About us

on the thames. My main hobby is circus

My name is Lakshmi which is the name of the hindu goddess of wealth and good fortune. And I'm 13 years old. My hobbies include pottery, drawing, playing the violin and singing in a choir.

(performing arts).

My name is Reuben, I am 14 and my hobbies are Latin, Ancient Greek, Sanskrit, Spanish, making languages, Cello, and Religious Studies.

Christina Childs is a badass sailor chick with blue eyes and blue influences. Inherently nerdy, she dabbles in cosplay and witchcraft and writes songs when she can.

My name is Hua Hua, I'm 14 years old. I basically live

Name: Joe Williams Age: 14 Other info: and that's the way I role! My hobbies are Ice Hockey and stunt scooting I enjoy food in an unhealthy amount and I travelled around Europe for a year. My great grandma wrote The Borrowers. That's all that's interesting about me toodleoo.

My name is Sky Kelly Dominga Briscioli Caesar, but call me Sky. I am 14, I am always hungry and you'll always find me either writing, reading or drawing.

I'm 13 and spend most of my time doing circus, Taekwondo and programming.

 I am 13 and I am 98% Magpie. I can play Smells Like Teen Spirit on the Melodica.

Contents

Fun facts!

1. The bullet time effect created first in the Matrix was made with loads of photo cameras taking pictures one after another to create the clip which could then be speed-ed up or slowed down to make it look right.

Song Preference

2. Strawberries are not fruit but bananas are!

3. More people get bitten a year by New Yorkers than sharks.

4. If you eat two poppy seed bagels you will test positive on a heroin drug test.

5. In 1984 Carmella Vitali invented the little plastic triangle in pizza boxes which stops the cheese sticking to the lid.

6. Group 93 is not correct because actually our ages add up to 108 because there was calculation error.

Sperm Whale

There are two types of whale; the Baleen whale, who takes great gulps of water with its sieve like mouth and eats the tiny plankton which gets stuck there, and the Toothed whale, with sharp teeth to pierce its pray with.
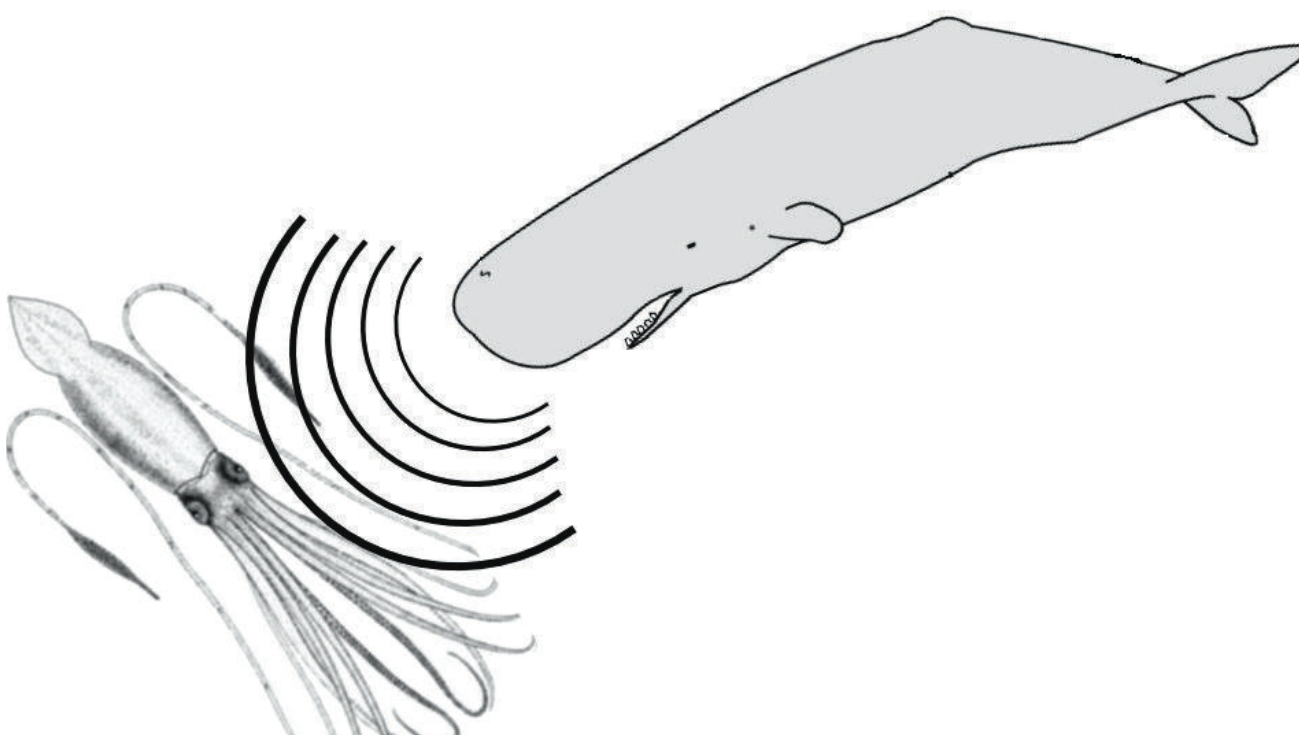

Sperm whales are toothed whales and their staple diet is giant squid, which is deadly to most other animals.

