

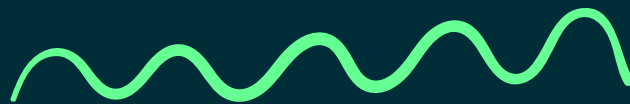


It's time to write  
the final chapter...

EDUCATION  
**Tute**



Shelf Care  
English Society



March - April

# Shelf Care English Society

Creative Writing, Creative Thinking



“Everything  
you’ve ever  
wanted  
is on the  
other side of  
FEAR!”



**WRITERS DREAM DEEP WITH EYES OPEN**

**RAINY  
DAYS AND  
SUNNY  
SKIES**

And snow, apparently.

**SPRING TO SUMMER**

The clocks spring forward, the rain starts, the storms thunder, the heatwaves begin. We put more water in the fridge and stock up on ice lollies, we spend more time in the garden, we see it's nice enough for a walk with the dog with no coat only for it to rain as you're the furthest point from home... As odd as Spring is, it is such a refreshing time. May you feel refreshed and renewed this season!

**TESTING. TESTING. 1,2. 1,2.**

The holidays may have been long lie ins, and Easter bunnies and chocolate eggs, but now we are really in the thick of it. As the countdown begins, we prepare for the mocks and we look to our Year 11s who are ready to brave the storms of the 2026 exams. Let's wish them the very best of luck during what may be a stressful time. We know our students are brilliant, but in case you need a reminder: You are brilliant young people! Exams and grades are not forever or the end - so try your best and persevere but know that there is much more yet to come.

**YOU WANT  
IT, HERE  
IT IS.**

Come and get it



# Student Spotlight

**What have you been doing?**

## **LAYLA, KS4:**

I'm going to die now. Every night, I would deeply think of what it would feel like to die and if I would miss my beloved. I dropped to my knees, choking and spurting out blood. An unexpected wave of adrenaline and a type of...joy?. It seeped through my veins. I fell down the 4-leaf clover, making an appearance in my eyesight. The foul smell of my blood mixed with snow caused me to scrunch up my nose in disgust.

Behind me, from a distance i heard my beloved. She screamed and cried my name in a tragic manner. A singular tear slowly rolled down my face, disappearing in the corner of my mouth. I could taste the saltiness of my tear my tongue started to swell and dry out. At least I was dying surrounded by a breathtaking mountain in the distance and an astonishingly gorgeous tree line. There was also an igloo somewhere further off into the distance. I remember playing in it as a kid. She fell by my side.

"Please...please SAY SOMETHING," Aurelia muttered. At this point i started hysterically sobbing and hyperventilating at the thought of leaving my wife. I was met by her warm and comforting embrace, she wiped my tears, and quietly wept. Looking up at her face, staring into her ocean blue eyes, I once stared into her eyes at the altar, but now it was at my death. A smile painfully formed on my face. She always loved it when I smiled; she smiled back at me, tears dropping from her eyes. I now know what it feels like to die...I WANT TO LIVE streams of tears pouring down my face.

## **RUTHIE, KS3:**

I can feel the end coming. It's just me left, no more five, no more three. Just me, four. I've been walking for what feels like days through multiple districts. The infected surround me. I have made it to the highway tunnel. Zombies are standing dotted around, i can't see how far the tunnel goes on. I reload my gun and start shooting. I have come too far to die now, I use all the strength in my body to run as fast as i can. I can see the light. I'm so close to the end. I know it.



# Student Spotlight

## What have you been doing?

### **ALLANNAH, KS4:**

The day I had shown up at Grandma's house in my new clothes, she had said to me, 'You remind me of myself when I was younger.' I had laughed; there was no way my old, strict grandma had ever worn anything like this! Though it was her laughing now, as she held up a battered photograph of two people. It was slightly faded, making the atmosphere seem darker and eerier, and making the figure's dark clothes fade into the background, like something lurking in the shadows. The corners were peeling, and Grandma's shaking hands smoothed them back, as if she were doing it unconsciously, with muscle memory. It was clear that this photo was well-loved. The girl in the photo looked like Grandma, though I found it impossible to believe this young, grungy girl could be the same woman holding the photo with a smirk on her wrinkled yet life-filled face. In the photo, she had shoulder-length blonde hair, almost glowing under the sun's shimmering rays, as if she were an angel in disguise. Her makeup was a stark contrast to her usual look; her now pale grey eyeshadow had once been jet black, as if it had faded away as she aged. She had a dark red lipstick, covered with shiny gloss, and to my utter disbelief, she was holding a cigarette to her lips! I looked up, raising an eyebrow to my grandma; my grandma, who had always told me not to smoke, my grandma, who I'd thought had obeyed every rule in her life, and I was met with a laugh. As I looked back at the photo, I was drawn to her outfit. It was bold, an ebony black jacket with silver studs.

To tell you the truth, I almost asked her if she still had it. The sharp spikes went down her collar, leading to a skull necklace, which was also rhinestone-studded. With the amount of studs she had on her clothes, you could've mistaken her for the crown jewels! Next to her was a boy, and his hairstyle was truly impressive. A Mohawk formed into liberty spikes, with the rest of his hair coloured into black and white checkers, like a chessboard. He, too, was adorned with a leather jacket and a multitude of studs, though unlike Grandma's jacket, his had something written on the back which I couldn't make out. He was looking over at Grandma, about to say something. I looked up at her and back down at the picture a few times, and then I spoke:

'Please tell me that isn't grandad.'

And she laughed.



# Student Spotlight

**What have you been doing?**

## **HAYDEN, KS3:**

I'm picked up and thrown from a building.

As I drift through the air, wind nipping at my skin, I feel divine, flying like a god, but unable to escape. Am I stuck here for all eternity?

Bang! I hit the ground, but I never truly hit it. It just repeats; each fall felt rehearsed, as though destiny had memorised my screams.

I am back. I stand on top of the building. Again.

Suddenly, as I am about to make contact for the 99th time, the sky cracks open, and everything starts fading, then glitching.

Had. This. All. Been. A. Simulation?

## **ELLIENA, KS4:**

THE 100: IN THE DEPTHS.

Driving home, she noticed the road sign: 99 miles. On the other side, red marked 'you'.

The radio murmured about ninety-nine unsolved disappearances, ninety-nine bodies found across the country.

At the cabin, pristine snow lay untouched except for footprints - first human, then animal, turning backward toward the door.

