



# Woodbridge Academy Newsletter

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## FUN ACTIVITIES TO DO OVER SPRING BREAK

by Prisha Patel

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Spring--- the season of new beginnings, fresh buds blooming, buzzing bees, animals awakening, and the Earth coming to life again. Spring is a time of new growth; the days are longer and brighter, and our moods are lifted by the extra light and warmer temperatures. But most of all, spring signifies the time that high schoolers look forward to during the hectic school year--- Spring Break. Spring break is the week when teenagers can take a break from their studies and relax and enjoy themselves. Although some may prefer to sleep for their entire spring break, there are several activities that anyone can try out to keep themselves entertained throughout the whole week!

**Some of these activities include:**

- ★ Watch the sunrise and sunset.
- ★ Go for a picnic at a local park.
- ★ Dance in the rain!
- ★ Camp in your backyard with your friends.
- ★ Cook a new recipe each day.
- ★ Have a sleepover or an all day Saturday movie marathon.
- ★ Go to a concert and jam out to your favorite tunes!
- ★ Visit an exhibit at a museum.
- ★ Volunteer in your local community.
- ★ Visit a new café or restaurant.
- ★ Visit a tulip farm!
- ★ Spend a day at the mall or go thrifting.
- ★ Have a photoshoot!
- ★ Throw a theme party (pool party, glow-in-the-dark, etc.)

**If you would like to think ahead:**

- ★ Get a headstart on your homework/assignments.
- ★ Visit a college.
- ★ Research internships.

Do not forget that Spring Break is supposed to be a time for you to loosen up since school can be extremely stressful. So, even if you are studying this spring break, give your brain a little time to relax and have some fun!

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# Activities/Tips For People With Pollen Allergies

by Ananya Goel

Winter's fading and the days are slowly becoming longer and warmer. If you're like me, you may be looking forward to fun outdoor activities like gardening, picnics, and maybe even a day trip or two. Although for most individuals spring is a wonderful time of the year, it can quickly become a nightmare for those that suffer from hay fever, or seasonal allergies. The thought of a near constant slew of sneezes, watery and itchy eyes, and a runny nose can cause



allergy sufferers to dread the beginning of the spring season. But don't despair! There are some very simple measures you can take to enjoy most, if not all spring activities.

★ **Pay attention to the local pollen counts.** Pollen counts have become a regular part of most weather forecasts and they tend to be accurate. Pollen levels are higher on dry, warm, and windy days, and lower on cloudy, rainy, and windless days. The time of day can also affect pollen counts. Peak pollen periods tend to be in the early morning and early evening hours, so if you plan activities for the afternoon, you should be fine.

★ **Avoid pollen as much as possible.** Make sure the windows of your house and car stay closed as much as possible. This will help keep pollen outside, and away from you. After outdoor activities, be sure to remove all clothing that you wore went outside, including shoes. Make sure to shower and wash your hair before going to sleep. This will help rid yourself of pollen collected while outside. You could also rinse out your sinuses and nasal passage with saline solution and your eyes with lubricating eye drops, in order to rid your mucous membranes of pollen.



★ **Now, that you have some tricks up your sleeve to best your allergies, what exactly can you go outside and do?** Gardening can be a very calming and fruitful activity to begin in the spring. Flying a kite is a classic spring activity that shouldn't be missed because of terrible allergies. Go see a play, indoors if there's a high pollen count or your allergies are acting up, or outdoors. Maybe even pack a picnic lunch to enjoy in the sunshine! Enjoy this wonderful season!

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# School Life

## A Step into HOSA

by Esha Brahmhatt

HOSA, currently called Future Health Professionals (though in the past it was an acronym for Health Occupations Students of America), is an international student organization that promotes

leadership skills and citizenship traits. So far throughout the 2018-19 academic year, under the advisory of Dr. Christine Wiemer, Woodbridge Academy has participated in the HOSA Regionals Conference and the HOSA States Conference. Many students have already received recognition for their efforts in both conferences.

The organization offers many events including making a poster, writing an essay, presenting a speech, and much more. The events are health-related and trace back to many of the topics that students in Woodbridge Academy learn about everyday in their classrooms. For example, one of the events was Researched Persuasive Writing and Speaking, in which participants had to pick one of the two controversial health topics, write a persuasive essay, and then present it in front of judges. Students from our school participated in many events in both regionals and states, putting all of their hard work, time, effort, and sweat into their work. All participants, whether they were awarded medals or not, definitely deserve a round of applause.