Sperm whales are mammals (though a lot of people mistake them for fish!)and need to come up every hour to get their breath back. giant squid lives very far down in the ocean so Sperm whales are always going up and down. The reason that sperm whales can stay under water for such a very long time is that they have a very well adapted breathing system.
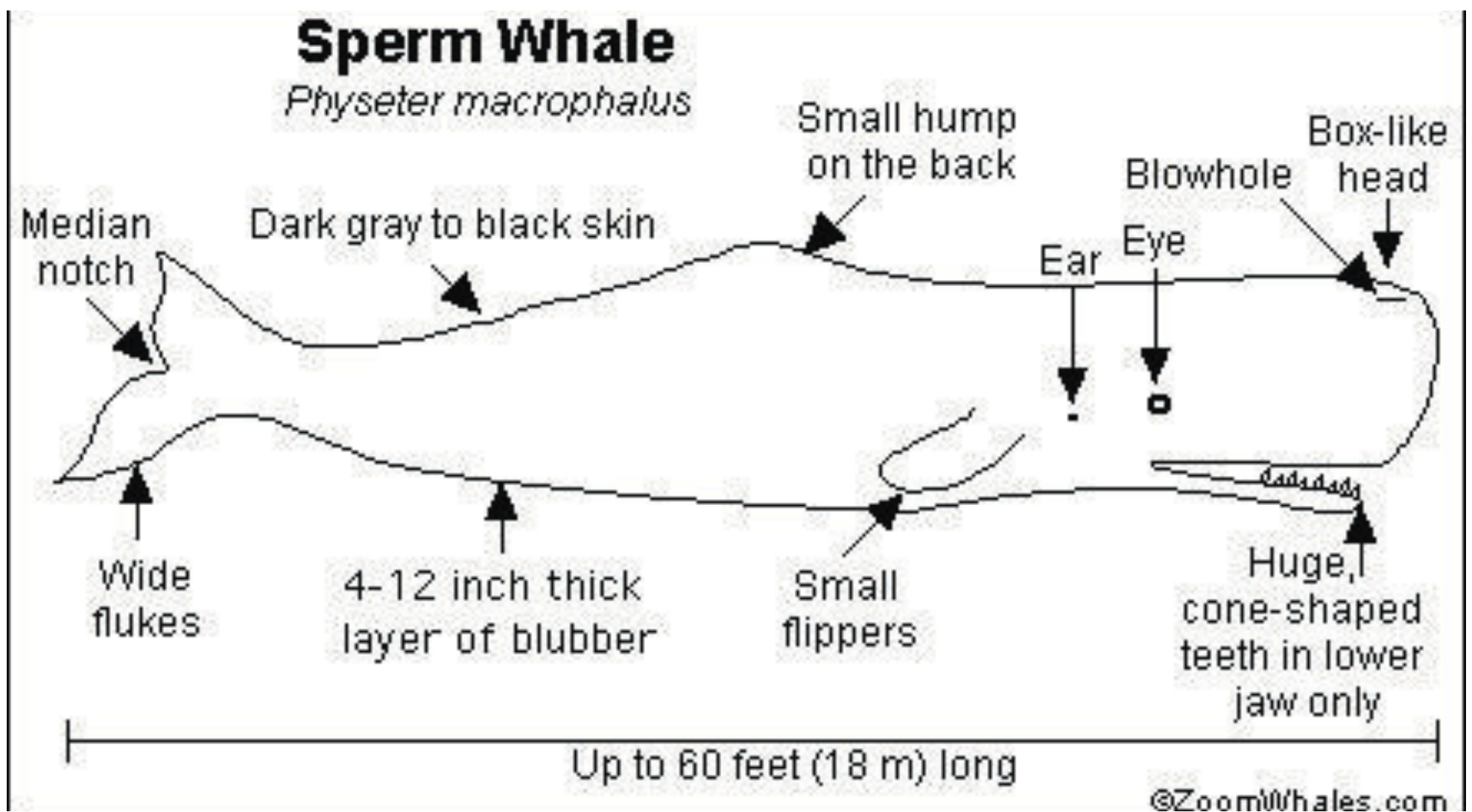
How the Sperm Whale Got It's Name

The reason the sperm whale got the name 'sperm whale' is because in the head of the sperm whale is a huge white blob of gunk which looks similar to human sperm and is called spermaceti. But in actual fact this is where the sperm whale makes its radar which it uses to stun its prey and possibly to communicate to other whales?

Sperm whale features

Sperm Whale
Physeter macrophalus

Median notch

Dark gray to black skin

Small hump on the back

Blowhole

Box-like head

Ear

Eye

Wide flukes

4-12 inch thick layer of blubber

Small flippers

Huge, cone-shaped teeth in lower jaw only

Up to 60 feet (18 m) long

©ZoomWhales.com

sperm whale
(*Physeter catodon*)
length up to 19 m (62 ft)

3 metres
9 feet

© 2002 Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc.

Fun fact! IMPORTANT INFORMATION!!!

Did you know that scientists think that different groups of

sperm whales make different radar sounds to communicate?

So in fact sperm whales may have different languages!

Sperm whales are an endangered species mostly because they have been hunted for their spermaceti because has been used in oil lamps.

But, also more recently lots of dead whales' stomachs have been found to be stuffed with plastic bags. This is why you must never throw rubbish into the sea because not onlydoes it effect Sperm whales but most other sea life too.

TONYWUBLOG.com
photograph © tony wu | ars gratia scientiae

60 Things to Remember Me By

written by Sky Caesar

"They say the sun sees and knows everything, but I beg to differ. It rises and sets regardless of what monstrosity is going on in the world, I am sure it turns a blind eye and that's why it's blissfully oblivious to it all. That's the only reason why it can keep on going, the reason why it manages to remain continuously alight. The day the sun looks down, we are all doomed."
 -1 out of 60

It's too late, he realised. Much too late.
 Because he ignored the matter, for whatever reason, (peace-of-mind, perhaps,) now he would have to pay the almost ultimate price.
 He gently held the letter, a piece of wet, stained paper, and never had that room felt so cold, empty, full of the deafening silence which follows the absence of someone important in your life. But Bryant felt a surprising calmness within him. Maybe because he knew Lo would no longer suffer a miserable life, or maybe he was just too numb to feel anything. Despite that he read the last words of his sister slowly, devouring each sentence with patience and impatience at the same time. Of course, he thought he was merely having a nightmare which he would wake from soon... After all, the mind temporarily finds any escape routes it can that are as far away as possible from accepting the truth.

