

The Mirror

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Penguins in the Arctic

by Marc-David Sobia

Have you ever thought of animals that live in the Antarctic continent in the south? Penguins are a type of flightless birds. Penguins are very caring and loving animals. This article will break down some fun facts about Penguins. Ideally they have black coats and white breasted chest. There are various species of penguins. Yet the focus is the arctic penguins.



Where do they live?

Penguins are found to live only on the southern hemisphere, they live in sub Antarctic coasts and Antarctic coasts. Along with sea-elephants. In Antarctica they live in temperatures of -60 degrees celsius. “They breed a long way from the ocean and, because they cannot fly, have to walk across the ice to reach their chicks.”¹

Arctic Food Chain: What do Penguins eat?

Penguins eat squid, fish, and krill. The size of food they eat depends on the size and species of the penguin. Penguins have above-water predators and underwater predators. Their underwater predators are leopard seals and killer whales. Penguins’ above-water predators are birds like skuas and giant petrels, however they eat their eggs and chicks.

Are penguins endangered animals?

Due to the Arctic zone melting, penguins in the Arctic are endangered animals. They have become endangered because of their continuous loss of habitat from global warming. Global warming causes the snow and ice to melt in Antarctica. It is predicted that by 2040 there won't be any snow in the arctic.³

Various Species of Penguins

There are at least 20 species of penguins. The largest penguin stands at 3ft Emperor penguins live in the Arctic and the Little Blue penguin measures only 13 inches and can be found in Australia or New Zealand.

Penguins Life-long Mates

Penguins are very caring for their families. March is the month in which penguins begin the search for a perfect mate. It's interesting how much effort penguins make to mate for a lifetime. Males spend time hunting food for their chicks. One parent stays while the other goes to hunt. Penguins are responsible and very dedicated to their nesting and families.

Sources: *Explore and Learn The Natural World, Volume 3, 2018*¹
*kids.national geographic.com*²
*our planet.com*³



Thank you for reading.

Rubik's cube difficulty and rating

by Lennox Johnston

Solving a Rubik's cube is hard enough. But I'm here to talk about the different types of Rubik's cubes and their difficulty.

#1: The first cube is the 2x2 where you need to do about three algorithms to solve it. It is very easy so I'll give it a 2/10.

#2: The 4x4 - This cube is quite difficult and I haven't learned how to solve it so I'll give it a 7/10.

#3: The 3x3, the classic Rubik's cube. The algorithms are kind of easy to remember and it is a very good cube so I'll give it a 5/10.

#4: The Pyraminx - This is the triangle cube, the first cube I learned to solve. The algorithms are very easy so I'll give it a 3/10.

#5: The Megamix - This cube is ginormous with twelve sides and nine pieces on each side. It is surprisingly easy to learn but annoying to solve so I'll give it a 7/10.

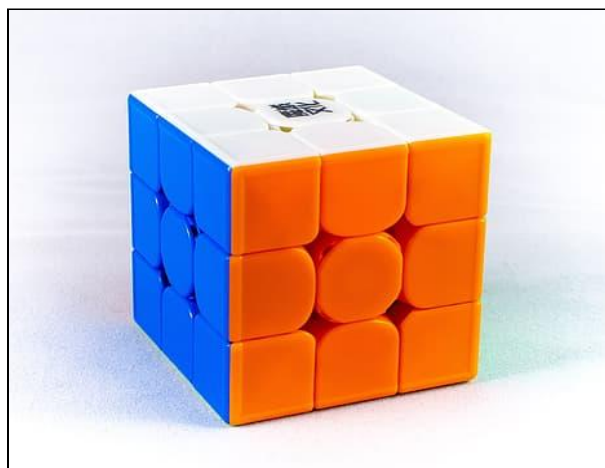
#6: The Twist Cube - This cube is quite hard to learn but easy to remember so I'll give it a 6/10.

#7: The 6x8 - How hard can Rubik's cubing get? It's a Rubik's cube that is extraordinarily hard and I don't know how to solve it. It is humungous and very hard so I'll give it a 10/10.