Inside, tally marks covered the wall: ten lines in ten rows. One hundred. Her husband stood in the doorway, smiling strangely, his skin sagging like borrowed clothes. In the bedroom, his body lay hollowed and still. Behind her, a zip slid down. Layers shifted beneath.

Everyone she knew... could already be taken. 100.



# Student Spotlight

**What have you been doing?**

## **FAYE, KS3:**

I've stepped into a dream, an island, a paradise. The sun roars brighter in the middle of nowhere, wouldn't you agree? Welcome to Earth's core. Welcome to the Bahamas. Life seems brighter; the water glows clearer. Could this be make-believe? A vibrant cascade of colour, would you like to witness this heavenly eye shot of God's judgment? Prices are arguably cheaper than in the big city: Wining and dining all night long, want to join in, in this fantasy? A hallucination you can never escape... You can't leave, you just can't, life is greater when you're stuck in a vision of a life you wish you had. All that complaining has paid off...

Wouldn't you agree?

## **IMOGEN, KS3:**

The desk fan swirled, and it should've been soothing. The subtle background noise should have helped soothe my growing anxiety. Alas, it only worsened it. The rocking of the nearby chair and the deluded cackles that came from it made me shiver. Sweat dripped down my temple. Drip. Drip. I was sure that a fear puddle had formed by now. My hands shook against the desk, as if possessed and uncontrollable - just like the chair. I wondered whether to make a break for it or not, to run and attempt to be free from this paranoia that plagued my mind. However, everything...stopped. The rocking chair hit the floor with a sharp thud, and I was left alone once more, but was it really gone?

## **LILY-MAY, KS3:**

In the ancient kingdom of Aerilon, one hundred silver stars circled the night sky, each guarding a forgotten wish. When the stars began to dim, young Mia born under the brightest set out to restore their light. Guided by a whisper compass she crossed crystal forests and climbed floating cliffs. At the summit of the world, she found the star thief a lonely spirit hoarding wishes to feel whole. Mia offered him her own. touched, he released the stolen light. the stars blazed anew, and Aerilon awoke to hope restored.



# Student Spotlight

**What have you been doing?**

## **MIA, KS3:**

A family is a circle, unbreakable and strong, the place where you belong, where laughter flows and love is spoken and a bond that's never broken. Family isn't just people you are related to instead people you can talk to , open up to family is one of the most powerful bond you will ever find in life. So instead of arguing , shouting ,getting mad with them, cherish the moments you have together as they won't last long, always be grateful for your family as they will be the ones who stay with you through the highs and lows no matter what. They're the ones you will have your most meaningful memories to remember for a life time. So thank you to my family for always being there for me when I couldn't even be there for myself because that's what family does.

## **ISABEL, KS4:**

Luuk watched the digital clock on the wall. the red LEDs pulsed with a rhythmic, mechanical indifference: 11:59:58 PM. He hadn't slept in three days, and his eyes felt like they had been scrubbed with steel wool, but he couldn't blink. not now

In the centre of the room, the Chronos Anchor hummed-a low-frequency vibration that rattled the fillings in his teeth. it wasn't supposed to make a noise. it wasn't supposed to smell like ozone and burnt sugar, either.

"If the displacement theory is correct," he whispered to the empty room, his voice cracking, "I'm already gone."

Outside the reinforced windows, the city of London didn't just go dark; it vanished. the streetlights, the skyscrapers, and the distant roar of M1 were replaced by a terrifying, prehistoric hush. the air inside the lab spiked to dry, searing heat, and the floor beneath his boot shifted from polished concrete to the soft, yielding dampness of a forest floor that hadn't seen a human footprint in thousand years.

Luuk reached out to touch the console, but his hand was translucent, a flickering ghost of flesh and bone. he wasn't just a traveller anymore. he was a glitch in the biography of the universe



# Student Spotlight

**What have you been doing?**

## **MASON, KS3.**

My black gecko is a small yet fascinating companion who lifts my spirits. He is a curious little fellow with glossy dark skin that shimmers in the light. His favourite treat is worms, and he eagerly scurries with excitement whenever he sees them. Watching him hunt is both entertaining and impressive. Despite his tiny size, he has a big personality and a gentle presence that make him very special to me. Every day, he explores his tank, climbs around, and rests in his favourite warm spot. Caring for him has taught me patience and appreciation for my little black gecko.

## **JEANE, KS3:**

The soldiers set out as they drive through the field, ready for battle. Flash back to 4 weeks before, there was a young boy who lived in the village who wasn't just a normal person. He worked for his mother at a shop, which was nothing but a mechanical shop, so it wasn't much. But he had been taken out one day and asked by the people who ruled his town. They needed more boys, so they decided to pick him. There's nothing but a thin, tall boy with no skin and dark red hair. So the soldiers went to a battle with a dragon, a really fierce dragon, but before they knew it, the boy took the dragon's side. The boy knew that the dragon was misunderstood since he had been misunderstood all of his life, but the dragon changed; he now wanted to rule with them, and they live happy ever after.

## **ASH, KS3:**

One, two, three... when the voice reached five, it was time to run. The plan was simple: run past the guards and through the gate while it's open. After that? Who knows, we've never seen the outside. Every two months on the first day, the gate opens to take the elderly out for 'freedom,' but really, it was an execution. The council of leaders couldn't afford to keep them alive. On five, I sprint as fast as my legs will take me, adrenaline coursing through my veins, I feel every footstep on the hard concrete. I hear the voices of the guards shouting "Breach! Breach!" Suddenly, I feel as though I'm floating, and then it hits me, I see the floor as though it were a wall, I tripped, it's all over for me.



# Student Spotlight

**What have you been doing?**

## **JJ, KS3:**

We have finally arrived at the site of impact. There was a distinct smell in the air, almost a mix between cinnamon and grass. As we approached closer, there was a high-pitched screech coming from the site of impact. We could make out what it was. Was it an asteroid? maybe a satellite. There was a distinct yellow and red substance on the floor, which was leading away from the crash site, with what seemed to be a smoky mist coming off of whatever this substance may be. So we approached even more cautiously than we did before.

## **SAM, KS3:**

We walked past the ship. I felt this stale, cold silence in the air. As we kept walking the more i saw this neon green light in the distance. We are not alone...

## **SULAMAN, KS3:**

Green people will come out. They will start beating and using unlearnable language. It will be some beeping mixed with bulugulubulugulubulugulubuluguluvbulugulu. Just try to start a conversation like "what would you do if you got shrunk down and then got injected into someone's veins?"

## **ISAAC, KS4:**

Early mornings. Don't get me started... They should NOT be enforced for teenagers. Our brains and body clocks are wired to go to bed later and sleep in. It's UNFAIR to expect us to be functioning at full capacity at 9am!!