Farewell, goodbye, bye. We all know I won't survive, don't we? I guess I could blame all this on either myself or my 'condition'. I'd rather be a coward and choose the second option before I accept I'm dumb enough to allow this to happen to myself. I think you know what- or should I say who, I'm talking about.
Danyel ring any bells? Yup, I thought so.
I'll have you know he accepted to date me, as I've dreamt for a whole year. He only asked for one tiny favour before we go on our first date, though; I'll go jump off a bridge, plunge into the River Thames, then I'll come out and we'll go grab a bite and watch a movie or something. Sounds great! Cold, and the Thames is filthy... But great! I must admit, at first I was skeptical. It was ridiculous, I couldn't possibly survive that.. Danyel just wanted to get rid of me! But then, he explained! It all made sense... Why he'd ignored me before, why I had to jump off a bridge... Something to do with a bet... I seemed to have forgotten the the explanation now, though. I am reassured. I think...? A part of me still can't decide what to believe. Danyel

said it was safe... Just as he truthfully said we were very alike. He's so right! I can tell Danyel and I will be very happy together.Oh, what am I saying? I'm terrified! What will drowning feel like? Like falling asleep? Like the expectation one feels when traveling to another country? Will I become a ghost with regrets left that's keeping me neither here or there? Or a guardian angel watching over you like the vast sky? Will I be welcomed in heaven or hell?maybe people who are alive have no clue what they're talking about and death will be something unimaginable. Oh, but I can ask you these questions when I get back home. Silly me! Don't worry, Danyel promised to bring me home before 9. Hey, why am I crying..? The tears are flowing too heavily for me to prolong this letter much further.. Plus I'm having trouble breathing normally. Oh well, wait, no... By the time you read this I'll be well on my way, because

only luck or a miracle could save me. Now that I think about it, I've never experienced much of those. I'm sorry if I let you down. PS: I've left you 60 things, all written by yours truly. Read one a day, ok? I'm sure before you've finished them all you would've found that someone special. Feel free to ask me for advice when that time comes, I'll be in my room as always, most probably. Oh no, stop. What am I doing? I can't think properly.
Anyway, love you!
-Lo

It was the first time Bryant had ever had such a big insight into what went on in his sister's head. It was worse than he thought, because she had never let anyone see just how bad things were. She knew she was Damaged, but at times it was like she completely forgot and she continuously changed her mind on everything- as the letter had only proven. It was definitely not because she was a fickle person.

Bryant's brain hadn't yet processed anything, and his thoughts, senses and conclusions were sluggish. Her duvet smelt unmistakably like her, the pillow was stained with ink from the pen she used to write with. But the word "used", the past tense of that word, still did not have the appropriate impact on a numb Bryant.

He lay back on her bed, and a stream formed from his eyes and it rushed all the way down his cheeks. Bryant couldn't yet even comprehend why his body was shaking so violently, neither could his ears detect the loud sobs that were ripping out of his own chest. He could think only one thought:
 He should've found out exactly what illness Lo had, so he might've saved her, somehow.

To Be Continued...

The Sea

Crashing waves rise and fall in a stormy ocean

Climbing fast and tall

Then down in a swift violent motion.

Underneath the tidal waves

Deep down below

Fish swim ,slide and sway

Swishing to and fro

Coral reefs crack and crumble

Shipwrecks moan and grumble

Crashing and splashing in a jumble

All the sea begins to stumble

When sudden is the calming air of the sunny shore

Where palm trees sway and high above seagulls always soar.

Words about the Sea

Most of our every day words come from other languages, such as Latin or Ancient Greek. It is really quite interesting to see where the words come from.

Here are the roots of some words about the sea:

• Maritime and Marine (c. 1550) – from the Latin 'Mare' – Maritime is the word used to describe anything concerning the sea. Marine is to do with any object concerning the sea OR member of a body of sea- going troops / marine corps.

• Nautical and Naval (c. 1550) – coming from the Latin word 'Navis' – for a ship and also from the Ancient Greek word 'ναῦς'(naus) – also for a ship. Nautical means of or concerning navigation in the sea.

• Octopus - Greek 'οκτωπους' (octopous)– 'οκτω'(octo) – eight, and 'πους'(pous) meaning foot literally eight feet.
 • Fish (this word has been used in England since at least 1300) - this word started as the Latin word for fish - 'piscis'. The Russians used the word 'piscar' and in the Old Norse this changed to 'fiskr'. In Old English this changed to 'fisc'.

• Thalassocracy (C 19) - Greek 'θαλασσα'(thalassa) meaning sea. Means a government controlling large expanses of sea.

Thalassotherapy (C 20) – Greek 'θαλασσα'(thalassa) meaning sea and 'θεραπευω'(therapeuo) meaning I cure / heal. Means therapeutic bathing in sea water.

• Squid (C 16) – of unknown origin. • Eel (Old Norse) - from the Old English 'æl' and the Old High German 'al'.

