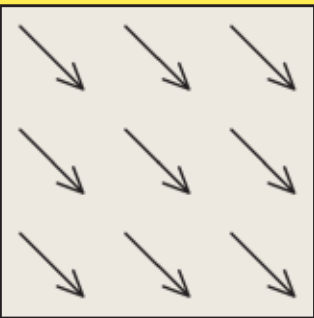
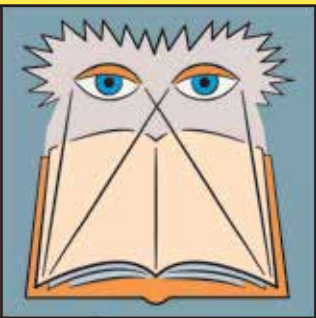
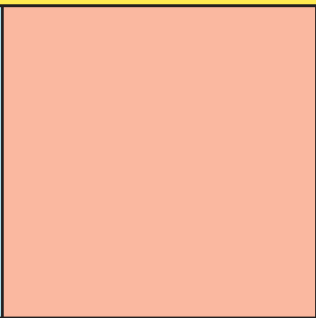

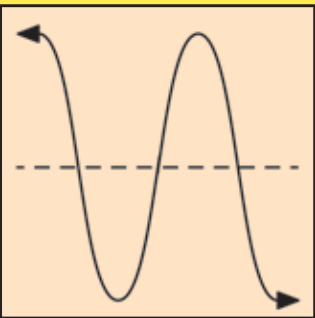
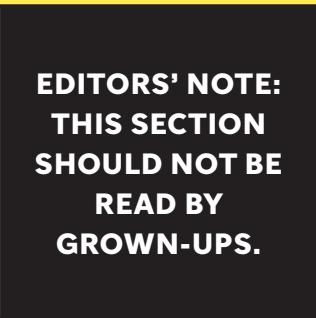


The New York Times




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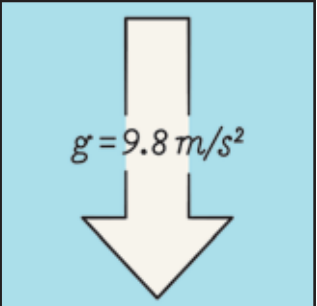
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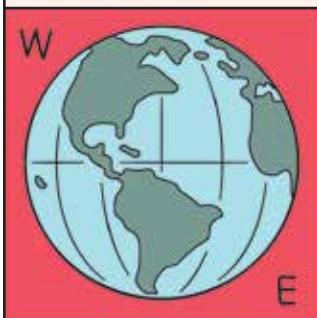


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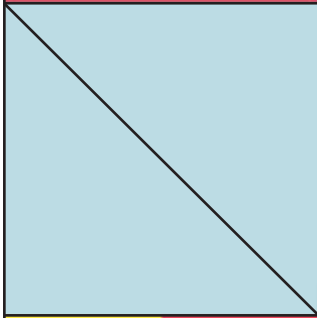
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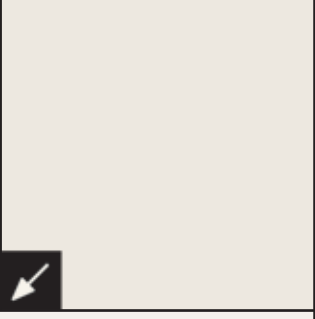
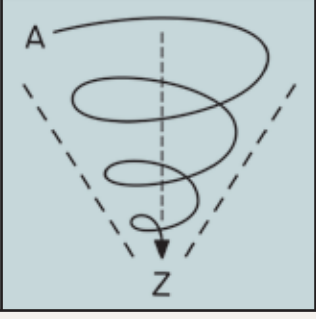

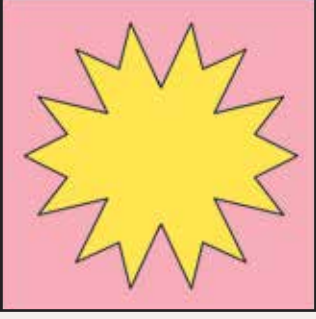
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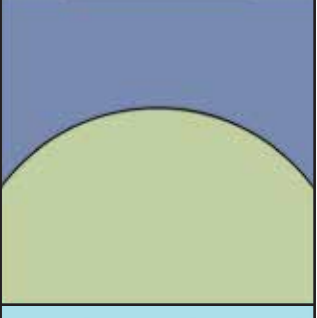
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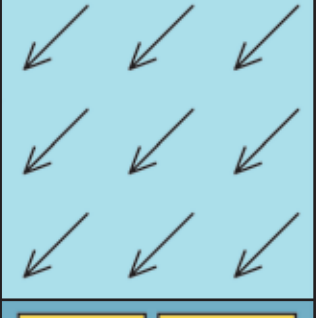
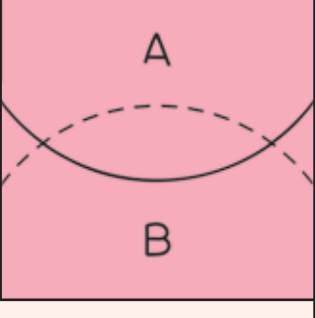

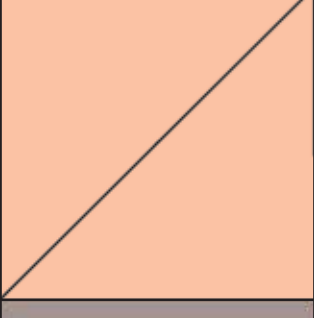
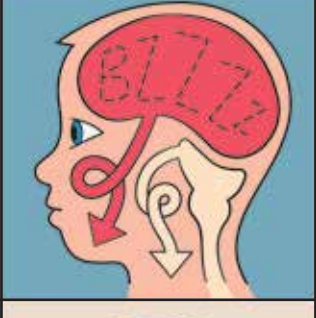
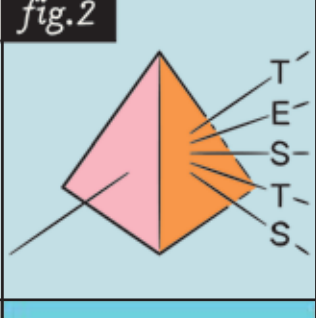





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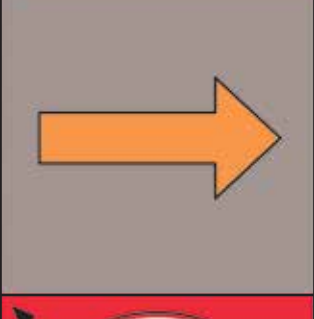
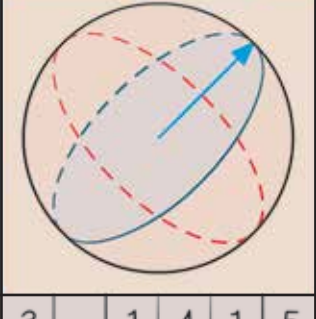


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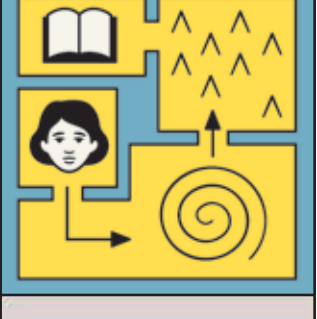


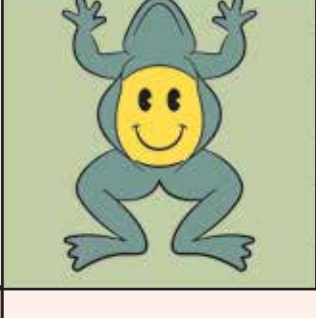
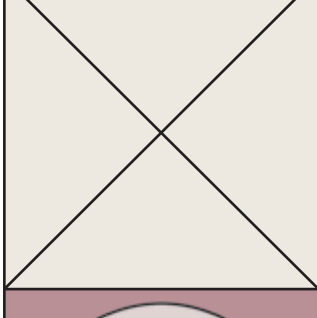


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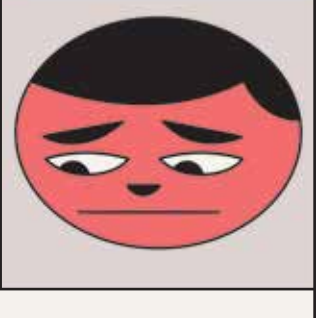
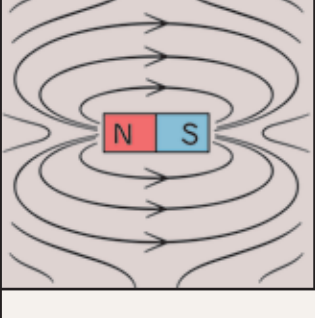
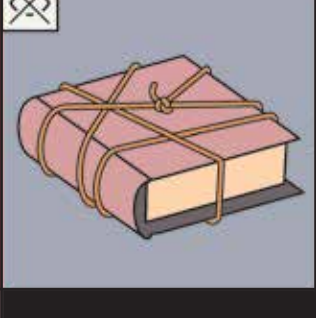
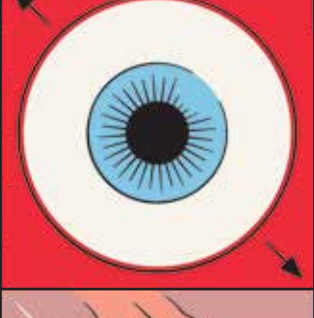


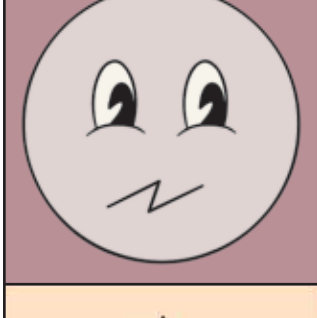
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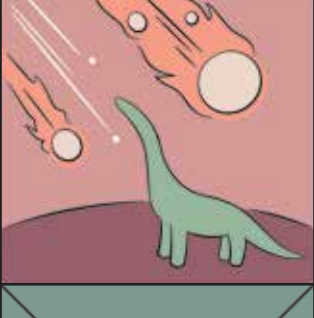


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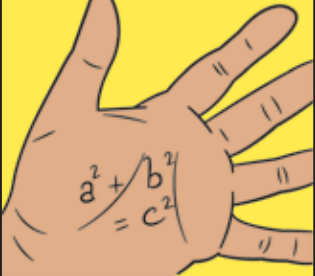
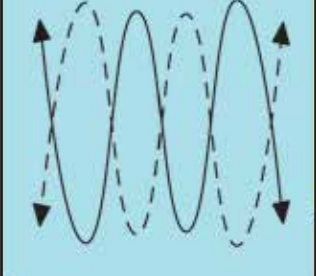

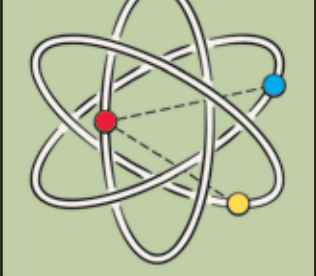




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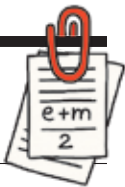
IT'S TIME TO
GO BACK
TO SCHOOL.