For many, this year was their very first year doing HOSA and other students were seasoned veterans. HOSA is a thrilling experience that can make a student feel excited, anxious, and like you're doing something out-of-the-box. The atmosphere at the conferences is rather friendly and exhilarating than aggressive and stressful (as many think it is). There are booths offering information on colleges, extracurricular programs, and so much more. Sometimes, there are inspirational speakers who come to educate and introduce new topics and lifestyles to the students who attend the conferences. Lastly, the people will help you with whatever you need, whether they be judges, school staff, HOSA staff, etc. HOSA is meant to shape students into their best selves with their best work ethics and personality. Also, just a warning, if you do end up going to a conference you might miss it at the end of the day because the experience is incredibly inspiring!



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# The Woodbridge Academy Softball Team

by **Shreya Bollu**

The Middlesex County Academy for Allied Health and Biomedical Sciences is a diverse community of young adults who are driven by their passion to become the best they can be in academics and extracurriculars. The hardworking and motivated girls on the softball team strive to maintain a balance between their work and passion for the sport and team. By working diligently and with great pressure, these young women continue to work constantly to help Woodbridge Academy shine greatly.



The players on the softball team attend practices everyday where they work on many skills which are crucial to bring the team together when competing against other schools. Practices last for around two hours every day where players run, perform conditioning, and use stations to coordinate everyone's skill level and range of improvement.

When asked about the team's everyday practices, freshmen Shruti Tyagi responded, "Everyday, we run for about fifteen minutes and whenever somebody lags behind, we always try to cheer them on. Though the runs can be difficult, they are ultimately to ensure we constantly don't feel exhausted throughout the game."

Players on the varsity softball team and coaches, Ms. Cuesta and Dr. Frank, also encourage the Junior Varsity players to work harder and push themselves more every day. As a team, the players feel it is a win just to be part of an amazing team where they get to meet new people and enjoy themselves when playing a sport they love. They want to be able to have a wonderful season and even though they may not win every game, it is enough to know that they have improved their skills when working with their teammates.

To each individual player, being a team member motivates them to work harder. "During practices, I always try my hardest, so I don't bring my team down. Whenever we are working on different stations to strengthen a specific skill, I always try to perform it properly so I am able to apply those strategies when necessary. We always help our peers when they may be struggling and focus on becoming better and grow as a team," stated Shruti Tyagi.

The players on the softball team are excited to begin competing with other schools and promise to give it their all to become the best!



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# Recommendation Letter Etiquette

by Philip Krotenok

Recommendation letters for college are an integral part of your academic profile, so following the proper etiquette can make this entire process more simple, easy, and rewarding. If you're a junior, you will find this article extremely helpful. If you're not, you can still pick out some helpful information that you can use when applying for other summer programs and clubs. Here are the top 5 useful tips!

1. **Make a formal request with your teacher (e.g. email):** A formal request indicates to your teacher that you are professional, organized, and considerate. An email allows your teacher to think about your request before you actually meet with them in person. Asking for a letter without any prior formal request can put the teacher off guard during a conversation and make them feel uncomfortable about discussing the issue with you at that moment. In the email you can include your purpose of the recommendation and why you chose that teacher. DO NOT attach any resume or CV before the teacher accepts. After the email is sent, allow for some time for the teacher to consider your request, then meet with them in person about their response.
2. **Ask early and never assume:** Remember, you are not the only one who will ask for a letter of recommendation. Teachers have very tight schedules and may decline writing a letter even if there are three weeks left until the deadline. I recommend asking within two months before an application deadline. Also, never assume that a teacher will write you a letter.
3. **Choose teachers wisely:** It may come as surprising, but even if a teacher accepts to write you a letter, their response may not reflect your positive character; they might remember the inappropriate mischief you used to enact and might not view it fondly. Always pick teachers that can endorse your character. Schools want to see a showcase of your growth as an academic and as an honorable person. Teachers with whom you have a good rapport and whom can vouch for such behaviorisms in their classrooms or clubs will be the best choice since they might know you best. You want an advocate, not a critic.
4. **Provide appropriate information about the position and yourself:** This step applies to when your teacher accepts the position of writing you a letter. You should provide information about the schools that you intend to apply to so the teacher can write the letter for that audience as well as indicate any requirements that the letter must include. You should also include a list of things about yourself in a brief resume: a brief transcript (some require), career aspirations, club activities in and outside of school, volunteer and job occupation experiences, and any other references about your character. Visiting the *Google Docs* or *Microsoft Word* or *Pages* templates section can reveal many resume choices for you to select as needed.
5. **Always follow up with a thank you letter:** Writing a letter of recommendation is not easy. Teachers put in a lot of time and effort so that they can see you succeed in the future world. The best way to respect their effort is by writing a follow up letter. This letter should express your gratitude toward their action of assisting you in your time of need and, if you are accepted, helping you reach your ideal university or college.

