

VOICES

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OF YOUTH

Voices of Youth Media Club

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MESSAGE TO READER

Dear Readers,

My name is Hafsa Aatiq. I am an educator, life coach, and community leader with over two decades of experience working with youth. I currently serve as President of Réseau Femmes Colombie-Britannique, a provincial nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering Francophone women and girls, and as a national board member of the Canadian Council of Muslim Women.



Throughout my career, I have had the privilege of mentoring students, young leaders, and aspiring professionals as they pursue ambitious goals and strive to make a meaningful impact in their communities.

As I read through the previous issues of Voices of Youth Magazine, I am inspired by the talent, curiosity, and determination reflected in its pages. I see young people who are not content with simply learning about the world—they are eager to understand it, contribute to it, and improve it.

Many of you are working hard to earn top grades, develop leadership skills, compete in challenging programs, and prepare for future opportunities. These pursuits require dedication, discipline, and perseverance. Yet I would like to offer you one important perspective:

Your greatest competition is not the other students. It is the person you were yesterday.

The most successful individuals are not necessarily those who focus on outperforming others. They are the ones who commit themselves to continuous growth. They read one more book, ask one more question, practice one more skill, and learn one more lesson from failure. They understand that excellence is not a destination—it is a habit.

As you move forward, challenge yourself to stay curious, embrace difficult opportunities, and pursue improvement with consistency and purpose. Dream boldly, work diligently, and never underestimate what small daily efforts can become over time.

“The future does not belong to the most talented. It belongs to those who remain teachable, adaptable, and committed to becoming better every day.” I look forward to seeing the remarkable things your generation will accomplish.

Hafsa Aatiq
Educator, Life Coach, Youth Mentor, and Community Leader

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VYM LENS

The Wind of World Cup

By Sophia Wang G7 (Vancouver, Canada)



The sea breeze in Vancouver in June suddenly has a different taste. It was no longer just the salty and wet Pacific water mixed with the scent of pine trees, but the sound of whistles, drums, cheers in dozens of languages, and even the smell of toast and beer, surging from the direction of the BC Place Gymnasium.

My home is only a dozen minutes away from the white dome. Since the World Cup came, everything has changed. Every evening, when the sunset dyed the snowy North Shore mountains golden pink, crowds gathered from all directions-- Canadians in red jerseys waved maple flags, Argentine fans with blue and white stripes sang Spanish songs, and English supporters with painted crosses on their faces, filled the streets like an incoming tide.

I never imagined that the World Cup could feel this close. Not just close enough to hear 54,000 people hold their breath at the same moment before erupting into a deafening roar, but close enough to see the rolling flags from every corner of the world around BC Place. That sound has a shape. It squeezed out of the white dome, rolled down the streets, and rattled the windows of nearby homes.

I often go out in the evening and walk slowly along the seaside trail. To my right lays the brightly lit fan area. On the giant screen, the green lawn glowed under an almost unreal light, and the players ran like pawns on the chessboard. People sat on the grass, on the steps, and even on the railing, looking up, their eyes reflecting the glow of the screen. When a goal was scored, strangers jumped up and hugged each other, without caring about beer spilling everywhere. At that moment, language, nationality and background seemed to disappear. Everyone shared the same joy, and the same disappointment.

One night, Canada played against Qatar. The whole Vancouver held its breath. During the broadcast, the announcer said that he had waited 40 years for the World Cup to come to his city. When Canada scored the first goal, a woman in the crowd covered her face with her hands as tears rolled down her cheeks. People around her gently patted her back, celebrating together as if they were lifelong friends.

I suddenly realized that the World Cup is never just football. It is the magic that gathers the whole world into a street, a stadium and an evening. Strangers who flew from the other side of the earth passed beneath the same sycamore tree. Their laughter, tears and songs became part of the scenery I knew I would stay with me.

CITY SPOTLIGHT

After the matches ended, the crowds slowly disappeared and the streets became quiet again. The sea breeze returned, cool and gentle. Soon I packed my bags for my vacation. As my plane rose above Vancouver, the city glowed beneath the moonlight, peaceful and still.

Yet I know the next evening, the cheers would return, carried by the same ocean wind.

Even thousands of miles away, I could still hear it.

SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE

By Tianna Hung G7 (Sydney, Australia)

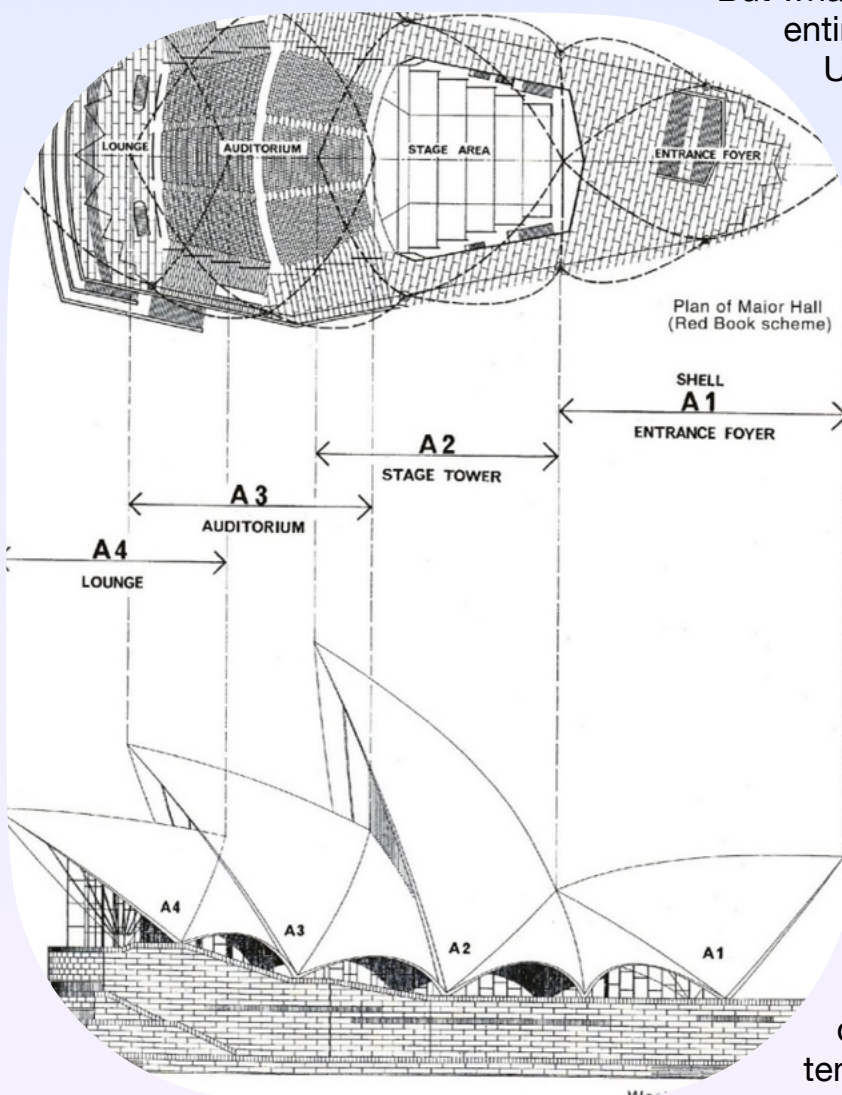
The popular Sydney Opera House is on everyone's to-see list when coming to Australia, but do you truly know the long and complex history that stands behind the iconic pillars that now command global attention.