DO YOU REMEMBER ANYTHING FROM LAST YEAR? TAKE THE TEST! PAGE 6 • WHEN SCHOOL SUPPLIES BREAK THE BANK, PAGE 5 • MEAT YOU CAN EAT, MADE IN A LABORATORY, PAGE 4 • KID ACTORS CALL, 'CUT!' PAGE 9 • A VISIT TO THE MAGIC SCHOOL OF ALL MAGIC SCHOOLS, PAGE 10

ILLUSTRATION BY JACQUES KLEYNHANS



Inside The Times



WHEN JOURNALISTS HAVE TO TRY, TRY AGAIN

BY EMMETT LINDNER · ILLUSTRATION BY ANUJ SHRESTHA



EVEN PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS at The New York Times can feel stuck. They try and try and think that they're going to fail. Then they try just once more and get what they were aiming for (or something even better).

"There are certainly obstacles all along the way," says Grace Ashford, who is a reporter on the Metro desk. "Sometimes there's actually a lot to be learned from the obstacle." She and two other Times journalists told us about when they had to push through tough situations and ended up turning near-failures into big successes.

ANOTHER SHOT AT GETTING THE SHOT

In 2012, President Barack Obama was going to host the prime minister of Britain in the Oval Office. Doug Mills, a Times photographer, thought it would be interesting to get a photo of them from behind. But he couldn't stand there (it would be distracting, and he'd be in other photographers' pictures). It took him weeks to persuade people at the White House to let him hide a camera in a plant and take pictures by remote control. Later, Obama's staff worried he'd sneak pictures of other people and tried to call it off. Mills thought all his work would be for nothing. Then he had an idea: He offered to give the remote controller to a staff member until it was time for the meeting. Thankfully, the White House agreed. The photo ran on the front page of the paper.

TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES

Earlier this year, Rebecca Carballo, a breaking-news reporter in New York, had to quickly write a story. It was about a 32-year-old woman who was charged with pretending to be a high school student in Boston. Carballo needed official documents from a court there, but could only get them if she faxed over a request. There was just one problem: She didn't know how to use a fax machine. (Not many people use them anymore.) She and others crowded around one in the office, Carballo says, with everyone asking, "How do we use this?" With no time to try to find someone who knew how to work it, she called the courthouse again. After some conversation, someone there found a way to email the papers. "Sometimes it's just asking for what you need," she says.

NOT GETTING THE STORY ACTUALLY WAS THE STORY

Last November, Ashford and a colleague were assigned to write about a new congressman named George Santos. It should have been an easy article to write, "but when we started to do the work, we got really tripped up," she says. "We were really struggling to find evidence of him at the schools he said he went to and the industries he said he worked in." Ashford felt confused. Then she thought maybe she couldn't find evidence because there wasn't any. That turned out to be the case. (A small local paper had also thought Santos was "a fake.") Now, 10 months later, Santos is in trouble for lying about his past. Ashford and The Times's reporting had a lot to do with his getting caught. ♦

FUNNIES

MY MOST EMBARRASSING MOMENT
BY ALYSSA MONTECUOLLO, 15,
LINCOLN, NEB.



IN CHEER, WE THREW A GIRL IN THE AIR, AND SHE FELL RIGHT ON MY HEAD AND I GOT A CONCUSSION. THAT'S NOT THE EMBARRASSING PART.



A MONTH LATER, I TRIED TO HUG MY FRIEND FROM BEHIND. SHE JUMPED BACK, SLAMMED HER HEAD AGAINST MINE AND ... CONCUSSION NO. 2!



WHEN PEOPLE SAW ME IN THE NURSE'S OFFICE AND ASKED WHAT HAPPENED, I HAD TO SAY I GOT ANOTHER CONCUSSION — BY HUGGING A FRIEND.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY LUCI GUTIÉRREZ

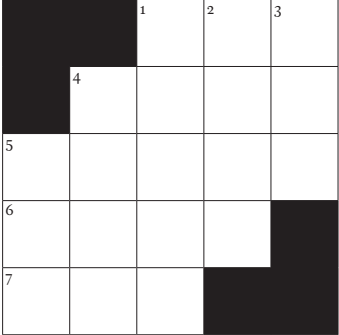
PUZZLE

NO HELP NECESSARY

BY JOEL FAGLIANO

The crossword puzzles in The New York Times increase in difficulty as the week progresses. The three here — created just for you — get harder, too. Hip-hop fans will probably know the answer to 1-Down in the Hard puzzle. Good luck! ♦

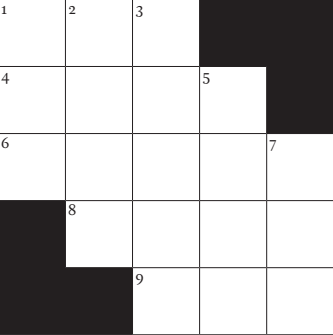
EASY



- ACROSS**
- 1 Car fuel
 - 4 Something to dip a cookie in
 - 5 Covered in bubbles, like your hands while cleaning them in the sink
 - 6 Long, long stretches of time
 - 7 ___-Man, pint-size Marvel hero

- DOWN**
- 1 Large, fearsome creature in "Jack and the Beanstalk"
 - 2 Major mountain range in Europe
 - 3 What you look at when watching the sunset
 - 4 Circle in the night sky
 - 5 Ocean

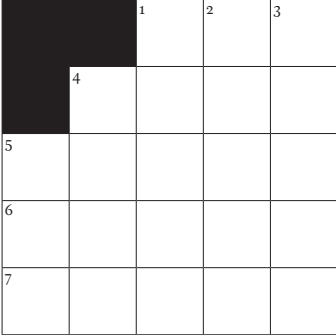
MEDIUM



- ACROSS**
- 1 Paintings and drawings
 - 4 Place to swim in the summer
 - 6 Button that turns off the TV
 - 8 Very big: Prefix
 - 9 Opposite of "high"

- DOWN**
- 1 Smartphone download
 - 2 Section of a house
 - 3 Something to dry off with after getting out of a 4-Across
 - 5 Toy brick
 - 7 Not cooked, like meat

HARD



- ACROSS**
- 1 What a foldout couch can become
 - 4 Section of a grocery store that sells sliced meats
 - 5 Pink tropical fruit
 - 6 Go in
 - 7 Like many kids' rooms

- DOWN**
- 1 Things to rap over
 - 2 Santa's little helpers
 - 3 Book for writing personal thoughts
 - 4 2021 sci-fi movie starring Timothée Chalamet and Zendaya
 - 5 Precious jewel

ANSWERS ON PAGE 11

The New York Times Magazine



QUICK: WHAT'S 7 × 6?

Do you remember, or are you suffering from "the summer slide"? Don't feel bad — it's a real thing! Read about why you forget a bunch of what you've learned at school during the summer on Page 4. Then turn to the trivia game on Pages 6 and 7 to see what else you may have forgotten. But while you're here: What's one thing you wish you were taught in school but haven't learned yet — and why? Send your answer in an email to kids@nytimes.com, and we may include it in a future issue. *Amber Williams*

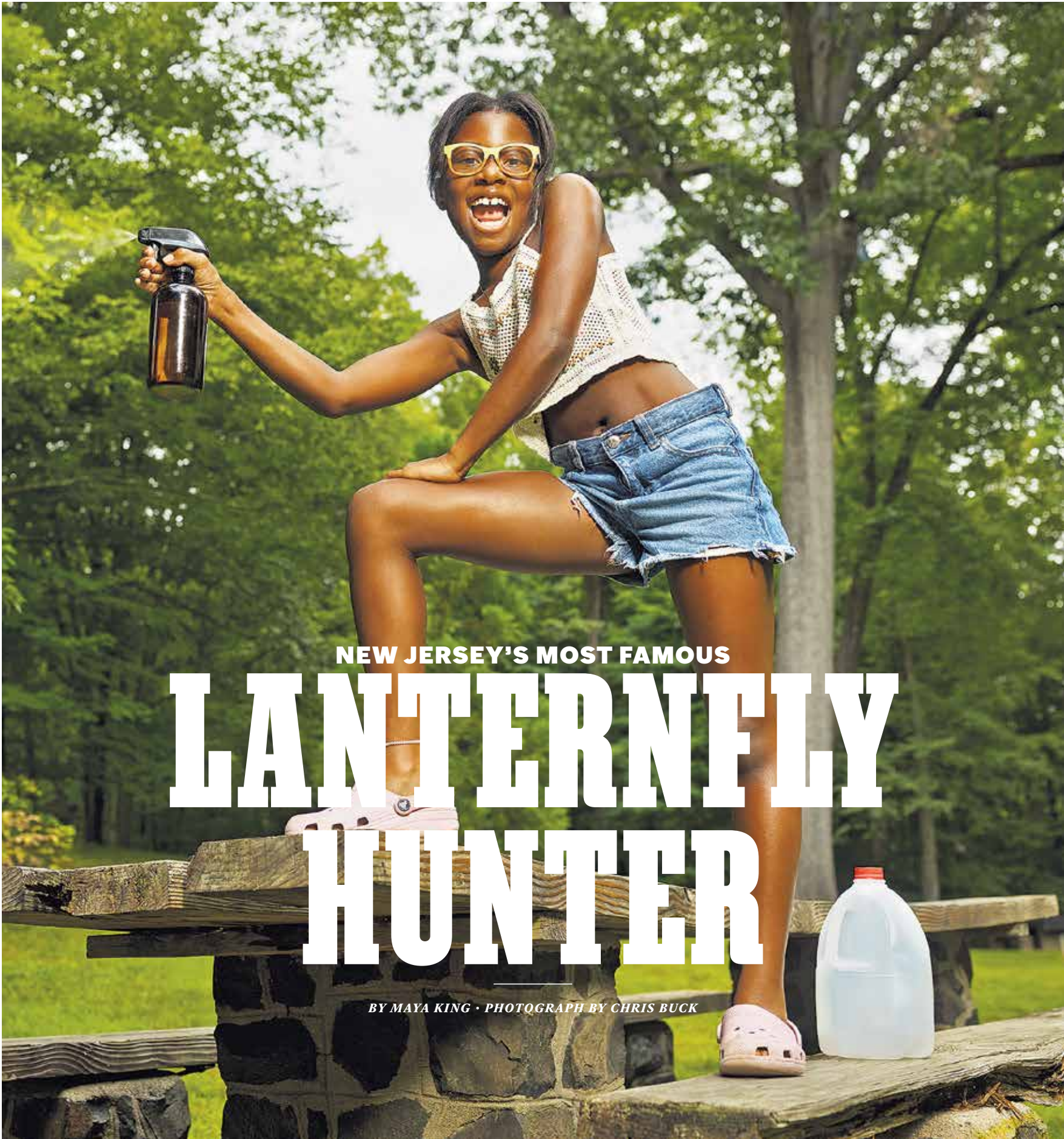
The New York Times for Kids appears in the paper on the last Sunday of every month. The next issue will be on Sept. 24.

NYT FOR KIDS

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National



LAST FALL, Bobbi Wilson got famous. She was 9 years old and had become an expert at killing spotted lanternflies in her northern New Jersey neighborhood. The red-and-black insects, which are invasive and can damage trees, were all over the place. One day, a white neighbor saw her stalking bugs with her trusty spray bottle and reported her to the police, saying she didn't look as if she belonged there. Of course, the neighbor was wrong — Bobbi lived right down the street! But what could have been a traumatic incident turned into something good.