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# New Declassified High School Survival Guide

by **Shreya Sridhar**

*It's no secret that high school is four years of stress, confusion, and fear. Many of us spend at least half of our high school careers in a haze of good-intentioned stumbling, but as someone who has spent a good portion of time here, I'd like to imagine I have it figured out. Without further ado, I present you with all my cumulative knowledge gathered during my time here at the Academy.*

## **FRESHMAN YEAR**

Freshman year is the start of it all. Get involved in extracurricular activities you can genuinely see yourself doing for four years, and make the best impressions you possibly can on everyone around you! Develop the best study and time-management skills you can, and over the course of the year, think about what parts of the curriculum interest you and what parts don't. Though you may be a little young now, start looking at community service initiatives that interest you and motivate you to participate. Remember to keep your grades as high as possible, and try to find stress coping methods that will stay with you throughout the following years.

## **SOPHOMORE YEAR**

It's time to get serious about college and career. Plus, with many of you turning 16, you'll want to start volunteering and picking up jobs. Your PSAT attempt this year will be your last, and possibly only, practice for the real thing, so take it seriously! Finally, if you ever think it's ever too early to look at summer programs or scholarships—it never is. When you're bored, get a head start on whatever you can—including your SATs.

## **JUNIOR YEAR**

This is the time to really solidify your future plans: Introspection is key. Explore your interests and options with an open mind, and don't be afraid to talk to your teachers about their thoughts! You'll want to visit colleges you're interested in and get a feel for the environments you want to experience. Make sure to finish up all your tests and continue with your job, volunteering, and clubs. Try to take on a leadership role if you can, and shift your focus to experiential learning. Of course, don't sacrifice your grades to all of this!

## **SENIOR YEAR**

This year, it's all about college and The Capstone Project. Don't let senioritis get to you—your grades still matter! Your college list should be finalized before now, and your only worry now should be applications, although it will be a huge advantage to get the majority of those done over the summer before the year starts. Scholarships are very important too, so try to apply to as many of them as possible. Once all your applications are done, you only have to choose a college and prepare for the future. Make sure to enjoy your last few moments in high school—it may have been stressful, but the moments in between are truly going to be some of the best you've experienced, and it's important to savor them.



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# Extracurriculars: Finding Your Place Outside of School

by Liesha Yenduri

Everyone is racing for college; every day involves waking up and hoping for good grades to get scholarships to the best colleges in the nation. It's quite understandable to feel this way because everyone should care for their future. However, it is also important to make time for other aspects of yourself and your college applications.

Colleges want all-rounders, people not only in it for the grades, but for the community. If you have an amazing GPA and incredible test scores, it would help you get into a good college, but you could have gotten a better offer if you went through with your fullest potential. The best way to do this is by involving yourself in various extracurricular activities outside of school. You need to make a name for yourself outside of school in order to guarantee that good scholarship.

There are many ways to get involved with out of school activities. First off, just stop by your library! They have various programs ranging from a simple volunteering session of children's programs or to joining an American Red Cross chapter. Understandably, all cities and towns may not offer such programs, but they all at least have something that is simple enough for you to get involved.

Each community also has a senior center or a children's daycare. If you meet a certain age requirement, such as 16 years, or completed 10th grade, they will allow you to volunteer and entertain the various residents at these places. This can be a great experience; hanging out and playing with little kids can be great to relax the mind and take a breather. On the other hand, if you don't really like kids, you can always help out at the senior centers. They have small jobs like serving snacks or helping the seniors paint or draw. This is a very fulfilling experience because the seniors have a lot of experience that they can share with you. Demonstrating that you are a selfless and generous person who will take time out of your day to entertain others also demonstrates you are a person colleges would want representing their own core values.

There are always a few setbacks with these attempts though. However, if you have a busy schedule and you can't arrange rides, you can always join clubs at school. Clubs like Key Club, HOSA, Debate Club, The Red Cross, and Amnesty International are quite flexible and great ways to get involved with your local communities. They are great experiences because helping other people out always leaves a good feeling in you; in fact, it feels much better than scoring high on a test score. Anyone can study and get a 100, but it's really hard to take time out of your busy schedule and help out throughout the community. If none of the above options work for you, you can always start your own non-profit organization. It could be you and a couple friends cleaning the park down the street or hosting a blood drive at the nearest YMCA. There are endless possibilities for creating a non-profit organization if you truly want to contribute to society.

Should you find a club, make sure it appeals to you. If you are just active in a club because it looks good on a college transcript or resume, it will negatively affect you and your ideas about society. Try joining something you look forward to daily so you can enjoy it and gain purpose; putting it on your resume will just be a bonus.

