



The Churchill CHRONICLE

In the Meadow

Luna Tekie

A Peek Through Your Blank
Canvas

Aiden Xiong

A Desire to Grow

Brienne Parfett



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SPRING SOUNDTRACK



Whether you're walking to class, studying after school, or enjoying the sunshine, these songs are the perfect soundtrack for the season.



Illustration by: Forecha



My Shot
Hamilton



Gypsy
Fleetwood Mac



Brother
Kodak Black



Summer Child
Conan Gray



Senses
MICO



At Last
Etta James



Sunshine
OneRepublic



Sealion
Feist



Giant
YUQI



People Watching
Conan Gray



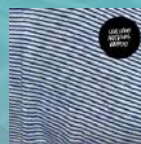
No Way Back
Enhypen



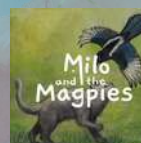
Wait For It
Hamilton



The Great Divide
Noah Kahan



What You Like
Wallows



A Fishing Trip
Victor Butzelaar



Wild Things
Alessia Cara

In the Meadow

By Luna Tekie



Anisa Kazi

Raindrops seep into the soil beneath my feet and make their way between my toes. I can feel myself sink forever into the wet ground, the soil against both the softest and sharpest parts of my body. I inhale. I'm enveloped in the scent of mildew coming from the damp earth. With my eyes shut, I can't tell what time it is. I'm not sure if I've been lying there for minutes or for hours; the time between one second and the next have been drawn out infinitely. The frigid air raises goosebumps up my arms and sends a shiver down my spine.

Still, as the cold of the ground seeps through my shirt and into my skin, I can feel the ground start to thaw. The sun is shining, even as lightning cracks in the sky and raging thunder causes the trees to shake. Light shines from every gap between the trees, pouring into me without end. Golden rays hit my face, bathing me in warmth regardless of the cool drops of rain that splash against my skin; budding flowers flow between my fingers, weeds find their way through every crack and crevice of my body. I hear myself let out a shaky breath as I remember to breathe. Is this what it feels like to stop thinking? To let your mind be consumed by something larger than yourself? The wind rustles the grass and grazes my clothes. It carries the sounds of birds chirping to my ears, and speckles of dust and fallen flower petals into my hair. I open my eyes, so slightly that I can still feel the brush of my eyelashes on my cheek. It's so beautiful. All of it. There's no one to see it, no one but me, here lying in this meadow. Yet, the sun still shines, the flowers still caress my skin, and I can still hear the melodic cry of birds in the wind.

A Peek Through Your Blank Canvas

By:Aiden Xiong

A caterpillar metamorphosizes into a butterfly, a silkworm into a moth. A bud blossoms into a flower, then a fruit. The sky is clear blue, then sheds tears midday. Fish and birds and insects travel half way around the world, shifting environments up and down from the equator every season like clockwork. In a forest, the giggle of a bamboo sprout is heard reverberating between the other bamboo. The sound fades briefly before another sprout grows up soon after. Nature is full of change. It sometimes happens explosively, in an instant as something new replaces the old; other times it takes several days or a month. For example, the stage of metamorphosis takes up to two weeks before a caterpillar can fly. But no matter how long it takes, nature's change seems to always retain a certain characteristic: it's predictable.

You now have the knowledge at your disposal that for the most part, has drawn back the curtain on what makes the natural world so fantastical, like when you were a little child. By living through enough seasons you have figured out which months it will snow and which months it won't. You've memorized the cold cadence of crashing waves on the beach. Where do geese disappear in the winter? What does the howl of wind sound like? When do leaves become bright yellow and red? Given enough time, all of these questions will have been answered and you arrive at a point when you tell yourself that no matter the circumstance, you can point at the bud of a sunflower and say with confidence it will blossom yellow. Even though it's constantly changing and shifting, the predictability of nature makes change an illusion. If it repeats the same pattern year after year without fail, is it really changing at all?