#8: The 1x1 - Bruh, I'll give it a 0/10.

#9: The 3x3 Pyraminx - By the looks of it it's very easy to solve, but I haven't tried it yet so I'll give it a 1/10.

#10: The 5x5 - Just the harder 4x4 so I'll give it an 8/10.



3x3 Rubik's cube

Finnish Airlines & Coronavirus

by Lauren Jameson

In Finland, the outroll of coronavirus vaccines has caused people to feel better about traveling. In December 2021 (in comparison to December 2020), Finnair- the largest Finnish airline company handled 550% more people. The airport, found in the capital city of Helsinki, reported that throughout the holiday season many people had been traveling more- and although it's not as much of an increase compared to December, the airport saw that in November, there was a 27.3% increase compared to 2020.



However, due to the influx of fliers, only 56.3% of flights landed on time. With the mix of staff getting the new strain of COVID-19, Omicron, they were left understaffed and over-traveled. In total 602,000 people flew this holiday season.

In January 2022, the Finnish Guard Control (border control, this branch focusing on airports, including Finnair) saw a 43.5% decrease in new arrivals to Finland.

Resources:

[Schengenvisainfo, "Finnish Guard Control Reveals 43.5% Decline In Passenger Arrivals", Schengenvisainfo](#)

[Schengenvisainfo, "Finnair Handled 550% More Passengers in December Compared to 2020", Schengenvisainfo](#)

Eighth Grade PSA about High School Scheduling

by Lauren Jameson

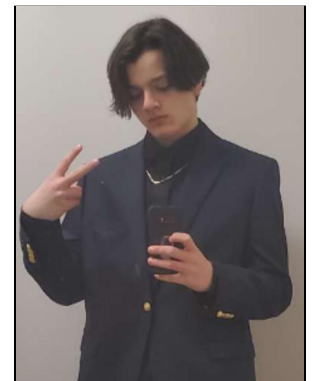
PSA for all eighth grade students

Please note that the high school scheduling meetings are starting in February for eighth graders. According to the guidance counselors, these meetings will be in small groups where you can choose some of your classes, such as electives.

Eighth graders should choose their classes in advance using the course booklet given to gym classes in the week of 1/24.

An announcement on 1/28 stated that 3 new electives were available for incoming 9th graders Sci-Fi, Mythology, and Creative Writing (although Juniors and Seniors are the priority for this class).

On the topic of high school, I recently asked Marco Todaro, a 9th grader, what he thought of high school. He stated, "High school can be both fun and painful at the same time, you'll have a lot of down moments and you'll have a lot of up moments and it's your first experience being introduced to adulthood".



An Image of the quotee, Marco Todaro

Space History

by Sawyer Ivchenko

The Apollo missions

With us going back to the moon, you are going to hear a lot about the Apollo missions and you are probably going to be wondering what those were. If so, this article is for you. Also, I am oversimplifying all of this, (but if I didn't it would be a book) so if you want to learn more, just look into my sources.

Anyway, let's start off with the basics. The U.S. wanted to get to the moon because it was losing a space race. Not a literal race in space, but a figurative one with the U.S.S.R (now Russia). Both America, and the U.S.S.R wanted to get to space so they could have spy satellites, missiles, etc. But, after we lost at both getting the first satellite and the first person into space, we decided to set our goals higher. We decided that we wanted to go to the moon.

We did not have a good start. In one of the tests for Apollo 1, the capsule caught fire, and tragically all of the crew members were killed. Many called for that to be the end of the missions, but the decision was made to continue. The next big advancement was when Apollo 7 launched, and became the first crewed Apollo mission. Even though the astronauts only orbited the earth, it was still monumental, because it proved that the Saturn V rocket and capsule functioned, since no astronauts had been in space with the Saturn V rocket.

Apollo 8 was also a big achievement because it was the first manned mission that left low earth orbit. It was originally planned to just be another low earth orbit flight, but the decision was made to go around the moon to impress the Soviet Union. Apollo 10 was also monumental, with the capsule flying within 50,000 of the moon's surface.