CITY SPOTLIGHT

After a few decades of debate and false starts, the idea was finally pushed out to the government party of Australia by Sir Eugene Goossens in the late 1940s. They believed that Sydney should have a purpose-built, world-class performing arts centre. After heavy contemplation by key political figures, The International Competition for a National Opera House at Bennelong Point was released for 11 months, in which 233 architects around the world submitted their design. After careful thought, Contestant 218 Jørn Utzon, a Danish architect was chosen because of his bold ideas that shone brighter than those who submitted straight rectangular buildings.

But what happened next changed the entire course of the project. After Utzon was fully commissioned and given the job of lead architect, Australia was buzzing with excitement. However, under significant time constraints, construction started before the final sketch was finalised. This was done to maintain public enthusiasm and demonstrate visible progress. But without a finalized sketch, workers couldn't be sure what to expect. Down the road came delays, cost blowouts and political pressure. In Utzon's sketch, he imagined spherical shells, but these nearly took down the entire design itself due to lack of understanding of engineering and forces.



new full, definitive support for the building. However, Utzon refused to compromise his masterpiece, and eventually he resigned. His departure from Australia sparked commotion, chaos, and widespread protest.

At the time, Utzon's design was unlike anything the world had seen, and concern quickly began to grow. In time, tensions rose so sharply that the government leader insisted on seeing a drawing and halted all payments and financial support for the building. However, Utzon refused to compromise his masterpiece, and eventually he resigned. His departure from Australia sparked commotion, chaos, and widespread protest.

CITY SPOTLIGHT

In the end, a team of local architects was appointed to finish the building. From the exterior, the sketches looked told to be completely re-differently from painful years of building a its master, the Opera House was made of 1,056,000 and ceramic shells, granite, exterior of and the interior of concrete, which were all olden days.



similar, however the interior was done as well as furnished planned. After multiple construction and masterpiece without renowned Sydney finished. The roof was Scottish ceramic tiles the podium of pink concrete and granite timber, plywood and incredibly advanced in the

Finally, in 1973, the Opera House was opened by Queen Elizabeth II. Politicians celebrated, but one massive detail was missing. Jørn Utzon. Instead, he sat in Denmark watching on TV as the project he had begun, but never finished, unfolded without him. Soon, people all around the world loved the Opera House for its magnificent exterior design that represented sails, seashells, spherical geometry, wings, light, and the spirit of Sydney itself.

The Sydney Opera House is extremely popular worldwide with an approximate 10.9 Million people visiting it each year. It is home to opera, symphony and classical music, contemporary music, theatre, drama, dance and special events. It is surrounded by the Sydney Harbour, Sydney Harbour Bridge, Royal Botanic Garden, Circular Quay, The Rocks, Sydney Skyline, Bennelong Point, and the Sydney Tower Eye, as well as other famous landmarks known globally. Similarly, the Sydney Opera House also hosts light shows such as VIVID SYDNEY yearly, Badu Gili, an amazing New Year's Festival fireworks and light show as well as Lunar New Year, Australia Day, International Women's Day, Pride Day, major sporting wins and national moments of mourning.

To me, the Sydney Opera House is a place that I personally pass by everyday and I believe it is a symbol of art and creativity. Even for tourists or visitors, it is an inspiring piece of art and also comes with great lighting and scenery but most importantly, it is something really great to brag about.

At the Sydney Opera House, anything and everything is possible.



The Homework Survival Guide

By Isabella Feng G8 (Burnaby, Canada)

For many students, the school day doesn't really end when the final bell rings. It ends when the homework is finally finished.

Every evening begins the same way: opening my binder and discovering what my teachers have assigned this time. Maybe it's a writing prompt due tomorrow, a fill-in-the-blanks worksheet, or an exam study guide waiting to ruin my evening plans. We all complain about homework and tests, but after years of surviving them, I've realized something important: every assignment has its own personality — and its own strategy for survival.

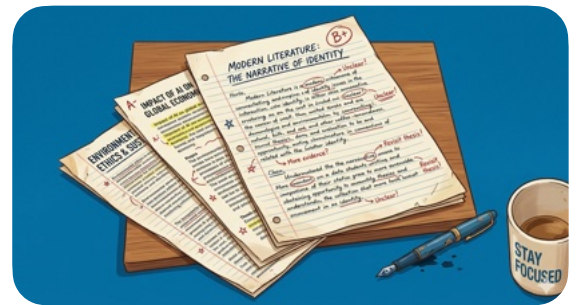
The Terrifying Essay

No homework assignment is more intimidating than the essay.

Unlike worksheets with clear questions, essays begin with something far scarier: a completely blank page. The moment you open a Google Doc, your brain suddenly forgets every intelligent thought it has ever produced. Ideas disappear. Vocabulary vanishes. Even typing a title feels impossible.

The worst part? Teachers often say things like, "Be creative!" as if creativity can magically appear at 9:47 PM on a Tuesday night.

Still, essays do have one advantage: once inspiration finally arrives, writing can actually become fun — or at least slightly less painful.



The Detective Work of Short Answers



Short-answer questions may seem easier than essays, but they can be surprisingly exhausting.

These assignments usually appear in Social Studies or History classes, where students must search through giant textbooks looking for tiny pieces of information hidden somewhere between page 47 and page 312.

And when you finally find the answer, there's another challenge: "Use your own words."

Suddenly, you're no longer answering the question — you're fighting for your life trying not to accidentally copy the textbook sentence.

Fill-in-the-Blanks: The Speed Round

Compared to essays, fill-in-the-blanks worksheets feel almost relaxing.

Usually, the answers are hidden somewhere in the notes or textbook, and all you need are a few words. Of course, this doesn't mean they're always easy. Sometimes finding one missing word can feel like searching for treasure.

Still, most students would probably choose fill-in-the-blanks over writing a five-paragraph essay any day.

The “Easy” Trap of Multiple Choice



Multiple choice questions have a reputation for being easy. After all, the answer is literally right there in front of you.

But appearances can be deceiving.

Sometimes two answers look correct. Sometimes all four answers look wrong. And somehow, teachers always include one answer choice that tricks almost everyone.

That's why multiple choice tests can actually be dangerous. They give students confidence right before destroying their grades.

Surviving Homework Season

No matter how difficult homework feels, most assignments eventually fall into familiar categories. Once students recognize the different types of questions, schoolwork becomes a little less stressful — or at least a little more predictable.

Homework and tests may never become fun, but they do teach important skills like patience, time management, and problem-solving.

And in the end, every student becomes an expert at one thing: surviving another school week.

So the next time you stare at a mountain of homework, just remember — students everywhere are suffering alongside you.

Good luck.





G7 Graduation Ceremony

By Xintong Yu G7 (Vancouver, Canada)

The warm summer breeze seemed to turn the pages faster than we expected, bringing us to the final chapter of Grade 7 with both excitement and melancholy.

As students entered the gymnasium, laughter filled the whole room. It felt as though they were stepping into the last few pages of a book they had been writing together for years. Every lesson learned, every friendship formed, and every happiness shared had become part of their story. Surrounded by proud families and teachers, the Grade 7 graduates waited eagerly to see how the final chapter would end.

The ceremony began with the speeches from the Principal and Vice Principal. Looking across the sea of excited faces, they reminded us how every challenge we had faced had quietly shaped us into more confident and capable students. Referring to this year's school theme, **"Reach for the Stars,"** they encouraged us to keep aiming high, embrace new opportunities, and step into high school with courage and curiosity.