It's detrimental to our physical and mental health. It is a scientific fact that we need more sleep - early mornings have a negative impact on our alertness and academic capability.

## **POPPY, KS3:**

The room was engulfed by darkness, leaving an eerie feeling all around. I was still breathing steadily when I heard a bang! A glass vase had been shattered all over the floor. Before I could think about that, the door started creaking, flung open, and let in a gale of wind.



# Student Spotlight

What have you been doing?

## **SCARLETT, KS4:**

Don't get me started on spiders; they have absolutely no reason to invade homes as they do. Especially in this economy, when they are living rent-free in a house that costs 3x what it should. They have a disgusting amount of legs and look like they snuck onto earth. I could live happily if I knew spiders weren't around, they ruin my mood, and I instantly have to get the Hoover out when I spot one.

## **POPPY, KS4:**

This isn't even a hot take, but I'm sick of people choosing a person to relentlessly bully online and saying they're only doing it because of "insert controversial thing that person did". It's so obvious that you don't actually care about what they did, nor for the people it effected you just want to be nasty without consequence. Most of the time, they have no knowledge or proof of what this person did; they are just repeating what other people are saying. Its clear you just get pleasure out of being cruel

## **ELLENA, KS4:**

New Tea sets- back in the day teasets were the most gorgeous, elegant pieces of china used day to day, their intricate designs, bold colours made them a stand out centerpiece for any household. We have absolutely butchered these beauties, having created plain, standardised shape "mugs". Absolutely hideous. They went from beautifully unique shapes and sizes to a chunky cylinder with an eyesore of a handle. The patterns? Basic. Colours? Bland. Our ancestors would be ashamed of us.

## **HIDDEN VOICE, KS4:**

The polar bears are quickly loosing there habitat due to climate change ice is melting and is unable to carry their weight of 150-800kg. Their home is getting taken away from them. Imagine living in your home for so many years, and then it just disappears from your feet, and you don't know why, and can't do anything about it, trusting us to help, so we can't sit back and ignore it.



# Student Spotlight

**What have you been doing?**

## **HIDDEN VOICE, KS4:**

The polar bears are quickly losing their habitat due to climate change as ice is melting and is unable to carry their weight of 150-800kg. Their home is getting taken away from them. Imagine living in your home for so many years, and then it just disappears from under your feet, and you don't know why and can't do anything about it. They're trusting us to help, so we can't sit back and ignore it. With the use of AI, around 85,000 gallons of water are wasted a day just on AI alone. And yes, I am sure we have all used AI at some point, whether it was to write an email, suggesting answers or asking it to make your photo better quality, and everyone has the same thoughts, "well, one person isn't going to change anything," until that's what 8 billion people are saying and yes, one person can actually help. The more you support AI, the more water that is getting wasted on things that can be changed. If we don't change now, polar bears will become extinct, and once they do, we can't get them back. Also, not only the polar bears, but we need clean water to survive if we're wasting it on AI, we're going to have no clean water to survive off. It's not only the polar bears that are suffering from this climate change, but there are also many other animals that are going through the same thing, having no idea what's happening, and their homes are getting taken away all because we want to use AI.

## **HOLLY, KS4:**

Green sea turtles are amazing creatures. They have been around for approximately 110 million years, and they have even outlived the dinosaurs! Unfortunately, their population is steadily decreasing due to numerous human-caused factors. Some of these factors include plastic waste, climate change, and fishing nets. The way plastic waste affects these turtles is that they see plastic bags and think they are jellyfish, leading to them eating them. This can cause numerous complications and can even be fatal. Climate change is one of the biggest variables. Interestingly, the temperature of the sand in which the eggs are laid determines the gender of the turtles; cooler sand results in male turtles, whereas warmer sand results in female turtles. Consequently, as the climate keeps climbing, there will be more and more females, and they will eventually become extinct. The last point I will write about is the fishing nets. When turtles are migrating or just swimming, they can get tangled in these nets and, unfortunately, lose their lives. Green sea turtles are endangered animals; luckily, conservation charities are working to remedy the decline of this species population.



# Student Spotlight

## What have you been doing?

### **LEO, KS4:**

Snow leopards: The snow leopard population is very likely declining. Humans. Poaching, habitat loss, declines in natural prey species, and retaliatory killings. They have long been killed for their beautiful fur.

These beautiful creatures were the ultimate predators of the mountains. But sadly, due to poachers they cannot help but flee from the gunshots of our merciless kind. Their habits have been brutally destroyed, their precious fur stolen, and their families' lives taken

### **HOLLY, KS4:**

Who here had ordered clothes from SHEIN or Temu? It's a fast, cheap, and efficient way to get clothes, shoes, and other items. You can just click on the app, find clothes, and almost get a whole new wardrobe for under £100. However, the reality isn't as easy. Do you know the impact that fast fashion has on the world? Just a few of the ways that fast fashion impacts the planet are: mass waste, water pollution, climate change, microplastics, and social impacts. I know some people will roll their eyes, but it's serious. Millions of clothes end up in a landfill every year, and some don't decompose for hundreds of years. Water pollution is very serious because the dye in clothes pollutes river in manufacturing countries, and making one cotton t-shirt can use thousands of liters of water! As for climate change and microplastics, between factories and transport, the carbon emissions really affect climate change, and fast fashion contributes to a chunk of it. Clothes made from polyester release tiny plastics when washed, which end up in oceans that harm marine life. Our marine life is crucial; having to re-wear an outfit is not. The social impacts are heartbreaking; many of the workers are forced to work long hours for very little money, sometimes not even enough to live on. They also have to endure working in unsafe factories, the pressure of having to make clothes quickly, and, in some cases, even children are forced to work in these factories. Imagine not being able to just be a child and being forced into a factory to work all day tirelessly for little to no money to help your family just survive. These are just a few of the reasons fast fashion is bad for not just the people in the factories or the marine life, but everyone in the world as a whole.



# Student Spotlight

What have you been doing?

## **IMMY, KS3 (PART 1 OF 2)**

The Fallow Fate

2087-2 years after the civil war:

The winter approached briskly that year, in a way that normally didn't slither in until December. By late November, the streets resembled early January - snow congregating in the corners where no one minded to clear it, frost grasping to the shuttered shopfronts like a second layer of paint.

Carrie ambled with her hands hidden deep into her sleeves, passing the butchers with their chalkboard still promoting prices nobody had seen in years. The bakery alongside it had a wreath dangling on the door, leftover from some winter way before she was born. No one had taken it down. No one put a new one on either.

