

PAW PRINTS

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The Super Bowl and Souperbowl

By: Rose N.

The Kansas City Chiefs are the winners of Super Bowl LVII. The 58th Super Bowl happened on Sunday, February 11, where the Chiefs beat the San Francisco 49ers 25-22! While this big football matchup happened, Harrington had its own Souperbowl between 7th and 8th grade. The Harrington Student Council came up with the idea for this friendly competition, where the grades competed to collect as many cans of soup as possible.

The Harrington Souperbowl champions are the 7th graders. Congratulations! Their prize is a pajama day coming soon. 7th grade collected 237 cans of soup, and 8th grade collected 91 cans. In total, that's 328 cans of soup! The soup donations will go to Campbell's Foundation and the Foodbank of South Jersey.

Campbell's Foundation has been running since 1953. They support local communities to build healthy communities. Their three main focus areas are increasing food access, encouraging healthy living, and nurturing neighborhoods in communities where their employees live and work. To read more, go to <https://www.campbellsoupcompany.com/our-impact/community/campbells-foundation/>.

The Foodbank of South Jersey began in 1985. The FBSJ donated 18.5 million pounds of food just in 2022, and all together they've distributed 150 million pounds of food since 1985 to people in need. The Foodbank of South Jersey gives food to people of all kinds, including children, seniors, individuals, and families. They strive to fix hunger. To read more, go to <https://foodbanksj.org/>.

Harrington succeeded in its goal to continue fulfilling these two organizations' missions of helping those in need. Thank you for everyone's help and support during Harrington's canned soup food drive, the Souperbowl.

Top 5 Super Bowl Halftime Performances

5. Beyonce, Coldplay & Bruno Mars-2016
4. Katy Perry-2017
3. Lady Gaga-2015
2. Dr. Dre and Friends-2022
1. Rhianna-2023



Famous African American Athletes

By Aashray S.

February is known as Black History month. We take these 28 days to recognize and admire famous African - Americans that have influenced our nation. For instance Martin Luther King, Jackie Robinson, etc have all made history. In this essay, I will discuss some famous African - American athletes that have made America what it is today.

Jackie Robinson

Jackie Robinson is the reason why we have seen baseball stars like Ken Griffey Jr, Alex Rodriguez, Albert Pujols, Aaron Judge, Barry Bond, Derek Jeter etc. In 1946, Jackie Robinson made history as he became the first African - American baseball athlete. He had officially broken the color barrier in professional baseball. Despite interacting with many racist baseball players, Jackie Robinson put together one of the best careers in baseball history. Pitchers used to try and purposely hit him, so they could maybe scare him off and restore the color barrier. However, they failed ! Jackie Robinson finished career with a .313 batting average, 761 RBIs, 1563 hits, 1 MVP award, 7 all star selections, a Rookie of the Year award, and a batting title. These are phenomenal stats for any baseball player!

Kareem Abdul- Jabbar

Kareem Abdul Jabbar is one of the best players in basketball history. With his goggles and height, no one in the league could guard a player like him. Growing up, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar faced many challenges such as racism, unequal treatment etc. However, he still managed to have a heck of a career finishing 2nd all time in point scored, 19 time all star, 6 time MVP, 2 times finals MVP etc. Up till today Kareem Abdul - Jabbar is fighting to pay college athletes and enforces the freedom of speech and religion.

Lebron James

Lebron James is considered by many to be the best basketball player of all time hence his nickname “The King”. You can’t describe this man's career with words. He has 20 all star selections, 4 MVP awards, 4 championships, 1 Rookie of the Year award, NBA 75th Anniversary team etc. The funny thing is that he is still playing today ! However, many people don’t recognize Lebron James’s work off the court. To this day, Lebron James has enhanced education across the United States, has donated thousands of dollars to charity, has created the I Promise program in Akron, Ohio etc. This proves that Lebron James has had a heck of a career on and off the court.

In conclusion, February is the month to recognize African-Americans who have changed America. In this essay, I discussed 3 of some of the most famous African American athletes in history. Just a heads up, these are not the only significant African American athletes. Guys like Michael Jordan, Tiger Woods, Kobe Bryant, Barry Sanders etc have provided equal support towards the African - American people. I just chose the 3 mentioned in the article due to different levels of interest. I hope you have learned what obstacles these famous athletes had to go through to get where they are. It is not an easy task. Hopefully many more athletes come and influence the world like these athletes did.

WORLD’S LARGEST FOOD FIGHT

By Will W.