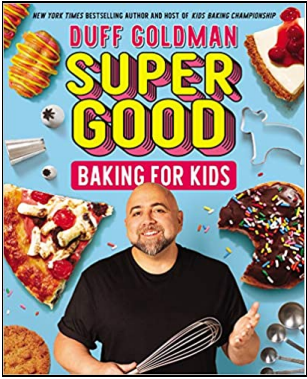
And then there is Apollo 11, the buildup of all of the previous missions; the one where we land on the moon.



The Saturn V rocket

Sources: [Wikipedia: Apollo program](#)
[Nasa: Apollo Missions](#)
[Space.com article](#)





Monkey Bread Recipe

by Noah Solano

Adapted from Super Good Baking For Kids by Duff Goldman

Monkey bread sounds gross, but it tastes amazing (don't worry, there aren't any real monkeys in it)! This delicious recipe tastes like cinnamon buns mixed with king cake.

Ingredients:

- Two tubes of Grands Biscuit Dough
- 2-3 tablespoons of cinnamon
- About $\frac{1}{2}$ cup white sugar
- 2 sticks of salted butter
- $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups brown sugar

Directions:

1. Preheat the oven to 375°F.
2. Mix together the white sugar and most of the cinnamon until it has a balanced taste and is evenly brown.
3. Open the biscuit dough. Cut the biscuits into quarters.
4. Roll each quarter in the cinnamon sugar.
5. Stack the covered quarters in a greased bundt pan (a square pan could also work).
6. Between each layer, sprinkle some cinnamon sugar.
7. Stop putting in the quarters once the bundt pan is halfway full.
8. Now put the salted butter in a saucepan over medium heat. It is very important to keep whisking the butter!
9. Pour in the brown sugar and the rest of the cinnamon. Keep stirring.
10. Once the sauce is very smooth, turn off the heat.
11. Go back to your bundt pan. Pour half of the sauce over the biscuits in the pan.
12. Put the rest of the biscuit quarters into the pan, sprinkling more cinnamon sugar between layers.
13. Once the pan is full, pour on the rest of the sauce. Put the monkey bread in the oven for 30-40 minutes.
14. When it looks done, remove the pan from the oven. Let it rest for 5 minutes before flipping it over on a plate. Carefully lift off the pan so the monkey bread falls out.
15. Eat and enjoy!

Go to [this google form](#) to give me a response about my last recipe or give me a recipe suggestion!

Willow's Book Column

by Willow Swan

Student Book Recommendations Vol. 2

As always, you can have your book recommendation featured in The Mirror by submitting it through [this form!](#) You don't have to be a major bookworm, it's just cool to see what different people are reading! A reminder that all recommendations, summaries and pseudonyms must be school appropriate!

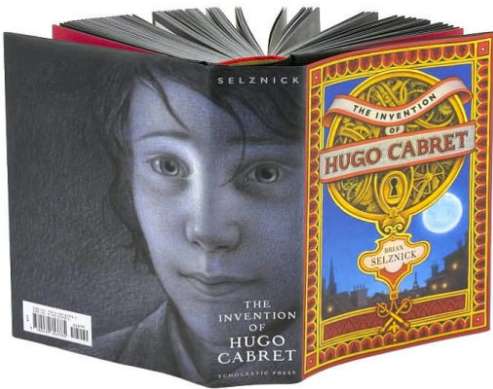
From: Soniabo!!!!!!

Book: *The Invention of Hugo Cabret* by Brian Selznick

Summary: The invention of Hugo Cabret is a book based in France. This book seems HUGE but it is mostly pictures.

Why I like this book: I like that the chapters are short and It has lots of pictures. The pictures are beautiful.

Age Rating: 10-14



From: Ringo

Book: *Code Orange* by Caroline B. Cooney

Summary: In code orange, a boy from New York City discovers scabs of a disease in an old medical book. He breathes them in and he realizes that he could be infected with the disease he was exposed to. Will he live on or suffer a most certain death?

Why I like this book: I like this book because it alerts us to the dangers of smallpox in bioterrorism.