Bobbi's family used the run-in to speak out against making judgments based on race. Her story made headlines, local leaders recognized her efforts and Tamron Hall interviewed her on TV. Yale University also gave her special honors for her work and put her collection of lanternflies in

a museum. And this summer, the New Jersey Institute of Technology gave the budding scientist and her older sister, Hayden, spots in its summer science camp for girls. "I think of myself as more like a chemist — I like to mix things," she says. "The things I usually make are, like, beauty care."

Actually, it was her beauty experiments that led Bobbi to lanternfly fame. During the pandemic, she made bath bombs and hand sanitizer for family and friends. But lanternflies had infested a tree whose fragrant flowers she was using for perfume. To get rid of them, she found a recipe for insect repellent on TikTok and added her own special ingredient, apple-cider vinegar. She sprayed it on the trees and nursed them back to health. That's when she started actively hunting lanternflies, stopping them with her spray, catching and killing them.

The rising fifth grader learned lots of new things about plants, animals and the environment at science camp this summer, though not about lanternflies. (It's OK — she's already an expert.) "We were doing a lot of dissecting and food webs and planting," she says. "Those were the most exciting parts." She dissected owl pellets and grew black-eyed peas that she brought home to keep growing. Now that camp has ended, she's making more beauty products out of things like shea butter. (Bobbi's beauty hack: Use the thick moisturizer in summer to "get that shiny glow.")

As she gets older, Bobbi wants to keep mixing chemicals and natural ingredients to help people and their communities stay healthy and beautiful. And the lanternflies? "I rarely see them," she says. But if they come back, she'll mix a new paste to prevent them from climbing up trees. ♦

A SUMMER OF SUPREME DECISIONS

BY ABBIE VANSICKLE • ILLUSTRATION BY GIULIO BONASERA

FOR STUDENTS, summer vacation is coming to an end. But the nine judges in the Supreme Court have another month off. The Supreme Court is the country's top court, and it makes decisions that all other courts must follow. The justices do much of their work from October through June, listening to lawyers argue their sides of different cases and deciding which sides won and lost. At the end, they announce some of their most important decisions — which become the talk of the summer.



STUDENT LOANS

To pay for college, students often have to borrow money — sometimes from a bank, or sometimes from the government itself. It can take them years to pay it back. That leaves lots of people in debt — which is when you owe money — for a long time after graduating. Last August, President Biden created a program that would cancel the debt of tens of millions of people: They would not have to repay their loans. Several states challenged it in court, saying that he did not have the power to do that. The plan was put on hold. Biden asked the Supreme Court to allow the plan, but they sided with the states. The president immediately said he would start on a new plan to cancel college debt.



RACE-CONSCIOUS COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

One factor that colleges and universities could consider when deciding to admit a student is race. That's called affirmative action, and people who like it say it makes colleges more diverse. Others think it's not OK to base decisions on race. A group called Students for Fair Admissions filed lawsuits against Harvard and the University of North Carolina for making race-conscious decisions. When the Supreme Court heard their case, the six conservative justices voted to strike down affirmative action — not just at those two colleges, but at all colleges. The liberal justices disagreed with the ruling, saying it would increase racial inequality in education.



GAY RIGHTS, RELIGION AND FREE SPEECH

In 2016, a website designer named Lorie Smith filed a court case against Colorado, the state where she lives. She wanted to start making wedding websites, but because of her Christian faith, she didn't want to have to design sites for same-sex marriages. A law in Colorado makes it illegal for businesses that are open to the public to discriminate against gay people. She sued the state, saying that it was unfair that the law would force her to do something that conflicts with her religious beliefs. Smith's case made it up to the Supreme Court, and she won.



A CLASH OVER NATIVE AMERICAN ADOPTEES

A white foster couple from Texas wanted to adopt a Native American child. But it was hard for them because of a law that gives preference to tribal families, helping keep kids within their culture. (In the past, many Native American children were taken from their homes and lost ties to their tribes.) The couple sued the government, saying that the law should be ended because it was racially discriminatory. Multiple tribes argued that they are political groups, not racial ones. In their ruling, the justices upheld the law. They didn't say whether they agreed with the tribes' argument, but the tribes said it felt like a victory for them. ♦

60 YEARS SINCE 'I HAVE A DREAM'

ON AUG. 28, 1963, more than 200,000 Americans, mostly Black people, went to Washington to march for racial equality. They flooded the streets of the country's capital. No one had seen anything like it before. Late in the afternoon, the civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. gave a speech that is now very famous. In it, he said:

'I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal." ...

I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.'

Now, 60 years later, we talked to a man who was at the march as a child and to four kids who reflected on King's dream and where we are today. *Interviews by Pierre-Antoine Louis and Amanda Schupak*

Houston Murphy, 71,
Virginia

WHEN I WAS 11 years old, my family went to the March on Washington. What I remember most was not Dr. King's speech but the experience. I remember walking along Constitution Avenue. I remember white policemen on horseback. I was intimidated. But it was comforting to be in such a large crowd. I was caught up in the sound and the large number of Black folks who were marching together from all around the country and all around the world. There were busloads of Black folks disembarking and walking in the same direction. It was awe-inspiring. There was a general atmosphere that this was something major.

What I learned in my household was that you needed multiple perspectives to overcome this country's history of racism. Dr. Martin Luther King had a very important role to play.

Mikkai Alcide, 12,
Manalapan, N.J.

THE SPEECH MAKES me feel powerful. Dr. King was looking into the future and hoping that Black people wouldn't be judged based on their skin. His words had an effect on the way the world will continue on.

Evelyn Elda Chiusano, 11,
Brooklyn

IT MAKES ME feel sad that Black people didn't feel free. I think some of Dr. King's dream did come true with Black and white people coming together, but sometimes people still have to protest.

Zahava Meertens, 12,
Atlanta

BLACK PEOPLE TO this day are treated unfairly. For example, the new Ariel in "The Little Mermaid" — when some white people found out that the new Little Mermaid was going to be Black, they criticized the movie just because of that. I don't think Dr. King's dream has come true, because there's still racism, and his children still live in a world where they're treated unfairly because of the color of their skin.

Eve Eddings, 8,
Sherman Oaks, Calif.

I THINK HE had a very good dream, and we are still working to make it come true. I'm happy that people like him came into the world and made such a big change. ♦



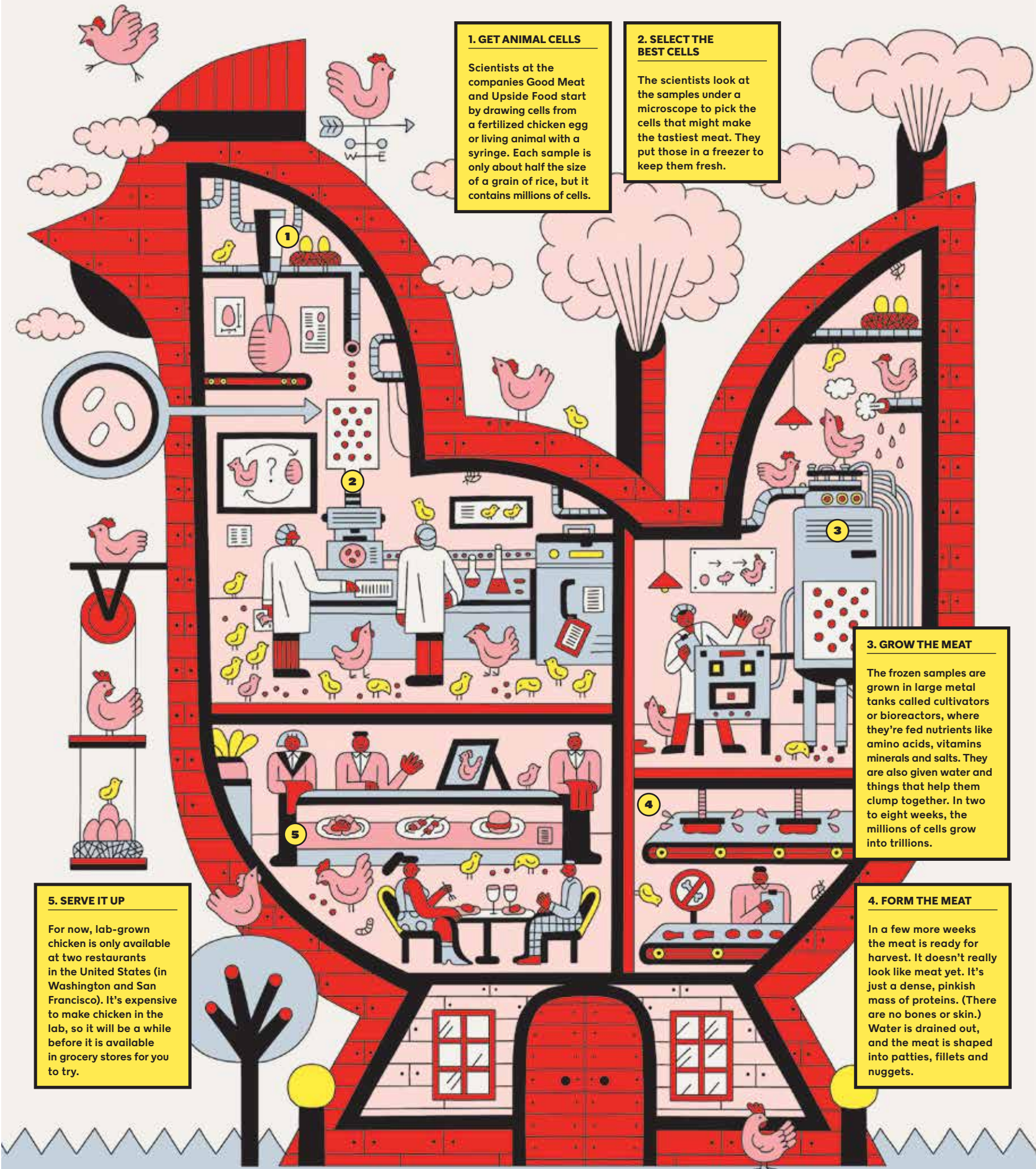
Science



CHICKEN-FREE CHICKEN NUGGETS

SCIENTISTS CAN NOW MAKE MEAT WITHOUT KILLING ANY ANIMALS. HERE'S HOW.

BY LINDA QIU · ILLUSTRATION BY CRISTINA SPANÒ



ONE EVENING IN July, a group of diners gathered at a popular restaurant in Washington to sample the chef's latest creation: charcoal-grilled chicken skewers slathered with bright green sauce. The chicken was tasty, but there was something different about it, something game-changing. This chicken never had feathers or a beak; it never hatched from

an egg or clucked, and it was never slaughtered. This chicken was never a living chicken at all — it was grown entirely in a laboratory from microscopic chicken cells. Ira van Eelen, one of the diners, was amazed at how meaty and flavorful it was, "marinated as only chicken can be, with extra juiciness." The taste was extra sweet, because her father was the first of

many scientists who have spent decades trying to make meat without having to raise and kill billions of animals. Producing meat this way would do much less damage to the environment and make it easier to feed a growing population. There are lots of meat imitations made from plants, like veggie nuggets, Impossible sausages and Beyond burgers. But they

never taste like the real thing. Lab-grown chicken actually is chicken, even though it never was a chicken. It's just the cells. Until now, it hasn't been legal to sell meat made this way in the United States. But in June, the government gave the go-ahead to two companies to sell their lab-grown chicken to consumers for the first time. ♦

HOW I BECAME A

SCIENCE TEACHER



BY ANGELICA GUNDERSON

I GREW UP with my grandparents on their farm in Chihuahua, Mexico. I loved asking questions, like, How do the crops grow? I've always been curious about how things work. But I never thought of it as "Oh! I love science!"