Did you know that the world's largest food fight takes place in the northern Italian town of Ivrea. Every year, hundreds of citizens take part in a massive food fight throughout the town that lasts for three days. The battle takes place thanks to a local legend in which the citizens of Ivrea overthrew a tyrant who ruled the town. His name was Emperor Raneri de Biandrate, and he ruled over the town

with an iron fist. In 1194 he was overthrown and his castle was ransacked by the people. During the Battle of the Oranges, “soldiers” on foot represent the citizens, and the “soldiers” on wagons represent the Emperor’s forces. The soldiers fight for 3 days, throwing oranges at the opposing faction. The citizens faction tries to make it to the castle in the center of the town whilst the Emperor’s forces hold them off. Despite often resulting in bloody noses and black eyes among other injuries, the Battle of the Oranges is a massively popular event that attracts people from all over the world.



The ~~Worst~~ Pick-Up Lines

By Nobody Important

Valentine’s Day is coming soon, and many of you (yes guys, I’m looking at you) are looking for a valentine. Don’t worry, because I’m here to help you. I’ve gathered a list of the *best* pick-up lines for you to choose from to get your chosen one to choose you! (Yes, I know I’m cringe, deal with it). I’ve organized them in categories based on the topic, just to make it a tad easier for those of you who are history nerds, basketball players, chess club members, or really whoever.

History Pick-Up Lines

1. On a scale of one to America, how free are you tonight?
2. If I had a star for every time you brightened my day, I’d have more than enough for the American flag
3. I’m no Thomas Paine, but you and I are Common Sense

Disney Pick-Up Lines

1. Is your name Ariel? Because I think we were mer-made for each other
2. I’d show you my world, but I’m sure you own a mirror
3. My name isn’t Sully, but you could be my Boo
4. I’m late for a very important date... with you

Food Pick-Up Lines

1. If you were a vegetable, you’d be a cute-cumber
2. If you were a fruit, you’d be a fine-apple
3. Are you a bakery? ‘Cuz you’re a cutie-pie
4. You’re the macaroni to my cheese

Math Pick-Up Lines

1. I’m not a mathematician, but I’m pretty good with numbers. Can I get yours?
2. We’re supposed to solve for X... so glad I found U instead
3. You must be the square root of -100... you’re a solid 10, but too good to be real!
4. I *hate* fractions. Will you be my other half and complete me?
5. If you were a triangle, I know which kind you’d be: acute one
6. I’ve never been a big fan of math. In fact, the only number I care about is yours

Rhyming Pick-Up Lines

1. You may fall from the sky, you may fall from a tree, but the best way to fall is in love with me

2. What's cooking good looking?
3. Roses are red, violets are blue, sugar is sweet, and so are you!
4. You're a sunshine ray, and you just made my day
5. Did you cast a spell? Because I fell

Sports Pick-Up Lines

1. Can you call a lifeguard? 'Cuz I'm drowning in your eyes
2. I bet you play soccer because you're a keeper
3. Are you a referee? 'Cuz I just got a penalty for checking you out
4. I don't need a Zamboni to clean the ice, I just need you to sweep me off my feet
5. Do you need someone to spike up your life? Because I'm here to serve
6. If you were a fish, you'd be a Bass-ically perfect catch
7. I'm an umpire. Now, give me your number so I can make the call

Alphabet Pick-Up Lines

1. I don't know how to spell. I thought happiness starts with H. But it really starts with U
2. If I could rearrange the alphabet, I'd put U and I together
3. All I C is U
4. ABC can wait; let's talk about UNI
5. Do you know what's on the menu? Me-n-u

Most Popular Pick-Up Lines

1. There is something wrong with my cell phone. It doesn't have your number in it
2. Are you from Tennessee? Because you're the only 10 I see!
3. If you were a Transformer... you'd be Optimus Fine
4. Are you a parking ticket? Because you've got FINE written all over you
5. Do you believe in love at first sight—or should I walk by again?
6. I'm no photographer, but I can picture us together
7. If nothing lasts forever, will you be my nothing?
8. Did it hurt when you fell from heaven?

Now you can go try these out on literally whoever. They are 100% foolproof, they will 100% work, trust the process...

Clean Ocean Action

By: Sophia K.

Website: <https://cleanoceanaction.org/be-the-solution-to-ocean-pollution>

About COA:

- COA is a non profit that does semi-annual beach sweeps to clean up the trash that's unfortunately ended up on the beach.



- They have many locations for beach sweep, some are on the Atlantic coast, while others are on the Delaware River.
- If you are interested in volunteering to clean up a beach, a google form will be opened on February 14th. It's a very rewarding experience! I even had the opportunity to be a Junior Beach Captain at Palmyra Cove!



Statistics:

- In Palmyra Cove, a total of 1,724 pieces of trash were collected, on October 21st, 2023. Bottles of Coke, Gatorade, Pepsi, Budweiser, and even Minute Maid were all lying on the Delaware River sands.
- As of 2022, a total of 8,315,027 pieces of debris was collected all across New Jersey's beaches. Volunteers even managed to find a fully decorated Christmas tree!