Age Rating: 9+

From: Sue D. Nym

Book: *Book Scavengers* by Jennifer Chambliss Bertman

Summary: Seventh grader Emily has been moving her whole life. Her parents are on a quest to live in every state! Her newest home is in San Francisco, California. She is only excited for one thing about San Francisco: it's the home of her literary idol, Garrison Griswold! He is the creator of Book Scavenger, a game where you find hidden books using puzzles. But then she meets James. He lives in the same apartment as her, and loves books, too. They're becoming friends when Mr. Griswold is mugged and hospitalized, in a coma. Then Emily finds a game hidden in the streets of her new city. She thinks it was created by Mr. Griswold. She, along with James, and her unenthusiastic older brother Matthew, race against a mysterious pair of men, to solve Mr. Griswold's final puzzle.

Why I like this book: I like this book because it has a lot of mystery, and it is fun to try to solve the clues and puzzles. The characters are really vibrant, and they have realistic lives. You end up rooting for them, and even minor characters lead exciting lives. And when you finish this book, the story doesn't end! There are two more books in the series. I've read all three, and they get better with each one!

Age rating: 8-12

(I actually read these too, and I agree with Sue D. Nym!)

From: Paul McCartney #2
Book: *The Parker Inheritance* by Varian Johnson

Summary: In this book, the main character, Candice, finds a clue to a fortune while in her late grandmother's attic in Lambert, South Carolina. She and her friend Brandon try to find the fortune and Candice learns that her grandmother was ostracized and fired from her job for looking for a fake treasure and forging paperwork to look for it. Will they find the treasure or will Candice go down with her grandmother?

Why I like this book: I like this book for the same reasons I like the Westing Game. I recommend reading the Westing Game first because they reference the book a lot and it is the key to solving a lot of clues.

Age Rating: 10-14

From: Paul McCartney (I'm assuming not the real Paul McCartney)

Book: *The Westing Game* by Ellen Raskin

Summary: After the death of the elusive Samuel W Westing, 16 heirs gather in his estate to find how big their share of Westing's 500 million dollar fortune will be theirs to keep. During the reading of the will, Mr Westing says that he was murdered. By one of them! He also explains the concept of the Westing game. The players are paired, and given an envelope of clues written on paper towels, and a budget of \$10,000. Who will win? Who will lose, taking their partner down with them.

Why I like this book: I like this book because it is exciting and you can try and solve the puzzle yourself if you want to.

Age Rating: 8-12

Thank you to everyone who contributed, and remember that you, too, could have your book recommendation featured in *The Mirror!*

The Pothos Plant

by Lauren Jameson

The pothos plant is an evergreen hanging plant with heart-shaped leaves. Pothos are very easy to care for and thus are great plants for beginners. Pothos can be grown and propagated in water, and can also be grown in dry soil. Similar to a fishbone cactus, the soil in which the Pothos is grown must fully dry out between waterings. They enjoy full sun with partial shading, and do not flower. They thrive in temperatures between 65°-75° fahrenheit. Pothos should be fertilized every three to four months using a liquid fertilizer such as Miracle Gro.

Although Pothos are great for beginner care, they are toxic if ingested and are toxic to animals since the sap from the plant may cause rashes.

Sources:

[Marie Iannotti, Debra Lagattuta, "How to grow and care for Pothos", The Spruce](#)

[Heather Rhoades, "Information on Caring For Pothos Plants", Gardening Know How](#)

[Mary H Dyer, "Pothos Fertilizer Needs- Pothos Plant Food Tips", Gardening Know How](#)



Trivia Challenge

Hosted and Written by Sonia Levy, Noah Solano and your literary correspondent, Willow Swan!



Please read all the information before participating!

For a special limited time event, we are hosting a trivia challenge! Note: You must be viewing The Mirror digitally in order to participate, because the trivia challenge is online! Fill out the Google Form linked below and the people with the most questions correct will have their names read on the morning announcements, saying that you won The Mirror trivia challenge! Even if you do not win, we hope you have fun!!!