But then there's you. After all, you're a part of nature too. You are born, grow up, and then leave: it's predictable.

But what about in between? In between birth and death? Now that's where it's different. In between, that's where you aspire and learn and hate and love and play. That's where you choose what happens next. An oak tree can't suddenly decide to jump out and grow the rest of its branches out as a birch. But for a human, you have the unique power to grow out of whatever pretext you're born into. You can change careers or shift in personality or appearance midway through life. Like a caterpillar, you too have the ability to metamorphosize, crawl out of your cocoon as something brand new, deciding for yourself when you want to open up a new chapter in your life. Perhaps it takes a single moment to shed your old skin, other times, maybe the effort of years. But in nature, it's predictable.

For you, change is exciting. Who knows how many times in life you will take an unexpected turn or climb mountains you made for yourself? What story do you want to paint on your canvas? How many reflections of yourself you decide to keep, how many from which you will break away? No one knows, for that is up to you to decide. For it is up to you, no one else can point at a bud and tell how many petals will blossom out of it, or what colour will emerge to light up the future, to spread its pollen an unknown distance around the world. Tomorrow holds something that can never fully be predicted by the events of today. Again, it is up to you.



By:Aisha

A Desire to Grow

By Brienne Parfett

What does it mean to change? It is something that every person and everything goes through, whether they know about it or not. This change could be made due to a passing of time, circumstance, or a need for something different. Something that is outside of what is familiar, and comfortable, and brings space for new and exciting things that life has to offer. Yet, this leads to the next question. How do we change?

One of the hardest yet effective ways to bring change into your life is to let go. This could mean letting go of something physical like old letters, photographs, or even receipts from going out with friends. Or perhaps on a deeper level, letting go of something underneath the surface. Arguably, I believe letting go of something emotionally is much harder than physically. Past friendships, nostalgic memories, and previous role models are things that the human heart and soul are very reluctant to leave behind. This could be because of unresolved pain and unanswered questions that still remain to haunt our minds and make it much harder to move past. In fact, bringing change can cause individuals to move backwards instead of forwards because of how sentimental it is to let things go. Despite it being the hardest way to grow as a person, it's something that is really important to learn how to do. How many times have you found yourself or another person thinking about things you regret not doing, trying to cling on to a younger version of yourself that no longer exists, or possibly even trapping yourself in an endless cycle of thinking what you could've done differently?

When you're able to master the art of learning to let go with no strings attached, your own individuality begins to flourish greatly and you'll find how much of a difference it has made in your life. Not having something constantly floating at the back of your mind will bring peace that at first may seem uncomfortable, but in the long run is something you need, to grow into someone new. Letting go not only teaches you to trust life in pushing you to where you're meant to be, but that releasing what you once held onto so tightly builds resilience. Eventually, you'll stop seeing it as letting go of something, and start seeing it as choosing yours



The Renewals of Elijah Brown

By Sarah Shuyi Wang

Mama's funeral was only a week before. She had a large volume of puppy books from the library, so my inheritance had gone to her late fees. Ten years was too long to take to renew. That day online, I learned about a man who tried renewing his library book after sixty years. The library was just so endeared by him, that they wouldn't even accept his self-imposed fine. I hoped the library would be as gracious next time.

Next week I'll ascend from my boiler-room office to the heavens of shiny Harris & Syracuse. Just last year they crushed a class action claim about insulin prices. The insulin money flows in like blood.

This is like blood with a high glucose concentration.

I stood in line with the Canadian Criminal Law 8th Edition. It has been twelve years since my graduation and twenty since I took the book out. No words but 'treasure' could be used to describe this book. You could be a poor boy from the sticks and become a bonafide lawyer fighting against the healthcare system moaners with this book. Moaners were what the class-action representatives were, surely. I had to imagine they were, for my new job.