Origins of Black History Month

By: Aarav S

Part 1: Negro History Week

Black History Month first started as Negro History Week, created in 1926 by Carter G. Woodson and the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH). This holiday was celebrated in the second week of February, because of Abraham Lincoln's birthday (February 12th) and Frederick Douglass's birthday (February 14th), two greatly respected individuals who were important in African American history. In fact, in January 1897, Mary Church Terrell, a school teacher, introduced the idea of Douglass Day, which purpose was to use the afternoon of his birthday to teach about his life in the city's public schools (which were still segregated during that time). Woodson's inspiration for Negro History Week, was when he participated in the Lincoln Jubilee, a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the emancipation of slavery.

Although not very popular, some states and cities decided to recognize the first Negro History Week. States which observed it included, North Carolina, Delaware, and West Virginia. Cities which observed it included, Baltimore, New York City, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C.

Later on in 1929, "every state with considerable Negro population," made this event official (with two exceptions), and states' departments of educations, distributed official literature related to this event. Churches also helped to do so.

Part 2: Black History Month

Black students and educators at Kent State University proposed the idea of Black History Month in February 1969. The first celebration took place from January 2, 1970, to February 28, 1970, at Kent State University.

President Gerald Ford recognized Black History Month at the United States Bicentennial in 1976. It was being celebrated throughout the country's educational institutions, community centers, etc., and is still being celebrated today.



What if I *don't* want to celebrate Valentine's day?



Things to celebrate in February when you don't have a valentine

By Maddison Dougherty

When you think of February, you probably think of Valentine's day. But what if you don't have a valentine? What if it just makes you annoyed to see a bunch of couples everywhere? Well, here's some things you can celebrate to take your mind off of this holiday.

- George Washington's birthday (19th)

A good day to do some research and learn some more about important historical figures during the revolutionary war.

- Make a friend day (11th)

Who needs a valentine when you can have a palentine?

- Groundhog day (2nd)

A goofy but fun way to predict the weather. Do you think it's correct?

- Leap year (29th)

Yep, 2024 is a leap year! A whole extra day of fun.

- Heart Awareness month (All month)

What are you doing that affects your heart? What can you do to make it healthier? February is the perfect time to find out!

There are plenty of ways to have fun with friends and family, or on your own this month. Don't let one holiday get you down, and have fun!



Chiefs vs. 49ers



By Liv D.

Back in October, I wrote an article asking who people thought would win the Super Bowl. Now that the Super Bowl has passed this past Sunday, it's time to rally up the guesses. In last place are Mr Corrado, Mrs Wireback, and Jacob C who all said the Eagles would win. That's unfortunate. They didn't even come close to making it to the Super Bowl. Also in last place are Siddarth V, Dylan P, and Anonymous who all said the Dolphins. Also in second place is Dylan P who said the 49ers would win. The 49ers made it to the Super Bowl and played a great game, but did not win. However, nobody thought that the Chiefs would pull through and win! Well, I did, but that's a different story.

The Chiefs and the 49ers played a good game, even going into overtime at the end! Though it started out pretty boring, both teams pulled through, and in the end, Patrick Mahomes passed the ball to Mecole Hardman who scored their game-winning touchdown with 13 seconds on the clock, 3 seconds to spare, finishing off with a score of 22-25 for the Chiefs.

There was an abundance of celebrities at the Super Bowl, too. Starting with Taylor Swift, obviously. Next is her "squad": Ice Spice, Lana Del Rey, Brittany Mahomes, Ashley Avignone, and Blake Lively. Some of the performers there were Usher, Alicia Keys, H.E.R., Lil Jon, Ludacris, will.i.am, Reba McEntire, Post Malone, and Andra Day. Many of the other celebrities in attendance were LeBron James, Shaquille O'Neil, Paul McCartney, Leonardo DiCaprio, Paul Rudd, Luke Combs, Kendall Jenner Russell

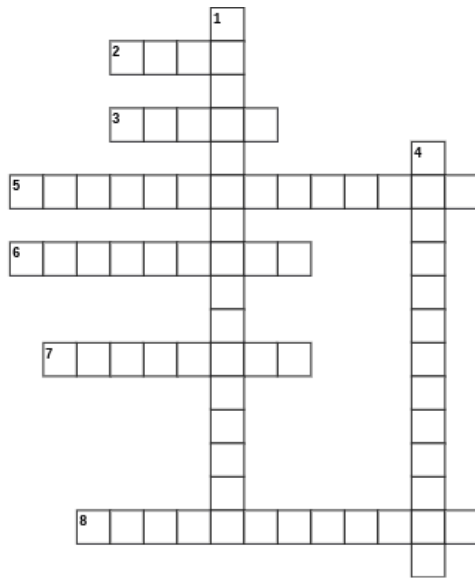
Wilson, and Ciara. Some of the couples/families there were the Kelces: Jason, Kylie, and Donna (Mom); The Biebers: Justin and Hailey; Lady Gaga and Michael Polansky; The Kardashians: Kim and Khloe; Gwen Stefani and Blake Shelton; The Carters: JAY-Z, Beyoncé, Blue Ivy, and Rumi; and Lastly, the Swifts: Taylor, Andrea (Mom), Scott (Dad), and Austin (Brother).

