Johannesburg, South Africa. The excitement echoed through the stadium as the last battle commenced. The game was the most important. Who would come out on top? What team would fight to the end? After a stalemate, the game was played to a tense 120 minutes. With a dedicated team and powerful style of play, Spain were tough and strong-willed. Escaping with the world cup thanks to a late goal from Iniesta. It was complete. Spain had won the world cup for the first time ever.

### SPAIN 2010 WORLD CUP FINAL XI



Felix Richardson

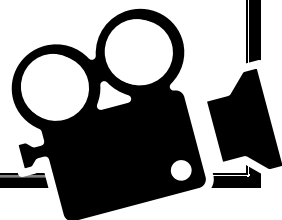
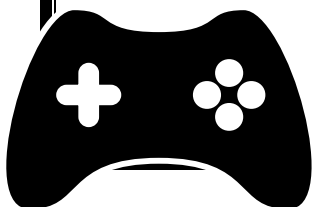




# Entertainment

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## Film in Review

### The Marvels 2023.

The 2023 film called the Marvels is the latest film from the Marvel Cinematic Universe Compilation, which started way back in 2008 with the release of Iron Man. The Marvels, a 12A rated film, has Brie Larson and Samuel L. Jackson reprising their roles as Captain Marvel and Nick Fury and is the sequel to the film Captain Marvel, which was released back in 2019. Unfortunately, this film has struggled at the box office, as the cost to make the film was just under \$275 million dollars, yet it only made \$199 million dollars in cinemas.

The film has many flashes of visual humour with some very witty one-liners. The storyline for the film is that Carol Danvers/Captain Marvel, along with Monica Rambeau (played by Teyonah Parris) and Kamala Khan/Ms Marvel (played by Iman Vellani), end up with their powers interlinked, after Captain Marvel destroyed the intelligence that runs the Kree empire. They must then learn to work as a team to save various planets from being destroyed.

The reviews on the film have been mixed. Some people didn't think a lot of it, writing that the film did not represent what the comic books have portrayed. Others wrote that The Marvels is definitely worth the watch and enjoyed it for what it is.



## Oppenheimer 2023.

Oppenheimer is a 2023 film that has a star-studded cast and is due to be up for numerous awards, including Baftas and Oscars. Oppenheimer's rating is 15+, due to the subject matter and the provocativeness of some of the scenes. The film is set during the second world war and is about a man named J. Robert Oppenheimer, who finds himself being called 'The Father of the Atomic Bomb' after realising that nuclear fission can be weaponised. He was then recruited to a team that worked on an operation called 'The Manhattan Project'.

The film was made with \$100 million dollars and took a massive \$958.6 million home from cinemas worldwide.

Although, it was kept off the top spot last summer when it was released, by Barbie.

There are numerous stars in this film, including Cillian Murphy as J. Robert Oppenheimer himself. Other stars include Florence Pugh as Jean Tatlock, Emily Blunt as Oppenheimer's wife, Kitty, Matt Damon as Leslie Groves, Robert Downey Jr. as Lewis Strauss and other stars that have smaller roles, such as, Kenneth Branagh, Josh Harnett, Rami Malek and Casey Affleck. The general verdict on this film is that it was highly enjoyable, with many saying that it was a great scientific bio of Oppenheimer. However, a smaller portion of people said they felt it was a little long winded and confusing! Have you seen this so-called masterpiece yet? What were your thoughts?



Isobel Foulds

## Books in Review

There are many books that are worth the read, ranging from comedy to romance to horror. But, sometimes making the tricky decision on whether to read a book or not is impossible to make. So, if you are unsure on whether to read books like *The Hunger Games* series, *The Railway Children*, *A Little Princess* or *Diary of the Wimpy Kid* then look no further; these reviews should help you decide whether those books are for you.

### Dystopian Fiction:

Dystopian Fiction is an acquired taste in book terms, as people either love or hate it. By definition, it is a genre of fiction which portrays a future or near-future society, where life and social structures are in a state of decline or collapse. If this sounds appealing, then the book series below will be perfect for you...



### The Hunger Games Series by Suzanne Collins.

In Year 8, you will have probably read *The Hunger Games* in school. During this time, some students may have wanted to continue their metaphorical journey through the series. If you are one of these students but are still a bit uncertain on if you want to tackle the remainder of the series, then this review will definitely help you determine your ruling.



### The Hunger Games.

The Hunger Games tells the story of 16-year-old Katniss Everdeen. In the past, there was a war; the only way to settle this war was to send 1 male and 1 female from each district (there are 12 districts in total) to fight to the death, where one would then be crowned the Victor. The book was written in 2008.



Personally, I really liked this book. The narrative is great, as you get to feel how Katniss feels as she experiences the world around her. On the other hand, you can sometimes work out what's going to happen before it happens, which isn't always a bad thing, but if you want plot twists then it's not ideal.

Overall, I rate this book a 9/10.

### **The Hunger Games: Catching Fire.**

Catching Fire tells the story of what happened to Katniss after the first book. This year of the Hunger Games is called a Quarter Quell, which is the name given to every Hunger Games that marks 25 years since the last Quarter Quell. As it is the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary it is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Quell. This book was written in 2009.

This book is amazing and full of plot twists. Unlike the first book, you have what's coming for the majority of the book! Although, the book is much more dramatic and quite scary, so if you get spooked easily, I don't recommend reading this.

I also rate this a 9/10.

### **The Hunger Games: Mockingjay.**

This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> part to Katniss' story. The main storyline of this book is that the games have come to a standstill because the whole of Panem (the districts) are rebelling against the Capitol (the government). This book was written in 2010, and the big question is:

IS THIS THE END OF THE HUNGER GAMES?

And unfortunately, this is the last book of the original trilogy. Although it's an interesting book, it feels much more mature than the other books in the series and there are many more deaths, which some may see as unnecessary.

That leads me to rating this book an 8/10.

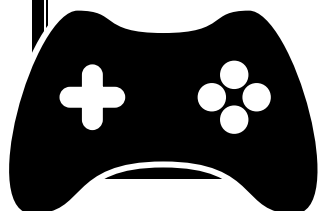
### **The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes.**

This book is the prequel to the original Hunger Games trilogy. You learn about the 10<sup>th</sup> Hunger Games and find out that the current president of the Capitol was once a mentor for the Hunger Games. The story focuses on what Coriolanus Snow's life was like before he was evil and what pushed him to be so.