The book was a gift I wanted to bestow back to the world after enjoying its fruits for so long. A rush of joy filled me at the idea of a child, like I was, in a hallway in the Projects, opening the book and discovering the world of criminal law. I imagined the ambition that would suddenly soar out of his veins and carry him along the coasting wave of success. Other people needed the power of the goodness of this book. They would fight for law and freedom and for their mothers and fathers who were persecuted by the system.

So what a thing it was to be good. The happiness I brought through the return of the book was immeasurable. I cherished it, and I loved it more. So, selflessly I provided back the book of happiness.

"Why, Elijah Brown? Elijah Brown, this book is twenty years overdue."
Serotonin flushed my ears of all that noisome meaningless ungoodness.

There was no measure to how good I felt at being good. It was like being doused in sun on a radiant Mongolian plain in springtime. I was feeding the children in Timbuktu and curing Ebola in a Siam ward. So suddenly, I did not believe in the panopticon. The idea of punishment could only go so far; but the idea of being good? Oh, I believed in the reverse panopticon, where individuals lived in good so that they would have the guaranteed love of order from goodness. So grand and beautiful is the notion that if every one were to experience something like this, we could live in equal happiness! Only once they had taken this first step, could they be irrevocably good forever. Did the law matter so much when people chose goodness of their own accord? I hated Harris & Syracuse! Mama died of diabetes. I would never be richer than when I was good!

The librarian seemed to be repeating, "Your fees are astronomical, Elijah Brown."

"Surely not!" I exclaimed. The librarian shook his head.

"We'll enforce it too, Elijah Brown. We have collections who will come for you." I stammered about the new job I was starting, and how perhaps I could pay it off in the next month.

By Aisha Hussian

The Meaning of Some Beautiful Flowers

Photo: Amogh
Kumar
Story: Jason X

In the secret language of flowers, the meaning held within is often related to love. Calla lilies send the message of beauty, red tulips simply mean "I love you," and Forget-Me-Not's are what they are. And though I do praise the plants for such charming meanings, and am grateful such wonderful flowers are attached to these messages, what often surprises me are the flowers that have many symbolic meanings outside the realm of romance. As most flower meanings became popularized in the Victorian era, right around the time when Valentine's Day began to pick up, meanings of wealth and fortune became less popular. Though never lost to time, they remain largely ignored in popular media today, as is much of the language, which used to be well known to many a youth just 2 centuries ago.

And so, as the warmer months draw ever closer, here are some meanings of flowers, in both Eastern and Western cultures, that offer messages more than love:

Plum Blossoms: Pink, round petals, and growing at the end of spiralling tree branches, they symbolize resilience and endurance for their unique blossoming in February, and have become a cultural symbol for many in China, Korea, and Taiwan.

White Lilies: Bulbous plants with white pointed petals and a trumpet like corollas, originally representing the Virgin Mary's purity in Christianity, it has come to symbolize innocence and resurrection, and is sometimes used at funerals.

Poppies: It is worn to remember our brave soldiers who died in World War One, and represents remembrance and sacrifice. They have also symbolized eternal sleep in Greek mythology.

Tulips: Though now associated with the Netherlands, the Tulip originated from Turkiye, where the then Ottoman Empire associated it with economic prosperity. Today, it remains a significant symbol and the national flower of Turkiye.

Lavender: Tall green stalks of protruding purple flower spikes, they have come to symbolize peace, purity, and calm, as well as relating to royalty.

Lotus: A beautiful white and pink flower blooms after ascending from muddy waters to come out clean and pure, surrounded by round leaves floating on the water. The lotus flower is famous for its long-lasting symbolism of purity, perseverance, and rebirth across many cultures and religions throughout the world. From Ancient Egypt to modern Buddhism, the lotus flower has remained a universal token of change for generations.

Though the meanings of many of these flowers are what I believe to be their most popular interpretation, there are nonetheless countless other emotions and ideas that the plants have a connection to. And though today will fade into the past, and the meanings of the flowers will inevitably change, I find it comforting to know that as long as we continue to appreciate beauty, these flowers will continue to serve as an important reminder of that, inspiring within us new interpretations of the same magnificence we can all see, whether it be endurance like the Plum Blossom, or the expression of everlasting love like the Forget-Me-Nots.