The traffic lights fluttered through the cascading snow, switching colours for a road that hadn't witnessed a genuine queue since before the shortages. Their dim glow elongated across the vacant pavement, reaching for someone who'll never come back.

Carrie kept her head down, her auburn hair swaying slightly owing to the cold breeze. Foster kids learned to move discreetly, to take up as little space as possible. The cold made her eyes tear; however, she didn't bother wiping them.

She thrust open the corner shop door, expecting the usual faint light.

Instead, warmth leaked out - and voices she didn't identify.

Carrie stopped in her tracks. For a moment, she thought she'd stepped into the wrong place or that someone had reopened the shop properly. But the air felt divergent. Too snug. Too radiant. The hum of chatter lurched against her ears like she'd walked underwater and surfaced somewhere else completely.

She blinked hard.



# Student Spotlight

What have you been doing?

## IMMY, KS3 (PART 2 OF 2)

The shelves were full. Not just stocked – crammed full. Crisps in bright packets, magazines with gleaming covers, fruit that looked like it had been grown in real sunlight. A heater buzzed faintly by the counter, the kind she hadn't seen working in years.

A man brushed past her, muttering a quick “sorry,” as if crowds were normal. As if people still scurried anywhere.

Carrie gingerly stepped back instinctively, the way she'd learnt in foster homes – move out of the way, don't draw attention, don't ask questions. But her heart thumped in her chest, too loud, too fast. Something was wrong. Or right. She couldn't tell. She turned towards a window.

Outside, the snow had vanished, the pavement remarkably wet instead of frozen, visibly damp. People strutted down the street in coats that weren't patched or threadbare. A bus rumbled past, vibrant blue, its windows fogged from the heat inside. She hadn't seen a bus running since she was a little girl...

Her breath caught in her throat.

This wasn't late November 2087.

It wasn't 2087 at all.

Carrie stumbled back from the window, heart racing. She reached for the nearest magazine, flipping through pages, the date stared back at her in bold letters.

2027

Seventy-two years before she was born.

Her stomach dropped. She looked at her surroundings again – the colours too sharp, the noise too alive, the air too cosy for a world she knew.



# Student Spotlight

**What have you been doing?**

## **HIDDEN VOICE, KS4:**

While new technological is being discovered and made, we all have the same thought, "Will AI and robots take over the world?" well they could in the future, but right now. AI needs to upgrade to understand the point of why and what they are doing that for, and to understand human minds and the way we act. For example, if robots took over teaching and school,s they only know what information has been given to them, which could be false. robots cant tell if someone is stuck on a test or question, as they haven't yet understood human emotions. Robots are made primarily from steel, aluminium, and hard plastics. The technology could have many tech issues, which could involve them running out of battrey miss information or just stopping working. AI robots are also harder to communicate with, as most people are better at communicating with human interaction rather than robots telling them what to do. however it would also be good because robots can'tt have sick da,ys so the students have the same teacher and rout,ine which humans also work better with therefor there ere still more negatives than positives until the robots can be more reliable

## **EVA, KS4:**

The station was rather quiet today, compared to the normal bustle of people, squeezing, shimmying, and weaving past each other. The murmur that accompanied Today was a welcome change, one I shouldn't get used to. Surprisingly, all the ticket booths remained open, all the receptionists smiling cheerfully, patiently waiting to help confused customers or people rushing to buy last-minute tickets. I could only pity the young ladies forced to comply with the strict rules, enduring hours in an enclosed, suffocating space, even if no one was there.

Brilliant beams of light streamed through the glass panels, illuminating the station, accompanied by a gentle warmth. The towering building was always somewhat imposing with its brick walls and metal bars covering the windows. Made the place feel like a prison. You only notice when it's as empty as today, normally you have to constantly apologise for bumping into someone or rush toward a train you thought you missed. Today is different, unnerving.

# Student Spotlight

What have you been doing?

## ALLANAH, KS4: (PART 1 OF 2)

Have you ever seen a tiger? If you have, you're lucky, because many people won't have the chance to in the future. Tigers have evolved over millions of years, yet only around 5,574 tigers remain in the wild, according to the Global Tiger Forum. Hundreds of tigers are being trapped, trafficked and poached, all by humans. According to the World Wildlife Fund, tigers have lost an estimated 95% of their historical range- these fierce, ferocious, majestic animals are being left clinging to isolated patches of forest just to survive. When a single tiger is poached, it begins a chain reaction of impact, like a snowball gradually getting bigger. "If a female tiger with cubs is killed, her cubs will most likely die without their mother, and the female's potential for future breeding is lost. If a male is killed, his death can result in intense competition for his territory among surviving males in the population, leading to potential injury and death," says WorldWildlife. Every time we allow these animals to be killed simply for the status and benefit of humans, we're pushing them further towards the brink of extinction. Why wouldn't you want to help them? To help a tiger, you can do a symbolic adoption of one on the World Wildlife website.



When I was a kid, I did this once before, and in my opinion, it is a good thing to do because you receive pictures and updates as well as the accomplished feeling of helping an animal. You may ask, "What is that going to do to help them?" Well, WWF protects and monitors tigers, as well as building political will to 'build and maintain momentum around the conservation of tigers.' You may also wonder, 'Why should I help a tiger?' One reason you should help tigers is that tigers can directly help some of the world's poorest communities.



# Student Spotlight

**What have you been doing?**

## **ALLANAH, KS4: (PART 2 OF 2)**

When people visit places where tigers exist, they create opportunities for communities with few alternatives to bring in income and generate employment opportunities. Tigers also play a key role in maintaining ecosystems because they are predators. One of the biggest reasons you should help tigers because it is our species that is the cause of their extinction. Finally, they're so cute!! Would you really only want to see tigers through old photos? Overall, protecting and supporting tigers is very important due to their help with the environment, communities and learning. You should support one today- Do you really want the future generations to ask you why you never helped the tigers?

## **CERYS, KS4: (PART 1 OF 2)**

The station was not a welcoming place. The big automated doors, the hum of the twenty-first century, of mobile phones, wheels rolling along the floor, all simply vanished. In its place was a huge space of relative silence filled with the smells of the past. Above the windows were gargantuan arches, framing the world outside. I felt small, I felt different. Had I really just stepped through the portal?

Then I saw the light.