This book is very enticing, as you learn more about President Snow, who has experienced a lot more than you think he has. However, the book is exceptionally long, with much more pages than the others and a much smaller font on them, so be prepared for a long read.

Once again, I rate this book a 9/10

Now, that concludes the Hunger Games series and my overview of them. You can get the books from the library.





## Classic 'Oldies'

There are many classic books, ranging from *The Great Gatsby* to *Pride and Prejudice* to *Little Women* to the ones I'll be reviewing today. If you want to read a classic but don't know which one is for you, then this section is meant for you.

### **The Railway Children by Edith Nesbit.**

The *Railway Children* tells the story of Roberta, Peter and Phylis. Their father is mysteriously taken away in the middle of the night. Following this news, they must move to the countryside. They fall in love with a majestic train station and even call a train The Great Green Dragon.

This book is particularly great. You enjoy reading about the children's journeys and the adventures they have and the writing is exceptionally good. On the other hand, I understand that this book isn't for everyone. It is quite a long book and had some challenging words within it.

Overall, I rate this a 9.5/10.

### **A Little Princess by Frances Hodgson Burnett.**

When young Sara is sent to a boarding school by her well-meaning, World War I-bound father, the imaginative girl makes the best of things by entertaining her friends with fanciful tales. After running afoul of the strict principal, Miss Minchin, Sara receives some heartbreaking news, and is forced to work in servitude. As she struggles to keep her spirits up, she makes some remarkable discoveries that may change her seemingly bleak fate.

This is an extremely fun book full of incredibly great writing. Sara's life goes from amazing to rubbish. My only critique is that it gets confusing at some points.

I rate this a 9/10.

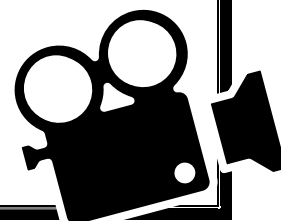
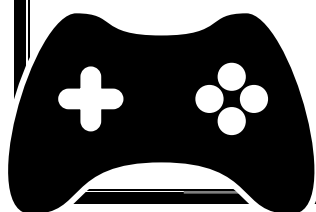
### **Comedy: Diary of a Wimpy Kid.**

Everyone loves an enjoyable book that gets them smiling and in a better mood than they were before reading. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* does exactly that. There are 18 books in the whole series. Here are the first few books in order...

- *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*
- *Diary of a Wimpy Kid- Rodrick Rules*
- *Diary of a Wimpy Kid- The Last Straw*
- *Diary of a Wimpy Kid- Dog Days*
- *Diary of a Wimpy Kid- Ugly Truth*
- *Diary of a Wimpy Kid- Cabin Fever*

Don't forget to see the next edition for more reviews!

Hollie Longley-Wilford



# Video Games in Review

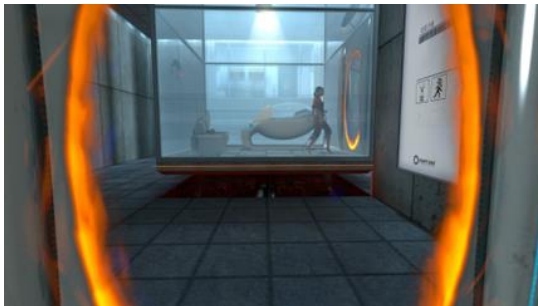
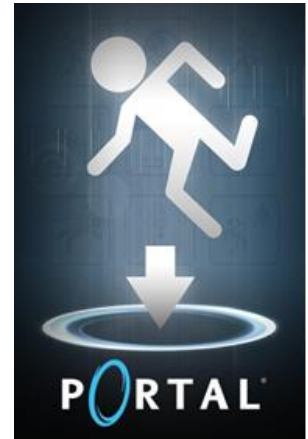
## PORTAL®

entertainment medium.

Released by Valve Software in 2008, *Portal* is a perfect blend of environmental storytelling, a well-established atmosphere and genius game mechanics, demonstrating what video games can provide as an

The game begins in a sterile, disturbing testing facility. You are greeted by an uncanny, robotic voice, which unsettlingly glitches. A portal opens in front of you and then you see yourself walk through it. This is a brilliant way to introduce the game's atmosphere and mechanics, where you use two interconnected portals to solve head-scratching puzzles.

As you continue throughout the hauntingly empty test chambers, placing cubes on buttons and cleverly maneuvering around using the portals, you eventually acquire the portal gun, which allows you to place your own portals. From here, the puzzles blossom into complex, thought-provoking but still possible, tests of wit.



The dialogue, from that monotone, seemingly prerecorded voice also gets more suspicious and terrifying, as you wonder about their true nature and intentions. The game also has a unique, and slightly morbid sense of humor, which both entertains and frightens you.

The game continues, getting more puzzling and dangerous, and as you continue, you learn more about the mysterious facility and who runs it. The game is a masterpiece of incredible visuals and brain-bending puzzles that really make you *Think with Portals*.

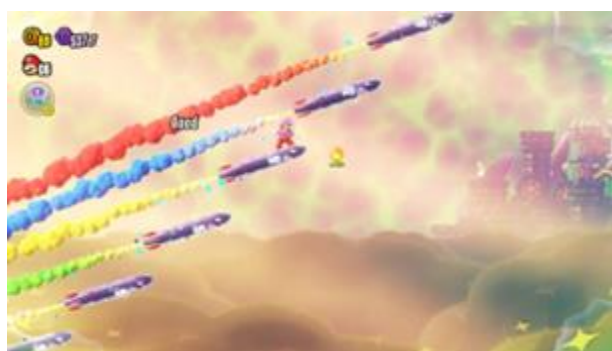
*Portal* is available for Xbox One / Series, Nintendo Switch and PC, but is unfortunately not available on any recent PlayStation consoles.



## SUPER MARIO BROS. WONDER

*Super Mario Bros Wonder* is the first original 2D *Super Mario* platformer in over 10 years. Many critics and players agreed that the *New Super Mario Bros* series was getting stale, and so when Nintendo finally released a new 2D platformer, they had to get creative.