•Until 1550 sharks were known more commonly as 'Sea Dogs'. Shark (1442) – Shark is referred to in a certain letter of Thomas Beckington. It might come from the German 'Schurke' - Meaning a villain or scoundrel.

how to make a bead fish

How to make: A bead fish

Materials:

Small pliers or

Scissors

Thin wire

90 small plastic or

Ceramic beads

1 larger bead

Step 1

Cut the thin wire to around

 60 cm and fold it in the centre.

Step 2

Make a knot where the wire has been folded and pass a small bead over both ends of the wire.

Step 3

Pass 30 small beads over 1 piece of wire. Do the same to the other. Then knot both pieces of wire together.

Step 4

Pass the larger bead over both ends of the wire. Pass 15 small beads over 1 piece of the remaining wire then bend it through the large bead's hole. Do the same to the other piece of wire. Then twist the remaining wire underneath the large bead.

Diver Wrestles with the Kraken by Christina Childs

Who's that guy again? is sitting by himself on the train being ignored as usual....
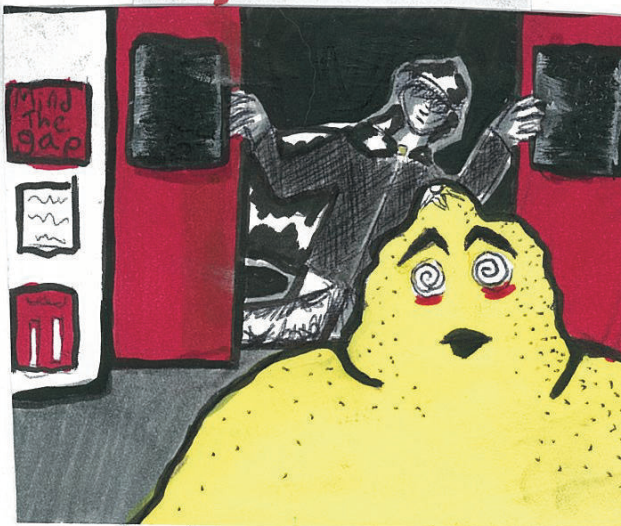
When suddenly senses that something is wrong, lemon man is going to blow up the train with a fizzy lemon drop and some cola.

He uses his telepathic powers to locate lemon man's carriage.

In his telepathic vision he sees lemon man scheming his scheme and looking evilly into the distance.

He locates lemon mans carriage and uses his special skills of "unnoticeablity" to climb onto to roof without being noticed.
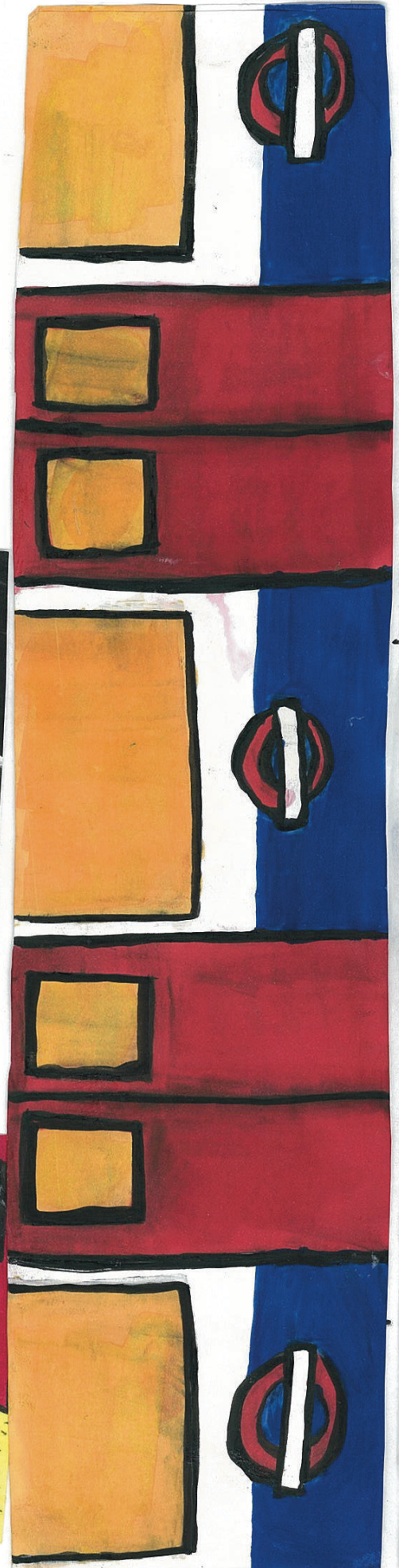
Meanwhile in the carriage below two noticeable superheroes sit oblivious to the chaos and completely fail to save the day.

" Is it just me or do you get the feeling we're about to be killed by an insane lemon?"

"Nah I think it's just you"

Who's that guy again breaks into lemon man's carriage and a fight begins.

LEMON MAN IS VANQUISHED.

Who's that guy again diffuses the lemon bomb and everyone lives, as for lemon man well.....

THE END.

Bittersweet Brownies

by Christina Childs.

Delicious chocolatey brownies that are easy to make and even easier to eat!

Ingredients:

145g of unsalted butter,

250g of granulated sugar,

65g of unsweetened cocoa powder,

a pinch of salt,

1tsp of vanilla extract,

2 eggs,

70g of plain flour.

And if you wanna be real fancy you can add about 75g of chopped pecans or walnuts but I'm just doing a basic recipe.

Ok, let's get on with it!

To start off preheat your oven to about gas mark 5 and then line a square baking tray, of about 20cms with greaseproof paper – making sure to let it hang over the sides a little so you can pick the brownies up out of the tray once cooled. Fill a large pan about 1-2 inches deep with water and heat till barely simmering. Place a bigass mixing bowl on top of the pan and in it combine the butter, sugar, salt and cocoa powder. Stir until the butter has melted and them take the bowl off the heat and leave until it's just about warm; this should take about 2-3 minutes.