It didn't just fall from the windows; it was solid. Great big pillars of light sliced across the space, looking solid enough to climb. I reached out my hand, allowing my fingers to touch the edge of the nearest beam, turning my hand from grey and lifeless to the bright colour of my flesh. Everything changed. Outside of the beams, the colour drained away. The modern world flickered and died.

I looked down at the floor, the same hard floor, but the people had changed. They looked like silhouettes, lacking colour, drifting through the space. Men in heavy wool coats and wide-brimmed hats stood in small groups, their faces obscured. They were memories of the past, but I was the intruder here.



# Student Spotlight

**What have you been doing?**

## **CERYS, KS4: (PART 2 OF 2)**

I hurried towards the centre of the hall, my heart beating fast. There stood the same clock that I knew so well. But the old, rusted clock that I knew was now gleaming in its youth. I realised that I was not just standing in the station, but standing in a memory.

A sudden whistle pierced the air. It was not the beep and hum of a modern train, but the deep roar of a steam engine. The floor began to vibrate, a rhythmic thunder that rattled my teeth and shook the station. The pillars of light began to flicker - the portal was closing. I panicked and threw myself backwards.

The transition was horrific. One moment, the air was full of the smoke of the past, and the next it was filled with the sterile scent of the post-COVID era. I gasped for air as all the colour rushed back into my vision. The ghosts of the past were gone, replaced by tourists clutching their smartphones and commuters checking their step count.

I looked back at the windows. The light was still there, slanted and beautiful, but the strong pillars had softened into ordinary sunbeams. I reached my hands up to the light. No greyscale, just ordinary flesh, my hands.

## **HIDDEN VOICE, KS4:**

In the middle of the eerie, uncanny woods stood a large brick circle. It looked like a portal to another universe; you'd be inclined to think it was if it weren't for the metal gate in the centre. It was jet black, as if the sun's rays couldn't reflect off the tall, sturdy bars if it tried, since fog obscured the forest so you could only see a meter in front of you. You could hear the groaning of the hinges as the sharp, chilling wind screeched, sending a shiver down my spine. The metal had been bent into spirals and intricate designs- could it be some kind of symbol? The gates seemingly led to nothing but the other side of the field, yet I felt intrigued, like the other side was drawing me in. Should I walk through?



# Student Spotlight

**What have you been doing?**

## **GEORGIA, KS4:**

"I remember it like it was yesterday. It takes me back to my first concert..." The words slip out before I can stop them. I'm sitting on the edge of my bed, staring at the old CD as it spins slowly inside the player. At first, nothing seems strange. There's just the quiet whirr of the machine and the faint reflection of light across the disc. Then the music begins. It sounds distant, almost unclear, like it's coming from somewhere further away than it should be. I reach forward to turn the volume up, but it doesn't get louder. It gets closer. The sound seems to move around me, filling the room in a way that makes my chest feel tight. There's something else underneath it, too. cheering. I pause. That shouldn't be there.

The air shifts suddenly. The walls of my room seem less solid, like they're fading at the edges, and for a second I think I'm going to lose my balance. The music sharpens, growing louder, clearer, until it feels like it's right beside me. Then, without warning, everything changes. One moment I'm in my room, and the next I'm standing in the middle of a crowd. Heat presses in from all sides, voices overlap, and bright lights flash from a stage ahead of me. I can feel the floor vibrating beneath my feet. This isn't a memory. It's real.

On stage, five figures step forward, each one marked by a different coloured tie. The music crashes into life, and the crowd surges with it. I recognise them instantly. Tally Hall. My heart starts racing as I try to understand what's happening, but the noise and movement make it impossible to think clearly. For a moment, I'm caught up in it, as I belong there.

Then the music falters.

Just slightly, but enough to make me think.

One of them stops playing, Zubin. Slowly, he turns his head and looks straight at me. Not into the crowd, not past me, but instead, at me. My stomach drops. Something about his expression changes, like he's realised something. Like he knows I shouldn't be there.



# Student Spotlight

What have you been doing?

## TAY, KS4: (PART 1 OF 5)

Now, dear reader, you may have a lot on your mind right now, and if one of those things is popular music, then you're in luck.

This is going to be about singers/bands that are popular today, and their most popular song(s), how well they're doing, and some statistics.

Firstly, Sombr, you may have heard of some of his biggest hits, which are- 12 to 12, back to friends, and undress. But have you ever wondered what genre his music is classed as?

Well, here you go!

Shane Michael Boose, aka sombr, is a 20-year-old singer/songwriter from America. His music can be classed as 'sad boy indie'. His stage name, as we all know, is Sombr, which is pronounced as somber; this is due to his initials being SMB. He first started getting recognised on TikTok when he posted a song called 'Caroline', which is his first song/single.

Even 3 years later, he still gets a lot of attention. When he released Backk to Friends' in late 2024, he said, 'I didn't know it was going to go big, I just wrote something that I wanted to write.. Even though he sings like a divorced dad of 3, he was only 19 when he wrote the song. His latest record is 'homewrecker', which was released in early 2026.

He has been nominated for Best New Artist at the 28th Grammy Awards in 2026. But he's also just won a Moonman for Best Alternative Video, which was at the MTV VMAs.

Now, we're on to Alex Warren.

No, w if you're like me and watch a lot of stuff on YouTube back in 2021, you would know he's from the 'hype house'. He was in the house with more famous people, and another name you may know is Addison Rae.



# Student Spotlight

What have you been doing?

## TAY, KS4: (PART 2 OF 5)

But Alex is a 25-year-old American singer/songwriter. He writes pop. He was also nominated at the Grammys for Best New Artist alongside Sombr.

His song 'Ordinary' has been at no.1 in the charts for a long time now (before K-pop demon hunters), which has also been chart-topping in about 20 countries. These will include a 13-week run at No. 1 in the UK charts. (apparently the longest-running chart-topper of the 2020s).

If you like indie rock (garage rock revival and post-punk), then here are the top 3 of the biggest moves that the artist/band made from underground clubs to mainstream festival stages...

The garage rock revival (early 2000s) was The Strokes (is this it) and The White Stripes (Elephants).

The post-punk revival bands were like Interpol, Franz Ferdinand and Bloc Party, which were inspired by the late 70s.

Now, reader, the last band of this part has to be my all-time favourite, let's give it up for the ARCTIC MONKEYS.

The UK 'Indie Explosion' was the Arctic Monkeys, which became the fastest-selling debut act in UK history (well, at the time). They were famously fueled by the early internet hype.

Essentials of the 2000s indie bands, now you may have heard of some of these. But it's okay if you haven't!