The main gimmick of *Super Mario Bros Wonder* is the titular Wonders. In every main level of the game, a Wonder Flower is hidden. If you find the Flower, a mind-boggling and psychedelic series of events will take place. This can include Mario and friends transforming, the level changing, an already existing enemy/prop being amplified or transformed and so much more. This helps to make *Wonder* stand apart from other games in the series and allows the game designers to raise the limits of a traditional level and flex their creative muscles.



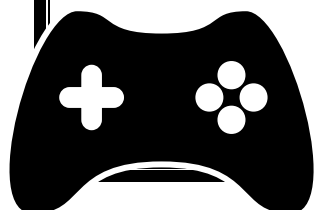
This system is great, as it incentivizes exploring the level and gives each stage its own identity. However, some Wonders are reused multiple times, which I think degrades their uniqueness.



Many other factors of a traditional Mario game were also spruced up and many systems were introduced. The visual style of *Super Mario Bros Wonder* is significantly different to other games, and the new animations for the characters and enemies help to build masses of charm and personality. A new badge system was introduced as well. Badges can be found throughout the world, which can give you new, unique abilities or bonuses, like a double jump or a parachute hat. Each world also has its own story and structure, with you passing challenges, saving characters or simply defeating a boss to complete it.



Despite all those improvements, I have some criticisms. Bosses are severely lackluster in *Wonder*, as most bosses are either the same as before, with slightly different attacks or arenas, or a conveyor belt of dangers, meaning the player must run to the end and hit a switch. Also, despite the originality of *Wonder's* art style, I wish that Nintendo deviated from the standard level archetypes more significantly, as most levels have a similar theme to previous games.

Overall, *Super Mario Bros Wonder* is an excellent return to 2D Mario platforming, with some slight stumbles in some areas. *Super Mario Bros Wonder* is exclusively available on Nintendo Switch.





An upgraded, multiplatform version of *Tetris Effect* (2018), *Tetris Effect Connected*, is one of the most unique versions of Tetris you can play. The game is a cross between classic Tetris puzzle gameplay and an immersive, relaxing rhythm game. The game features 3 main modes: *Journey*, *Effects* and *Multiplayer*.



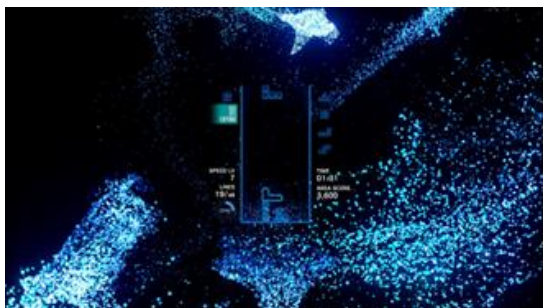
*Journey Mode* is the game's campaign of sorts. It features 27 unique stages, split into 7 areas. Each stage has a unique song and environment, which reacts to your gameplay. These songs and environments are the highlights of the game, and it's always exciting to see what comes next. Once you have cleared a certain number of lines in a stage, you are moved on to the next.

This mode is also where you will be first introduced to this game's unique spin on the Tetris formula. As you clear lines, a ZONE meter will fill up. When complete, this can be activated to pause time and you can place blocks without the threat of a game over. The effect ends when you reach the top of the grid, or the ZONE meter runs out. I love this mechanic, as it adds greater challenges for skilled players, and leads to satisfying gameplay. However, I find it strange that it doesn't add to the total lines completed in a stage, and only adds to the score.

The two other modes have less to say but are still good in their own ways. The *Effects* modes are classic modes, such as Marathon, but with upgraded graphics and the ability to pick any stage you want for them. Overall, this is the 'free play' of the game. Finally, there is *Multiplayer* mode, new to *Connected*. You can play locally and online, with or against friends and other players.

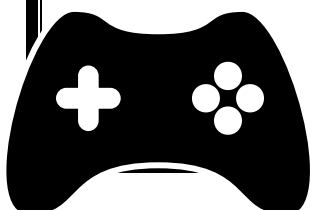


*Tetris Effect: Connected* is a fun, relaxing and beautiful game, with many stunning environments and songs. The ways gameplay melds seamlessly into these elements, as well as the game's polish and fun, make it a brilliant game for both Tetris veterans and newcomers, as it is exactly what you don't expect from Tetris. However, for some it may be too radical of a departure from the classic formula, and they won't enjoy it as much.



The game is available on all major platforms (Xbox One/Series, PlayStation 4/5, Nintendo Switch and PC), as well as on VR platforms, such as the Meta Quest Store and PlayStation VR and PlayStation VR 2.

Sami Frikha



# The History of the Universal Title

During the WWE PPV Battleground, the WWE champion, Dean Ambrose from Smackdown, was set to fight Roman Reigns and Seth Rollins, both from Raw, in a triple threat match, to determine which brand would keep the prestigious WWE Title. After a long match, Dean Ambrose pinned Roman Reigns to keep the Title on Smackdown, which therefore left Raw without it. The Universal Title was introduced in the July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016, episode of Raw. Stephanie McMahon and the general manager, Mick Foley, created the Title as the main world title for Raw.



After this, a tournament was set to decide the inaugural universal champion. The final was set to happen at SummerSlam 2016, between Seth Rollins and "The Demon" Finn Balor. During the match, Seth was supposed to hit a buckle bomb onto the barricade on the outside of the ring. However, due to a botched landing, Finn dislocated his shoulder multiple times during the match. Although Balor pinned Rollins to become the first Universal champion, he had to relinquish the title because of the injury on the next episode of Raw, only 22 hours after he had won.

Another tournament was then set up to declare the new Universal Title owner, and the result was a fatal 4-way Elimination match between, Kevin Owens, Seth Rollins, Roman Reigns and Big Cass, which was set to be on the August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016, episode of Raw. In shocking fashion, Triple H hit Seth Rollins with a Pedigree and cost him the Title when he was pinned by the winner, Kevin Owens, who became the second universal champion ever. His title reign lasted 188 days, before he eventually lost it to Goldberg at Fastlane 2016, due to a distraction by Chris Jericho, after Kevin Owens had turned heel and attacked him. Goldberg held the Title for 28 days, right up until WrestleMania 33, where he lost it to "The Beast" Brock Lesnar. Up until this point, Brock had the longest reign with the belt, with a title reign of 503 days, before he lost to the 'Big Dog', Roman Reigns, at SummerSlam 2018. Unfortunately, Roman then announced that his Leukaemia was back, meaning he couldn't compete any longer and had to relinquish the title on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October 2018 Episode of Raw.