Don't also forget to actively participate in your club. Even though some of your ideas may be rejected, keep sharing your opinions, because one of them might click and yield good results and recognition. If you have enough positive recognition, you could eventually obtain a leadership position in your favorite club. Your enthusiasm and effort would really boost your resume, and not to mention, give you more freedom and authority over the club so you can implement your ideas and proceed with them. Ultimately, these are but a few of the many benefits to joining a club that are unrelated to college; it is better since they help you grow as a person and help you contribute to your, and others', community.

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# Seasonal Entertainment: Film and Fiction

## The Box Office: What Worked and What Did Not

by Sarina Thapar

The success of a movie is defined by three things: audience opinion, how much money it was able to pull in, and its critical acclaim. Almost no movie is able to achieve all three, and the reality is that not every movie tries to be a success in all three ways. As a result, in order to understand if a movie was successful or not, you have to be able to analyze what the project wanted to achieve, and what it was able to. To better understand this distinction, we will analyze two recent movies and determine if they were a success, or if they just didn't meet the mark.

### 1. Avengers: Infinity War



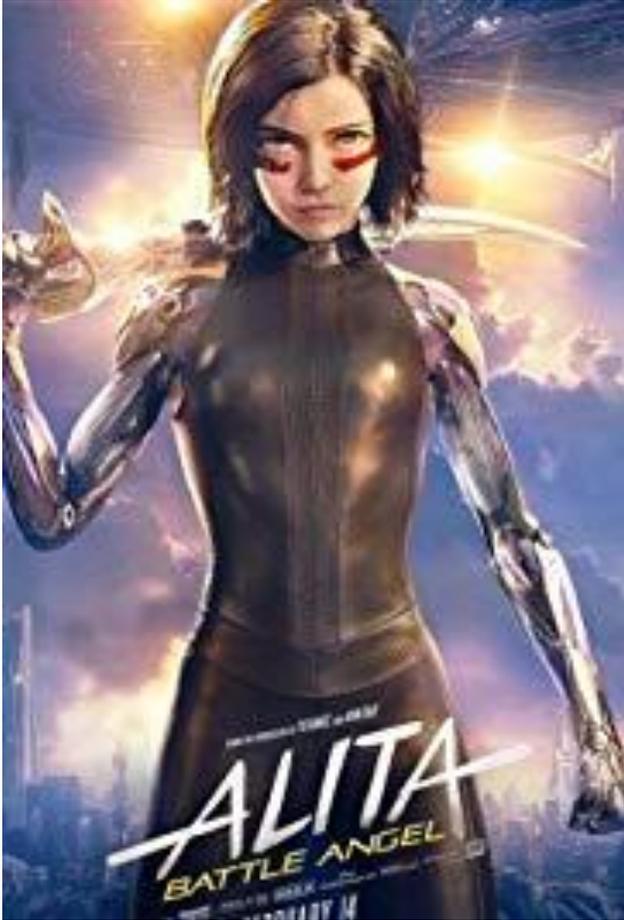
I thought I should start off with a fairly easy one: *Avengers: Infinity War* was a major success. The movie represents the first part of the conclusion of phase one of the Marvel cinematic universe, and it lived up to its hype. It was generally well liked by audiences, achieving an “A” cinema score, which is used to see how the general public received a movie, rather than the media or critics. It also made a large amount of profit, with a production budget of about \$300 million- no, I am not joking- and having a total box office of over \$2 billion dollars. Even if you were to double the production cost to account for advertising costs, this is still a substantial sum for Disney, the production company. Not only that, but *Avengers: Infinity War* was able to garner respect from the industry, as shown by its many award nominations and wins, and mostly positive reviews, something that is rarely achieved in the superhero genre. All in all, *Avengers: Infinity War* is one of the very few movies that is successful in every way that matters, explaining why the Marvel cinematic universe has been able to last a decade, and will probably continue for years to come.

© Marvel Studios

© Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures

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## 2. *Alita: Battle Angel*



*Alita: Battle Angel* is an adaptation on a 1990s Japanese manga series, and follows a female protagonist Alita, as she learns to navigate her life after waking up as a cyborg. The movie was well-liked by audiences, receiving an A- cinema score and a 94% audience score on Rotten Tomatoes. However, the movie did not have much else going for it. It was definitely not liked by critics, receiving a 60% critics score on Rotten Tomatoes and many sources critiquing the writing of the movie. Not only that, but this was not the biggest problem for the movie. The movie was insanely expensive, with a production cost of around \$200 million, and with a box office of around \$395 million, it barely breaks even, not including advertising costs. The way media is currently, movie studio have to be very selective of which projects they choose to make into movies, and which will stay as television/streaming shows. *Alita: Battle Angel* will probably make its money back on streaming, but could have been a huge success as a 10-episode, Netflix style show. However, the movie does represent the emergence of female role models that the younger generation can look up

to, similar to Wonder Woman or Captain Marvel. In summary, *Alita: Battle Angel* would not be considered “successful”, because it was not able to achieve one of the things it set out to do: make money. If it was made with a smaller budget, this would be more of a debate rather than a black and white question.