Once the mixture has cooled, add the vanilla and then crack in two eggs one at a time, stirring after each one goes in. It should come up pretty glossy and if you have a cheeky taste of it now I can assure you it'll be scrumptious.
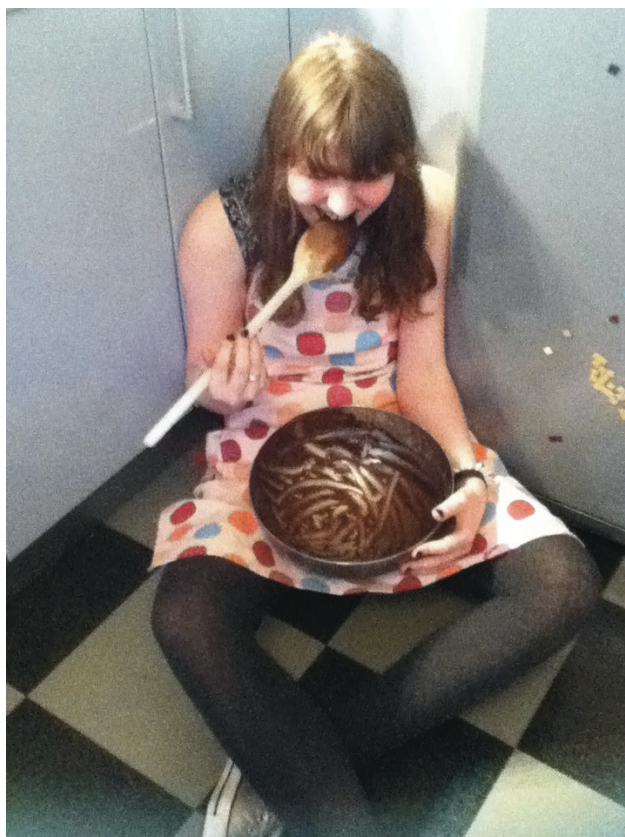
Lastly, stir in the flour and keep mixing for half a minute just to make sure the mixture's fully combined. If you're using nuts, now's the time to chuck 'em in but if you're not then you're done!

Spread the mixture evenly in the baking tray and shove in the oven for about 25 minutes to half an hour. To check if they're done stick a pointy implement

into the centre of the tray and if it comes out clean then it's time to take them out. When you have, leave to cool leave to cool and cut into squares. Then scoff 'em before somebody else does!

Oh, and in my opinion, licking the spoon is always good!

Lemon Cake

225g softened unsalted butter

225g caster sugar

zest of 1 lemon

4 eggs

225g flour

lemons juice

icing sugar

Heat oven to 180C/fan 160C/gas mark 4. Beat together softened unsalted butter and caster sugar until pale and creamy, then add eggs, one at a time, slowly mixing through. Sift in

flour, then add the lemon mix until well combined. Line a cake tin with greaseproof paper, then spoon in the mixture and level the top with a spoon.

Bake for 45-50 minutes until a thin skewer inserted into the centre of the cake comes out clean.

While the cake is cooling in its tin, mix together the lemons juice and icing sugar to

make the drizzle. Prick the warm cake all over with a skewer or fork, then pour over the

drizzle-the juice will sink in and the sugar will forming a crisp topping. Leave in the tin until completely cool
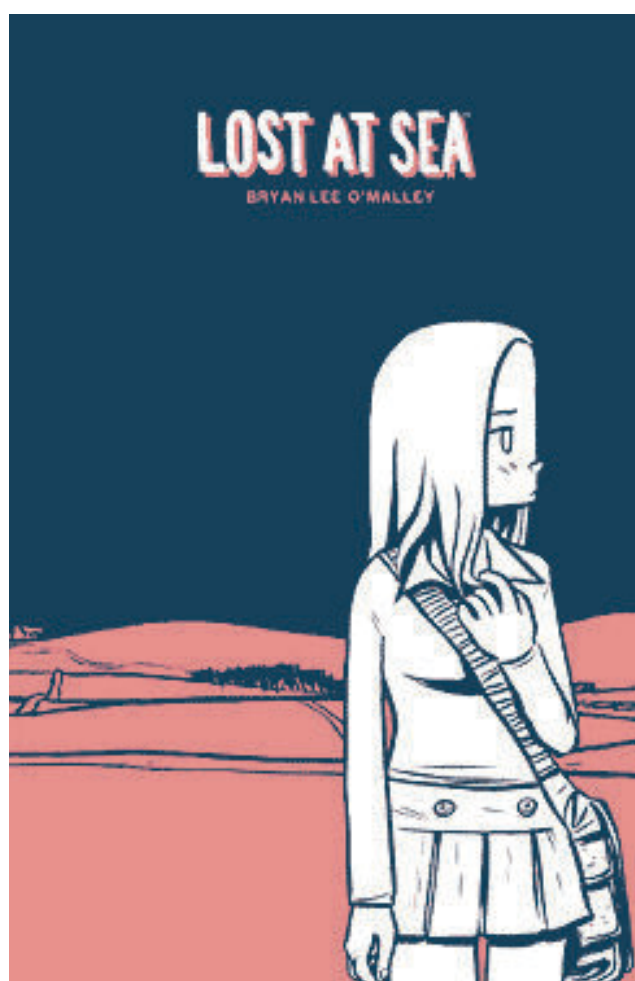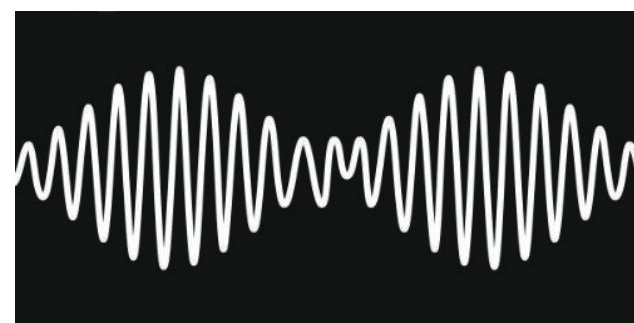
Culture Reviews

Arctic Monkeys, AM

✦ ✦ ✦

Arctic Monkeys are a widely critically acclaimed and popular band (not to mention one of my favourites) but they recently disappointed me with the release of their long-awaited album, AM. Hailing from Sheffield, Arctic Monkeys are an indie rock band with post-punk and garage influences.