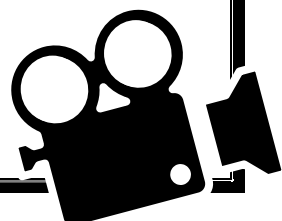
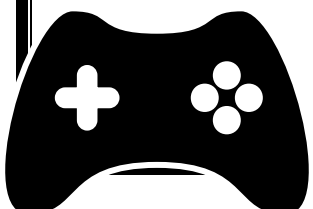
Without a champion, another tournament had to be set to crown a new one. The final was between Brock Lesnar and Brawn Strowman, at Crown Jewel 2018 in Saudi Arabia. In controversial fashion, Brock Lesnar squashed 'The Monster Among Men', Brawn Strowman, and became the first two-time Universal Champion. After this, Seth Rollins won the Royal Rumble and decided to challenge Brock Lesnar at WrestleMania 35 for the Universal title. Rollins beat Lesnar and became the new Universal Champion.

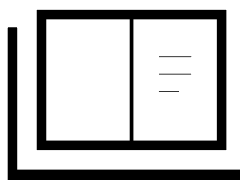
However, during this, Brock won 'Money in the Bank', which meant he could challenge for any title he wanted, whenever he wanted. Seth held the Universal Title until Extreme Rules 2019, meaning his reign lasted for 98 days. And after a well-fought match by Rollins, Brock cashed in to become the only three-time Universal Champion. Seth then got the belt back and kept it until the Crown Jewel 2019, where he lost it to 'The fiend', Bray Wyatt. This happened after a critically acclaimed match at Hell in a Cell in 2019 ended in a no contest, after Seth Rollins attacked The Fiend 'too violently', meaning the match was stopped. Wyatt held the belt for 119 days, before he would lose at Super Showdown to Goldberg. This choice came from seemingly nowhere, as people believed he would hold it up until WrestleMania, where a match between the Fiend and Brawm Strowman would occur. Alternatively, they ended up putting Goldberg against Brawn at WrestleMania 36, who had been attempting to go after the title since 2018. He finally won and became Universal Champion. His title reign lasted 151 days. Towards the end of his reign, he feuded with the Fiend, who people wanted him to face at WrestleMania 35. The Fiend regained the gold after beating Brawn Strowman in a 'Falls Count Anywhere' match.

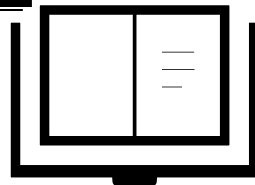
After this match, Roman Reigns made his return by attacking both Strowman and the Fiend. Roman would regain the Universal championship after beating both men at Payback 2020. Roman Reigns has now kept this title for over 1270 days. Over this time, he has defended the title 4 times at WrestleMania, and 28 times at different WWE events. He has done this against Brock Lesnar, Edge, Daniel Bryan and Cody Rhodes. His title reign is the longest of the modern title reigns, and the 4<sup>th</sup> longest in history, behind Hulk Hogan and both of Bruno Sammartino's championship reigns.



Oliver Worthington-Clarke



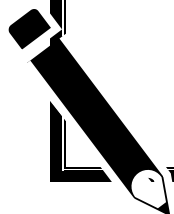


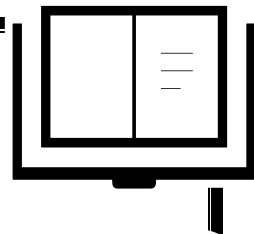
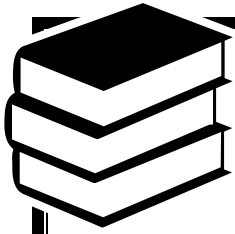


# Creative Writing

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# Rustheart

## Episode Two

When Scorch awoke, his body ached, his chest throbbed, and when he tried to sit up, he realized he couldn't move. His whole body was seemingly paralyzed and yet it ached in its entirety. Struggling, he manages to move his neck to inspect the room around him. He found himself on top of a metal table; the room he lay in was dingy, with flickering dim lights hanging above him. Craning his neck, he looked down at his own body, which was laden with apparent tubes and other strange contraptions, such as what looked to be a clear bag of some painkiller being fed into his arm. Though, the most apparent thing he could see was the strange metallic disfunction that looked to be fused to his chest. The strange amalgamation that jutted with wires and strange pieces of equipment was surrounded by curving paths and lines of scar tissue, adorned with staples and stitches. Scorch turned his head as a calm voice came from one side of the room.

"You're awake."

The owner of the voice stepped into the light. It was a man, clad in hazmat gear, with a dark visor shielding his face.

"Who are you?" Scorch croaked, his voice sounded surprisingly weak and dry – he licked his lips and waited for the stranger to reply.

"You can call me Aegis." the man spoke, his voice slightly clipped and muffled through his darkened visor.

Scorch nodded slightly and once again attempted to sit up, managing to prop himself up on his elbows. A dull pain throbbed in his chest, so he once again looked down at the strange device fused to his skin.

"What is this?" he asked, looking back up at Aegis, awaiting a clear up on what the strange concoction he was looking at was.

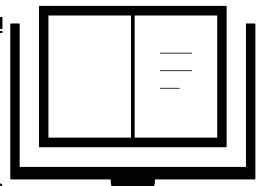
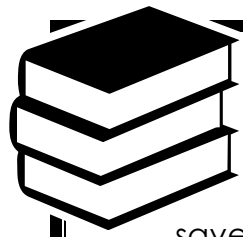
Aegis paused and came forward to examine the device, running gloved fingers over its surface.

"It's quite literally a lifeline," he paused, "it's called a cardiac shield, my own invention. Without it, the shrapnel from that slugthrower you were shot with would have entered your heart by now and you'd be very much dead."

Scorch examined himself as he took in Aegis's answer. "So what? It's a magnet?" he questioned.

"Essentially, yes. It keeps the metal from piercing your heart or any major vessels and arteries." He continued. "You were foolish to have entered Rustlord territory in the first place; you're lucky I found you when I did."