We migrated to the United States when I was 6, and things were hard at home. School was a stable environment for me, and I thought my teachers were the most amazing people in the world. Being a teacher was something I've wanted since then. So that's what I went to college for. While I was there, I had this one great professor. The way she taught science made me feel like a kid again. She told me: "You really like this topic. You should teach science."

I wanted to make sure that teaching was something I would enjoy as a career. So while I was still in college, I tutored students and worked part time as an aide at a middle school. I really liked going to work, trying new things, teaching small groups and helping others.

After I graduated, I got my first job, as an elementary-school teacher. But I kept going to school at night and in the summer to finish up my science credential, because I knew I wanted to teach science.

I got my first middle-school science job in 2009, at the same school where I work today. Now I get to teach science to sixth, seventh and eighth graders all day long. I love it. The vibe is so much fun, and the kids are curious and have so many questions.

In the mornings, I teach engineering, two computer-science classes and robotics. In the afternoon, I review science programs for elementary schools so my district can help teachers find more ways to bring science into the classroom. I also run two after-school science clubs.

Thursday evenings, I drive to California State University Long Beach to teach adults about teaching science — the very class that got me hooked on science education in the first place. Let me tell you, kids and adults are all curious about the world and amazed by things that they didn't quite understand before. Interview by Anna Almendrala

TINY STORY

46,000 YEARS

How long a pair of tiny worms stayed alive while frozen in the ground. Scientists dug up the worms, called nematodes, in Siberia. They had survived for tens of thousands of years because they were in a special state that put their body systems on pause. When the scientists thawed them in the lab, the worms started wriggling once again.



Gunderson: Illustration by Quick Honey

USE IT OR LOSE IT

THE SLIPPERY SCIENCE OF 'SUMMER BRAIN'

BY ANNA NAPOLITANO

YOU MIGHT NOT REALIZE IT,

but you're probably at the end of a summer slide. No, it's not a ride. "Summer slide" or "summer brain drain" is what happens to students over summer break. It's as if your brain goes on vacation, too. Schenike Massie-Lambert, a psychologist in New Jersey, says that over the summer, kids actually lose one or two months' worth of learning. Eek. This happens because the brain is like a muscle: It gets weaker when it's not used a lot. During the school

year, it's constantly working out. As it breaks down lots of information and soaks up new ideas, it grows and changes. Brain cells connect to one another in new ways, and new ones form. When you do homework and study for tests, the connections in your brain get stronger. That's why you can remember random facts from classes you took years ago, even the boring ones. Then comes summer, and any thoughts of school fly out the window. While you're playing in the sun instead of practicing your times tables, the brain goes into chill mode. Newer information that isn't nailed down in your

noodle drifts away while the brain releases chemicals that make you feel happy and relaxed — and actually make it easier to focus and memorize things (once you're ready to start, you know, thinking again). By the time September rolls around, it might feel as if everything you learned last year escaped down the pool drain. Don't panic. "Feeling a little rusty when back to school is normal," says Greta Defeyter, a psychology professor at Newcastle University in England. Once you start working out your mind muscle again, the brain will bounce back into action. At least until next summer. ♦





SUBJECT: MONEY

THE UNEXPECTED COST OF BACK-TO-SCHOOL SHOPPING

BY KATHERINE CUSUMANO • ILLUSTRATION BY LUCI GUTIÉRREZ



ON THE FIRST DAY of fourth grade last year, Rocco Mayone’s teacher did something unusual. After students introduced themselves, she asked them to pile their school supplies on their desks. That year, she told the students, they would share many of the things they brought in: markers, paper, crayons, sticky notes. Rocco, 10, who lives in Brooklyn, could tell some students were relieved. “She didn’t want kids to feel judged,” he remembers thinking. Not everyone could afford new supplies.

It costs a lot of money to go back to school. And it’s getting even more expensive. In 2019, a survey found that American families planned to spend about \$117

on supplies; this year, it will be about \$140. (That’s not even counting new clothes, shoes or electronics.) While Rocco’s family could afford everything on his back-to-school list, some of his classmates couldn’t. His teacher’s solution made sure nobody felt unprepared.

The problem is bigger than Rocco’s class. In the United States, public school is supposed to be free. It’s true that you don’t have to pay to go to class, but most school budgets go toward paying teachers and staff. Not much is left for other expenses, so buying supplies often falls to teachers and families — and causes a lot of stress. Last year a survey found that only about one in three parents felt as if they could easily afford school supplies.

In St. Louis, London Wilford’s family is feeling the squeeze. Normally London, 10, would go back-to-school shopping for clothes and supplies. But her dad recently lost his job. Her mom has been saving a little money each month, but London isn’t going to be able to shop quite like usual. “I’m not going to be as confident,” she says.

This year her school is helping a bit by buying some supplies for all K-12 students. Other districts have tried to do that, too. But many don’t offer any help. Yvonne Johnson, president of the National Parent Teacher Association, thinks it would be better for the federal government to provide funding to all schools for supplies. That way kids could *actually* learn for free. ♦

HOW I BECAME AN

ADMISSIONS OFFICER



BY JACORY BERNARD

I DIDN'T KNOW much about college growing up, because no one in my family had gone to one. But as a young African American man coming from the South, I really wanted to attend Morehouse College — a historically Black college for men. Historically Black colleges and universities, or H.B.C.U.s, began as places that educated newly freed enslaved people. Today they offer a rigorous education and hold Black culture. I wanted a school with that kind of legacy and mission.

When I told my mom, she was excited for me but told me to have a Plan B and Plan C, because she wasn’t sure how we could make that happen. But I got in. I studied education, and I also became a member of the student ambassador team. That meant I worked in the admissions office, helping with events and giving campus tours.

After graduation, I became a fourth-grade teacher — one of the best years of my life. But then I got a call from a director of admissions at Morehouse asking me to apply for a job. I loved teaching, but I knew I could make a bigger impact in this job. So I became an admissions recruiter, someone who educates students around the country about a specific college and helps run the application process.

Just like school, this job has seasons. In the first half of the year, I go from city to city teaching high school students about Morehouse. I also help read college applications: essays, letters of recommendation, transcripts and information about things like community service. I spend five to seven minutes on each one, and learn everything possible about a student, so that I have a good understanding of who they are. Then I pass my recommendation on to the executive director, who reviews it and makes decisions about who gets into Morehouse before sending out acceptance letters.

The second half of the year is all about building a class. I answer questions from admitted students to help them with their decision. I also organize a new-student weekend on campus before the first semester starts. We have a record number of students coming to Morehouse this year, about 800. College can seem big and intimidating, but it’s just about learning on the next level. And it’s there for anyone who wants it. *Interview by Elise Craig*

WHAT SCHOOL IS LIKE FOR ME

INTERVIEWS BY WENDY LU

I HAVE SPINA BIFIDA

By Malachi Kuhn, 13, Tampa, Fla.

I WAS BORN with spina bifida, which is a condition where my spinal cord didn’t form the way it should have. It means I have to wear braces on my legs and use forearm canes almost all the time. I learned to use them when I was around 5, so I’m used to them by now. They’re just a regular part of my life.

This year, I’m going to a new school. A lot of my classes are upstairs, and there isn’t an elevator. So the school built extra time into my schedule to get around. Like, I might leave class a few minutes early if my next one is on another floor.

I’M A NORMAL KID, AND I WOULD LIKE TO BE TREATED NORMALLY.

I actually played wheelchair basketball this summer, and my wheelchair-basketball coach also has spina bifida. Now I know that I can be in a league someday if I want.

Last year at school, I did almost everything myself. Danny, one of my friends, would ask, “Can I get your water for you?” because it was all the way on the other side of the room. I always said yes to that.

I HAVE A LIMB DIFFERENCE

By Callaway Lewis, 11, Huntsville, Ala.

A COUPLE OF years ago, I got stuck between two boulders and had to be in the hospital for five weeks. Now I use a prosthetic leg called a running blade. It’s considered an “active prosthetic,” which means I can run around, jump — whatever I want to do. That’s good, because I love sports. I like climbing, mountain biking and swimming. We have a small pool in our backyard, so we swim there every day.

MOST PEOPLE THINK WEARING A PROSTHETIC IS EASY, BUT IT’S NOT REALLY UNTIL YOU GET THE HANG OF IT.

I guess I make it look easy! When you have a prosthetic, it can be difficult to learn the usual movements of daily life. Like, it’s really hard to balance and do one-legged jump-ups.

Sometimes people think I get all these special privileges, like using the elevator at school and going to the front of the line on an airplane. It’s like: “Hello! Who do you think I am?” They’re more like accommodations. They’re stuff that I need. Other people have staring issues sometimes. I’m used to it, but if they stare for too long, I just get annoyed and walk off. I actually have a shirt I wear so maybe they’ll ask fewer questions. It says: “Before you ask, it was a shark.”

I HAVE AUTISM AND ADHD

By Jordan Dailey, 11, Queens

THIS FALL, I’M going into middle school. All of my friends are going to the same school, so I’m not really feeling anything about it. It’s just another school year.

People think autism is just people making sounds or doing random body movements. It’s actually not. It’s not a disorder. It means that my brain thinks differently. I notice everything, and I have a lot of different interests. Like, I like to play video games, and I know a lot about the anime “One Piece.” You like different things very quickly, and you focus on them for a while.

IT’S A GIFT, BECAUSE YOU’RE EASY TO GET ALONG WITH.

But sometimes I worry about what people think about me. Like, am I annoying? One time, my friend and I were talking. I said, “You know Ryan?” and my friend said, “Oh, you mean that SpEd kid.” And I said, “No, don’t say SpEd.” That term is really negative. I think it’s important to stand up for my friends and other people. ♦




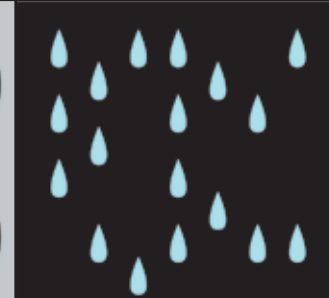


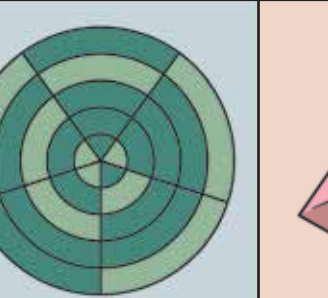
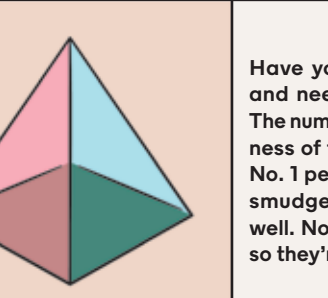
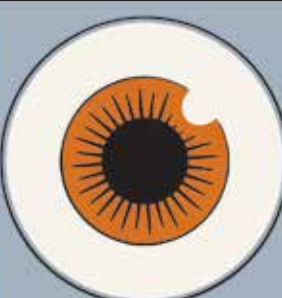
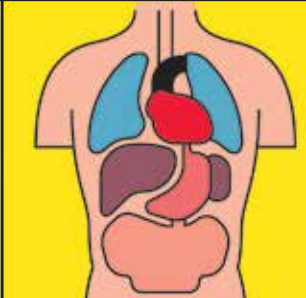