AM is their fifth album so far following the albums, Whatever People Say I Am That's What I'm Not; Favourite Worst Nightmare; Humbug and Suck It And See. I would rate all these albums very highly – they are original, edgy and have a certain sparkle that other indie bands fail to produce but in my opinion AM falls rather short of the mark. Arctic Monkeys have a habit of moving with the times, with every new album having a very different sound and musical influences but this time I think they went too far; AM is very hip hop inspired and this only makes me think that Arctic Monkeys are simply catering to their mass audience and not following the trademark indie rock routes that brought them fame.

Bryan Lee O'Malley, Lost at Sea

✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦

Well we had to have at least one that was on theme didn't we? Even though the title of this graphic novel is more metaphorical than literal. Published in 2003, first graphic novel from writer Bryan Lee O'Malley – the cre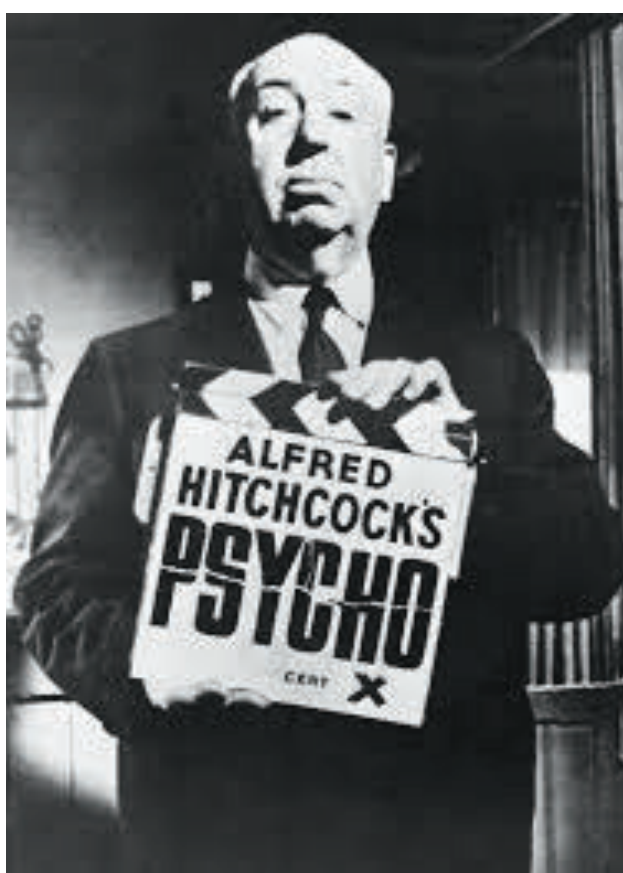ator of the Scott Pilgrim series. It follows the 18-year-old Raleigh along a road trip through California with some college friends she met on the way. Throughout the trip she tries to make sense of her life through flashbacks of her childhood and little by little she begins to open up to her friends. This is a sensitive and

heartwarming coming-of-age story which will leave you reassured and smiling. Oh, and there's a ton of cute cats in it as well.

Alfred Hichcock, Psycho

If there is anyone out there who (like me) has not seen this film – see it. You will not be disappointed! Psycho, the film which shocked a nation (and a 14-year-old girl). When I recently watched this film it was more out of obligation, as someone who considers herself a film geek, than out of real interest. Not because I am not a Hichcock fan and not because the film failed to provide interesting subject matter – far from it – but simply because I could not believe that any film could live up to the amount of hype surrounding this one. Psycho is reveared around the globe as being "Alfred Hichcock's greatest film" and "a masterpiece of suspence" and cynical as I am, I disbelieved this

as I thought the rave reviews must have been a product of the wow factor which the film came with at the time – how wrong I was. Psycho is not overrated because it was controversial; it is rated highly because it is an incredible film filled with suspense, fear and a perverse sort of pleasure which leaves you shivering with delight in the macabre.

Blender Review

Blender is an open source 3D development software that provides tools mainly for modelling and animation but also allows for rendering, composition as well as a python scripting API and the Blender Game Engine.

Due to the fact that it's free Blender is often recommended for beginners by users of other more expensive software such as Maya and 3DS Max, but in my opinion it provides great tools for high level usage as well as being free due to the fact that its being constantly upgraded by volunteer programmers from around the world. Another reason it might be interesting to others is right now Blender is the main 3D modelling software supporting the open source software movement and in some ways demonstrates the immense power of collaborative free software development.

In terms of negatives the largest one is the learning curve. Blender relies mostly on shortcuts to select menus and perform actions which, though it provides a very streamlined workflow later on it takes a bit of time to get used to which shortcuts are which.

And finally if you want to try out Blender the best tutoring on the web (to my knowledge) is CG Cookie and more specifically Blender Cookie (a sub section of CG Cookie). Where you will find loads of tutorials by various cg artists going from very basic to high level training.