The Chiefs have played in four Super Bowls, and they've won all four! This year was the second time they have played and beaten the 49ers in the Super Bowl. The 49ers have played in eight Super Bowls, yet they have only won five. If the Chiefs win the Super Bowl next year, they will hold the record for most Super Bowls won in a row!

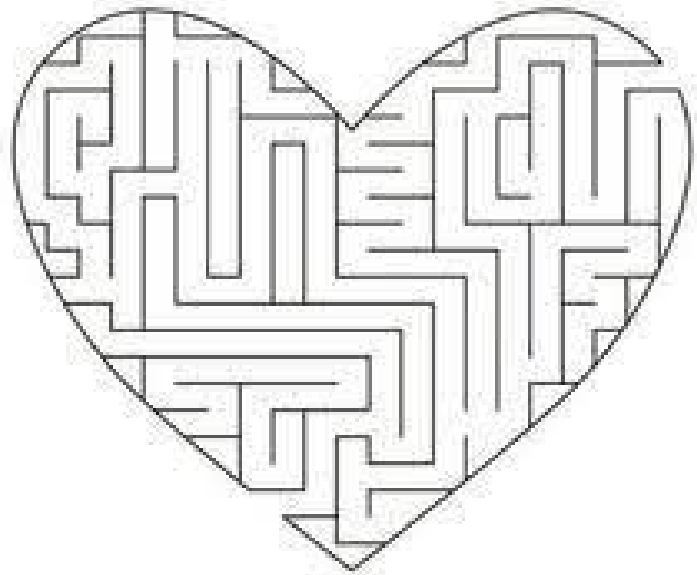
February

Puzzles

By: Emily Asciutto



FEBRUARY
AQUARIUS
LOVE
HEARTS
FRIENDS
GIFTS
FLOWERS
CHOCOLATE
BOX
DATES



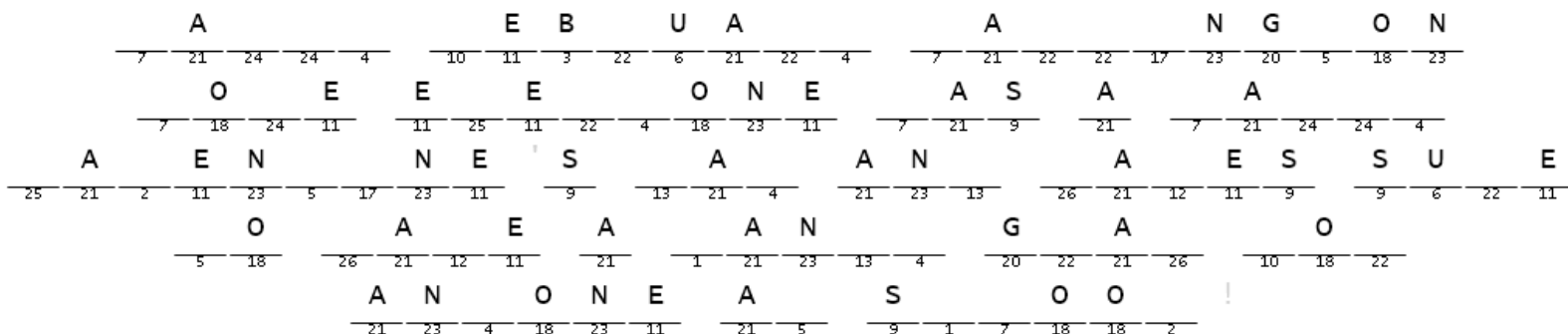
Across

- 2. you see the love of your life on a _____
- 3. popular shape of valentine's day
- 5. on february 10th it's _____
- 6. this treats are found in heart shape boxes
- 7. zodiac sign for February
- 8. we get to see if the creature has a shadow or not

Down

- 1. the first presidents birthday
- 4. the popular holiday in February

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
21	3			11		20							23	18				9		6					





Country of the Month

- Belgium -

By: Sophia K.

(Flag of Belgium)

Here are some interesting facts about Belgium!