The YYC Human Rights Collective: The newest student-led initiative determined to make change

By Emaan Ali

In a world where human rights violations dominate headlines and timelines, it's easy to feel powerless. The problems feel massive, and the solutions feel distant. But after interviewing the president of the YYC Human Rights Collective, Sindhia Khowaja, it became clear that change doesn't start with power—it starts with people who refuse to stay silent.

The YYC Human Rights Collective is a youth-led organization based in Calgary that educates people, especially the youth of tomorrow, about human rights issues happening around the world today. The collective focuses on providing as much truth as possible and taking action through volunteering and raising awareness. Their work is hands-on, multi-dimensional, and meant to be meaningful rather than performative.

When asked about the collective's purpose, Sindhia explained that its main goal is to “educate people about human rights issues” and to “provide a space where people can further their knowledge of these issues and give those affected a voice they don't have.” It is not just about being informed—it is about using that information to stand up for those who are being silenced.

Human rights are such a pressing issue today, she said, because violations are constantly happening across the world by groups who want more power and control. Ongoing crises in places like Palestine and Sudan show how people are being hurt and lives are being lost.

Speaking up matters because many people being affected are unable to speak for themselves due to fear of repercussions from their government, or colonizers. “Our voices are the strongest thing about us,” Sindhia said. Even small actions—donating, helping fund refugees, or educating others—are worth something.

When asked how a small group can make a difference in such a big world, she challenged the idea that impact must be large to matter. “Even one person's life is a life. Even funding one family of four is still four lives. You're still helping at the end of the day.” She added that small groups can grow into bigger movements, and that educating yourself allows you to stand up for people in everyday situations. “Every life counts,” she said. Being informed helps you stand on the right side—the side of human rights.

Joining the YYC Human Rights Collective offers more than just volunteer hours. Members gain a platform for change and a space to participate in and propose human-rights-related projects. The collective recognizes hands-on involvement as meaningful and impactful work. Students can earn CAS hours, volunteer hours, and letters of recommendation, but the deeper value is learning how to turn concern into action. Even small changes, the President emphasized, are still changes, and understanding these issues is a powerful first step.

Although the initiative is new, the collective has already begun building its community, posting educational content, and planning fundraisers. The goal is not just to exist as another club, but to grow into something that creates real awareness and support for people facing injustice.

The motivation behind the collective is deeply personal. The President shared that she has always been passionate about human rights and has never liked the idea of neutrality, believing these issues are often black and white. Her environment supports her passions, but one moment stood out.

She once watched an interview where her dad said future generations would speak up and stand up for those facing injustice. When he asked her if she would do the same, she said yes immediately. Later, she realized she did not want that promise to be empty. That realization became the drive behind creating the YYC Human Rights Collective.

The collective offers roles such as Event Manager, Fundraising Manager, and regular volunteers and members. Whether someone wants to organize events, help with fundraisers, create content, or simply learn and raise awareness, there is a place for them. All the information can be found on their Instagram @yyc_humanrightscollective.

In a time when it is easier to scroll past injustice than to confront it, the YYC Human Rights Collective is choosing to care—and to act. Real change does not begin with perfection or power. It begins with people who decide that silence is not an option.



By Kalli Leung

New Student-Led Stem Initiative for Innovation and Inclusivity

A new student-led club is being introduced at our school with a mission to empower students through STEM, entrepreneurship, innovation, and leadership. While the initiative is female-led and focuses on uplifting young women in STEM, it is rooted in inclusivity and welcomes all students who are interested in learning, creating, and growing together.

The club aims to provide hands-on opportunities such as workshops, speaker events, and collaborative projects that help students develop real world skills. Rather than just learning about technology, business, or research in theory, members will be encouraged to actively explore these fields in a supportive and engaging environment. This approach allows students to gain confidence while discovering their interests and potential pathways in STEM.