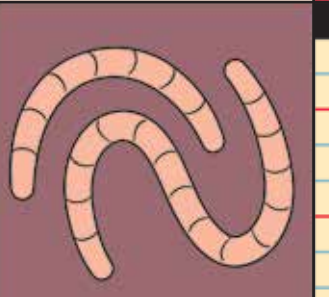
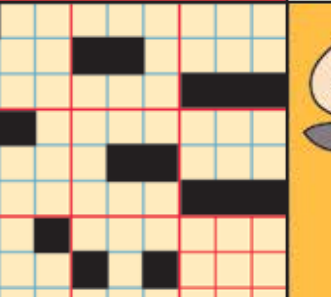



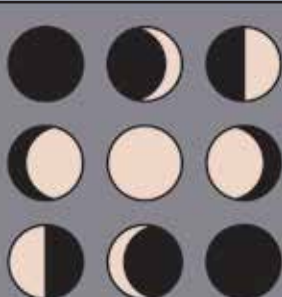
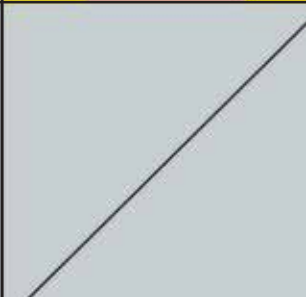
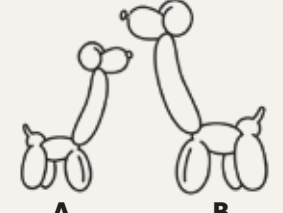
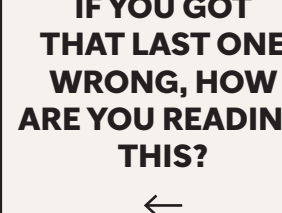
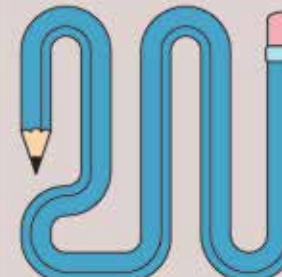
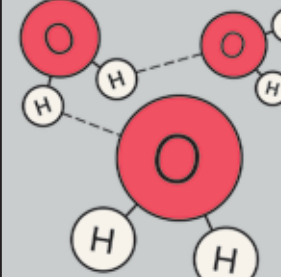



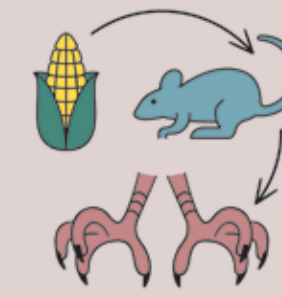

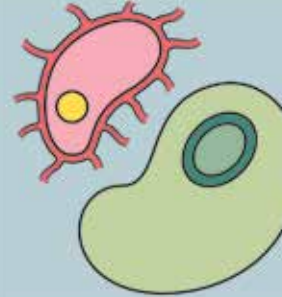


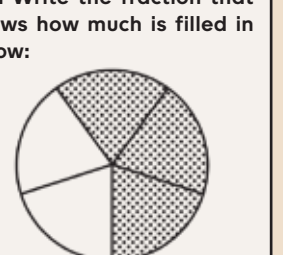



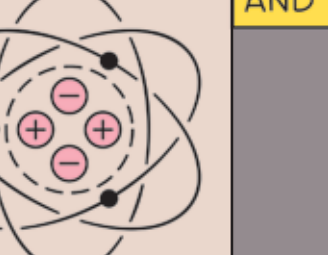






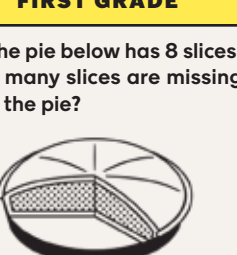


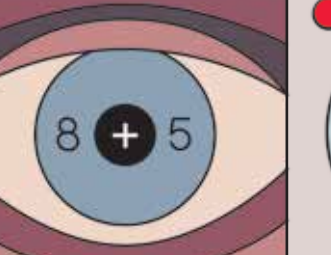

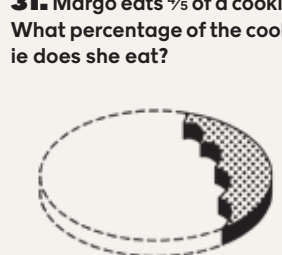

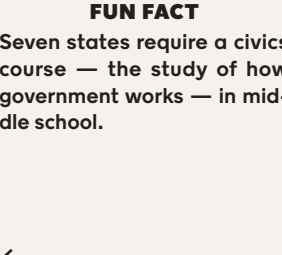

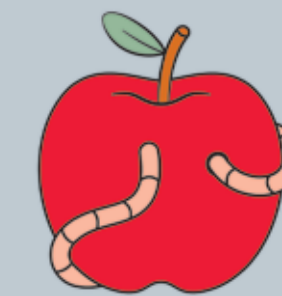

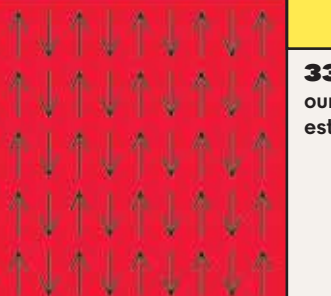

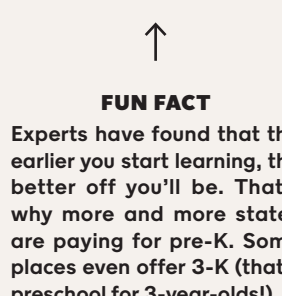
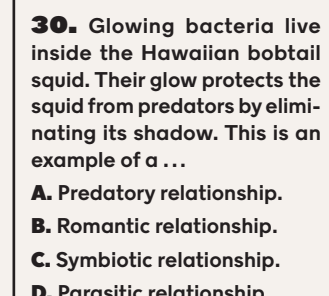


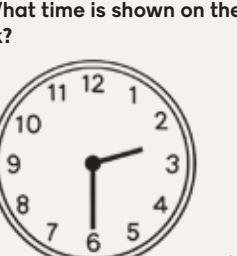
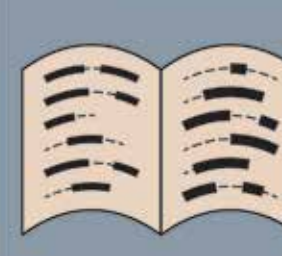

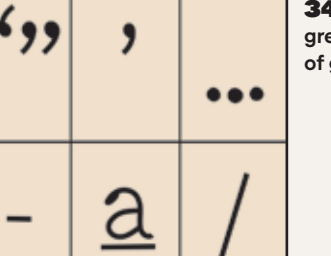
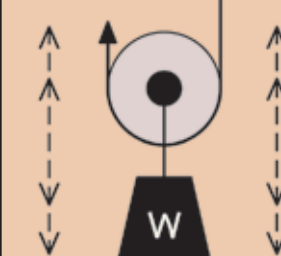

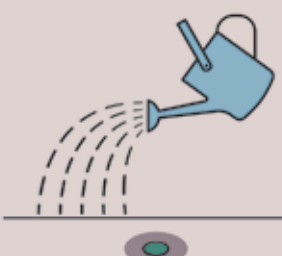



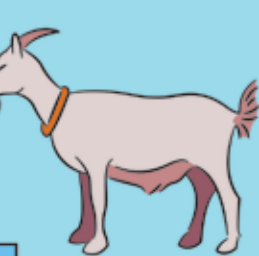

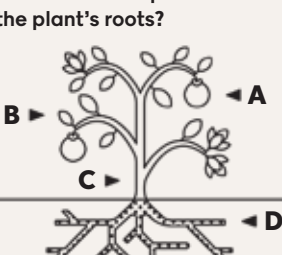
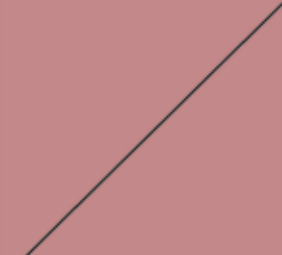
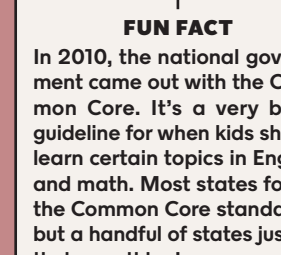


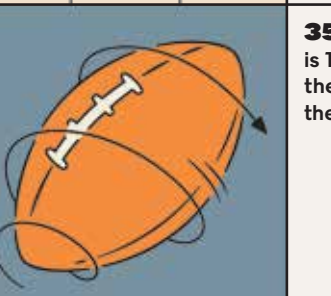
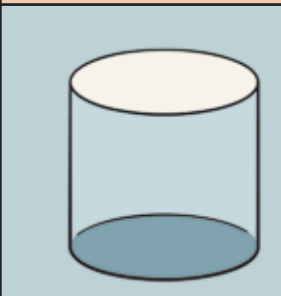

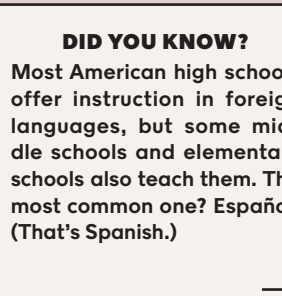
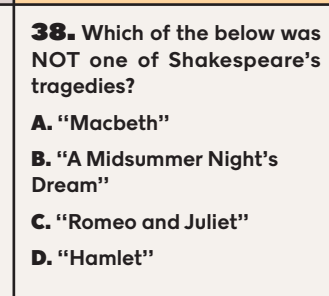

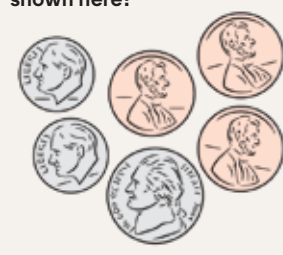

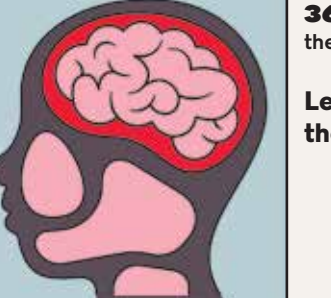
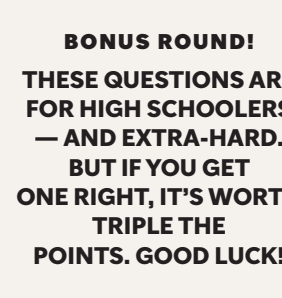

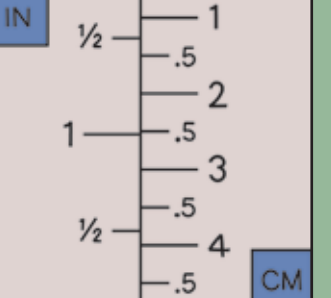
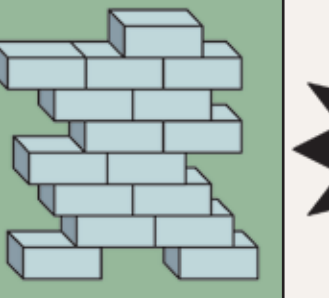

TINY STORY

67%

The proportion of drama teachers who said they’re worried about censorship in their schools, according to a recent survey by the Educational Theater Association. Parents, teachers and politicians all over the country have been objecting to school plays and musicals — for being too “woke,” too “old-fashioned” and everything in between.