You can visit there site at: http://cgcookie.com/blender.

Skatepark Review

This skatepark isn't the nearest to me, but in my opinion is definitely one of the best in London. It has a great vibe, friendly, with lots of skateboards and scooters, not dominated by BMXs.

Clapham is great when it's dry, but its popularity for scooters plummets when it's wet. For skateboards and BMXs it's not so bad 'cause they have either

more grip or more wheels than scooters.

The park consists of:

Two quarter pipes,

one mini-ramp (half pipe),

one half-pyramid,

one box with three ledges,

one doggy rail,

one rail,

one square rail,

one table top,

one inverted ramp

… and I think that's it.

There is a café right next to it that opens at 11:00 ish; it has a toilet you can use if you buy something first. This café is not part of a chain and serves burgers, chips, drinks, sweets, etc. The prices are reasonable.

The skatepark is on the corner of Clapham Common, a two minute walk from Clapham Common tube station. The 35 bus will take you there too.

If these directions don't suffice, ask a human for advice!

My favourite part of the skate park is the mini ramp (half pipe), I could stay there all day. That doesn't mean you have to, however I do recommend you try Clapham.

My name is Seth Carver and you can find me either there or on Facebook.

Theology

Posiedon

Gods of the Sea

Poseidon is the Greek god of the sea, water, earthquakes and horses he is also the brother of Zeus (the god of lightning and the ruler of the gods). His name in Greek is "Ποσειδων"(Poseidon) and in Latin he is called Neptune (like the planet).No one really knows where he got his name from, but one theory is that it comes from the Greek 'πόσις'(posis) meaning husband or lord and "δᾶ" Doric Greek for earth (Greek for earth is "γῆ"[ge]). Poseidon's parents were Chronos (the god of time and also a Titan) and Rhea (Titaness, daughter of Gaia, the earth goddess). Unfortunately he was swallowed whole as a newly born baby, but later saved by Zeus. He rides on Κῆτος (Ketos) a sea monster and carries a trident and sometimes a lassoo.

The gods didn't always get along as proven by this story:

Athens needed a patron god/dess and so they had to decide which they would choose, the competition was between Athena (goddess of war) and Poseidon. To prove they should be the patron of the city they had to give a gift, so Poseidon gave the Athenians a salt spring and Athena gave them an olive tree. Now although water was important to the Athenians they chose Athena to be the patron of the city (hence the name) because a lot of their trade was based on olive oil.

The Norse god of the sea and the associated creatures was the Sea-Giant Ægir (the Norse word for 'Sea') His wife was Ran and together they had nine children-who are all billow maidens and are the different types of waves. This is a picture of Ægir brewing ale for a party of the gods.

The Hindu god of the sea is Varuna (वरुण) He is the oldest of the sea gods.

Although he is god of the sea, he is mostly concerned with social and moral affairs. He has a lassoo which he uses to catch liars and he rides a sea monster (मकर – Makara). Varuna's brother is Indra the god of lightning.

You can see there are quite a few similarities between Poseidon and Varuna!

There are also a lot of similarities between The Greek, Latin and Sanskrit languages. You might want to think about why this is?