Scorch's eyebrows furrowed and he looked over at Aegis. "Why did you save me? Why not leave me to die...?"

Aegis spoke solemnly, "because although you may think you are, you aren't alone out here. The Rustlords oppress us all... they have killed many of my people." He paused. "Hundreds of my friends and allies, the ones I loved, have been slaughtered like animals by those villains." His voice was cold and full of contempt for the Rustlords that had taken away the people he knew as family. "And besides, you may be of use to me."

"How so?"

Aegis cocked his head and said, "You have skills, yes?"

"I do..."

"And what skills do you have?"

Scorch finally managed to sit up on the metal table, wiring and tubing trailing from his chest and other points of his body.

"I fix things." He shrugged. "My skills are limited, but I know how to take stuff apart and put it back together again."

Aegis nodded and offered Scorch a helping hand. Scorch took it and levered himself to his feet, walking a few steps unsteadily before stopping and attempting to stand straight.

Scorch could hear the pleantry now present in Aegis's voice. "All skills have some sort of use; I'm sure you'll find your place in this fight."

Aegis approached Scorch and began to remove the tubing and wiring from the various points on his chest and torso. Scorch barely reacted as he removed the final wire and straightened up again.

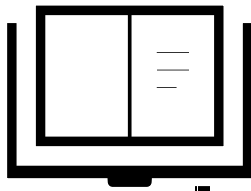
"Want me to show you around?"

Scorch nodded and Aegis guided him to the doorway, which took them into a long corridor with yellowy-tinged fluorescent lights hung above them.

"This is my home." Aegis said as they went further into the facility. "It has been the home of many others, but now it is just me and you."

Scorch looked around the now open area they had entered. A glass dome loomed over them, which seemed to be covered with some sort of tarpaulin that was likely keeping out the heat and dust from outside. There were empty sleeping bags on the floor, which was slightly depressing, but Scorch decided to ignore this and focus on the other things around him. There were worn blueprints stuck to the walls and drawings sprayed on the stone floor, which took the form of calculations and diagrams of what appeared to be entire cities filled with weapons and defences.





"What is this?" Scorch enquired, turning to Aegis for a reply.

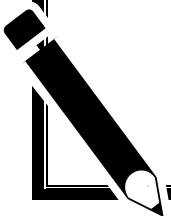
"That, my friend, is the future. The self-sustaining apocalyptic paradise of your dreams and you... are going to help me build it."

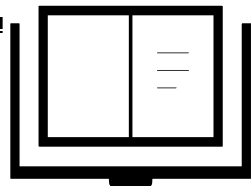
Scorch grinned.

"But first we are going to need to sort out a few minor problems." Aegis gestured to the emptiness around them. "We are going to need to not only take down the blood lusting dictators that call themselves 'Rustlords', but also perhaps recruit some people to help push our cause." He clasped his hands together as if to emphasise his point. "Because as much as I would like to, we cannot do this alone."

Nodding, Scorch crouched down by one of the sleeping bags, running his hand over its worn, quilted surface. "I guess we should start finding people to fill these beds then..."

Myles Mulholland





# To Achieve Perfection

## Episode Two

He led us into a backstage dressing room, labelled with an 'F' on the door. I noticed the wolf-familiar following us. When we entered the room, the assistant left, and I saw her, facing away from me. The villain of my childhood. Freya Hope.

The wolf, who had been beside us, ran up to her, nuzzling his head into her hands. "Hello, Thorn!" Freya exclaimed before turning around, "hey, Sparrow." She greeted the man next to me as she approached us, noticing my dad, "Bennett."

"Freya."

I noticed her eyeing the scar on my dad's face, "so, how have you been?"

"I've been doing well. And you?"

"I'm in the showbiz now. It's a lot, but it suits my strength. They all love to see the magic. Plus, everyone gets invested in the rivalry."

"Of course. My daughter was a fan of your show when she was younger." My father informed her, making Freya look down at me. My heart was in my throat. I was a little starstruck to be honest.

"H-hi," I stuttered. "I'm Skylar."

"Nice name. So...you were a fan of mine?"

"Well..."

"Ah, don't worry about it. I know I play the villain. But I'll sign something for you if you want." I handed her my backpack and she began to sign it. "It's only fair. You are my niece."

"You're dad's sister too?"

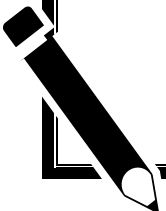
"Mhm." She turned back around, grabbed a bobble, and tied her hair up into a high ponytail. "Head into the usual seats. You'll see me in a bit."

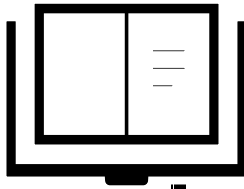
After a short walk, we arrived onto a set of front-row seats, certainly luxurious, covered in red velvet and built of what seemed like bronze. I sat there expectantly, but Lucinda seemed numb to the excitement. "Do you do this often?"

"Almost every week."

I heard a loud, sonorous trumpet, and Freya emerged onto the arena at one end, with Thorn by her side. At the other end, I saw Ella, who bore the same pink hair she had during my childhood. She seemed to have barely aged. I wonder if this was some effect of her magic...it was plausible. I noticed Ella's familiar as well, a cat with the same bright pink colour fur as her hair, wrapping her fluffy tail around Ella's legs as they both walked. After about ten seconds of walking, the two women and their familiars stopped walking.

Then another trumpet sounded, and they began to sprint towards each other, with Ella swerving to the left to avoid Freya's attack. Plunging her hand into the ground, Freya pulled out a large claymore, forged of pure magical energy...or was that...mysticalum? It was possible. Ella thrust her right arm in front of her, and a shield materialised on it, protecting her from the sword's onslaught. She parried an attack, knocking Freya backwards.





Carrying the tremendous weight of her sword, Freya almost fell to the floor, but she managed to stumble and save her footing.

Ella looked down at Freya, leering at her, with a ball of energy forming in her hands. But Freya leapt up, and darted away, so that the ball of pure energy simply flew into the audience, who were shielded by a wall of thick, bulletproof glass. She then stabbed her claymore's tip into the ground, creating a fiery crack in the floor, spreading towards Ella. As it reached her, Ella screamed out in pain, and the fire seemed to calm somewhat. However, it singed part of Ella's dress to her dismay. Her cat-familiar hissed at Freya in anger, who continued to circle Ella, claymore in both hands.