Here is some additional info provided in the Google Form:

Please fill out all the questions! The 5 people with the best score will have their name read on the morning announcements, saying that they were one of the winners of The Mirror Trivia Challenge! Please do not cheat (i.e. directly looking up the answers). You can research online and in books and use any other resources!

You may notice there is a strong emphasis on not cheating and looking up the answers on Google. Please please PLEASE do not cheat! To try to prevent this, we are putting the quiz in locked mode so that you can't look up the answers while doing the quiz. And finally, the link is below!

[The Mirror Trivia Challenge Google Form!](#)

We hope you have fun and if you are one of the winners, we will reach out to you through the school email. We do not know at this time when we will be ending the event and collecting winning scores, so please be patient in waiting for your confirmation email.

Hosted by Sonia Levy, Noah Solano, and Willow Swan!

Hadrosaurs

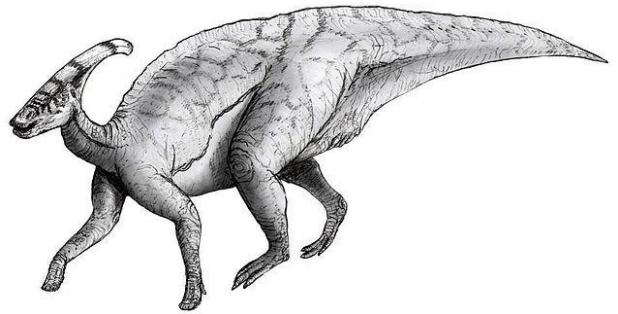
by Emmett DeGrassi

What were Hadrosaurs?

Hadrosaurs were a group of herbivorous dinosaurs known commonly as duck-billed dinosaurs. Hadrosaurs were commonly equipped with a bill, similar to a ducks and usually had a type of crest on its head, although some did not have one. There were many, many different hadrosaurs that lived mainly during the Cretaceous period.

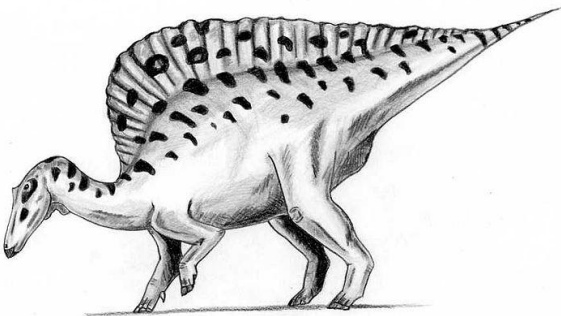
Parasaurolophus

Parasaurolophus are probably the most well known out of all Hadrosaurs. Parasaurolophus were Hadrosaurs that had a duck-like bill, a crest at the top of its head, and four legs (although it could stand on two legs). Parasaurolophus reached a height of 16 ft. and reached a length of around 35 ft. Parasaurolophus weighed up to around 6000 to 8000 pounds. Parasaurolophus lived in the late Cretaceous period (around 76-73 MYA). Parasaurolophus have been discovered all over the globe, they have been found in places like Canada, USA, and they *may* have even lived in Asia.



Ouranosaurus

Ouranosaurus were hadrosaurs that were less well-known than Parasaurolophus but are still very interesting dinosaurs. Ouranosaurus had a duck-like bill, four legs, and a large sail on its back (used to display to other Ouranosaurus); Ouranosaurus had no crests on its head, or body for that matter. Ouranosaurus could stand at a height of 10 ft. and reached a length of around 27 ft. Ouranosaurus weighed up to around 5,000-8,800 pounds.



Ouranosaurus lived during the early Cretaceous period (125-93 MYA). Ouranosaurus lived in what is now Cameroon (West Africa) and Niger (South Africa).

Hadrosaurus

Yes, Hadrosaurus was an actual Hadrosaur. Hadrosaurus were Hadrosaurs that had a larger beak and four legs (although it was comfortable standing on two). Hadrosaurus could stand at a height 10 ft. and reached a length of 25 ft. Hadrosaurus weighed between 15,000-18,000 pounds. Hadrosaurus lived during the late Cretaceous period (around 80-78 MYA). Hadrosaurus lived in what is now North America.