The Killers had their debut album 'Hot Fuss,' which includes 'Mr Brightside. Which is the most-streamed song of that era?

Here are some of the anthems of the decade for the 2000s indie.



# Student Spotlight

What have you been doing?

## TAY, KS4: (PART 3 OF 5)

1. Last Nite by The Strokes, which was released in 2001.
2. Seven Nation Army by The White Stripes, which was released in 2003.
3. Take Me Out by Franz Ferdinand, which was released in 2004.
4. Maps by Yeah Yeah Yeahs released in 2003.
5. A-Punk by Vampire Weekend was released in 2008.

And of course, I just made this into Indie facts. We're going to talk about the best-selling indie albums. EVER.

Now this won't be Indie if Arctic Monkeys weren't here, is it?

Arctic Monkeys- Whatever People Say I Am, That's What I'm Not (2006).

This is a record-breaking record; it became the 'fastest-selling debut album by a band in UK history. They sold over 360,000 copies...In its first week. The global Sales of this debut album (by late 2025) the whole-wide-world sales are approximately over 6.3million copies.

The Strokes- Is This It (2001).

The foundation of this album is apparently a garage rock revival. In the US alone, it had gotten a certificate 'Platinum for over 1 million copies' by 2011. That's just 10years.

Now now, dear reader, it's time for MILES KANE!!

Miles Kane is an English musician and singer/songwriter. He is surprisingly best known for his solo career whilst being one-half of the 'baroque-pop duo THE LAST SHADOW PUPPETS.

Miles Kane has released 6 studio albums, including 'Sunlight in the Shadows' and 'Colour Trap'.



# Student Spotlight

**What have you been doing?**

## **TAY, KS4: (PART 4 OF 5)**

Sunlight In The Shadows was released on the 17th of October 2025 (which was shortly followed by a tour). Whilst sitting in his home in America with Dan Auerbach (producer of The Black Keys), this record features songs called 'Love Is Cruel' and 'Electric Flower'.

Whilst on his 2026 tour he has had support acts (if you don't know what a 'support act' is then it's a band/singer who will go on stage before the main event and perform a few of their own songs), these include 'Fiona-Lee' and 'Villanelle' which the lead singer is Gene Gallagher, he is the son of Liam Gallagher who was in Oasis.

Before Miles Kane became 'obsessed' with his solo writing, he was also in other bands, these include...He and the Rascals were the guitarists for The Little Flames. He is also part of a rock supergroup (The Jaded Hearts Club) which has members like Matt Bellamy, from Muse, and Graham Coxon, from Blur. Miles has also done a collaboration with Lana Del Rey.

And hey!!

I think this is going to be the last one. If you're into Stranger Things or just Joe Keery, then here is an amazing singer that everyone has heard of....DJO! (Its just Joe,soooo)

DJO, or as it's pronounced Joe, his most popular song is End Of Beginnin,g which was released in 2022 in the album Decide. I had gotten popular on TikTok and had reached No. 1 on the UK Official Singles Charts in January 2026 due to being in the Stranger Things finale. His music genres vary from his debut album (Twenty Twenty) being Psychedelic Rock and Pop, Decide being Synth-Pop and Synthwave, and The Crux being Alternative and Art Rock.

His music is a mix of Talking Heads, Daft Punk, and The Strokes.

The last one I'm going to discuss is a very VERY popular indie pop rock band...Called The 1975.



# Student Spotlight

What have you been doing?

## TAY, KS4: (PART 5 OF 5)

This band was formed in early 2002 (in Wilmslow, Cheshire), with Matty Healy as the front man, Adam Hann as the guitarist, Ross MacDonald as the basses and last but not least George Daniel. The band name was inspired by a page that was scribbled on, which was found in Matty's pre-owned copy of *On The Road* by Jack Kerouac, which was dated as '1 June, 1975'.

You may have heard of some of their songs, these are 'Chocolate', 'Robbers', 'About You 'u' and 'When We Are Together'.

I would recommend all of these bands because they're so great, but if you're a Taylor Swift fan, then you'll like this fact... Taylor and Matty have known each other for nearly a decade, and Matty is also in Taylor's latest album *Tortured Poets Department*. Taylor also used the code name 'Peter Pan', which is Matty Healy, and Taylor sang about him in her new album, 'Peter' and 'Cardigan'.

## ALLANNAH, KS4:

I had been abandoned. As I was enjoying a walk around the river, I realised my owner had left me. I had been discarded, dumped, forgotten. I quickly glanced around to see if there was any sign of her, but she was gone. The clouds in the overcast sky were getting darker and darker, as if it was about to rain. I couldn't sit around wasting time. I had to find her. I sprinted across the dirt path, ramming past anyone who stood in my way. The wind let out a solemn howl, and I did too. What had I done to be left like this? I was cold, hungry, and extraordinarily lonely. I sat down and barked at the passing families, hoping one of them would take pity on me. My heart skipped a beat. I suddenly saw my owner walking over to me. 'Rex!! Where have you been? I've been looking for you all day!' She said. I jumped up and ran around her feet, full of joy. As we walked back home, watching the sunset, my worries were abandoned.


# Student Spotlight

## Collaboration Corner!

### YEAR 10/11 COURSES:

To practise upgrading our sentences

tuté

<p>Upgrade your sentence!</p>	<p>Homeless people deserve more: they need more support from the community, more opportunities for shelter, and more kindness from others.</p>	<p>The less stereotypes shared, less people on the street who are walked past, less people left to fend for themselves—the more our communities will strive.</p>
<p>Time, food, and clothes: Donating these essentials could change someone's life. Money, food, water: Things we shouldn't need to be without</p>	 <p>The poor need our help.</p>	<p>People will do desperate things for money: like steal, blackmail or even kill. People living on the streets feel mistreated, hurt and -disrespected.</p>
<p>Hurt and helpless, Battered and bruised, Mistreated and alienated, these people need the support from their community.</p>	<p>Not only are these people forced to face the harsh outdoor conditions, but also are often subjected to disrespect and abuse from the public. Not onl are they treated in-humanely by the public but also they are alone.</p>	<p>Unfortunately homelessness has become very common especially in cities, not just in the UK, but worldwide. Fortunately, there are organizations working to help the homeless.</p>

tuté

We are going to fill each space in this grid with a better version of the simple sentence we just thought of.


Excellent work on the sentence upgrading! We can really see how creative you can be when varying your sentences AND writing about important issues like homelessness and the impact it has. Well done!

By: Allanah, Emelia, Holly, Leo, Nilson, and some hidden voices!