Then, Freya pounced. Tracing her claymore along the floor and clasping it with her right hand, she and her wolf ran towards Ella. She lifted it with her left hand and slammed the sword down upon Ella, who blocked most of the blow with her energy shield. The tip of the claymore penetrated the shield, reaching Ella's torso and slashing a gash in Ella's chest. Blood poured from the wound, and Ella grasped it with her hand. Her cat hissed at her side, furious with her attacker. I heard a collective gasp from the audience. This was a lot of blood...and it was spreading... The crimson covered her white shirt, reddening it with danger. Most of the audience had seen blood before in these shows, but rarely this much. Were they that desperate for attention? I looked down at Lucinda, who seemed completely unfazed, and Sparrow, who looked nervous. When he noticed me looking at him, he shook his head, and gazed off into nowhere.

Despite the wounding, the fight continued. Ella was clearly beginning to tire, but Freya could keep fighting for another few hours, at least. At last, Ella fell to the floor. I heard Freya's voice echoing across the audience as she plunged her claymore into the ground and loomed over Ella. "Do you surrender?" Freya asked.

I could hear the cracking in Ella's voice, "yes."

The crowd were wild with boos and cries.

We were leaving the arena when I heard a low voice from behind us.

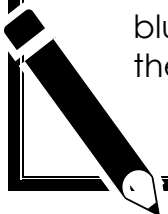
"Hey," Freya appeared behind us with a smirk on her face, "what did you think of that, Sky?"

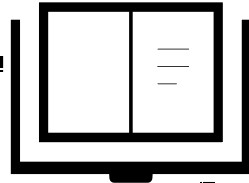
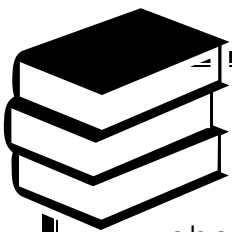
"That was...terrifying. I'd watched the show before, but it was so much scarier in person--"

"I'm sure it seems like that. Come with me." Freya led me back towards the arena, with my dad following behind me.

Once again, we were backstage, near the dressing rooms. But we went past Freya's room, and into another one, labelled "E". Freya pushed the door forth, and I saw Ella sitting there, brushing her hair. She noticed our presences after a couple of seconds, and she turned around, smiled, and waved at us. Well, she smiled at Freya. Then her face fell as she saw me and my dad. She stood up and walked towards us. To my shock, she had no signs of the injuries from earlier.

Her outfit had changed, mind you. She had changed from a white blouse and blue skirt into a long, velvety green dress. Her pink hair was tied into a bun. I was the first one to speak. "You're...okay."





"Freya," Ella reprimanded her, "you didn't tell the child? She was worried about me, for heaven's sake!" Freya started to explain. "It's all an act. Well, the magic is real, but everything is carefully planned and choreographed and, well, faked. Ella's blood was an illusion. My sword is hardly sharp in reality...that's an illusion too. We...can do magic, but we aren't rivals. We're...colleagues. This whole thing was my idea, mind you," Ella continued. "I'm a natural born performer, I suppose. Nobody has ever suspected that this is an act." She looked so smug and proud of herself.

"So," I began, "you two don't hate each other?" I asked.

"Not at all! In fact, she's my first cousin. Magic runs in the family, after all."

Freya beckoned us both to leave. When we were in the hallway, she began to explain the two performer's past in more depth.

"Ella is...three years older than me...And yet, I was the one whose magic abilities appeared first throughout the whole generation. Because of this, I suppose she has been jealous of me since we were children. She has...always thirsted for power. Years ago, she made an offer to me; beginning this...show. I wonder, is this how she expresses her envy...?"

"By using you," my dad bluntly pointed out, seemingly appearing out of thin air next to me.

Freya didn't speak. Then she continued, ignoring what was said. "I reassure you, my magic is still very strong, even if what you have seen today is fake. It always has been. I have been working, since I was a child, to refine my strength."

We returned to the car, in an aura of awkward silence. I looked at my father, who was grasping the scar on his face. Lucinda interrupted the emptiness.

"Have you bought me a birthday gift yet, Skylar?" My eyes widened.

"When is your birthday?"

"Tomorrow," she frowned, disappointed. "Have you bought me something?" I didn't dare respond.

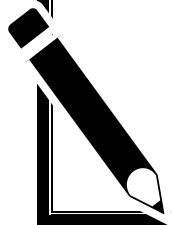
The next morning, I woke up alone, and quite late. Walking downstairs, I noticed the hallway covered in bunting, and six large balloons floating in the living room. So, she was telling the truth... I'm glad I picked her up a present on the way home last night.

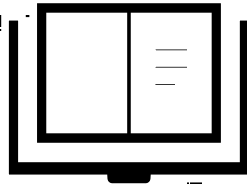
"Good morning, Skylar!" Sparrow grinned. Lucinda was standing next to him, looking somewhat annoyed. I noticed a huge "12" badge on her chest, almost so large that it was hard for her to move her head. With a smile on my face, I handed Lucinda her birthday gift, which she opened apprehensively. Lucinda scowled as she looked at the picture. It was her, surrounded by gorgeous pink magic, and it was my own handiwork.

"Err...thanks."

The first person to walk in was Freya, which didn't surprise me, I guess. Then there was a man, with silvery hair and a leathery, brown eyepatch. I also noticed a small mole just above his mouth.

"Who's he?" I whispered to Sparrow.





"That's your grandfather." He walked over to talk with Freya, who was laughing at whatever my grandfather was saying. Then Ella entered, with a man. He was about her age, and he had a sweet smile, brown skin and black hair. There were three boys behind them, their sons, I presume. Two about the same age, maybe a year or so older than me, but the third was maybe six? Ella, upon seeing me, approached me.

"This is my husband, Ezra," she introduced. He shook my hand and beamed.

"And here are my boys. The twins are Louis and Loki. And my youngest is Fabian." Louis and Loki were clearly identical twins; they had the same face, the same curly hair, the same dark brown eyes; and yet there was something different about how they carried themselves and how they smiled at me. Louis' smile was one of honesty, but Loki's was one of mischief. Loki was the first one to approach me.