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# On the Come Up by Angie Thomas

Critiqued by **Theresa Carlos**

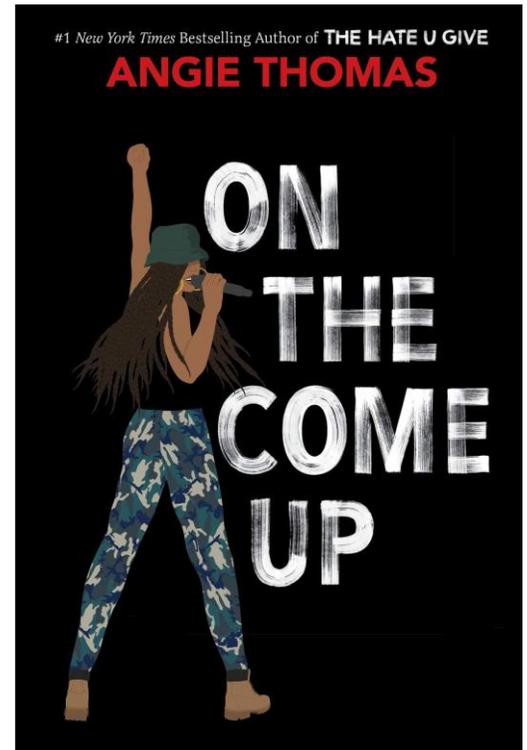
It's no surprise that the novel, *On the Come Up* has made phenomenal success since *The Hate You Give* took the young adult world by storm. Angie Thomas' first book was bold as it addressed several tough topics including racism, social class, stereotypes, homophobia, and political violence. In her second novel, *On the Come Up*, Thomas chose to set the story in Garden Heights, the same setting as *The Hate You Give*, but instead focuses on sixteen-year-old character Bri Jackson who has dreams of being a rapper to provide stability for her family.

One of my favorite things about the book was that not only did it do an exceptionally well job capturing the social issues of an African American community but it also created a feeling of relatableness through the story of Bri. As a normal teenager in high school, Bri has to deal with friend group drama, romance, and even the ACTs. On top of this, Bri is also faced with issues including her family's finances, involvement in a gang and her constant concern for their safety, and her anxiety regarding her mother's drug abuse. Throughout the book, we see Bri develop as she faces the threats of poverty, stereotyping, and drug abuse. As an initially stubborn, emotional teenager, Bri learns to embrace her flaws and utilize them for cultivating her sense of self.

Bri's aspirations to become a rap artist is an important aspect of the novel and is often prioritized over her education, much to her father's dismay. Her father, a popular underground rapper was shot 12 years ago by a rival gang. Through her search for fame, Bri must live up to her father's legacy and also step out from his shadows. Another interesting aspect of the book is the adversity Bri encounters while pursuing music, as she struggles with the stereotypes of being an African American female in the rap industry but is also tempted to give into the prejudice to have a more successful career and in turn help her family financially. As the story progresses, Bri forges deeper and deeper into the image created for her rather than building it for herself and sees the consequences of her actions.

Another element of the novel that was wonderfully well written was the story of the side characters which added to the three dimensionality and authenticity of the plot. Although *On the Come Up* is a standalone novel, I feel like I got to know more about the characters and their underlying intentions, including Bri's brother Trey who is struggling to look for a job after just graduating, and even Aunt Pooh, who sells drugs, but still loves her family. Bri's paternal grandparents also played an important part in the plot of the story by acting as a support system for Bri and showed the importance of having someone to confide.

Overall, I encourage everyone to read *On The Come Up*. This novel provides a different perspective about the issues facing many of those in the African American community who are growing up in lower income neighborhoods, the struggles that they deal with, and the sacrifices they have to make. For many readers, this can even help them see a very human side of the world they may only be familiar with from the news. Even if you are not familiar with rap, hopefully by the end of the novel you may even want to listen to rap or give it a chance. In the end, this is a confronting novel that may not be to everyone's taste but I believe it's worth a try.



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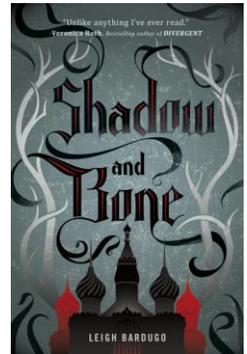
# Start Fresh This Spring with A Good Book!