# Student Spotlight

## Collaboration Corner!

### YEAR 7&8 VIRTUAL SCHOOL:

 <p><b>Sheringham Summer Fete for all Ages!</b></p> <p>Bright image/pictures</p> <p><b>Where:</b> Sheringham Common, Village Way.  <b>When:</b> Saturday 9th May  <b>Opening Times:</b> 10am - 3pm  <b>Charity:</b> All proceeds will go to 'Helping Hospitals' charity who will be supporting the children's critical care ward.  <b>Donations welcome!</b></p>	<p><b><u>What can I do there?</u></b>          There are lots of activities for you to get involved with and raise money for a good cause.  <b>At our fete, you can:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Go apple bobbing</li> <li>- Buy homemade cakes</li> <li>- Have fun on rides and play games</li> <li>- Try out at Hook A Duck and Win a Teddy</li> <li>- Bean bag toss and Hoop Throwing</li> <li>- Eat and drink from various vendors</li> <li>- Try your luck at the raffle</li> <li>- Listen to some live K-Pop music</li> <li>- Face painting, bouncy castle, and a soft play area</li> <li>- Drawing station and TV/Gaming Station</li> <li>- Dance competition and footie tournament</li> </ul> <p><b><u>What stalls are there?</u></b>          We have lots of local businesses running stalls at the fete. Including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Food and beverages for all</li> <li>- Craft stalls: knitting, arts, and crochet</li> <li>- Lucky dips and tombolas</li> <li>- Jewellery stalls: handmade rings and bracelets</li> <li>- Plushie stall</li> <li>- Cake stalls</li> <li>- Sweetie Stall ... and more!</li> </ul> <p><b><u>How much should I bring?</u></b>          We recommend bringing £20 to enjoy everything!</p>	<p><b><u>How busy will it be?</u></b>          It might be busy first thing, we are encouraging as many people to attend as possible. We welcome all families and pets are allowed to attend too. (Dogs are very welcome!)</p> <p>If you find it too loud or overwhelming, we recommend visiting our quiet room, going to the chill-out area, having a time out in the gardens, or visiting the sensory room. You can also wear Loop earplugs or noise-cancelling headphones to help with the volume.</p> <p><b><u>How can I get involved?</u></b></p> <p>To get involved, you can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Volunteer to help with the event</li> <li>- Volunteer on a stall</li> <li>- Help collect donations</li> <li>- Bring cakes and donate prizes!</li> </ul> <p>For more details email the organiser:  <a href="mailto:Angel@TheSummerFete.co.uk">Angel@TheSummerFete.co.uk</a></p> <p><b><u>How do I get there?</u></b>          You can get here by train, by bus, or by car. There is parking available and it is easy to walk here. The postcode is NR26 8SR for Google Maps.</p> <p><b><u>Prices:</u></b>          Entry: £2 each of 5 for £8.          Minimum Donation: £5          Recommended: £20 for all activities.          Competitions are free to enter!</p>
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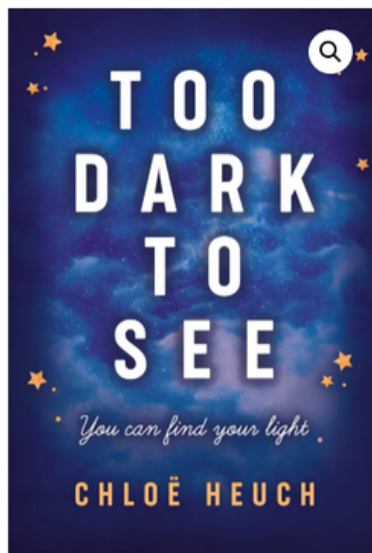
Recently, Year 7&8 VS completed some work on non-fiction writing and focused on their purpose 'to inform'. They came up with very creative ideas for a Summer Fete and included all the relevant information that would need to be found on a leaflet. I wish they'd run this event for us! It has everything! They did a great job and worked very hard collaboratively to achieve this. They were so proud that, in their words, they: slayed the task, aced it, and smashed it! Well done, crew!

**Leaflet by: Angel, Ben, Jacob, Liberty, Lucy, Mia, Mya, Rubie, and Theo!**

# Reading your Heart Out!



## CHECK OUT OUR RECOMMENDATIONS!



After the death of her mother, 16-year-old Kay is on a mission to self-destruct, risking her friendships, her school work and herself in her drive not to feel anything. Needing to save money, her father moves them to Blackmoss Mountain, to Kay's disgust.

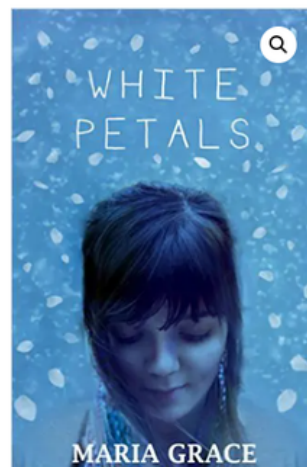
But she finds new freedom in this barren landscape, befriending the semi-wild ponies that live there, and meeting Siôn, the son of the farmer who owns the ponies, who is also roaming the mountains to escape home.

Siôn and Kay are drawn slowly into a secret and intense relationship, meeting in a ruined cottage on the mountain. But when Siôn's terrifying, abusive father finally finds them, will Kay lose everything again?

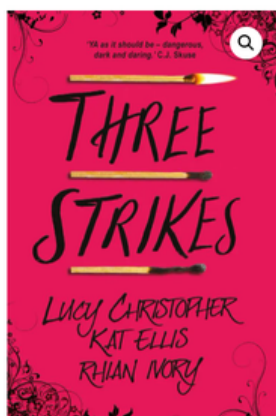
'I wasn't even scared. When the thing you fear most happens, you can be quite brave.'

Emmeline has been trying to hold her family together since her dad died. Now her mum's been sectioned, everyone's split up and she has to live in a care home. Just for three months...

Three months to make some extraordinary friends, make mistakes, discover she has a secret gift, learn to fight – in more ways than one – and find out so much about who she is and where she belongs. Sometimes what seems like the end of everything is the beginning of something better.



A red eye blinks in the darkness; a hidden door opens to a lost crypt; a life is held in the light of a flickering flame – welcome to Three Strikes. Step into the unknown world of The Tribe with Kasha in *THE DARKNESS* by Lucy Christopher; be entranced by the ghostly voices of *THE TWINS OF BLACKFIN* by Kat Ellis, or lose yourself in a haunting retelling of Hans Christian Andersen's 'The Little Match Girl' – *MATCHGIRL* by Rhian Ivory.