"Skylar. My name is Loki!" He held out his hand, and on it was a single orb, which vanished as I reached out to touch it. He laughed, "My specialty is in illusion magic. And yours?" I felt my face grow warm with embarrassment. "Oh." His familiar was by his side, a golden-brown snake circling his leg.

"What's the snake's name?"

"This is Guido," Loki smiled, with his familiar sliding up his body and onto his arm, "informally known as Danger Noodle."

My grandfather called the room's attention, with Lucinda by his side. "As it is Lucinda's twelfth birthday, it is our duty, as her family, to bless her with a familiar of her own. The, erm, humans shall enter the study, and in there, Lucinda shall decide on a familiar mould to make her own." All of us entered the study, and there was a large collection of, as my grandfather had said, moulds of animals. A unicorn, a dog, a cat, a hummingbird...so many fascinating moulds. There was also a pot of a strange, midnight blue liquid...mysticalum.

"Are you sure you guys aren't witches?" I whispered to Sparrow.

"Positive," he answered in an equally quiet voice.

Lucinda dug through the moulds, picking each one up and examining them, before finally deciding on one. She took the pot of liquid and carefully poured some of it into the mould. She took it in both hands, looking awfully concentrated, and then, after a minute or so, put the mould down onto the floor. She then opened it up, letting her familiar fly out in victory.

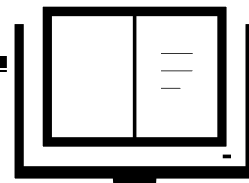
A beautiful twilight crow, with gorgeous stars adorning its plumage flew up and settled upon her shoulder, accepting her as her mistress. Full of pride, Lucinda petted the crow's beak and the crow cooed in delight. It occurred to me that despite this joyous place, this may have been the first time I had seen Lucinda smile. She looked so proud of her creation, grinning and laughing, as full of as much glee as a child half her age.

Grandfather was the first one to speak. "Ah! A bird. Just like your father. And what will you call this sweet animal?"

The bird squawked, and I suppose Lucinda must have understood what she was saying, so she announced, "Mallory!"

Lucinda led the party away from the study, until it was only my dad





and I remaining in the room. He seemed hesitant to leave. I stood just before the doorway, beckoning him. "Dad?" I asked. "You coming?" "Yeah. Just...give me a minute." I did as he asked and joined the rest of the family in the living room. I don't suppose I thought much of the crash I heard next.

A couple of minutes later, we were all standing, laughing in the living room. My dad had joined us, and he was talking to my mum. I was talking to Louis and Loki. Louis had introduced himself to me. Unlike his brother, he specialised in telepathy magic, and he had told me this with his mind...it was fascinating to me. He also introduced his familiar, a lavender rooster named Hubert, who appeared to have mistaken my finger for food. Other than that, though, they both seemed rather friendly, and I was beginning to imagine my own familiar, if I ever had one.

I liked to imagine I would have some sort of hound, like my grandfather, who had introduced me to his dog-familiar, Fido. Fido was so friendly! Or maybe I would have a cat, like Ella did. Lucinda seemed to love her crow...I was amid thought, when I glanced over to the study door, and noticed some murky, dark, blue...goop? Whatever it was, it seemed to be seeping into the living room, and it seemed to have a mind of its own.

"Do you guys know what that is?" I asked, turning to the twins. Loki shook his head, but Louis nodded. *I've read about this. It's corrupt mysticalum, I think. Well, I can't be sure, but it would make sense. When mysticalum for forming familiars is spilled, then it begins to gain a mind of its own.*

*Is that bad?* I responded.

*Very. mysticalum is, for this purpose, enchanted to bind to a host. If it cannot find a host, then it will turn berserk, blinded by its failure to find a master. It feels forgotten, betrayed, a whole mix of terrible emotions...I feel quite bad for it, actually. But this will convince it to act ruthlessly towards whoever it considers guilty for its abandonment...say, Lucinda's familiar is fairly small, isn't it? There will have been quite a lot of mysticalum left over.*

*Translate that to non-nerd,* Loki thought, interrupting Louis.

*We're screwed.*

Freya was the next one to notice the corrupt mysticalum. She acknowledged it silently and began staring at it intently when it began sliding towards her. Even so, her expression did not falter, and she looked unafraid. She stood up and began walking out of the door. Everyone seemed so distracted, and they didn't even notice her leaving the house, with the corrupt mysticalum following her. I noticed her, though. And, despite the plain danger, I followed her.

"Skylar! What the heck are you doing out here?!"

"Helping you!"

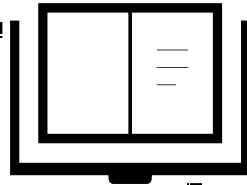
"Are you kidding? This is my job!"

"What is?!"

"Beating things up! Literally!" She had her sword drawn and she held it with both hands at her side. "Get back in the house! You don't know how dangerous this thing is!"

Sure enough, the mysticalum had taken a form twice her height, but she still held her claymore to it like it was a small threat. It had formed a mouth, eyes,





and small, stumpy hands, all of which loomed over her like a midnight-blue, gooey titan. Freya began to step backwards, still clutching her claymore boldly.

"LEAVE!"

Then, the monster pounced. Freya plunged her sword through its core, pulled it out, then, with one fell swoop, cut it in half, sending mystical goop splattering everywhere. "You want to help?" Freya asked me.

"Yes."

"Clean this up. Mysticalum is expensive, and we can reuse some of this. It's still a shameful waste though. Some of this will be unusable." She handed me a broom, which she seemed to have pulled out of thin air. She must have noticed my confusion, "Magic. Illusion magic can, when strong enough, create real objects. Now, clean this up."

The rest of the family must have heard the commotion outside, because, after a couple of minutes, everyone was staring at us. When she saw him, Freya made a beeline for my dad.

"What were you thinking, Bennett?"

"What do you mean?"

"You knocked over the mysticalum! I know you did!"

"So what if I did? It's nothing compared to how you and father have treated me!"

"You- you're lucky I don't give you another scar!"

"Dad," I mumbled. "Is it true?" He didn't speak. He nodded. Freya kept shouting.

"Your little jealousy-driven show could've gotten us all killed!"

"Skylar! Camilla! Get in the car. We're leaving." My father beckoned my mother and I.