Hadrosaurs

Overall, Hadrosaurs (not to be confused with Hadrosaurus) were very interesting herbivorous dinosaurs that lived during the Cretaceous period all over the world and all sorts of Hadrosaurs had their own distinct traits, although most had a duck-like bill. Quack!

The Waggish Ones

by Jena Chamas



Even MORE Changes Wanted in the Middle School

by Sonia Levy

I was impressed with everyone who contributed. Thank you to anyone who submitted a response!

Clubs should get rescheduled instead of canceled

submitted by Ryan Hasbrouck, 6th

I go to multiple clubs but my favorite club is probably the d&d club. I have to wait all week to go and then a majority of the time it gets canceled and I dislike it. So I propose a solution: we just reschedule instead of cancel. If not enough people can make it, make the club the next day. If the teacher isn't there, have it the day after or get another teacher to run it if possible. If the weather is bad, guess what will happen tomorrow. Simple problems require simple solutions.

Anime Club

submitted by anonymous, 7th

A lot of people think anime is stupid and or a waste of time. In my opinion it's not horrible but it isn't that bad. I was going to start an Anime club last year but it got held back. So I think there should be one, you can talk about anime, manga, comics things like that!

School should be way different from how it is

submitted by anonymous, 6th

Recently I was reading the first ever article of the mirror (it is on the middle school page) and I was looking through it. Almost all of the articles were on field trips. We are more than halfway through the year and for sixth grade we have had one trip. Covid should not affect this much because they are all outdoors. So if anyone is concerned about social distancing and all that you shouldn't. And that is only for the field trips. Another thing is that apparently there was a cross country running team. It doesn't need to be every day that you practice like it used to but I'm pretty sure there is no team. We also should have a student council for obvious reasons.

I think the school should give out water instead of milk for free.

submitted by Zoe, 6th

I think it would be better in case people get thirsty and need something (actually good) to drink.

Weird Holidays Celebrated in March

by Noah Solano

Here are some unusual yet fun (and very real) holidays for you to celebrate!
Who needs St. Patrick's Day when there's World Plumbing Day?

- March 1 - Baby Sleep Day
- March 2 - National Old Stuff Day
- March 3 - National I Want You To Be Happy Day
- March 4 - Toy Soldier Day
- March 5 - National Cheese Doodle Day
- March 6 - National Dentist's Day
- March 7 - National Cereal Day
- March 8 - Be Nasty Day
- March 9 - National Get Over It Day
- March 10 - Paper Money Day
- March 11 - World Plumbing Day
- March 12 - International Fanny Pack Day
- March 13 - National Open An Umbrella Indoors Day
- March 14 - National Pi Day
- March 15 - National Shoe The World Day
- March 16 - No Selfies Day
- March 17 - National Corned Beef and Cabbage Day
- March 18 - Forgive Mom And Dad Day
- March 18 - Awkward Moments Day
- March 19 - Let's Laugh Day
- March 20 - International Day Of Happiness
- March 21 - World Puppetry Day
- March 22 - Daffodil Day
- March 23 - National Puppy Day
- March 24 - National Chocolate Covered Raisin Day
- March 25 - International Waffle Day
- March 26 - Make Up Your Own Holiday Day
- March 27 - International Scribble Day
- March 28 - Respect Your Cat Day
- March 29 - National Mom And Pop Business Owner Day
- March 30 - National Virtual Vacation Day
- March 31 - Manatee Appreciation Day

Sources: <https://nationaltoday.com/march-holidays/>

Torture Methods Used Throughout History

by James Walsh

I write about this because I was looking at old history facts and found all these bad torture methods. I did not know how bad they were. I knew there were torture methods, but I did not know all of these. We have evolved from this and found new ways to deal with conflict. The reason they did this is because someone did not believe in their way of life or did not follow their rules. I am glad people get to believe what they want now.

#1 Brazen Bull

The brazen bull was a huge brass bull made in ancient Greece. They would put people in it and light a fire under it and it was tested by Perilaus himself. “The webs of Arachne, the foam that birthed Aphrodite, the love between Psyche and Eros — the mountain soil of Ancient Greece was rich loam for legends,” says allthatsinteresting.com.