Soon the lights dimmed, and a slideshow appeared on the screen. Suddenly the pages seemed to come alive. Photographs of students' dreams, school events and field trips brought back countless memories. Laughter echoed through the gym as funny moments appeared, while warm smiles lingered as page after page reminded us of the unforgettable memories we had created together.

After the slideshow, the well-dressed graduates were called to the stage one by one to receive their certificates and flowers. Every name was welcomed with warm applause from family, friends and teachers.

One moment touched everyone in the audience. A student with a physical disability slowly pushed himself up from his wheelchair. With great determination, he took one careful step at a time toward the center of the stage. The entire gym fell silent as everyone watched him make his way forward. When he finally reached the centre and stood for his graduation photo, the room erupted into heartfelt applause. His determination spoke louder than any word, and everyone was deeply inspired by his courage and perseverance.

The celebration ended with a group photo of all the graduates. Bright camera flashes captured smiles, friendships, and memories, that will stay with us for years to come, preserving them like illustrations in a well-loved book. Although the final page of Grade 7 had been turned, the story was far from over.

As summer gives way to fall, our Grade 7 chapter comes to an end, and a new one is just beginning. Best wishes to us all !

Ancient Egypt

By Sophia Chen G5 (Guizhou, China)

I. Intro

Ancient Egypt is one of the oldest civilizations. The Egyptian civilization developed along the Nile river because of the river's annual, predictable flood that leaves behind a fertile, black silt for farming.

The language spoken in Ancient Egypt was Egyptian, its formal writing script was Egyptian hieroglyphs.

In Ancient Egyptian beliefs, Pharaohs were viewed as living Gods. While the nobles and royalty were the most recorded, the majority of Egyptians were farmers, laborers, and craftsmen.

II. The beginning

Egypt started as upper and lower Egypt (and lower Egypt is actually NORTH of Upper Egypt), King Narmer / Menes (or whoever he was, Narmer and Menes could be 2 separate people or one person) united Egypt at c. 3100 BCE.

III. The Old Kingdom

After the first and second dynasties, the Old Kingdom (also known as the Kingdom of the Pyramids) began. Contrast to popular belief, the Pyramids of Giza were not built by aliens (if they WERE built by aliens, we would probably know some facts about aliens by now), they were built by laborers (not slaves). Pepi II (who inherited the throne as a child), one of the last pharaohs of the Old Kingdom, ruled for a really long time (at least 60 years, probably). The Old Kingdom ended due to a massive drought and internal political chaos.



IV. The Middle Kingdom

The first intermediate period ended with Pharaoh* Mentuhotep II reuniting Egypt. The Middle Kingdom (often considered the golden age for art and literature of Ancient Egypt) began. Mentuhotep II moved the capital from Memphis to Thebes. The Middle Kingdom produced some of Ancient Egypt's greatest art and literature. During the 12th dynasty, Pharaoh Amenemhat III engineered an irrigation system to drain the Faiyum Oasis. During the 13th dynasty, a group of people from the Levant known as the Hyksos gradually gained power in Lower Egypt, leading to the second intermediate period, Egypt was once again split into Upper and Lower Egypt.

***NOTE:** Before the New Kingdom, Egyptian rulers weren't known as pharaohs. The word "pharaoh" originally meant the house the rulers lived in.

V. The New Kingdom

After the second intermediate period Egypt was reunited again and the New Kingdom (c.1570-1069 BCE) began. Egypt truly became an empire during this period.

The New Kingdom was known for several pharaohs:

Hatshepsut: One of Egypt's few female pharaohs. She depicted herself with fake beards and her successor tried to erase her legacy 20 years after her death.

Akhenaten: He changed the Egyptian religion by abolishing the traditional polytheistic religion and established a new religion centered entirely around the sun disc*, Aten. His revolution died almost instantly (not really instantly but it's not a longtime) after his death.

Tutankhamun (King Tut): The famous boy king. Became pharaoh as a child after his father, Akhenaten died. He (actually his advisors since he was still a child) reversed his father's changes and restored the traditional Egyptian religion.

Ramesses II: Known for the battle of Kadesh (which ended with the oldest recorded international peace treaty) and his building projects. He also had over 100 children.

The Battle of Kadesh (c.1274 BCE) was a battle between New Kingdom Egypt and the Hittites, a superpower in Anatolia (modern day Turkey) near the city of Kadesh in Northern Levant. Pharaoh Ramesses II's army marched into the Levant to recapture Kadesh from the Hittites. Ramesses claimed victory when he got back to Egypt, but in reality, they were unable to capture Kadesh. With both sides claiming victory, Ramesses II and the Hittite King signed the treaty of Kadesh, which might have been the first ever international peace treaty signed. A replica of the treaty hangs in the UN Headquarters.



***Not confused with the Sun God, Ra**

VI. The Third Intermediate period

After the New Kingdom, Egypt entered a period of fragmentation and foreign rule that lasted for several hundreds of years. The Libyans, the Nubians, the Persians and more invaded and ruled Egypt.

VII. The Ptolemaic dynasty

In 332 BCE, Alexander the Great conquered Egypt from Achaemenid Persia and founded the city of Alexandria. When Alexander died in 323 BCE and his generals divided his empire, Ptolemy claimed Egypt and declared himself pharaoh in 305 BCE, the Ptolemaic dynasty (305 BC - 30 BC) began. The Ptolemies were Macedonian Greek by blood, but they acted like traditional pharaohs to gain the people's trust (or the Egyptians would revolt, probably), encouraged traditional Egyptian religion, and blended Greek gods with Egyptian gods creating gods like Serapis. However, no pharaohs of the Ptolemaic dynasty bothered to learn the Egyptian language until Cleopatra VII (who was a polyglot and a very famous Pharaoh, respect, I wanna be a polyglot). Cleopatra allied with Roman figures like Julius Caesar and Mark Antony, however, it didn't end up well. The dynasty ended at 30 BCE when Cleopatra died, Egypt became a Roman province afterwards.

VIII. Roman Egypt

Egypt was one of the richest provinces in the Roman Empire. The first Roman Emperor, Augustus, presented himself to Egyptians as a "pharaoh". For the first century, Egypt kept its traditions, Egyptian gods and goddesses like Isis (the cult of Isis) spread to other Roman provinces, temples dedicated to Isis were built all over the empire. Christianity first reached Egypt in the 1st century CE. Emperor Constantine legalized Christianity in 313 CE. By the 4th - 5th century CE, Christianity became the dominant religion in Egypt. The ancient Egyptian religion died over time.

After the Roman Empire split, Egypt became a part of the Eastern Roman Empire (later known as the Byzantine Empire). The Western Roman Empire collapsed in 476.



IX. Islamic Conquest of Egypt

Following the Islamic invasion of Byzantine Egypt in 639-642 CE, Egypt became Arabized. Ancient Egypt is pretty much over. Over time, Egyptians started speaking Arabic.

X. The discovery of the Rosetta Stone

In 1799, during Napoleon's invasion of Egypt, French soldiers discovered the Rosetta stone, which was written in Ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs, the Demotic script, and Ancient Greek. Scholars back then knew Ancient Greek and 23 years later, the Rosetta stone was decoded and Egyptian hieroglyphs were finally understood again after millennia.

Fun fact: In Ancient Egypt, beer was safer (and more nutritious) than water. Yes even kids drank beer, but don't worry this beer wasn't very alcoholic, even the laborers who were hired to build the Pyramids were paid in beer!