Investigated by [Cayla Xue](#)

Spring is a season of rebirth and growth; the barren trees are budding once again, sprouts are breaking through thawed earth, and birds are returning back to their homelands in V-formation. Yet another Winter has passed and the world is waking from its frozen slumber. What better time than now to restart your reading trend? The daylight lasts longer, the air is warmer, and the grass has been colored green again. The sun's out and you can be too: on an adventure through reading a book! So here's a list of reads for your fresh start this Spring, courtesy of Goodreads.com!

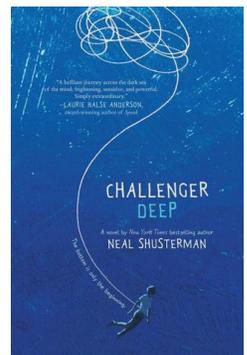
## 1) *Shadow and Bone* (The Grisha Trilogy #1) by Leigh Bardugo

- ★ **Genre:** Fantasy, young adult, romance, adventure fiction
- ★ **Summary:** The nation Ravka has been torn apart by the Shadow Fold; a swath of darkness that appeared one day and is crawling with monsters that feed on human flesh. The darkness slowly eats away at Ravka as enemies surround the nation. Alina Starkov has never been good at anything but when her regiment is attacked in the Shadow Fold she saves her best friend Mal and unleashes a hidden power. A power that just so happens to be the key to saving her country. Whisked away from everything she's ever known, Alina is thrust into the lavish world of the kingdom's magical elite, the Grisha, who are led by the mysterious and terrifyingly powerful Darkling. Nothing in this luxurious world is as it seems though, and now with darkness looming and an entire kingdom's fate depending on her untamed powers, Alina will have to confront the secrets of the Grisha and realize who her true enemies are.



## 2) *Challenger Deep* by Neal Shusterman

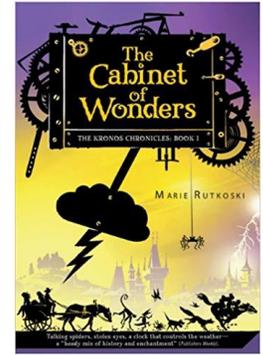
- ★ **Genre:** Young adult, realistic fiction, contemporary
- ★ **Summary:** Caden Bosch is fifteen years old and he's a normal high school student. He likes school, hanging out with his family and friends, and designing video games. Caden Bosch is a ship's artist in residence to document the journey. He thinks someone at school wants to hurt him and he pretends to join the school track team but instead spends his days walking for miles, lost in his thoughts. Caden Bosch is torn. What's "real" and what's not overlap as he gets lost in his mind. Caden's family and friends begin to notice that something's wrong, and he ends up in a mental hospital. Follow Caden's struggles with his mental health as he embarks on his journey to find what's real again and get home to his family from the mysterious ship run by the one-eyed captain in his mind.



3) *The Cabinet of Wonders* (The Kronos Chronicles #1) by Marie Rutkoski

★ **Genre:** Fantasy, young adult, science fiction (steampunk), adventure fiction

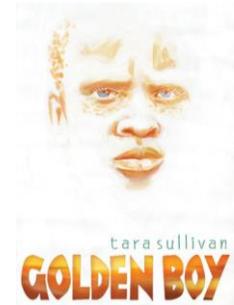
★ **Summary:** Petra Kronos is a normal girl who lives a simple life. But her world is anything but ordinary. She has a pet tin spider named Astrophil who gives her advice and hides in her hair; her best friend Tomik can trap lightning, wasps, and water inside glass spheres; and her father, who can move metal with his mind, was commissioned by the prince in faraway Prague to build the world's best astronomical clock. But when her father returns home one day blind, Petra's world is turned upside down. The prince has stolen her father's eyes and now wears them. Petra doesn't know the prince's motives, but she knows this: she will go to Salamander Castle and steal her father's eyes back. Joined by Neel, who has invisible finger extensions that pick locks and pockets, Petra infiltrates the castle and uncovers many hidden truths – including the fact that her father's clock has the power to destroy the world.



4) *Golden Boy* by Tara Sullivan

★ **Genre:** Young adult, realistic fiction, historical fiction, adventure fiction, cultural themes

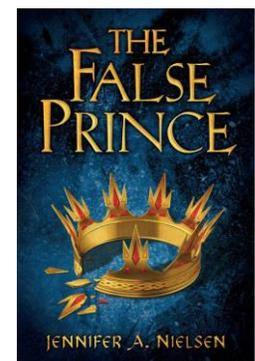
★ **Summary:** Thirteen year old Habo doesn't fit in; his skin is white, his eyes are light, and his hair is yellow. He doesn't look like his brown skinned family or the white skinned tourists. Habo is different and alone, and this makes life hard for him. His father abandons his family because he can't accept Habo, his mother can't bear to look at him, and his brothers and the other children are cruel to him. Asu, his sister, is the only one who accepts him, but even she can't comfort Habo when their family is forced to leave their Tanzanian village because of him. They seek refuge in Mwanza where his aunt is glad to take them in until she sees Habo. Now Habo finds himself in more danger than ever; in Mwanza, people hunt albinos because their body parts are thought to bring good luck. In order to survive and protect his family, Habo must run away and learn to accept himself.