- People in Belgium speak Dutch, French and German
- The population of Belgium is 11,679,000 (as of 2023.)
- Belgium's capital is Brussels! I bet people love brussel sprouts there, because the first brussel sprouts were grown in Brussels!
- Belgium's government is a Federal parliamentary democracy, which is a form of government where citizens elect representatives to a parliament to create laws.
- The national flower is Red Poppy!
- Belgium borders France to the South, The Netherlands to the North, Luxembourg and Germany to the West. Belgium also has a coast with the North Sea.
- Belgium has a square area of 30,528 square kilometers (11,787 square miles.) Belgium is a little bit larger than Maryland.
- The currency is Euro, one euro is equivalent to 1.07 dollars
- People in Belgium love to snack on Moules-Frites, which are exactly what it sounds like, mussels and potatoes! Belgium is also known for its excellent chocolate, such as Godiva.
- Belgium's GDP per capita is \$51,247.01 (as of 2021)
- Some major sports are Soccer, Ski, Tennis, Basketball, and Hockey.
- Belgium's independence day is on July 21st. In 1830, they separated from The Northern Netherlands, and on July 21st 1831, Leopold I became the first King of Belgium.
- NATO's HQ is in Brussels, as of 1967.
- Along with Luxembourg City and Strasbourg, France, Brussels is one of the three official countries of the European Union. Belgium is often called the capital of the EU.
- Some famous people from Belgium are Jean-Claude Van Damme, who is a martial artist. Audrey Hepburn was also born in Ixelles, Belgium. She was a very famous actress who was ranked as the third-greatest female actress by the American film institute.

Sources:

- <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/geography/countries/article/belgium>
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- <https://www.collinsdictionary.com/us/dictionary/english/parliamentary-democracy#:~:text=a%20system%20of%20governm,ent%20in.example%20Canada%20and%20the%20UK>
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Budget Friendly Valentine's Day Gifts

By: Anuja G.

We all know the month of February is the month of love and affection. The most popular holiday in February is obviously Valentine's Day. On Valentine's Day, you celebrate and appreciate your loved ones. People like your parents, siblings, classmates/colleagues, and significant others. Usually, people buy gifts like chocolate, flowers, jewelry, and perfume. But these can get really expensive, especially for a kid.

So here are some unique, budget friendly gifts that you can buy for your loved ones this Valentine's Day:

- **Spotify Song keychain/keyring** - a keychain with a self- selected Spotify song QR code
- **Small BonBon Sweet Gift Box** - A mix of sweet, sour, chocolate, or black licorice candies from this purveyor of elevated Swedish treats. They come in a glossy little box, secured with a pretty ribbon.
- **Heart locket necklace** - A small heart shaped locket, made for putting in photos of loved ones.
- **Fanny Pack** - A small bag that you can strap onto your waist
- **Customized photo magnets** - Photo magnets that you can customize by putting any photo you would like on it.
- **Jewelry Box** - A place to hold your jewelry
- **Inspirational Bracelet** - Made from stainless steel, you can pick from different sayings to be engraved inside to remind your loved one that they're the best.
- **Zodiac Pendant Necklace** - A necklace with a pendant choice between all 12 different zodiac signs

These are just a few different ideas for inexpensive gifts for Valentine's day! You can choose from any of these or come up with your own ideas! Happy Valentine's Day!

Oddvertising: A Story of the Strange

By Shawn Hooks (AKA Kirby)

Commercials. Some people love 'em. Some people hate 'em. But most of the US population probably agrees that the one day that all the little companies throw out their very best shots is when the top two teams throw it down at the Superbowl. Sometimes, you'll even see brand new companies starting out here. Most of 'em don't make a few months, but that's beside my point. What i'm trying to say is that sometimes when these companies weasel their way into the public eye, things get a little...strange, let's just say. I've interviewed some of your local personalities to find out just what is the strangest spot to hit the screens. Here's what they thought:

Q: What's the strangest commercial you've feasted your eyes on?

Will W: Probably an Allstate commercial where they were they plowed through 18 cars.

Ms. Poulton: The weirdest one is that Tidy Cats one where the cats have human bodies. It freaks me out.

Dhanshika S: The M&M commercial where the blue one gets mad over something and the orange one says "I can include you, don't worry".

Aarav S: There's this 1980's PSA called "We're NOT Candy" with these pills singing about how kids shouldn't eat them.

Sophia K: Probably one of the ads for Little Baby's Ice Cream because this guy is covered in ice cream and looks at you strange.

Mr. Chirip: Probably the one for Ozempic. There's this weird disclaimer that says "don't take Ozempic if you're allergic to Ozempic". It just keeps rattling on about all these terrible symptoms people could have.

Noah W: I saw a commercial for this burger maker where this guy had a weird voice.

Sage D: So I remember around 2020-ish there were these Goldfish commercials that piece together to make a whole story.

Stephown G: The weirdest commercial I've even seen? Probably those Snackeez commercials. It's weird seeing a cup with snacks. I usually think of cups as being for drinking.

Madison D: Have you seen the one for FanDuel casino where they rescued this kid from a well and he came out a 59 year old man? That disturbed me.

You know, I think there might be a lesson somewhere in this. Humans are social creatures, and we'll do anything for attention from other humans. But maybe you should think before you do something strange that sticks with people for a long time even after they see it. 'Else you might become a walking oddvertisement.