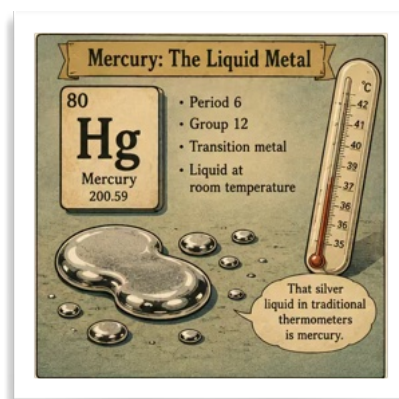


Mercury

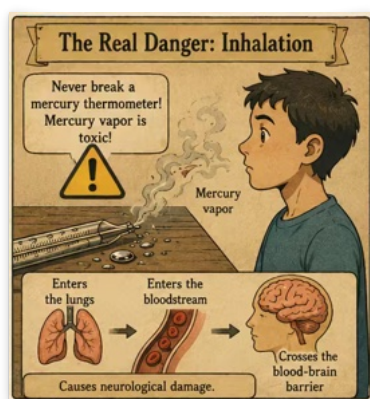
by Ruxin Ma G8 (Burnaby, Canada)

Mercury (Hg) is in period 6, group 12 of the periodic table, with an atomic number of 80. It is a transition metal and one of the few chemical elements that stays liquid at room temperature. You might think mercury is rare, but actually, you have probably seen it before. The traditional mercury thermometer — the kind you place in your mouth or underarm — has a slender silver column that rises to show your temperature. That silver liquid inside is mercury.

Your parents have probably warned you: never break a mercury thermometer. If you ever do, leave it alone and let an adult handle it. But why is mercury so dangerous? We all know it is toxic, but how exactly does it harm our bodies?



Mercury looks like a shiny liquid metal ball at room temperature. It rolls around freely but does not spread out like water. Interestingly, it is actually quite difficult for mercury to enter your body through healthy, uninjured skin. So briefly touching it is not immediately life-threatening — but it is still a bad idea. You should always wash your hands thoroughly afterwards.



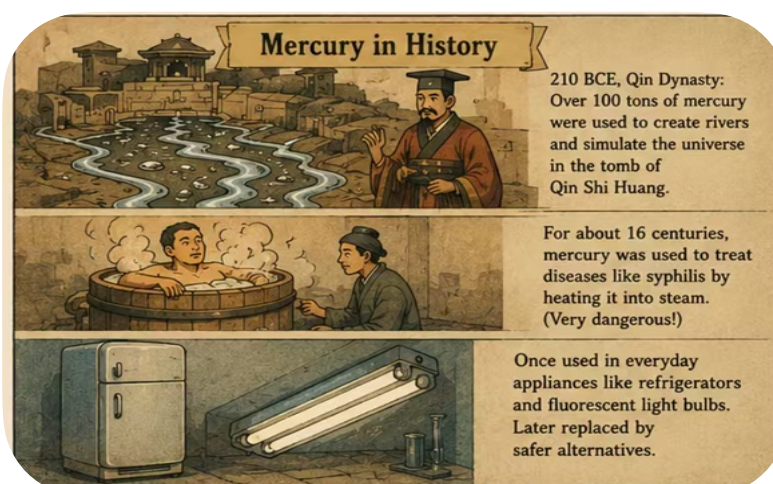
The real danger of mercury is not touching it — it is breathing it in. Mercury slowly evaporates into the air, producing invisible toxic vapour. When a person inhales mercury vapour, it travels into the lungs and enters the bloodstream. From there, it crosses the blood-brain barrier, which is the body's protective shield around the brain, and starts causing neurological damage. If someone stays in a poorly ventilated room with mercury for days or even weeks, this is known as chronic mercury poisoning.

Short-term exposure to a large amount of mercury can also be very harmful. This is called acute mercury poisoning, and it can cause sudden, serious symptoms. Either way, mercury is not something to take lightly.

Mercury poisoning affects the nervous system in many ways. Symptoms include difficulty concentrating, memory problems, mood changes, irritability, anxiety, and sleep disturbances. These signs can sometimes be confused with everyday stress, so it is important to be aware of them, especially if you have been near mercury.



Today, we know mercury is dangerous — but people in the past did not. Back in 210 BCE, during the tomb of China's Shi Huang, over 100 tons of mercury were used to recreate rivers and universe inside his tomb. For about 16 centuries, doctors used mercury as a medicine. Patients would sit in a wooden barrel that was heated into steam and absorbed the mercury through their skin. Looking back, this



Qin Dynasty, the first emperor, Qin reportedly used mercury to simulate the burial chamber. centuries after actually used treatment for syphilis. inside a large while mercury steam around through their sounds shocking —

but it shows how limited medical knowledge was in those times. Fortunately, no one would force you to inhale poison as medicine today.

Mercury was also used in everyday electrical appliances, such as refrigerators and fluorescent light bulbs. However, as people became more aware of its risks, manufacturers began replacing it with safer alternatives. Today, mercury is mostly limited to scientific research, where it can be handled carefully under controlled conditions.

From being used as a medicine to becoming a subject of careful scientific study, mercury has had quite a journey through human history. It reminds us that our understanding of nature is always growing. There are still many elements and substances in the world whose full secrets have not yet been uncovered — and future scientists may one day discover things that surprise us just as much.

My Crumbl Review

By Khloris Qiu G8 (Richmond, Canada)

Dear Diary,

Okay, so I finally tried Crumbl, the very overpriced cookie store that's suddenly everywhere online, and honestly, I have very mixed feelings about it.

When the new Crumbl first opened in my local plaza, the hype was insane. I mean everyone was lining up to try it. The line would stretch out the door, around the corner, and all the way to the back — even late at night. Personally, I think most people were excited because the branding is pink, cute, and constantly all over TikTok and Instagram. Those American mukbangers act like every bite is life-changing anyway, so I probably shouldn't trust them too much.

One thing I will give Crumbl credit for is their marketing strategy. Every week they release four limited-edition flavours, which keeps people curious.

"Oh, we have to try this week's lineup!"
"Let's go before the flavours disappear!"

It's honestly pretty smart.



So the other day, my friend and I finally went to try it ourselves. I got three mini cookies for eleven dollars, which already felt slightly painful.

I tried Strawberry Shortcake, Cookies & Cream, and Classic Pink Sugar.

The Strawberry Shortcake cookie was actually SO good. It wasn't overly sweet, and the strawberry jam balanced everything out perfectly. Definitely my favorite.

The Cookies & Cream one was just okay. The cookie itself didn't have much flavour besides a slightly bitter chocolate taste, while the cream icing on top was super sweet. Individually they were fine, but together they didn't really work.

And finally... the famous Pink Sugar Cookie. I'm sorry, but it was horrible.

The icing tasted weirdly minty, way too sweet, and somehow hard at the same time. The cookie underneath tasted like a plain almond cookie — not terrible, just very boring — which meant you basically had to eat it with the icing. Unfortunately, the icing was the worst part.

So overall: overpriced, overhyped, but undeniably cute. The cookies look adorable, the store aesthetic is great, and I understand why social media loves it.

Would I go back? Probably... but only if the weekly flavors are more fruity.

Glass Paths to Rome

By Xintong Yu G7 (Vancouver, Canada)

The acceptance letter from Willow Arts rested on the edge of Adrian's desk, its edges curling slightly from the numerous times he had opened it.

Across the room, his mother stood silently. Her arms folded across her chest, while her lips pressed into a thin line. No one spoke. Adrian's tears ran quietly down his cheeks.