5) *The False Prince* (The Ascendance Trilogy #1) by Jennifer A. Nielsen

★ **Genre:** Fiction, fantasy, young adult, adventure fiction

★ **Summary:** In the kingdom of Carthya the King's wife and oldest son has been murdered. With civil war brewing, a nobleman named Bevin Conner devises a plan to find an impersonator for the king's lost son, Prince Jaron, who was the heir to the throne and has been missing for years. Conner visits different orphanages and recruits four orphans, including Sage; a defiant orphan with a sharp tongue, who is talented at thievery and deceit. Sage knows Conner's motives are questionable, but his life depends on being chosen to play the part of the prince. As treachery comes to light a truth is revealed, and it soon proves to be more dangerous than all the lies.



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# Student Writing Spotlight

## “spring is”

by Sanjna Mootakoduru

Spring is in the rays of sun slipping past your blinds, hungrily searching for the bare morning wood of the floorboards. It's in your reluctance to wake up today, your alarm is merciless this morning, sounding without rest. But you pull the curtains back anyway, the warm golden light and sweet warble of the songbirds flood the room, not sparing a single nook or cranny.

Spring is in the weekend breeze that grazes your face lukewarm and lazy on your early walk. It's threaded deep into every string of the fabric of your light jacket and woven into the loose rips of your jeans. The bulbs of flowers line the houses and the dogwood trees are explosions of soft pinks. People are out after months of ruthless winter, cycling, and jogging, and sweating in the newfound heat. You see the basketball court is filled with movement, and kids in shorts that are probably seeing the light of the sun the first time in ages after being stored away into the depths of some desolate closet. You breathe it in through your nose and let it slip out past your teeth, and think how it tastes wholesome and good and new, flowery and fresh.

The water, too, has spring flowing through it. It's cool and slides down the corner of your mouth messily as you drink from the fountain. It tastes sweet and floral, and you think how spring has touched this too. It's not just the water. You find spring in the sandwich you stop to buy, sprinkled fresh over the lettuce and seasoned into the tomato. Every bite is like another flower blooming somewhere in some prairie somewhere far away.

And really, it doesn't take you much to realize that spring greets you, warm and friendly, everywhere you turn.

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# Academy Advice Column

by **Arpita Mukherjee**

*“A.P.s? Oh no, they’re coming up soon and I haven’t started studying? What do I do?”*

It’s that wonderful time of year again where students are pounded by the responsibility of A.P. exams. It may seem very scary, but with the right tactics, it is not as intimidating as it seems. Here’s some tips for enjoying the season and avoiding work pileup!

Some good sources to use for studying are Barron’s, Princeton Review, Cliff Notes, and Crash Course. Look for them at the library or find a PDF online for a free alternative to buying at the Barnes and Nobles for \$15+.

To avoid the work piling up, as repetitive as it sounds, don’t procrastinate. Whether it’s by studying or finishing your school assignments, it’s important to not cram the night before with the reasoning “I already have all the materials!”, especially if you’re taking a course that is being offered at this school. You, along with your teachers, have spent a year on materials to instill understanding and confidence of your exams.

Make sure that you only take the exams if you know you can offer the proper study schedule to back-it-up. Don’t pressurize yourself by taking 10 A.P. exams if you also have to volunteer or go to extracurriculars on the side. Choose an ample amount of exams that you know you can afford to spend time on both mentally and physically.

And last, but certainly not least, take a breather. You’ve been more than prepared for it and believe in yourself! Because if you don’t believe in yourself, who will? Now go out there and be the 5 you were always meant to be!