2 Easy Valentines Day Desserts

By Sophia K.



Frosted Sugar Cookies:

Total time: 55 minutes

Makes 15 cookies

For the cookies:

- 1/2 cup unsalted butter
- 3 oz cream cheese, at room temperature
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 2 large eggs, at room temperature
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
- 2 1/4 cake flour

For the frosting:

- 1 cup freeze dried raspberries, finely ground in a food processor or spice grinder
- 1 cup unsalted butter (2 sticks) at room temperature
- 2 cups granulated sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

2 teaspoon baking powder Sprinkles, for garnish	
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Directions

Step 1

Make the cookies: In a large bowl, using a spoon, cream the butter, cream cheese, sugar and salt until smooth and fluffy. Add the eggs and vanilla extract, and whisk to incorporate some air and to dissolve the sugar crystals, about 1 minute. Stir in the flour and baking powder until just incorporated.

Step 2

Heat oven to 350 degrees and line two rimmed sheet pans with parchment paper. Using two spoons or a cookie scooper, plop out 2-tablespoon/50-gram rounds spaced a couple of inches apart. (You should get about 7 to 8 cookies per sheet pan.) Place the sheet pans in the freezer for 15 to 20 minutes until the dough is no longer sticky and easier to handle.

Step 3

While the dough chills, make the frosting: In a fine-mesh sieve set over a medium bowl, sift the ground raspberries, using a spoon to help pass them through, until most of the ruby-red powder is in the bowl and most of the seeds are left behind in the sieve. (Discard the seeds.)

Step 4

To the bowl, add the 1 cup butter, confectioners' sugar, vanilla extract and salt and, with an electric hand mixer, mix on low speed until the butter absorbs the sugar. Then, turn the speed up to high and beat until the frosting doubles in size, about 2 minutes, scraping down the sides of the bowl with a rubber spatula to ensure all the ingredients are incorporated. Transfer the frosting to a small container, cover tightly, and set aside. (You should have about 2 cups of frosting.)

Step 5

Remove the sheet pans from the freezer. Roll the chilled dough into even balls and flatten them slightly with your fingers so they're about 2 inches wide and 1 inch high. Bake the cookies for 13 to 15 minutes, rotating the pans and switching racks halfway through, or until they no longer look wet on top, are still light in color and spring back to the touch. They will puff up and crack slightly. Let cool completely on the sheet pan. (They will continue to cook as they sit.)

Step 6

Using a butter knife or offset spatula, frost each cooled cookie with the raspberry frosting and adorn with the sprinkles.

Mini Brownie Treats:

Total time: About 40 Minutes

Makes 4 dozen

Ingredients

1 package fudge brownie mix (13x9-inch pan size)

48 striped or milk chocolate kisses

Directions

Prepare brownie mix according to package directions for fudge-like brownies. Fill 48 paper-lined miniature muffin cups two-thirds full. Bake at 350° for 18-21 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Immediately top each with a chocolate kiss. Cool for 10 minutes before removing from pans to wire racks to cool completely.

Aarov's Top Ten Favorite Books

By: Aarav S

I have created a list of my top ten favorite books of all time. So if you're ever stuck, make sure to refer to this, because these are some amazing books!

1. *Scythe* (Series)

Scythe by Neil Shusterman is a dystopian book set in 2042, where at this point everyone is immortal. To keep the world's population under control, certain people, called scythes have the task of murdering them. Rowan and Citra are unwillingly chosen to become a scythe's apprentice, but only one of them can become a scythe and the one who does have to kill the other. This book is the first book in the *Arc of the Scythe* series. I recommend it to seventh graders and older.

2. *Harry Potter* (Series)

The fantasy genre *Harry Potter* series by J.K. Rowling is arguably the most famous book series in the world. A boy named Harry Potter is invited to a magical seven-year school, called Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. In the first book, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, he experiences many events (like sticking a wand in a troll's nose) and makes many friends, but also enemies. I recommend this book to first-graders and older.

3. *Restart*

Restart by Gordan Korman is a realistic fiction book about a boy named Chase Ambrose, who fell off a roof. Because of this accident, he now has amnesia, and can't recall any previous events which have happened to him. Soon, he makes shocking realizations about who he used to be and has to make a difficult decision, whether or not to restart with a clean slate, or continue being who he was before the accident. I recommend this book to fifth graders and older.

4. *Percy Jackson* (Series)

Percy Jackson and the Olympians by Rick Riordan is a fantasy series about a boy named Percy Jackson who realizes he's the son of the Greek god of water, Poseidon. He is sent to Camp Half-Blood and needs to prepare to stop a war among the gods. I recommend this book to fourth graders and older.