"Here, son. I will leave the decisions to you," his mother said, her voice sounding tight with disappointment. "We can afford Blackwood College, and it is the best place for you to grow. You'll have a bright future there—far better than trying to become an artist."

She turned away and slammed the door with a force that made the walls tremble.

Silence settled over the room, broken only by Adrian's soft sniffles.

He knew his mother had already planned everything for him: private school, top grades, a prestigious university, and eventually a successful career.

Surely, this was the ideal path to climb the social ladder — the one everyone admired. But no-one had ever asked if it was the life he wanted.

His sketchbook lay open beneath his hands. Smudges of graphite stained the edge of the page, as if a storm had quietly gathered there.

Drawing had always come naturally to him. He had a sharp eye for detail and a vivid imagination.

Being accepted into Willow Arts wasn't simply good luck. It proved that his talent had been recognized, placing him among the most promising young artists in the city.

Still, talent didn't guarantee success.

There would always be someone more skilled, more creative, or luckier.

An artistic career is just like the glass stepping stones in Squid Game — one wrong step or one moment of bad luck could cause an irreversible downfall.

Outside the window, late afternoon light stretched across the floorboards in long bands, as if the room itself were being measured for something he had never agreed to build. Everything felt heavy and compressed. The acceptance letter felt no longer like a simple invitation, but a door that quietly opened, waiting for him to decide whether he was brave enough to walk through it.

Could stability guarantee happiness, or was it simply the path people repeated because they were too afraid to choose another? He wasn't sure. But somewhere inside him, a quieter voice whispered that ignoring his dream might cost him far more than taking the risk.

Adrian turned another page in his sketchbook. Two unfinished figures reached toward one another, their fingertips separated by only a small gap. Neither moved; neither gave up. They simply waited. Adrian stared at them for a long time. Outside the evening breeze stirred the trees; inside, nothing seemed to change. Yet somehow, everything felt different.

Years later, artworks signed only "Adi" began appearing across the internet.

No interviews. No photographs. No public appearances. People searched endlessly for the artist's identity, but no one knew who stood behind the name.

The acceptance letter he had almost turned down became the only confirmed piece of his past. Everything else remained a mystery. But one thing was certain. Somewhere, behind a closed studio door, someone kept drawing.

Beyond the Wire

By Ethan Q G3 (Zibo) & Bernie G3 (Beijing)

Chapter 1: The Scout and the News

At school, Kofi was itching to go home and eat a slice of bread his dad had made the night before. He gazed out the windows, which had wire mesh instead of glass. Out in the schoolyard, standing at the edge of the playing field, was a man he'd never seen before. The man was tall and muscular, in slacks and a shirt, but wearing large yellow and blue soccer shoes. Kofi thought he had a kind face. Then, as the bell rang, everyone began packing their schoolbags.



The teacher called out, "Wait a moment! Anyone interested in football, please go to the field to get your skills tested." Kofi's heart leaped. Is that why the strange man is here? They must be putting together their village team! There hadn't been a village team since the Europeans were here... and that was a chaotic experience long before Kofi's time. Kofi loved playing football more than anything, so he slung his backpack over his shoulder and bolted out the door.

When he reached the pitch, he found himself looking at the stranger. The man took Kofi, along with the other kids, through some drills. First, they kicked the ball around to take turns playing defense and offense. They played a quick mock game. They did one on one drills. They practiced placekicking. They ran laps around the field. During all this time, the strange man barely spoke, aside from issuing commands to the kids. His face was unreadable, so Kofi had no idea how he did.

CREATIVE HUB

Two weeks later Kofi walked in the door after school and found his dad waiting for him. He was reading a letter from school. Kofi frowned and asked, “What have I done now?”

His dad looked up, and there was a huge grin on his face. “You’re on the team, boy! I knew you had it in you!” he said, pulling Kofi into a big bear hug.

Kofi smiled. “What? I made the village team? I didn’t think I would. That’s great!”

“Village team? What are you talking about?” said his dad. “Read the letter, boy!”

Finally, Kofi read the letter clearly. It said, “Your son has made the National Team development program and will be trained to go to the World Cup.”

Kofi was shocked and blurted out joyfully, “Wow! This is so surprising! I’m going to make the team now? I’m going to the World Cup? Maybe even make a lot of money!”

Then Layla, his big sister, came into the room. “What the heck are you yelling about, Kofi? I’m trying to do my homework!”

Kofi looked at his sister and his heart sank. Joining the national team meant going to live in Juba, the capital. He would have to leave his family behind. And soon. He would be alone, far from home, in a place where he didn’t know anyone.

“Dad, am I going alone? What if you and Layla need me? What if the chickens escape? Who will catch them for you? And what if you eat a rotten chicken leg and get sick? Who will look after?”

“Stop that nonsense!” said his dad, raising his hand. “We’ll be fine without you for a bit. You can write letters every couple of days if you’re so worried.”

“But-but when will I be going?”

“The letter says they’ll be sending someone to fetch you in a week. I’ve got to go spread the news. I’m proud of you, boy!” said his dad, dashing out with a big grin.

Kofi’s head was spinning. He felt both excited and distressed. Instead of fantasizing about scoring the game-winning World Cup goal, Kofi thought of all the bad things that could happen while he was away. What if the cows ate all the grain and the family starves? What if the pigs escape and fly away? What if a fire consumes his home? What if I go to the World Cup and fail? Come back empty-handed?



CREATIVE HUB

Kofi's dad suddenly rushed back in through the door and said, "Oh, I almost forgot. If you have any questions or doubts, you can call the man. I have his number right here." He handed Kofi a letter and ran out again. Just as his father's foot left the house, Kofi began dialling the number 1***5, and he heard the man's voice rise from the phone: "If you have any questions about football, you will hear this — you have a week, and you will meet on Miller Road at 12:00. Hopefully, you will be gone for a few weeks, though some of you — most of you, in fact — will be sent home." And the call ended.

Kofi thought he might not be back home for weeks, so he decided to go to the big tree where he read books and spend the day there. After a quick breakfast, Kofi grabbed a couple of his favourite books and went to the tree. It was a big majestic oak tree. Its boughs spread out and stretched over the shaded grass underneath. He thought about what it would be like at the football academy. Then his thoughts drifted to his friends. Which house should he visit first? He wondered when he'd see them again — if he'd see them again. If he was away for a year or two, would they even recognize him anymore?

The next day, his dad was packing his stuff. Kofi was surprised. "Isn't it due next week?" he asked.

Dad said, "The schedule has changed. We will go tomorrow."
"What!" Kofi said, "but I haven't said goodbye to my friends yet."

"Then go," Dad said.

So Kofi spent the day seeing friends and practicing football.

Chapter 2: The Road to the City

As the day of departure came closer, Kofi got more and more nervous. Then one morning, his dad shook him out of his bed. He said, "It's time to go. Today you're going to the city."

Kofi asked, "Today? It's dark—" His father nodded impatiently, pulled Kofi and his suitcase out of the room.

They arrived at a bus stop outside the little village. Kofi's dad smiled a reassuring smile and set off back to the village. After a few minutes, Kofi saw a figure running towards him. A moment later he saw the person's face, and his heart leaped — he recognized it. It was his friend David. He had made the team too!

"Hey, buddy," Kofi said. "Hey!" replied David.