Education

START HERE 	KINDERGARTEN 1. How many plants are there? 							FUN FACT Have you ever taken a test and needed a No. 2 pencil? The number refers to the hardness of the pencil's graphite. No. 1 pencils are soft, so they smudge and don't show up well. No. 3 pencils are dense, so they're difficult to erase. →	FIFTH GRADE 21. A friend says he has "ants in his pants." He is probably ... A. Anxious and worried. B. Happy and content. C. Excited and can't sit still. D. Covered in ant bites.	22. When a ball is thrown in the air, it comes back down. What's the name of the force that causes the ball to come back down?	23. What is the value of the expression below? 2,158 ÷ 26 ↓											
	2. Write the lowercase versions of the uppercase letters shown below: Q A B N		2				CUATRO	↑ YOU'VE PASSED FOURTH GRADE!			24. During the Boston Tea Party, American colonists dumped tea in Boston Harbor to protest ... A. Violence and intimidation by British officials. B. The shipping of extra tea that was going to waste. C. The British tax on tea.											
3. Which of these animals is the tallest? A  B 	IF YOU GOT THAT LAST ONE WRONG, HOW ARE YOU READING THIS? ←		YOU'VE PASSED THIRD GRADE! →	DID YOU KNOW? Lots of American kids don't go to school! They learn at home with the help of a parent or tutor. In the 2021-22 school year, 3.1 million U.S. kids were home-schooled.	17. How many strawberries are in 23 baskets if each basket contains 14 strawberries?	18. What is the capital of Arkansas?		20. Which of these statements is an example of an opinion? A. Kids should stay off social media. B. Social media impacts kids' brain development.			NEWS FLASH Today, most students take standardized tests digitally — on tablets or computers. This means you need to know the answers to the questions and you need to know how to use a computer like a pro. ↓	B+										
4. What day comes right before Thursday?	SC HO OL EX AM		16. What is the name of this bone? A. Clavicle B. Humerus C. Sternum D. Femur		19. How many times does Earth spin on its axis in two weeks?	NEWS FLASH Lately, there has been a lot of fighting around education — especially when politicians step in and decide what kids should learn. Florida's politicians, for example, have been accused of erasing Black history and L.G.B.T.Q. people from its education system. →		IS IT JUST US, OR ARE THESE QUESTIONS GETTING HARDER? ↑			YOU'VE PASSED FIFTH GRADE! →	SIXTH GRADE 25. The positive particles of an atom are called ... A. Protons. B. Neutrons. C. Neurons. D. Electrons.	26. A train zoomed along the track for two hours at 30 miles per hour and then for one hour at 60 miles per hour. What was the average speed of the train for the journey? A. 40 m.p.h. B. 45 m.p.h. C. 47.5 m.p.h. D. 50 m.p.h.									
YOU'VE PASSED KINDERGARTEN! ↓	23/40	14. Which word correctly completes the sentence below? The movie had already _____ by the time we got to our seats. A. begun B. began C. begin D. begins →	15. Write the fraction that shows how much is filled in below: 					AND THEN					27. Rewrite this sentence in a more formal way: Ava wasn't a fan of the museum but she was still kinda stoked to see the painting.									
DID YOU KNOW? What you learn in school depends on where you live. Yup! If you went to third grade in California but your best friend went to third grade in Mississippi, your teachers had to teach you different things. ↓		DID YOU KNOW? Most standardized testing starts in third grade. (A standardized test is when the same tests are given across a state or the entire country. They help officials compare how much kids know in different districts and places.) ↑		CAN YOU PASS 4TH GRADE? THE GAME																		
FIRST GRADE 5. The pie below has 8 slices. How many slices are missing from the pie? 		THIRD GRADE 13. Name two of the three branches of the federal government. ↑	YOU'VE PASSED SECOND GRADE! ←				NEWS FLASH "The Diary of Anne Frank" is the real diary of a girl in hiding during the Holocaust. Many schools require students to read it. Recently, schools in Florida and Texas made the news for banning a graphic-novel adaptation of it. ↓	32. Which of the below is NOT a primary source? A. Anne Frank's diary B. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech C. Thomas Jefferson's biography D. Dorothea Lange's photos of life during the Great Depression	31. Margo eats 1/4 of a cookie. What percentage of the cookie does she eat? 		YOU'VE PASSED SIXTH GRADE! ↓		FUN FACT Seven states require a civics course — the study of how government works — in middle school. ←	28. Machu Picchu was built by which ancient empire? A. The Maya B. The Romans C. The Inca D. The Ancient Egyptians ←								
6. Which word in this sentence should begin with a capital letter? the girl went to a park. ↓			12. An ice cube melts. This is an example of ... A. A solid turning into a gas. B. A liquid turning into a solid. C. A solid turning into a liquid. D. A liquid turning into a gas.			EIGHTH GRADE 33. Which of the planets in our solar system has the fastest orbit around the sun? ↓	YOU'VE PASSED SEVENTH GRADE! ←			FUN FACT Experts have found that the earlier you start learning, the better off you'll be. That's why more and more states are paying for pre-K. Some places even offer 3-K (that's preschool for 3-year-olds!). ↑		SEVENTH GRADE 29. Which word is a synonym for bewildered? A. Haggard B. Imprudent C. Perplexed D. Feckless										
7. What time is shown on the clock? 	HMMM ... Do any of these feel familiar? All the questions you see in this game are based on real-life questions from state and national exams, as well as tests from individual schools — but no cheating! ↓		11. What does the word can't mean? A. Can B. Can it C. Cannot D. Could not			34. Members of the U.S. Congress are part of which branch of government? 	YOU'VE PASSED SEVENTH GRADE! ←															
	8. Which of the parts below is the plant's roots? B  A  C  D 	FUN FACT In 2010, the national government came out with the Common Core. It's a very basic guideline for when kids should learn certain topics in English and math. Most states follow the Common Core standards, but a handful of states just do their own thing! ↑			35. One side of a rectangle is 17 meters. The perimeter of the rectangle is 52. What is the area of this rectangle? 		DID YOU KNOW? Most American high schools offer instruction in foreign languages, but some middle schools and elementary schools also teach them. The most common one? Español! (That's Spanish.) →		38. Which of the below was NOT one of Shakespeare's tragedies? A. "Macbeth" B. "A Midsummer Night's Dream" C. "Romeo and Juliet" D. "Hamlet"		FUN FACT Ever heard of Shakespeare? The famous British playwright has been dead for over 400 years, but most students in this country are familiar with his work. In fact, nine out of 10 U.S. high schools teach Shakespeare. →	39. What type of bond forms when electrons are shared unequally between two atoms? A. A polar covalent bond B. A nonpolar covalent bond C. An ionic bond D. A hydrogen bond	40. The expression $500(4)^x + 3$ is equivalent to ... A. $500(4)^3$ B. $500(4)^3$ C. $500(4)^3 + 500(4)^3$ D. $500(4)^3$									
	YOU'VE PASSED FIRST GRADE! →	SECOND GRADE 9. Martin Luther King Jr. fought for the rights of people of all races by using ... A. Violence and intimidation. B. Arguments in court. C. Speeches and peaceful marches.	10. How much money is shown here? 			36. Rewrite this sentence in the active voice: Lemonade was sold by the kids all day long. →	YOU'VE PASSED EIGHTH GRADE! →		BONUS ROUND! THESE QUESTIONS ARE FOR HIGH SCHOOLERS — AND EXTRA-HARD. BUT IF YOU GET ONE RIGHT, IT'S WORTH TRIPLE THE POINTS. GOOD LUCK!	HIGH SCHOOL 37. Which of the following Spanish sentences is incorrect? A. Ella va al cine. B. Ellos estaban hablando. C. Tu fuiste al parque. D. Yo es muy triste.												
FEELING BEHIND? SO IS EVERYONE ELSE.	BY REBECCA KATZMAN BETWEEN A too-short summer vacation and a few long years of Covid learning, your brain might feel a little ... mushy. It's not just you: The back-to-school slump this year is very real. Recent national exam scores show that students are behind on learning. Reading and math scores of 13-year-olds have hit their lowest in 20 years. One new study even found that elementary- and middle-school students will need about four months of extra schooling on average to get caught up. "Scores were already dropping before Covid," Grady Wilburn says. He works for the National Center for Education Statistics, which gives standardized tests to students. But Covid and hybrid learning made things even worse. As schools went remote, then had to deal with constantly changing schedules, kids' scores continued to go down. Research shows that learning has been especially hard for kids of color and those from poorer districts. That's in part because they're less likely to have the stuff they need to learn at home — like computers and tablets, reliable internet access, and parents or tutors to help. And not everyone has been in the best head space these past few years. But it's not all bad news. Experts say that kids will catch up — even if school stays exactly the same. That's not even counting the extra help some districts are getting, like tutors and other support staff. "This is one blip downward," Wilburn says. "Just because you had a minor setback doesn't mean that your path forever." Ready to jump back in? We've got the perfect thing to get your mental gears turning.					YOUR MISSION This trivia game is based on real tests from schools, states and national exams. Beware: It's tricky. Even our (adult) editors got a few wrong! Play it to brush up on your math, science, English and history lessons. You might learn something new!	GAMEPLAY 1. Grab a sheet of paper and a playing piece (a coin, button or even a piece of candy). Number your sheet from 1 to 40. 2. Place your piece on the first square. Follow the path, moving one square at a time. At each question, write your answer on your sheet. 3. When you reach the final square, flip to the back page and check your answers. For each correct answer, add 1 point. (Add 3 for bonus questions.) You get 0 points for wrong answers.	4. Add up your points. Then check your final grade with the score sheet at right. How did you do? MULTIPLAYER OPTION: Follow the same instructions as above, but give everyone their own answer sheet. Add up everyone's scores. The player with the most points wins the game. And remember: This game is for fun, and meant to be a challenge. If you don't ace it, don't sweat it! There's plenty of time to learn more.	SCORE SHEET <table><tr><td>A+</td><td>35+ POINTS</td><td>C</td><td>19-25 POINTS</td></tr><tr><td>A</td><td>32-34 POINTS</td><td>D</td><td>13-18 POINTS</td></tr><tr><td>B</td><td>26-31 POINTS</td><td>F</td><td>12 POINTS OR FEWER</td></tr></table>		A+	35+ POINTS	C	19-25 POINTS	A	32-34 POINTS	D	13-18 POINTS	B	26-31 POINTS	F	12 POINTS OR FEWER
A+	35+ POINTS	C	19-25 POINTS																			
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International



DAY IN THE LIFE



A FOURTH-GRADER IN BRAZIL

WHAT DOES AN AVERAGE DAY LOOK LIKE FOR ELLOÁ DE OLIVEIRA RAMOS?

BY FLÁVIA MILHORANCE • PHOTOGRAPHS BY LUISA DÖRR

THE SOUTH AMERICAN country Brazil has some big similarities to the United States. It has a large population of 200 million (the United States has 300 million) and a lot of different geography: There are beautiful beaches, huge jungles, dry grasslands and rolling hills. But it's different too. The main language is Portuguese, and because it's in the southern half of the earth, the seasons are the opposite of ours. Winter happens from June to August, while summer is December through February. That means the school calendar is also different — starting in late January and ending in early December. To learn more about the country, we spent a day with Elloá de Oliveira Ramos, a 10-year-old in Rio de Janeiro (the second-biggest city in Brazil). She lives with her mother, father and four pets in *favela Rocinha*, a low-income neighborhood. They moved to Rio during the pandemic, and at first Elloá was sad. But now? She's a pro: "I know the city better than my mother," she says. This is a day in her life: Aug. 7, 2023.