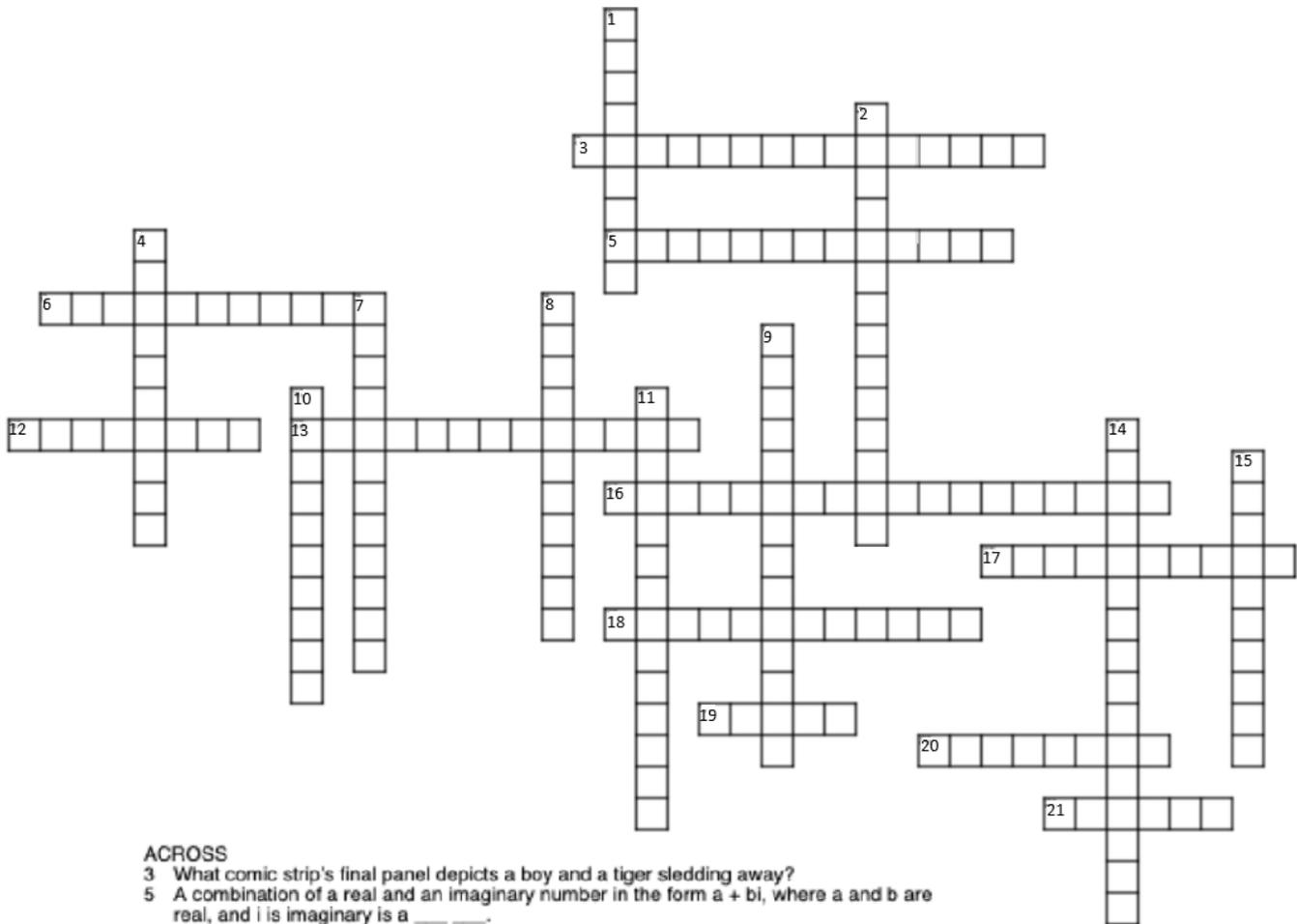
*Have any questions? Seek any advice?*

*Contact The Buzz advisor to discuss*

*your question with Arpita in our Summer 2019 issue!*

# Spring Crossword

by Anirudh Koneru



## ACROSS

- 3 What comic strip's final panel depicts a boy and a tiger sledding away?
- 5 A combination of a real and an imaginary number in the form  $a + bi$ , where  $a$  and  $b$  are real, and  $i$  is imaginary is a \_\_\_\_\_.
- 6 An Astronomical Unit is the average distance between which two objects in our solar system?
- 12 Jim Davis was the cartoonist behind which widely syndicated comic strip?
- 13 Who became president after the assassination of Abraham Lincoln?
- 16 Ronald Weasley's Patronus charm.
- 17 This is an idea or explanation that can be tested.
- 18 AFAIK
- 19 What inorganic molecule is produced by lightning?
- 20 From base to summit, the tallest mountain on Earth.
- 21 In 1952, Albert Einstein was offered the presidency of which country?

## DOWN

- 1 What is the name of Donald Duck's sister?
- 2 What now retired NBA player starred in the 1996 movie Kazaam?
- 4 What is the name for meteoroids that survive entry through the atmosphere and reach Earth's surface?
- 7 Hairless mammal immune to cancer and aging.
- 8 White Blood Cells AKA
- 9 The process of making cow's milk safe for human consumption is called what?
- 10 A bundle of skeletal muscle fibers surrounded by perimysium
- 11 "Be the change you wish to see in the world."
- 14 Able to be seen from outer space, what is Earth's largest living structure?
- 15 A word that is spelled the same forwards and backward is called a what?