They waited some time before they heard the distant rumble of a triple-decked bus. In front of them was a bus with football pictures and the colors of the national flag on it. The paint was faded, but enough to see. Through the window, they saw regular chairs with mattresses on them. They saw the coach. He was kind-looking, and his mouth had an amused smile as they gazed dumbstruck at the bus.



CREATIVE HUB

They got in. The interior was red and yellow. They sat in a corner and felt the mattresses — so soft they gave way under them. There were many people on the bus. Some were looking afraid, some terrified, and some triumphant.

The coach cleared his throat — hkkk hkk hukk — and the chatter died down instantly. “Listen up, folks! We’re on our way to the big city and your new home (hopefully): the sports academy. I know most of you yokels haven’t been to the city before, so be good, listen to me, and I’ll take you to see some pretty cool things and we’ll have great things to eat. I’ll even pay! But if you don’t behave and listen to me, instead of fun and treats you’ll be doing setups and the ‘Pot Punishment’.”

On the way to the city, Kofi looked out the window. They passed large waterfalls, lions, and other animals in the countryside. At one stop, they even found a sixinchlong long-horned beetle and a stick insect at least fourteen inches long. But Kofi couldn’t really enjoy it. He was sitting next to David, and he whispered, “I already want to go home.”

David nodded. “Me too. Look at the other kids. They all look like they’ve been training for this their whole lives.”

Kofi looked around. Everyone seemed so confident. Then he noticed a small group of five boys who knew each other like a gang. They were about three years older than Kofi, who was eleven. They were muscular and easy to anger. As they passed Kofi’s seat, one who seemed like the leader said, “Jerks!” and the rest all laughed appreciatively. They were definitely mean and unfriendly.

At lunch, they took a chocolate bar from another kid and ate it themselves. They taunted almost everyone on the bus. Two of them picked a fight with a smaller but nicer kid. It led to a fight, and the smaller one got hurt so badly he had to be medicated and sent to a nearby hospital. (The coach was on a break or napping.) Even after that, the bullies didn’t seem scared or sorry at all; not even concerned after Coach made them do 250 setups.

As they got out of the bus, Kofi began walking towards the academy buildings. On the way, one of the bullies said, “Phew! What’s that horrible smell? Flies could have died in this stench!” Kofi ignored him. But then he said, “Bleh! What’s that shirt you’re wearing? It looks like it’s been in the dumpster.” David started and said, “Don’t be mean.” “Yeah, yeah, right,” Kofi added, “Don’t be so mean!” The boy continued firing insults at Kofi, but Kofi didn’t hear them because they arrived at the academy building and he was distracted by all the fancy sports equipment and city stuff.

Kofi had doubts: Am I fit for life in the academy? But he began to relax when he saw the tall buildings and the flat roads — he had never seen anything like this. He had imagined the city as a big village with big mud buildings and good mud schools, but this was much better than he thought. The buildings were made of glass and steel and something called concrete, which only the richest person in the village could afford.

TO BE CONTINUED :D

TEEN VOICES

On the Edge of Graduation:

A Conversation with Grade 7 Teacher Ms. Akita

By Xintong Yu G7 (Vancouver, Canada)

As Grade 7 students were preparing to graduate from Lord Kitchener Elementary and begin their journey into secondary school, VYM Club had the opportunity to speak with the teacher Ms. Akita.



“It’s definitely bittersweet,” she admitted that her emotions were mixed. “I’m really proud of them and excited to see what’s next, but it’s also hard to say goodbye.”

She described her classroom as a family, where students and teachers had spent countless hours learning, growing, and building meaningful connections together.

A Year of Growth

Looking back, Ms. Akita has seen remarkable growth in her students.

“At the beginning, many students needed more support with organization, confidence, and working independently,” she explained. **“Now, they are much more self-directed, willing to take risks in their learning, and better at managing their responsibilities.”**

Beyond academics, she has also seen that students become more supportive, empathetic, and willing to take on leadership roles. This growth is one of the reasons she enjoys teaching Grade 7 so much.

Preparing for High School

For many graduating students, high school feels both exciting and intimidating. Her advice is simple but powerful: be brave and start building connections immediately.

“Don’t wait for others to approach you. Take the first step and introduce yourself,” she encouraged. “Joining clubs is also a great way to meet people who share your interests and make the transition easier.”

She also stressed that success in high school comes from consistent effort rather than shortcuts.

“There really are no shortcuts to success,” she said. “How much effort you put in will shape how successful you are.”

Practical habits such as using a planner, checking classroom platforms regularly, completing homework consistently, and seeking extra help from teachers can make a significant difference.

Lessons Beyond Academics

When asked what qualities she hopes students will carry into the future, Ms. Akita emphasized four key values: **leadership, integrity, resiliency, and a strong work ethic**. She also encouraged students to surround themselves with positive influences.



Interestingly, when she posed the same question to her students, many highlighted practical skills such as time management, staying organized, embracing new challenges, and building meaningful connections through school activities.

“It’s great to see that they recognize what will help them succeed moving forward,” she said.

A Lesson for Life

Of all the lessons she hopes students remember, one stands out above the rest:

“Always leave a place better than you found it.”

Ms. Akita shared an example from Japan, where sports fans are well known for cleaning stadiums before leaving after games. She first learned this principle as a Grade 3 student in Japan, where working together for the greater good was strongly encouraged.

“It’s something simple but powerful,” she explained. “And it applies not only to physical spaces, but also to how we treat people and contribute to our communities.”

A Final Message

As a final message to the graduating class, Ms. Akita pointed to a quote displayed in her classroom:

“Be the change you wish to see in the world.”

Inspired by Gandhi’s words, she hopes students understand that meaningful change begins with individual actions.

“It’s about taking responsibility for your actions, leading with kindness, and doing the right thing even when no one is watching,” she said.

She reminds students that every choice matters. Small acts of kindness, responsibility, and leadership can create a ripple effect that reaches far beyond what they may imagine.



TEEN VOICES

Donald John Trump

By Jimmy Ding G6 (San José, US)

Many people believe that successful entrepreneurs are born with natural business instincts or come from wealthy families. However, Donald J. Trump's success was shaped by much more than talent or family background. He began his career in real estate and later developed Trump Tower, one of his most famous projects. While many people know Trump as the 45th and the 47th President of the United States, his long career in business also played a significant role in shaping his public image.



Donald Trump showed a great deal of interest in real estate from a young age through his education, hands-on experience, and his father's influence. After graduating from the New York Military Academy, he attended the Wharton School. He claimed that what he learned at Wharton was more valuable than any other education he received. There, he gained an understanding of business principles and learned that even a fortunate deal can fail without proper management.

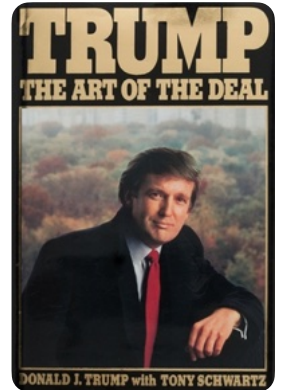
In addition to his formal education, Trump gained practical experience by accompanying his father, Fred Trump, to construction sites and property inspections. In his book ***"The Art of the Deal"***, he recalled following his father as he carefully examined every counter and pipe system before purchasing a building. Trump later explained in an interview that this attention to details had greatly influenced his approach to business and real estate. Fred Trump, a successful real estate developer, served as an important role model for his son. Through observing his father's work and business practices, Donald Trump developed a strong interest in real estate and entrepreneurship. These experiences helped shape his future career and laid the foundation for his success in the real estate industry.