"But dad-" I protested, making him pause, "I want to stay here, even if you don't." He considered it for a second. Then, he turned to Sparrow in silent questioning.

"I'll take care of her," Sparrow reassured.

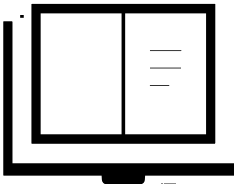
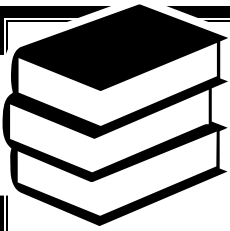
"Stay safe, Skylar. Call me every day...I'm trusting Sparrow. But I can't stay here. Are you sure you want to do this?" he asked me.

"Absolutely." I nodded.

It was a lot quieter in my bedroom now. Since my parents had left, I could stay in the spare bedroom, rather than Lucinda's. My new room had a double bed, with green, flowery wallpaper. There was a light on the ceiling, under a large, white lightshade. I smiled and laid down on the bed. Even if this was all very new, I was looking forward to summer.

Maisie Funnell





## Allison or Tara?

A fresh start. A new life. A chance to finally change myself for the better. I was hardly virtuous the first time, so a new city with a new name seemed like the best conditions for my second attempt. Plus, I thought Tara, the poised brunette from New York, suited me far better than Allison, the 'ditsy' blonde from London. I just had to master the American accent and then he would never find me. Or so I thought.

That was until I felt something being slipped into the back pocket of my jeans whilst on the way to my new, yet already tedious job at a local diner. At first I thought I'd imagined it. Why would anyone feel the need to slip something into my back pocket? But then, once my paranoia got the better of me, I reached into the pocket and felt the small sting of a papercut on my index finger. Looking back now that should've been a warning sign that something bad was about to happen, something terrifying, but at that point, I was still confident that I had gotten away. So, I dug out the note and slowly unfolded it.

*Whether you're Allison or Tara,  
you will never escape me.*

My jaw dropped, along with my heart, as I immediately whipped my head around and began searching for his signature red cap in the crowds behind me. It was quite a pretentious identifier, but nevertheless, it made him deftly distinguishable. I mean, who wears a cap in December? Although, it was always obvious to me that he only wore it to seem cool.

He was wandering away from me, which was slightly comforting. Or at least it would've been if he didn't lock eyes with me two seconds later with the same, patronizing yet emotive look on his face. It both scared and soothed me, just like he did.

I began to walk backwards when I saw that his daunting physique looked as if it was coming towards me. I wasn't too sure, since I could only see down to his shoulders, but I thought it was best to be on the safe side. I knew what he was capable of.

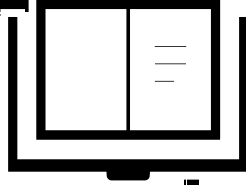
So, after bumping into a woman and making her sigh loudly into my ear, I began to run as fast I could in the opposite direction to him. I heard someone's footsteps behind me and was almost irritated when I knew who's they were. Knowing someone so well that you can even remember what their feet sound like on pavement was a blessing and a curse. Perhaps if I didn't know what they sounded like, I wouldn't have been as uneasy. Then, just maybe, I would've gotten away unscathed.

But instead, as I turned my fifth corner, I felt his effortlessly detectable hand grab onto the collar of my shirt. I pulled on the front of it to make sure I could still breathe as he pushed me into the closest alleyway.

"Huh," he laughed with his eyebrows raised as my heart began to race, "Ali in an alley." He added, making me cringe internally and scoff externally.

"Really, that's the line you want to start with?" I asked, making him visibly vexed, but I didn't care. He was angry when I got away the first time, it's only right that he's angry the second time too.





"Did you really think you could get away from me that easily, Allison?" He asked, making me roll my eyes. Like moving from London to New York was easy?

"Evidently, yes," I replied, trying to get him more riled up. I knew he could never think straight when other people made him feel small. And it wasn't very hard to, he wasn't exactly intelligent. He wasn't an idiot, I mean, he had me, but he was in no way feasibly bright.

"Well, where do you think you'll go this time?" he asked, his breath quickening with fury. It was as if he thought if he exhaled hard enough, he could blow us all the way back to England.

I stayed silent in the hopes that he would move closer to me, giving me an opportunity to do a hit and run, minus the car.

"Ignoring me now, are we, Allison?" he asked, stepping a foot closer to me, making me beam with glee, on the inside, obviously. "Or should I say Tara?" he asked, stepping even closer to me in order to tower over me. I think maybe he thought his height of 5 foot 9 inches was intimidating. Although, I think he realised I wasn't scared, as he tried to make up for his lack of harrowing height by grabbing a hold of my face. "Hey, I asked you a question. Allison or Tara?"

This was my chance.

I grabbed my keys from the left pocket of my jacket and then punched him in the stomach with the hand that wasn't holding them.

He stepped back in agony, giving me a small window of opportunity to run free, but I just couldn't. Instead, I stuck my keys into his neck and twisted, watching as his eyes pooled with tears.

"Allison, pumpkin, what are you doing?" he asked, looking up at me, his eyes begging for mercy. *Who was towering over who now?*

"Don't you ever call me that again." I spat, attempting to run away, but he grabbed onto my ankle. He was now on the floor, hanging onto my anklet for dear life. To put it bluntly, the flight option in fight or flight had left, just like I should have. So, I turned around, kicked him in the nose and waited for him to retaliate.

But he didn't.

I furrowed my eyebrows and lightly kicked the non-stabbed side of his neck. He didn't move. I bent over to be closer to his ear and said something that I actually meant, embarrassingly enough.

"Sorry, dad."

Lottie Clifton





## Puzzles

# Classic Videogames

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

The Legend of Zelda  
Princess Peach  
Cloud Strife  
Dr Eggman  
Paperboy  
Megaman  
Galaga  
Yoshi  
Inky

Sonic the Hedgehog  
Final Fantasy  
Mrs Pacman  
Centipede  
Asteroid  
Blinky  
Pacman  
Kirby  
Link

Crash Bandicoot  
Mortal Kombat  
Donkey Kong  
Scorpion  
Pitfall  
Tetris  
Coily  
Luigi  
Pong

Princess Zelda  
Streetfighter  
Proto Man  
Sub-Zero  
Frogger  
Q bert  
Pinky  
Mario