5:50 a.m.

ELLOÁ WAKES UP in her family's one-room apartment. Rocinha is built on a hillside, and her home is nearly at the top, with a great view of the city below and São Conrado beach. She skips breakfast: "I am not hungry that early," she says. She showers and puts on her uniform as the sun comes up. It's winter in the Southern Hemisphere, but temperatures are still around 75 degrees.



6:30

Elloá and her mom walk to the bus stop, which is down a steep slope from her house. At the main road, she waits for Tia Eliane's (Aunt Eliane's) bus — named for the owner of the bus company, who rides along and takes care of the kids during the trip to school.



7:10

After a 40-minute ride, Elloá is dropped off at Luiz Delfino Municipal School. In Rio, kids can go to public school for free, and they are assigned to a school near their homes. Elloá's is held in a two-story house

behind a big gate in the neighborhood Gávea (a more privileged area). She and other first-through-fifth-graders chat while they wait for the gates to open.

7:30

In Brazil, school is only half the day — either from 7:30 in the morning until about noon, or from 12:30 to 5 p.m. Elloá's day starts with Portuguese. The teacher, Luciana Martins, writes "racismo" and "capacitismo" (which mean "racism" and "ableism") on the blackboard. "Does anyone remember what kind of prejudices these are?" she asks.



8:30

The 28 students in Elloá's class head to the cafeteria for breakfast. She has a cup of banana smoothie and eats cookies from her lunchbox.

9:30



The fourth graders head to the library. Today they talk about a book about Conceição Evaristo, a 76-year-old Black woman who became a famous writer in

Brazil. Then, they start working on posters about what they learned. Elloá and three classmates draw different colored hands making a bird sign.



10:30

Recess! Students head to a small courtyard in the golden sunshine. Most of the boys go to play soccer, while the girls skip rope. Elloá grabs one end of the rope to spin it while singing: "Senhoras e senhores, pule num pé só/Senhoras e senhores, dê uma rodadinha/E, vá pro olho, da rua!" ("Ladies and gentlemen, jump on one foot/Ladies and gentlemen, take a spin/And ... get out!")

11:45



It's time for lunch. Today, there's arroz com feijão (rice and beans) with a stew of chicken and potatoes. The lunch at all public schools in Rio is free. For many kids, it's their main meal of the day.

12:20 p.m.

At the end of the school day, Elloá catches the school bus back home. At Elloá's stop

her mother, Thaise, gets on. "We are getting a ride to her next class," she says. Elloá participates in a lot of after-school activities — many of which are free.

1:30

Thaise and Elloá arrive at the Rogerio Steinberg Institute for a robotics class. Everyone finds a seat in front of a laptop, and then the coding teacher starts: "Last class we talked about strength, so now let's talk about speed." Soon, students are on their feet working in pairs with Lego pieces. Elloá teams up with her schoolmate Luiza Appariz, 10. "She's from Paris," Elloá jokes, and the girls laugh.



3:00

The Lego pieces turn into four racecars, and a table becomes a track. On the first try, Elloá and Luiza's car barely moves. But with a little help from the teacher, they're off. Everyone cheers like they are watching a World Cup final. (Futebol, or soccer, is huge in Brazil.) After all the excitement, the kids have a snack: Some cookies, an apple and guaraná (or soda).



5:00

Off to theater class! Elloá loves the program, called Semearte. It even gave her a new dream: "I wanted to become a police officer, but now I want to be an actress," she says. Their next play is inspired by "Rio," the cartoon about parrots. "I'm going to play the villain, so I'm practicing the evil laugh," Elloá says.

8:00



Back home, Elloá plays with her pets: a cat, a fish and two birds. Her mom cooks cuzcuz nordestino for dinner, a traditional dish made of steamed cornflakes with fried eggs on the side. When Elloá's father, Edenilson, gets home, the family sits together at the table for the meal. Her cousin Ester, 6, who lives just down the hall, comes by to say hello.

9:30



Elloá stays up to watch TV on her parents' smartphone. Right now, she loves "Stranger Things." Despite her long day, she's not ready to sleep yet. "I don't feel tired at all," she says. ♦



Arts



ACTION? ACTION!



YOUNG ACTORS ARE STEPPING OFF THE STAGE AND STANDING UP FOR THEIR RIGHTS

BY NICOLE SPERLING • ILLUSTRATION BY YEYE WELLER



Actors, writers and supporters marching outside NBC Studios in New York City on Aug. 4 to demand better contracts.

IT'S QUIET ON THE SET...

too quiet. That's because in May, the people who write movies and television shows stopped writing. They were angry with the film studios and said they wouldn't do any more work until they were paid fairly. Then, in July, most television and film actors went on strike, too. Stars including Jenna Ortega and Ryan Reynolds refused to come to the sets of their movies and shows. They also wouldn't promote completed ones that were about to come out.

The actors are part of a union called SAG-AFTRA. While most of the members are adults, many are under 18. (A union is a group of workers, and this is one of the few unions that

includes minors.) A big issue is that technology is changing the entertainment industry, so how they are paid needs to change, too. "Contracts need to be updated to reflect the new way people watch movies and television," says the actress Madeleine McGraw, 14. She and others want companies to pay them better for their work on streaming platforms like Disney+ and Netflix. They also want a promise not to replace them with computer-generated versions of themselves.

Many actors joined marches outside the offices of entertainment companies, yelling and holding up signs to make their complaints heard. Madeleine marched outside Disney studios in Burbank, Calif., last month. "I felt strong being there with everyone," she says. "It

was awesome getting to fight for something we believe in." She and her sister, Violet, 12, have both been in recent horror movies, and both were about to start new movies but couldn't because of the strike.

Picketers found ways to make the days interesting. "This is an important topic, but it's also important to have fun," says Jaidyn Triplett, who is 12 and plays Millicent Mitchell on the Nickelodeon show "iCarly." While demonstrating in front of Paramount Studios, she sang a karaoke version of the show's theme song to help lift the mood. Trinity Jo-Li Bliss, 14, who was in "Avatar: The Way of Water," joined in on chants outside Netflix. Her favorite: "No wages, no pages, no actors on the stages." She says, "It was very cool to hear all of our voices as one." ♦

NOT COMING TO A SCREEN NEAR YOU

Even before actors from SAG-AFTRA went on strike, many productions were shut down by the writers' strike, including new seasons of Netflix's "Stranger Things" and the Disney Channel's "Bunk'd." The actors' strike put even more shows and movies on hold.

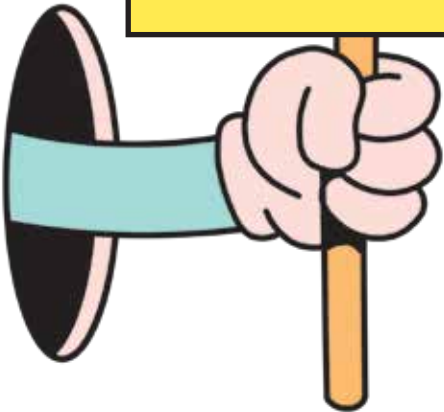
"SPIDER-MAN: BEYOND THE SPIDER-VERSE," a Spider-Man sequel, was supposed to come out next March. That's not going to happen.

"GHOSTBUSTERS: AFTERLIFE" was set to open this winter. It has been pushed to spring 2024.

"WHITE BIRD," the sequel to the popular adaptation of R.J. Palacio's book "Wonder," was delayed by several months.

"ANDOR," the second season of the popular "STAR WARS" series on Disney+, couldn't finish filming because its creator, Tony Gilroy, hasn't worked on it since the writers went on strike.

"LILO & STITCH," a live-action version of the 20-year-old cartoon started shooting in Hawaii in April, but was paused.



MY NEW FAVORITE SONG



INTERVIEWS BY TAAYOO MURRAY • ILLUSTRATIONS BY NADA HAYEK

One August night in New York City 50 years ago, a D.J. set up two turntables at a party and started looping beats. In an instant, a new genre of music — hip-hop — was born, and it has come a long way since then. In honor of its 50th anniversary, three kids shared their favorite hip-hop tracks of today.

'ALL MY LIFE'
BY LIL DURK, FEATURING J. COLE
3 MINUTES 43 SECONDS



KAM, 12
COLUMBUS, OHIO

I WAS SCROLLING through the internet and saw a post previewing the song. I thought it was really good. I especially like J. Cole's verse. A line says, "If you ain't never posted a rapper when he was alive, you can't post about him after he get hit." They're basically talking about how a lot of rappers don't get to see themselves blow up because it happens after they die. Yes, some hip-hop glorifies the gang lifestyle, but it's just the rappers singing about their lives. I think people should focus on how the music brings the Black community together.

'GET INTO IT (YUH)'
BY DOJA CAT
2 MINUTES 18 SECONDS



KERRINGTON, 12
ATLANTA

I HEARD THIS song for the first time when the album "Planet Her" was released, which I was looking forward to. I love the song, because it gives me good vibes in general. It just sends a bunch of sound waves through my mind, and it makes me want to get up and dance. When I'm feeling at a low point, or just feeling like I need some encouragement, I listen to the song.

'UNITED IN GRIEF'
BY KENDRICK LAMAR
4 MINUTES 15 SECONDS



DESMOND O'BRIEN, 10
QUEENS

MY FAVORITE LINE is the very first one, "I hope you find some peace of mind in this lifetime." The song makes me feel sad and happy at the same time — it's like a roller coaster. The lyrics of the song, which is about bad experiences all people go through and how we all grieve, gives me a sad feeling, but the beat makes me feel happy. It makes me think about memories of my grandfather, who passed away. I listen to the song every day. It's kind of like my connection to him.



TINY STORY

11,000

About how many people signed up to get the Brooklyn Public Library's new Jay-Z library cards. The library released 13 limited-edition cards, each decorated with art from one of the Brooklyn native's albums. Jay-Z fans came from all over New York to get one. Some even went to multiple branches to collect them all. That's one way to get people interested in books!



Arts

SSSHHHHH! A PEEK BEHIND THE CURTAIN AT
MAGIC SCHOOL

BY JOLENE HART • PHOTOGRAPHS BY DINA LITOVSKY



TRY THIS TRICK!
SECRET SYMBOL
SWITCHEROO

MAGICALLY TURN
ONE PICTURE INTO ANOTHER

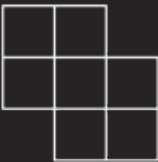
TRICK BY SHANE COBALT

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

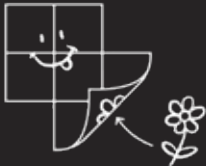
- A blank sheet of paper (an 8-by-8-inch square is best, but a regular 8.5-by-11-inch page will do)
- Scissors
- Pencil or pen

TO SET UP THE TRICK:

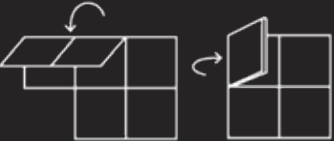
1. Fold the paper into thirds vertically, then horizontally. Open it flat. It will look like nine smaller boxes. Carefully cut away the top-right and bottom-left boxes. You'll be left with two overlapping 2-by-2 squares.