Donald Trump achieved many accomplishments throughout his career as an entrepreneur, with Trump Tower being one of his most famous projects. Built in the early 1980s, Trump Tower became a symbol of luxury and success. Trump believed that everything had to be the best, from its design to its maintenance. As a result, the tower featured many costly and distinctive elements that made it difficult for competitors to replicate, helping establish his reputation in the real estate industry.

Trump also developed several business principles that guided his success. He believed entrepreneurs need strong instincts, patience and the ability to negotiate effectively. No "overnight millionaires" -- the ones who want to get rich quickly often will end up losing their money. And never get too attached to a single deal. Once, while working for months on Trump's Castle, he continued to pursue other large deals at the same time. The approach helped him avoid becoming dependent on a single project and strengthened his negotiating position. He believed in business, it is important not to appear desperate, because the side with more options has greater leverage. By maintaining multiple opportunities at once, he was able to improve his chances of reaching better agreements.

TEEN VOICES

Another important lesson Trump learned was the value of having a backup plan, because he believed that even the most promising deals could fail. For example, Trump Plaza was originally planned to be built as a hotel, but due to the changes in market conditions and financial difficulties, the project was later redesigned as a convention center, which was more practical and financially sustainable. After 2 years of development and promotion, Trump Plaza became a successful convention center.



In his career, Donald Trump also had many challenges and difficulties, including legal disputes over property taxes related to Trump Tower. Many people believed the case would be difficult to win, but Trump chose to fight the case through 6 different courts for the tax treatment that he believed every developer was entitled to. Although the process was costly and time-consuming, he insisted that it was worth the effort. In the end, he won the case in the U.S.'s highest-level court, the Court of Appeals. While it initially appeared that he had spent millions of dollars on legal fees, the outcome reportedly saved him more than 10 million dollars over the following years, and helped raise his public profile and credibility.

Donald Trump remains active in business and continues to pursue both personal and public deals. He is best known for his deal-making skills, real estate development, and the construction of Trump Tower. Throughout his career, he emphasized the importance of preparation and risk management. He believed that success can create momentum, but entrepreneurs should never become overconfident. Instead, he stressed the value of having backup plans, which can reduce the risk of failure if a project does not go as expected. As he wrote in his book ***Think Big***, “Momentum can either destroy you or make you successful.”

Another reason Donald Trump succeeded was his ability to recognize important differences. He understood the difference between stubbornness and confidence, and he could often distinguish between a deal that was likely to fail and one that had been well planned. This ability to evaluate opportunities and risks helped him make many business decisions. His confidence, determination, and business judgment were among the qualities that contributed to his success.



Donald John Trump's career as an entrepreneur demonstrated the importance of both talent and hard work. From his early interest in real estate to the development of Trump Tower, he combined business instincts with careful planning and persistence. Throughout his career, he made many efforts to overcome challenges and learned valuable lessons about negotiation and preparation. Donald Trump proved that, with effort, people could make a significant impact on the world around them.

*This article is a student-written biographical summary based on publicly available information and does not reproduce any copyrighted text.

Entrepreneurship Challenge

The mini Entrepreneurship Challenge, hosted by VYIF Club, brought together young innovators in May. Four innovators delivered detailed business pitches, presenting their market research, competitive advantages, potential challenges and projected profitability.

Then, “Executives” conducted a structured Q&A session to evaluate each proposal. **CEO Amy** examined the overall business vision; **CFO Xana** focused on financial planning and cost management; **CMO Tianna** assessed marketing strategies; **CIO Aimee** evaluated potential ROI. Finally Jessie’s **Smart Dog Tracking Collar** impressed the judges most with its practical value and strong business potential, earning the largest investment.

More than a competition, this event showcased participants’ creativity, resilience, and entrepreneurial thinking, while providing hands-on experience in business planning and problem-solving. VYIF looks forward to inspiring more young innovators in the future.

Proposal Owner: LanLan

- **Subject:** Harry Potter Theme Jungle Flight Park
- **Overview:** This project integrates Harry Potter elements with outdoor jungle tracking to create an immersive magical forest adventure, attracting both wizarding fans and outdoor explorers.
- **Business Model:**
 - ✓ Revenue generated through diversified ticketing options.
 - ✓ Strategic Partnerships with Harry Potter-themed stores to offer customer discounts.

Proposal Owner: Sophia Chen

- **Subject:** Dash Delivery
- **Overview:** Dash Delivery is an e-bike courier service delivering groceries, food, and essentials to customers. By avoiding traffic with clean-energy bikes, it provides a fast, eco-friendly and convenient delivery solution.
- **Business Model:** Profitability through a distance-based delivery fee structure.

Proposal Owner: Jessie

- **Subject:** Smart Dog Tracking Collar
- **Overview:** The Smart Dog Tracking Collar and app solution capitalizes on a growing, low-competition pet market to prevent dog loss and ensure timely rescues.
- **Business Model:**
 - ✓ Hardware Sales: Profit margin on the sale of smart tracking collars.
 - ✓ Subscription Fees: Monthly payments for the location tracking service.
 - ✓ App Advertising: Shared revenue from mobile app advertisements

Proposal Owner: Diana

- **Subject:** Jianbing Goes Global
- **Overview:** Introducing Chinese traditional Jianbing to the global fast-food market, offers a customizable high-protein alternative to sandwiches, enhanced by fusion flavors and social media-friendly live cooking.
- **Business Model:** Operating low-cost mobile kiosks in high-footfall areas, serving premium cross-cultural street food.

Mock Trial

VYM Coffee Shop Review Controversy

In April, the mock trial titled “VYM Coffee Shop Review Controversy” centered on a dispute between a customer who posted a negative online review and a café owner who claimed it unfairly damaged the shop’s reputation and business. The case encouraged participants to examine the delicate balance between freedom of expression and the protection of business reputation in today’s digital world.

Both lawyers passionately defended their clients, while the customer, café owner, and witnesses presented their perspectives. After the jury engaged in a thoughtful and rigorous discussion, carefully weighing the testimony and evidence, the judge announced a verdict in favor of the plaintiff, concluding that the review went beyond fair criticism and caused unjustified harm to the café’s reputation.

Beyond the verdict itself, the case encouraged students to think about a question with no easy answer: **How can society balance freedom of expression with the protection of reputation?** Through the discussion, participants learned that both consumers and businesses have rights and responsibilities in the digital age. The activity challenged students to evaluate evidence, consider multiple perspectives, and recognize the real-world impact of words shared online.

Role-Play Debate

Human Survival and Choice in the Age of AI

In the age of AI, should we accelerate the development of artificial intelligence to drive rapid social and technological progress, or should we place people first and limit AI’s expansion to protect jobs and everyday life? In June, VYIF Club explored this thought-provoking question through an engaging Role-play Debate activity.

Diana, playing a technology company CEO, championed AI-driven innovation and growth, while **Amy**, portraying a laid-off employee, warned that unchecked AI development could threaten jobs and social stability.

Lucy, as AI itself, emphasized its benefits from efficiency to scientific breakthroughs, while **Jessie**, an AI safety expert, cautioned against ethical risks, loss of human control, and long-term consequences of rapid AI advancement.

Xana and Ruxin, representing a student and a parent in the undecided middle ground, carefully weighed arguments from both sides, leveraging how to balance the opportunities and challenges of living in an AI-driven world. Ultimately, they voted in favor of restricting AI development, highlighting a shared concern among students for human well-being, social stability, and a more careful, responsible approach to AI advancement.