5. *Ground Zero*

Ground Zero by Alan Gratz is a historical fiction book revolving around 9/11. It includes two perspectives, one of a boy, named Brandon whose father is trapped in the World Trade Center, and one of a girl living in the aftermath of 9/11 in Afghanistan who's suffering from the Afghanistan war and the Taliban. 9/11 greatly impacted both of their lives. I recommend this book to sixth graders and older.

6. *Because of Winn-Dixie*

Because of Winn-Dixie by Kate DiCamillo is a realistic fiction book about a girl named Opal, who has recently moved to the new town of Naomi, Florida. She meets Winn-Dixie at a supermarket, and when no one claims ownership of the dog, she decides to pretend it's hers. Ever since Winn-Dixie has been by her side. She experiences many hardships but also makes many new friendships. Everything is because of Winn-Dixie. I recommend this book to third graders and older.

7. *Alex Rider* (Series)

The Alex Rider series by Anthony Horowitz is an action-packed realistic fiction book series. Following the death of his uncle, Ian Rider, Alex realizes that Ian has been working as a spy for the British government agency M16, similar to

the CIA. Once he confronts them, he is constantly used by them for top-secret spy missions. The first book is Stormbreaker. I recommend this book to seventh graders or older.

8. *Who Was?* (Series)

The Who Was/Who Is series by various authors is a biographical series about famous people. Each book in the series revolves around one person and gives a biography about them from birth to death. I recommend this book to second graders or older.

9. *Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus*

Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus by Dusti Bowling is a realistic fiction book that follows Aven, a girl born without any arms, who has recently moved to Arizona since her family bought a theme park over there. Life presents her with many challenges, but she easily overcomes all of them. I recommend this book to sixth graders or older.

10. *Holes*

Holes by Louis Sachar is a realistic fiction book mystery about Stanley who's being forced to go to a correctional camp because of his bad luck in a desert located in Texas, where he's being made to dig holes every day, along with some other boys. He takes matters into his own hands and decides to solve the mystery, of why they are being made to do this. I recommend this book to fourth graders and older.

The Best Year in Human History

(a fictional story)

by **Shreya S.**

Thursday February 2nd, the year 536

It was a normal day when my brother and I were running to the groundhog's den and the groundhog was supposed to come out and see its shadow. This year has been pretty warm but that day was cloudy. We really hoped the groundhog would come out and at least see his shadow and that the sky would clear.

This year was a little bit challenging. The winters were colder, and we gathered less food. When it was near dawn we were expecting the groundhog to come out but the groundhog never did. After a few hours a priest went to examine the groundhog's den but the groundhog was missing. The whole town went into chaos because not only did we not see the groundhog's shadow we couldn't see our own shadows. Little did our town know that this would only be the beginning of our problems.

Tuesday July 5th, the year 536

Black clouds filled the air and air grew denser and denser. The villager's crops withered, throughout the whole harvest season. If you lived here, you could hear nothing. It was just quiet. I lived near the crops, once a place which seemed like fields of gold.

Now... it's just empty, like this town. There were only me, my brother and a few other kids that lived in a neighborhood. Our parents passed away from starvation. My brother and I were devastated, but luckily we had each other.

I just came back from gathering the very little food I collected, to witness my brother crying. I quietly went up to him and put my hand on his shoulder and he cried in my lap. It was useless to ask him why he was crying, I already knew why. It was not fun being the oldest. Everyone expects me to take care of my siblings and to know everything. I still have no idea how to do anything.

Just then I saw Tristan running really fast toward me trying to catch his breath. "What happened Tristan? Why did you run so fast?" I said, concerned.

"The - The - There coming!" Tristan screamed.

Stay tuned for part 2

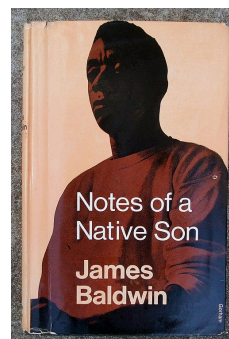
African American Authors

By: Vikshith Anagandla

James Baldwin

James Baldwin was an influential American writer. Baldwin was born on August 2, 1924 in Harlem, New York. During his early childhood, he experienced poverty; he never knew his biological father. He graduated from DeWitt Clinton High School. Baldwin took part in a civil rights movement. His writings were influenced by his friend's death. He became close friends with historical figures such as Malcolm X and Martin Luther King. Throughout his career, he wrote many books, plays, and essays. One of the most famous works include "Notes of a Native Son". Baldwin's life was cut short and died on December 1, 1978, of stomach cancer at the age of 63.