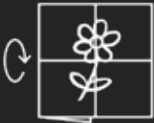
2. Draw a symbol, like a heart or a smiley face, on the upper-left square. Then draw something different on the BACK of the lower right square. (Tip: Don't use a marker that will show through the paper.)



3. Fold down the top two squares. Then fold in the remaining square on the side, concealing one of your two drawings in a secret packet.



4. Hold the packet in place and flip over the paper. This is what your audience will see first. Only you will know that it has a secret hiding behind it!



TO PERFORM THE TRICK:

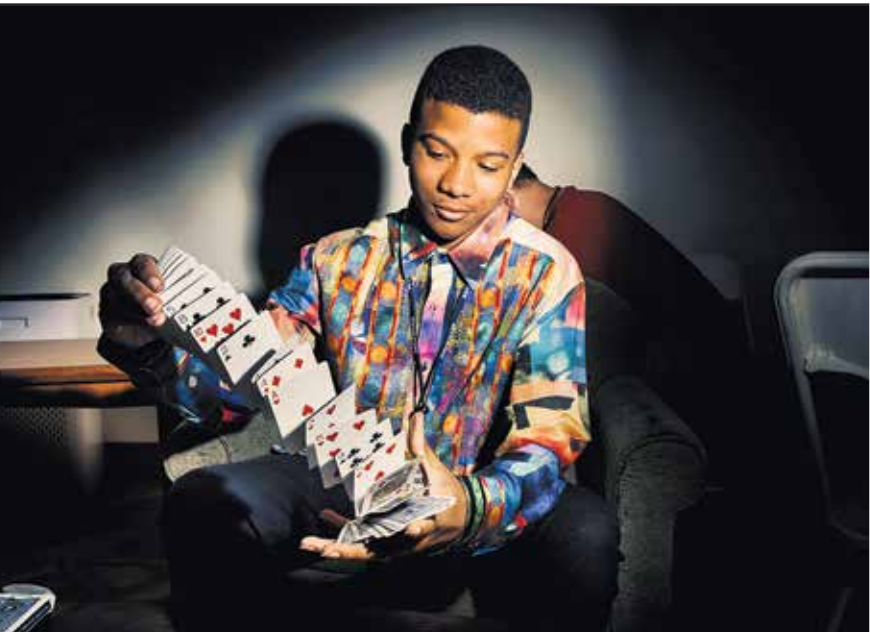
1. Show your audience the exposed 2-by-2 square.
2. Fold the paper into a packet, as described in Step 3 above.



3. Magic gesture! Secretly flip over the packet as you bring it to your lips and blow. Remember which side you just folded and keep it hidden.



4. Unfold the paper — with drama! — to reveal the original 2-by-2 square. If your audience asks you to do it again (and they definitely will), repeat to turn the picture "back" to what it was before.



Clockwise from top: Griffin McLeMore, 15, showing off skills he learned in levitation class at Tannen's Magic Camp in Pennsylvania; Shammah Womack-el, 12, springing cards; Catherine Levy, 14, and fellow campers on formal night; Isha Agrawal, 14, in sleight-of-hand class; from left, Grace Thomas, 13, Kayleigh Rodgers and Cleo Cleveland, both 12, Samantha Novak, 14, and Elizabeth Navert, 16, levitating a bracelet.

Magicians never reveal their secrets. Unless it's the one week each summer when they gather at Tannen's Magic Camp to pass on their knowledge to the next generation. The setting: Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania. With its iron chandeliers and medieval-looking flags, it is perfect for a meeting of the magical arts. Picture Hogwarts, but with vending machines. For 50 years, Tannen's camp has been the place for young performers to meet and learn from their idols. Campers sleep over to study arts like cardistry,¹ stage magic,² mentalism³ and vanishing.⁴ Shamus Gandley, 12, from New York, got into magic after watching his father, a hobbyist, make his mom disappear. "She came back," he laughs,

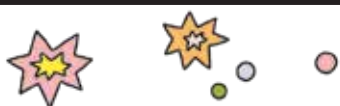
sitting at a packed lunch table. "Now I like sleight of hand."⁵ Of course, they teach that here too. Counselors are top magicians (David Copperfield has taught at Tannen's). They get just as excited about camp as the kids do. "We're all here to make ourselves better," says Tatanka Tan, who teaches strolling.⁶ "Counselors learn just as much from the campers. If I have an idea for a trick, I ask my class, 'How would you guys do it?'" Campers help one another, too. When Shamus says he wants to learn the double lift,⁷ Adam Sprague, 15, from Pennsylvania, speaks up: "I can teach you that!" He already has a deck of cards in his hands (nearly every camper carries one at all times) and starts demonstrating.

Tannen's isn't just for learning. It is a place to make like-minded friends. Catherine Levy, 14, from Maryland; Grace Thomas, 13, from Minnesota; and Samantha Novak, 14, from New York, have been talking tricks in a group chat since they met at camp last year. It also gives young magicians the chance to show off their acts. Some get to perform at a big end-of-session show. "Being onstage is a thrill," Catherine says. She likes the flashiness, and that it "lets me show my personality." Carlos Bonilla, 15, a second-year camper from Costa Rica, loves displaying his skills for friends and counselors while also being able to see them pull off amazing tricks. "I love that this is one week a year when I'm the one getting fooled," he says. ♦

- 1 Shuffling, cutting, springing and other fancy card tricks
- 2 Performances usually involving props, an assistant or even an animal or two
- 3 Illusions that appear to use psychic powers
- 4 Making something or someone, even yourself, disappear
- 5 Subtle hand motions that make tricks work
- 6 Tricks done while walking around
- 7 A classic sleight-of-hand move for lifting two cards while appearing to lift only one



Style



WALK INTO CLASS WITH THE
BEST BACKPACK

BY KRISTEN BATEMAN • ILLUSTRATION BY NADA HAYEK

BACKPACKS don't have to be boring. On the runways at fashion week, designers like Collina Strada and Junya Watanabe added brooches, pearl necklaces, bows and ribbons to their handbags. Why not do the same to yours? "Treat it like a Christmas tree or magnetic refrigerator," says the stylist Shea Daspin. "It should contain memories, things that bring you joy, and anything handmade." Here are four easy ways to oomph up your backpack before school starts.

PAINT IT

LAST YEAR, Freddie Thomas, 5, painted Spider-Man on his backpack (with his dad's help). His friends liked it so much, they copied his idea, adding their favorite superheroes to theirs. "Now we all have cool backpacks," he says. To make your own, sketch on a design in pencil or marker first. You could try polka dots (which have been seen on fashion runways like Molly Goddard's and Proenza Schouler's) or hearts (a favorite of brands like Moschino and Victoria Beckham). Not feeling so sweet? Try skulls, lightning bolts or bugs. Or splatter on different colors. Just make sure to use fabric paint, which won't crack or flake off.

POMPOM IT

DALLAS SKYE GATSON, 11, took inspiration from her favorite pompom headbands and glued dozens of multicolor pompoms all over her backpack. "It was exciting to see the final result," she says. You can attach poms with fabric glue or hot glue (with an adult's help). Stick them all over, or in one spot — like the front pocket. You can also try other stick-ons, like pipe cleaners, felt or fake fur. Don't shy away from mixing prints and unexpected colors.

ADD A PILE OF PLUSHIES

CUTE AND CARTOONY *kawaii* style has been all over TikTok lately. But you don't have to spend tons to reach high levels of cuteness. D'Artagnan Lou, 9, (who has an Instagram account about fashion with her mom) attached tons of plushie toys to her backpack last year. You can also buy plushie key chains, or take it a step further. Daspin, the stylist, says: "If you want to get really creative, you can find hand-held or smaller stuffed animals, take out the stuffing, and sew them to your bag with a simple sewing pin and thread."

MIX, MATCH AND MAXIMIZE IT

CAN'T CHOOSE just one style? Go overboard like a maximalist. Camila Castillo Ahmed, 12, tacks on things she finds everywhere — but says you should stick to a theme, so it all looks good together. Lately, she's been loading up her backpack with anime-inspired pieces. You can buy patches, look for cool pins, or cut out images from T-shirts and attach them with glue or thread. The end result is a tribute to something you love, and a great conversation starter, Camila says: "Instead of talking about myself, I can show it and express myself." ♦

STYLE Q'S

WHAT TO WEAR ANYWHERE

BY VANESSA FRIEDMAN, NEW YORK TIMES FASHION CRITIC



Q:

"I'm an 8-year-old girl who only wears pants and shorts. I haven't worn dresses for years. Sometimes it's hard to find clothes to dress up in, because all fancy clothes for girls are dresses. What should I wear to feel special, like at a birthday party?" — Petra Collins, 8, Dallas

A:

I have one word for you — *jumpsuit*! They are a perfect option between dresses and pants. They have comfort and flexibility, but the visual impact and ease of a dress. And these days they are available in pretty much any color, pattern and material under the sun. They were invented all the way back in 1919 for parachuters to wear when jumping out of planes — so their pants, shirts and jackets didn't get caught or billow out like a balloon. It wasn't until the 1930s that they started being considered fashion. A clever designer named Elsa Schiaparelli made a women's jumpsuit out of green silk. Shocking! (At the time.) In the 1960s the designer Bonnie Cashin made jumpsuits in leather and jersey. They were cool and easy to wear. Then celebrities like Elvis, Cher and the musical group Abba started bedazzling theirs. By the

1980s jumpsuits were so popular, an American designer named Geoffrey Beene called them "the ball gown of the next century." He was right. Now, they're on red carpets all the time and even worn by men, like Harry Styles. These days, you can find a jumpsuit for a fancy party or the playground. Mango has some terrific options in everything from velvet to summery florals, as do Boden and Ralph Lauren. You can wear them with sneakers, heels or sandals. Dress them up or down with jewelry and other accessories. If you aren't comfortable with bright colors, choose one in navy or black. Brighten it up with some red or blue shoes, and maybe a charm bracelet or necklace. You could even add a belt — taking a cue from Schiaparelli — in hot pink or leaf green. There's just no debating it: Jumpsuits are pretty much an everything-everywhere solution. ♦

Do you have a style or fashion question? Email it to us at kids@nytimes.com.

SOLUTIONS

TRIVIA GAME
PAGES 6-7

1 POINT EACH

KINDERGARTEN

- 5
2. q, a, b, n
3. B
4. Wednesday

FIRST GRADE

5. 3
6. the
7. 2:30
8. D

SECOND GRADE

9. C
10. 28 cents
11. C
12. C

THIRD GRADE

13. Legislative, executive, or judicial
14. A
15. ¾
16. D

FOURTH GRADE

17. 322
18. Little Rock
19. 14
20. A

FIFTH GRADE

21. C
22. Gravity
23. 83
24. C

SIXTH GRADE

25. A
26. A
27. Ava did not like the museum, but she was still excited to see the painting.
28. C

SEVENTH GRADE

29. C
30. C
31. 80 percent
32. C

EIGHTH GRADE

33. Mercury
34. Legislative
35. 153 square meters
36. The kids sold lemonade all day long.

3 POINTS EACH

HIGH SCHOOL BONUS ROUND

37. D
38. B
39. A
40. A

MINIPIZZLES
PAGE 2

EASY

	G	A	S
M	I	L	K
S	O	A	P
E	O	N	S
A	N	T	

MEDIUM

A	R	T	
P	O	O	L
P	O	W	E
M	E	G	A
	L	O	W

HARD

	B	E	D
D	E	L	I
G	U	A	V
E	N	T	E
M	E	S	S



THE END