TIME TRAVEL: FACT OR FICTION?

Imagine you had a time machine that worked **only once**.

Would you choose to:

- ☐ Travel to the **past**
- ☐ Travel to the **future**

Why?

Now read **Sophia Chen's** passage below and see if your answer changes!

Is it possible to time travel? Scientists asked this question for ages.

According to Albert Einstein's theory of relativity, the faster you move through space, the slower you move through time. So technically, if you're an astronaut and you orbited earth at high speed for a long time, you could "time travel" into the future at microscopic amounts. So time traveling into the future IS possible, we just need faster spaceships to make this microscopic amount 1, 5, or even 10 years, which we can't build right now.

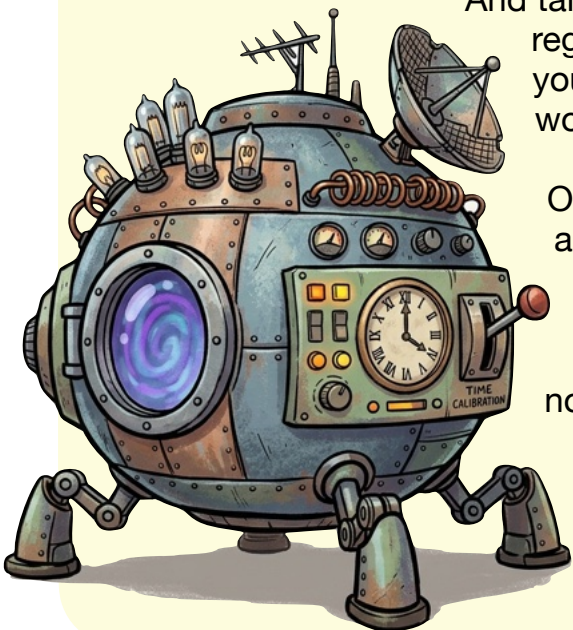
But time traveling backward? Sounds good, you could probably stop your past self from doing something you regretted or not doing something. But in reality? It's not that simple. Heard of the "grandfather paradox"? If you go back in time and killed your grandfather or stopped your grandparents from meeting, you would not exist, and wouldn't time travel back to do it...*

And talking about convincing your past self to do something you regretted not doing, if you somehow convinced your past self, you would not regret it (because you've done it), and you won't time travel back to convince your past self...

Or, if you time traveled back to, say the Roman Republic, and left your phone there, could we rewrite Roman history?...

So...time traveling back might make a good fiction novel or movie, it might not be possible in real life...right?

Maybe, in the future people figured out how to time travel back without any paradoxes (like not allowing you to change the past), or time travel back while being invisible. But for now, time traveling back is not possible.



NASA's Crewed Lunar Flyby After 54 Years —“My ”Firsthand Experience With Insane Space Tech

By Eason Sun G7 (Shanghai, CN)

This historic space mission belongs to NASA's iconic Artemis Program. The program is named after Artemis, the goddess of the Moon in ancient Greek mythology, who symbolizes light, exploration and new beginnings. Unlike the old lunar missions focused on simple exploration, the Artemis Program is initiated not for regional competition or technological rivalry, but for the common future of all mankind. It aims to reopen human exploration of the Moon, develop sustainable deep-space exploration technologies, lay the groundwork for future interstellar travel, and unite all humans to explore the unknown universe hand in hand.

The four astronauts on this mission:

- **Reid Wiseman** ("I", Commander): I am in full command of the mission, control the spacecraft, and make all critical deep-space decisions. This entire article is told from my first-person perspective.
- **Victor Glover** (Pilot): Manages the spacecraft's flight course, monitors engine systems, and corrects flight path deviations in real time.
- **Christina Koch** (Mission Specialist): Conducts deep-space scientific experiments, oversees the life support system, and records core mission data.
- **Jeremy Hansen** (Mission Specialist): Handles deep-space communication between the spacecraft and Earth, maintaining a 400,000-kilometer signal link.

Launch Blastoff: The Brutal Thrust of the World's Most Powerful Rocket

The second the countdown hits **zero, 8.8 million** pounds of thrust slams me hard into my seat. The SLS (Space Launch System) roars into the sky, generating **15%** more power than the Saturn V rocket that carried Apollo astronauts to the Moon. It feels like being pushed forward by tens of thousands of racing cars all at once, my whole body shaking with the raw, deafening force.

This rocket runs on game-changing cryogenic fuel technology: liquid hydrogen is cooled to **-253°C**, freezing the fuel to pack double the energy of regular rocket propellant. Two solid rocket boosters burn for **2 full minutes**, reaching temperatures over **3,000°C**—hotter than molten steel—before detaching with perfect precision. The rocket then jettisons empty fuel tanks to shed weight, breaking free of Earth's gravity in just 8 minutes and reaching a speed of **17,500 miles per hour** to surge into deep space.



BRAIN BOOST

Trans-Lunar Cruise: Invisible Life-Saving Deep-Space Shields

Floating in zero gravity, our spacecraft glides smoothly toward the Moon. Our star tracker navigation system acts as an indestructible cosmic GPS, locking onto thousands of distant stars to fix our position in real time. It corrects even the tiniest flight path drift, ensuring we never get lost in the endless black of space.

The spacecraft's closed-loop life support system is a true technological miracle: it recycles **93%** of the cabin's air and water, turning carbon dioxide we exhale and wastewater back into clean oxygen and drinking water. It turns our small capsule into a self-sustaining mini Earth floating in space. Deadly cosmic rays zip through space like invisible bullets, but our multi-layered metal and water radiation shield blocks **99%** of these harmful particles, keeping the entire crew safe through the long journey.

Lunar Flyby: The Ultimate Gravity-Powered Safety Orbit

I pilot the spacecraft just 130 kilometers above the lunar surface, flying over the far side of the Moon—an ancient, cratered landscape no human has seen up close in 54 years. I fire small thrusters for a quick course adjustment, activating the game-changing free-return orbit technology.

This is the smartest safety design in space exploration: it uses the Moon's gravity as a natural slingshot. Even if every single engine on the spacecraft failed completely, the Moon's gravity would automatically fling us back toward Earth, relying solely on the laws of astrophysics to bring us home. Staring at the barren lunar craters, then catching sight of our bright blue Earth hanging in the dark universe, I was overwhelmed with awe.



Earth Re-Entry: The Heat Shield Miracle Against 2,800°C Heat

On our return, the spacecraft slams into Earth's atmosphere at **25,000 miles per hour**. Air friction superheats the capsule's outer shell to **2,800°C**—nearly half the temperature of the Sun's surface, hot as flowing volcanic lava.

Our Avcoat heat shield is a scientific masterpiece: it burns away slowly, layer by layer, drawing all the deadly heat away from the cabin. It acts like an unbreakable fireproof armor, keeping us safe and cool inside. One by one, giant parachutes deploy, acting like massive brakes in the sky, slowing our descent until we splash gently and safely into the ocean.



FIFA! World Cup



Location: BC Place, Science World

Photographer: Isabella

Picture statement:

Vancouver shines bright, celebrating the historic 2026 FIFA World Cup!

Location: BC Place

Photographer: Isabella

Picture statement: A grand presentation for the 2026 FIFA World Cup, with vibrant flags and massive crowd.



Location: BC Place

Photographer: Isabella

Picture statement: The magnificent BC Place stadium stands ready for the thrilling FIFA matches.

VOICES OF YOUTH MAGAZINE



YOUTH SPEAK LOUDER



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