Song Preference

Esther; Television Heaven by Lana Del Rey

Lakshmi; House of the Rising Sun by Animals
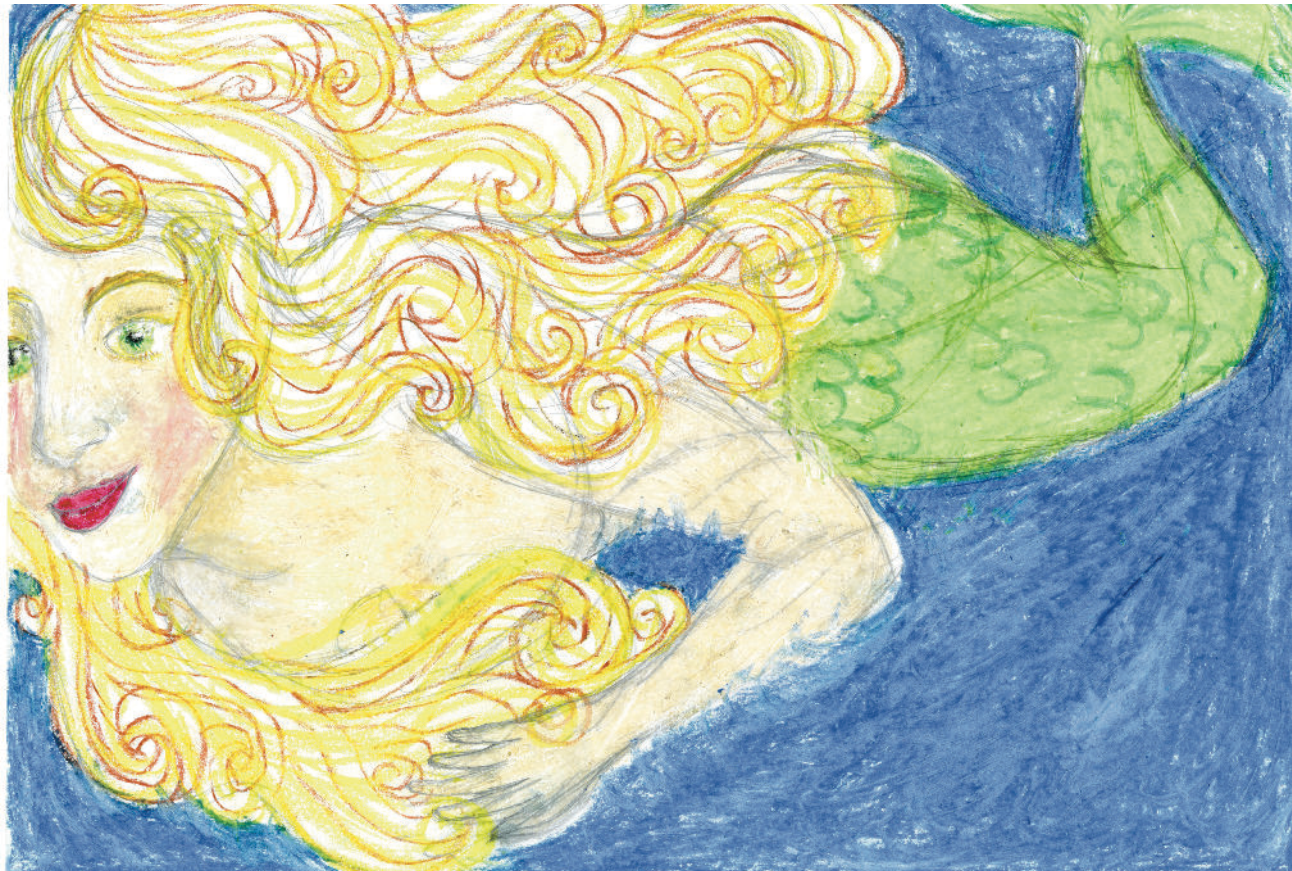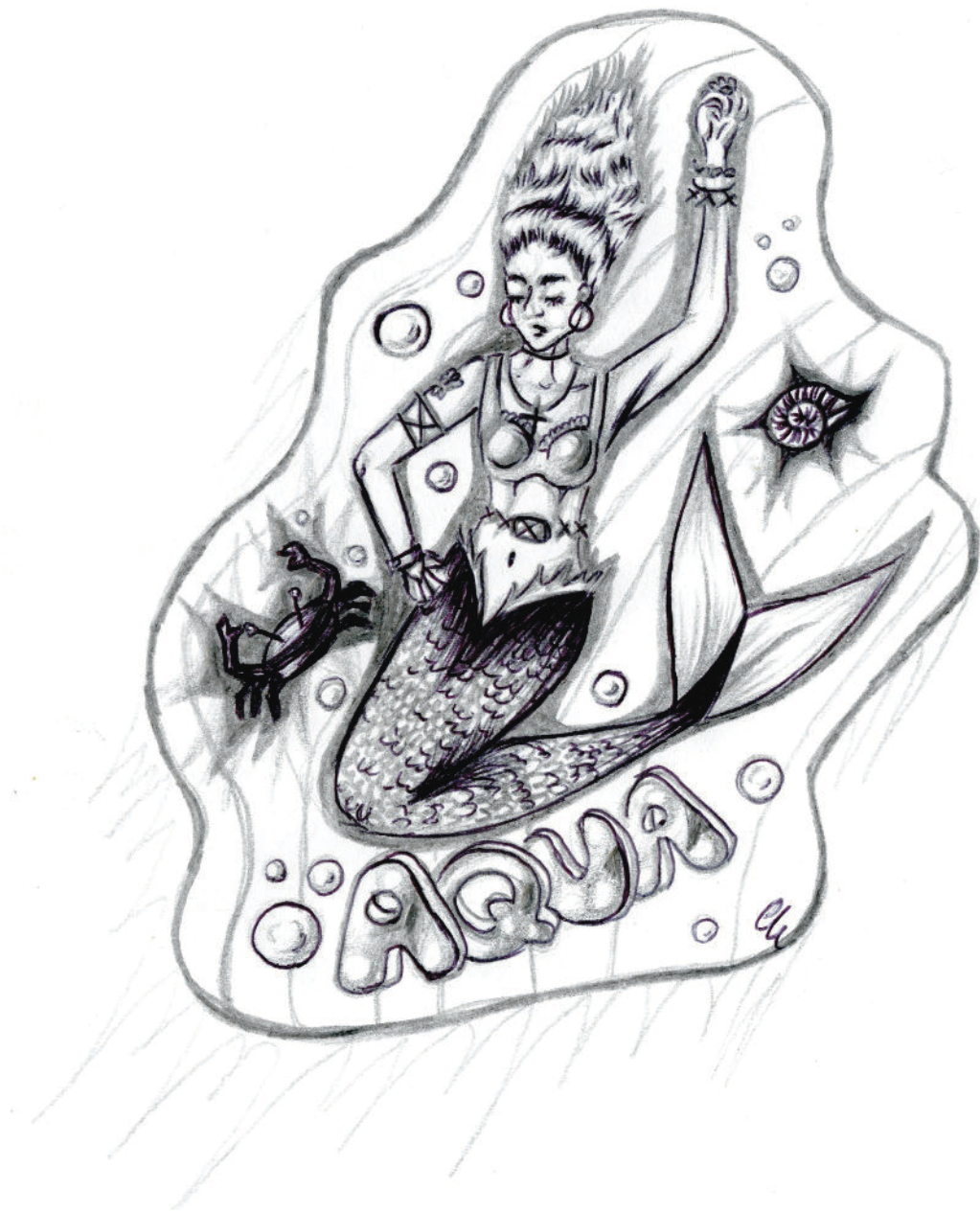
Joe; Where's Your Head At by Basmentjacks

Reuben; Street Fighter Dubstep Remix

HuaHua; Don't by Ed Sheeran

Christina; The Beach by Jonathan Richman

Max; If You Want Me to Stay by Sly and the Family Stone

Sky; Never Too Late by Three Days Grace

Eds: Esther and Lakshmi

Funnies

What kind of bagel can fly?..   a plane bagel!!