#2 Heretics Fork

This torture device was used in the middle ages. It was a spiked two sided fork worn on the neck. It was mostly used on people who were thought to be witches. Worldhistory.org states that “The instrument consists of two forks set against each other that penetrated the flesh under the chin in one end and the upper chest in the other.”

#3 The Rat Box Torture

This torture was used in Braziland. A cage with a rat in it would be placed on an accused person’s face and the rat would eat their face until they told the truth. “The method originated in Medieval Germany. A victim would be tied down into the chair. The torturer would put a metal cage on the victim's face.” says historyofyesterday.com.



All of these torture devices are bad and I am glad that they are not around today.

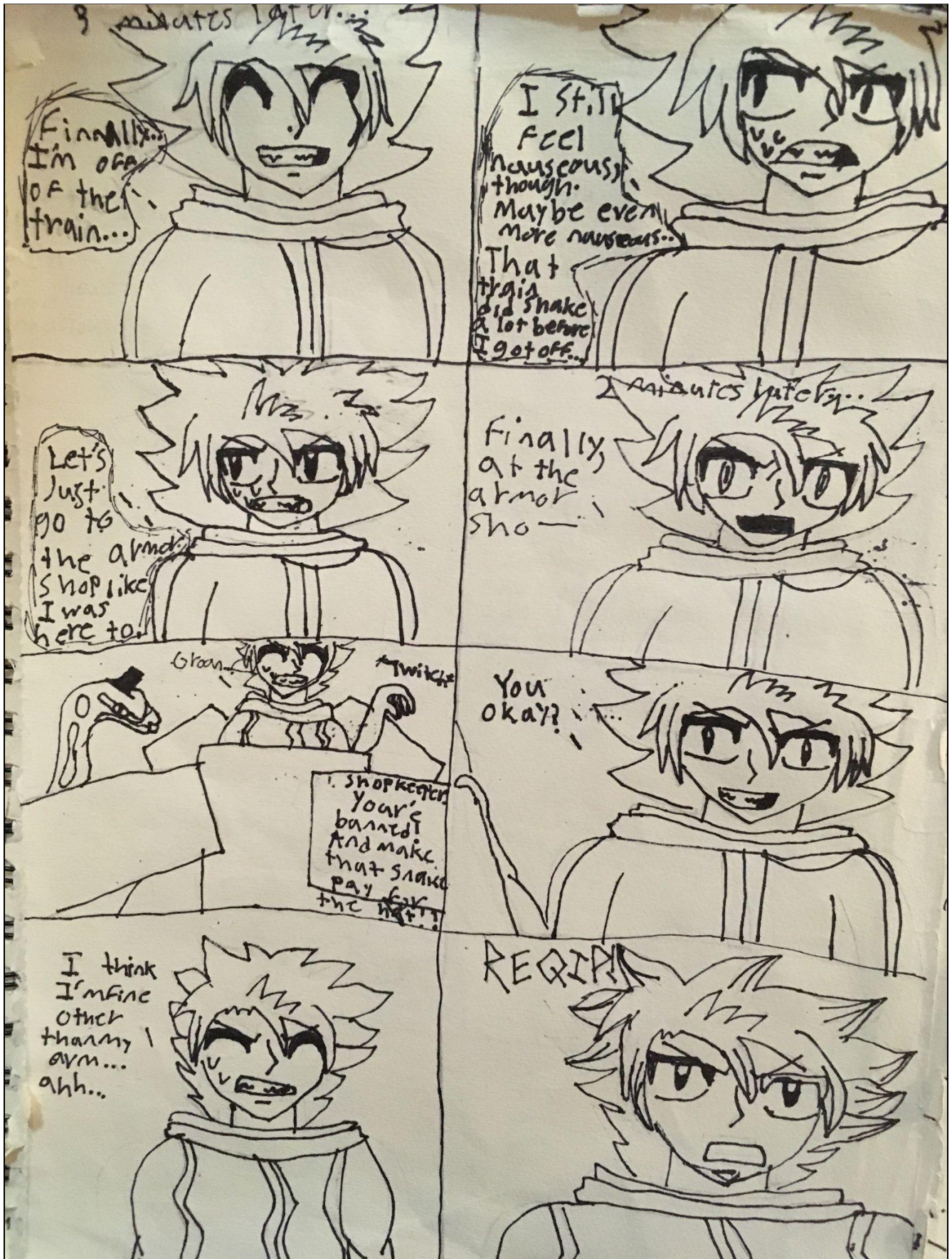
<https://allthatsinteresting.com/brazen-bull>