# Reading Your Heart Out!

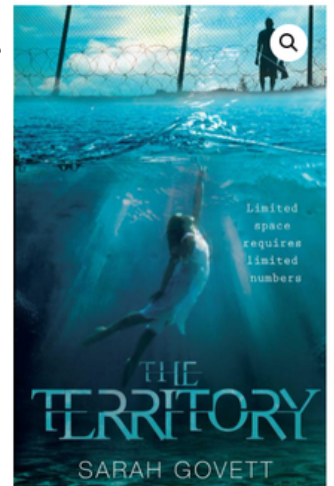


## CHECK OUT OUR RECOMMENDATIONS!



In a world where the shadow-like 'daayan' stalk the night, the mages of Agraal are the only ones able to defend the realm. So, when Princess Thiya discovers she has the extraordinary powers of a healing mage, she captures the attention of earth mage Isaac. In order to lure Thiya to the frontline to help defeat the daayan, Isaac does the unthinkable, he takes Thiya's true love Amara hostage. Together with fire mage Kaayan and her brother Lochan, Thiya must make a perilous journey to rescue Amara. But not everything is as it seems and the powers at work behind Amara's abduction might come from the darkest heart of them all.

The Territory is a gripping dystopian thriller set in a future Britain where unflooded land is scarce due to environmental issues caused by global warming. Everyone must pass an exam at 15 to stay in The Territory or be exiled to the disease-ridden Wetlands. But how can Noa compete when the system is skewed to favour rich kids who can upload information through a Node in the back of their neck? And how can she focus when her heart is being pulled in two directions?

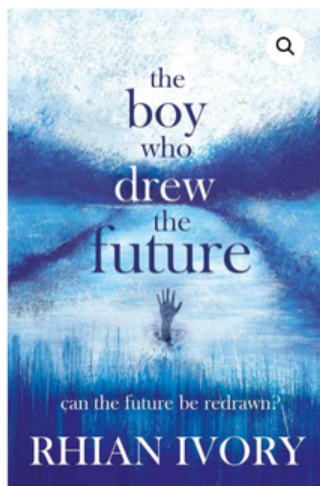


When Delores Mackenzie is chased home by a restless spirit, she is sent to the mysterious Uncles in Edinburgh Old Town to learn how to control her unusual 'gifts'. Scared and alone, she finds her new home at the Tolbooth Book Store is full of curious surprises: some welcome, others less so. But when a sinister apparition threatens the lives of her strange new housemates, Delores must gather all her strength to save them.

# Reading Your Heart Out!



## CHECK OUT OUR RECOMMENDATIONS!



Two teenage boys, over a 150 years apart, have the same gift or curse — they draw things that come true. Blaze, orphaned and living alone in 1865 swaps his pictures for protection, with threats of the workhouse and witch trials hanging over him. In the present day, Noah tries all he can to stop drawing, but the more he fights, the more it takes over. He is used to everyone, even his parents, being afraid of him and is desperate not to be seen as a freak at his new school. But as he gets closer to Beth, will he give himself away? One boy hiding in the past, one in the present, can their futures set them free?

Four friends drive across France in what should be the holiday of a lifetime. But Sasha's struggling with her dad getting remarried; Cam is reeling from being rejected by her birth grandparents; Hetal's terrified of letting everyone down; and Nell's worried that while she's away her relationship with Tom is falling apart. When things go wrong and emotions run high, will they have what it takes to rekindle their friendship?



With the scale and scope of the great science fiction epics, *Lost on Mars* tells the story of Lora and her family, settlers on the red planet struggling to survive in incredible circumstances. The family clings to life on a smallholding, surviving storms and sinister rumours of people disappearing – until one night Lora sees the Dancers. When her father and grandmother disappear, Lora and her family are driven out to seek a new life across the plains. But none of them are ready for what they find – the beautiful, dangerous City Inside.



# Reading Your Heart Out!



## CHECK OUT OUR RECOMMENDATIONS!



Fifteen year olds Tasha and Josie are near-neighbours. But when their families let them down, they find themselves unlikely allies in a battle for survival. Josie's mum is 'saving the planet' by collecting most of it, but her house is no longer safe for her own daughter. Tasha has all the clothes and kit a girl could want, but feels increasingly unnerved by her mother's new boyfriend. Both girls turn to each other for help when they find themselves on the brink of being made homeless. Behind Closed Doors examines what it means to love and be loved and how to make a life when there is no security at home.

Agnes, Hattie, and Jake travel on the school bus together, but don't know each other well. They plan a week in Weston, as a 'study break' before exams, but none of them admits the real reasons they need to get away. Agnes must find her sister. Hattie can't bear being home now; all her friends have ghosted her. And Jake is afraid he's ill and has absolutely no idea how to tell anyone. In one amazing week, they'll risk their lives, face their fears, and find themselves.



Four boys grow up together at school, itching to get out of their small town. They play games, scoring points from each other, anything to pass the time until they're free. Matthew slips into his imagination, Luc pushes his body to the limit, and Johnny ... well who knows what Johnny's up to. But when Mark starts running errands for his older brother's mysterious associate, he thinks he's found the best game of all. There's money in his pocket and his friends have started looking at him differently. Then Mark breaks a rule, and quickly realises that the penalties in this game far outweigh the prizes. Can they all make it to the finish line before someone loses more than just face?



# Shelf Care English Society

Creative Writing, Creative Thinking



**DREAMS COME BOUNCING IN YOUR HEAD**

## AND IN THE END...

**GO AND GET  
IT IF YOU  
WANT IT**

Don't let anyone stop you.

Unfortunately, this brings us to our final edition of Shelf Care. The English Department has had such an incredible time reading all your work and putting it together to create Shelf Care, and really, we hope this isn't the end. We hope this is just a temporary hiatus that will be back really soon, because we hate to be without it. Especially when it creates such happiness and excitement. We love praising you for what you are doing and having your voices be heard, never feel silent, and keep being the incredible!

## TO BE CONTINUED...

In the meantime, keep writing. Always keep writing. Dream with your eyes open and see the world for what it is. Document the good, the bad, the overlooked, the underappreciated, the little specks of magic and beauty in small, mundane things. Your voice is unique, it is special, it is important and all of you do have a story to tell. No matter how happy or sad, regardless of any twists and turns, may your stories live on and continue as they inspire and engulf others. Words are your greatest weapon: keep writing!

**THIS IS  
THE LAST  
TIME**

That I will say these words