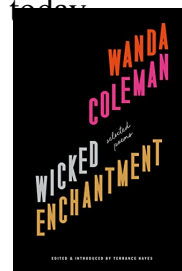
Famous quote - "All that can save you now is your confrontation with your own history . . . which is not your past, but your present,"



S

Wanda Coleman

Wanda Coleman is an inspirational American poet and writer. Her literature and poetry inspired many generations of poets. Coleman was born on November 13, 1944 and raised in South Central Los Angeles. Wanda Coleman started writing poetry at the age of 5. She graduated from John C. Fremont High School and later on she enrolled at Los Angeles Valley College in Van Nuys and transferred to California State University at Los Angeles. She never earned a degree even though she went to many colleges. She worked many jobs before turning to writing poetry. Some of the jobs she worked are magazine editor and a journalist. Coleman was influenced by many great poets such as Henri Coulette, Diane Wakoshi, and John Thomas. "Coleman's work is focused on racism and the outcast status of living below the poverty line." "Her first poetry manuscript was published as a chapbook *Art in the Court of the Blue Fag* in 1977." "Wanda Coleman died in 2013 following a long illness." She made a great impact on the poets today.



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Valentines Day Box Inspirations

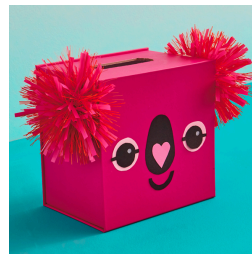
By Siena Slepian

Want to make a Valentine's day box this year, but don't know where to start? Well you're in luck because this article has a bunch of Valentines day box inspirations for you to make and choose from.

1. Koala Valentines Day Box

What you will need:

- One shoebox
- Pom Pom gift bows (you can get these from the Hallmark store)
- Blrdstock or construction paper
- White crayon or paint marker
- Paint or paper to cover the box
- Pencil
- Tape
- Craft knife
- Cutting mat
- Scissors
- Glue stick
- Pink cardstock or construction paper



How to make it:

1. Use the craft knife to cut the mail slot.

2. Paint the box pink or cover it with pink paper.
3. Cut the pom pom gift bows off as close as possible to the box, and then glue them on to the box.
4. Glue the inner black eyes to the pink eye circles. Use a white marker to make little pupils on the eyes.
5. Glue the pink heart on the bottom of black nose.
6. Now glue on the eyes, nose, and mouth.
7. Make sure to use the picture above as a reference!

2. Camera Valentines Day Box

What you will need:

One shoe box

Cardboard scraps to add for details

Card stock in at least 3 colors

Paint that matches card stock

Iridescent cellophane wrap (you can get this at hallmark)

Confetti

Bottle cap

Ribbon for strap

Pom poms

Scratch paper

Craft knife

Cutting mat

Scissors

Invisible tape

Pencil

Glue stick

Hot glue gun



How to make it:

1. Paint or cover the box pink
2. Cut a mail slot
3. On each side of the box, in the center of the side and about $\frac{1}{2}$ from the top, cut 2 slits the width of the ribbon you're using for the strap. Thread one end of the ribbon through the top slit and out of the bottom slit. Fold the end of the ribbon up and hot glue it to secure it in place.
4. Draw a heart about half the height of your box on a piece of scratch paper. Cut it out and trace it onto 2 pieces of cardboard-1 piece of pink card stock and 1 piece of iridescent cellophane-cut these out. You'll also need to cut out $\frac{1}{2}$ pieces of card stock in another color, each long enough to fit enough around one side of the heart.
5. Cut a circle of card stock that's a little bigger than the bottle cap. Glue it on the top of the camera. Paint the bottle cap and glue it to the card stock circle.
6. As always, use the picture above as a reference!

3. Dinosaur Valentines Day Box

What you will need:

Medium sized box (something like a tissue box)

A cereal box

Single faced corrugated cardboard (like a moving box)

Paper

Craft knife

Cutting mat

Paint, wrapping paper, or tissue paper

Card stock or construction paper

Marker

Pencil

Glue stick

Masking tape

Hot glue gun



How to make it:

1. Draw the head, tail, and plates on paper and then trace it onto the paper board. Cut them out with a craft knife. Cut long strips from the corrugated cardboard to create the sides of the head and tail.
2. Next, create the head and the tail. Tape the 2 sides of the head and to the strip of the corrugated cardboard. Do this again for the tail.
3. Cut out a mail slot, if the box doesn't already have one.
4. Paint the head, feet, tail, and body. You can also cover it with wrapping paper.
5. Make the face. Make eyes by cutting out two paper circles and two smaller dark paper circles. Glue these on, and paint or draw nostrils and a mouth on each side of the head.
6. Make sure to put it all together. You didn't build all of the other parts for nothing! Hot glue the feet to the bottom of the body. Then hot glue the head and tail to the body. Finally add the plates/scales that go on the back. Glue them from the start at the tail to the top of the head.
7. Last but not least, add any other decorations to your box such as stickers, hearts, etc. Of course, don't forget to use the picture above to help you!

Go to <https://ideas.hallmark.com/articles/valentines-day-ideas/diy-dinosaur-valentine-box/>
For more info! Happy Valentine's Day!