<https://www.worldhistory.org/video/1779/heretics-fork-forging--testing-medieval-torture/>

<https://historyofyesterday.com/rat-torture-bcl7cf72400b>

Manga Comic Strip Series

by Zoe Curtis



That
feels
a bit better.



Thanks
for help
me get
out of
that mess.
I owe you



No
Problem.



You want
to get
something
to eat?
I can pay
you back that
way, and we
can get to
know
each other.



Sure!
I have
some extra
time
on my
hands, and
I'm starving



Yes!
That that
really
shook me
up..

5 minutes later..

So you
use requiring
magic?



Yeah,
Pretty
cool, right?



I just realized
I didn't
introduce
myself. I'm
Katsai





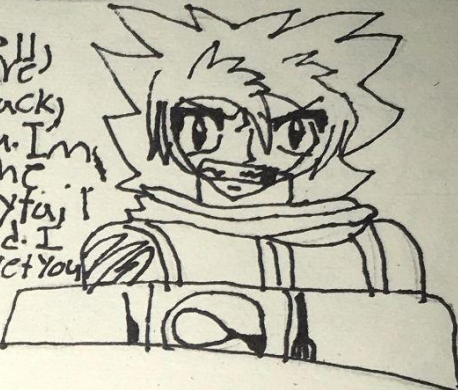
I'm Uraloki.



So have you joined a guild?



I haven't joined a guild yet but I really want to join the Fairytail Guild.



Well you're in luck Katsu. I'm in the Fairytail Guild. I can get you in.

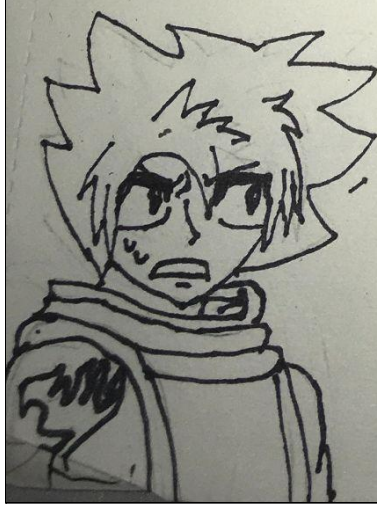
Really? Thanks! So when can we get going?



We can get going right now but there's one thing I need to warn you about...

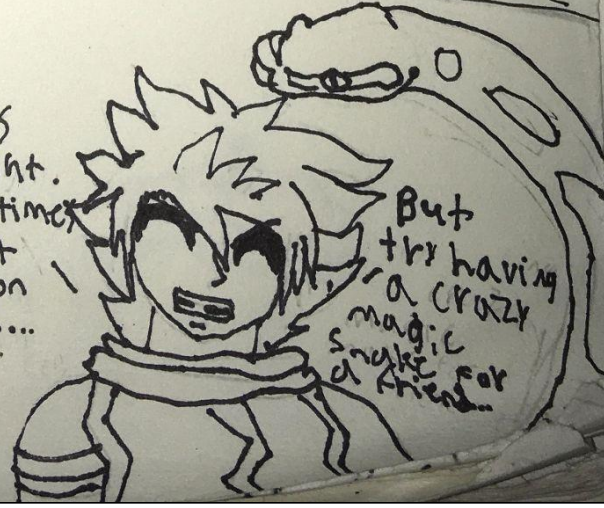


I have a really bad case of



Motion sickness...

It's alright. Sometimes I get motion sick...



But try having a crazy magic snake for a friend...