Another key goal of the initiative is to build a strong and supportive community. STEM spaces can sometimes feel intimidating due to stereotypes or lack of representation, and this club hopes to change that by creating a welcoming atmosphere where students can ask questions, share ideas, and experiment without fear of judgment. It is a space where curiosity is valued and growth is encouraged.

In addition, the club plans to connect students with mentors, industry professionals, and post secondary pathways in STEM fields. These experiences will help members better understand future opportunities and see how their ideas can turn into real projects and careers.

Although the club is centered on empowering young women, its larger vision is to promote STEM inclusivity for everyone. All students, regardless of gender or experience level, are encouraged to join and be part of this new initiative. As a brand new club in our school, it represents an exciting step toward a more innovative and inclusive community. Students should stay tuned for details about the first general meeting and the chance to get involved from the very beginning.

For more information, make sure to follow their
Instagram account @swc.womeninstem

i take this opportunity
Alexander Li

Truth

will be re
As I continue to look around this dull atmosphere, I cannot help but feel numb. Life is unfair. People don't allow you to come as you are. The friends that I wanted to stay with until graduation are, and will be, gone. For the first time, I'm all alone in the school halls. Where to go? What should I do?

he took
That was the first truth: time doesn't wait for anyone. Time is cruel. It forces you to make decisions that you don't want to make. The world doesn't pause for your grief. It expects you to get over it.

And like that, I passed away.

My face fell onto the snow and a shiver ran up my spine that felt strangely warm. Yes, that's right. I was faced with the decision to forgive and forget. To release the burdens I carried for months, or to not to release them. It would've been hard, but I knew what to do. My truths began to shift. Not all people allow you to come as you are—but some do. I was the one who misinterpreted the situation and that was okay.

That was the second truth: time doesn't wait for anyone. Yet, time is gentle. It encourages you to choose and to understand.

Again, I passed away.

Now in the midst of a blur of days, I recognize that everything that once kicked me down had propped me back up. My life story—my Bildungsroman—is going to come to an end. No longer do I feel numb in this season. Every day blooms in a new set of colours that are bolder and brilliant than the last. Why could I not grasp these colours earlier? It's too fleeting! It's unfair!

That was the third truth: time doesn't wait for anyone. Time is fleeting. It runs far, far away, and creates beauty in the impermanence of its path.

Until the end of times, I pass away one in one moment and become reborn in the next as my life blooms in change.

Ha! The sky looks terribly gray today. How amazing.

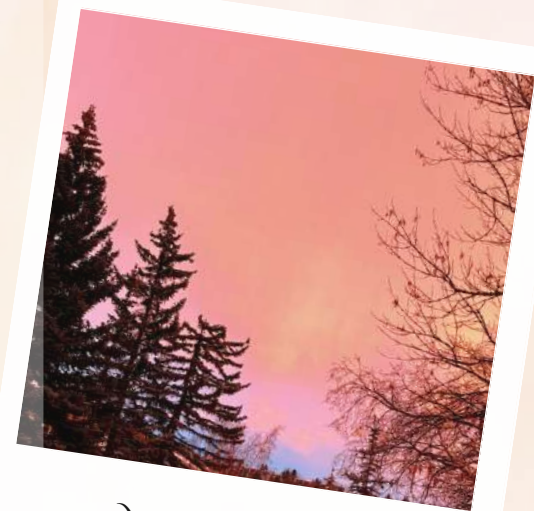
Ending off the school year with a bang

By Gorankshi Nandrajog

The final few months of the school year are the most demanding. Spring is when the deadlines cluster together, the exams line up, and motivation drops. But these final few months are the perfect opportunity to consolidate what you've learned, strengthen your habits, and finish on a high note. Here are some tips and tricks to help you stay on track until June:

- Break up your academic goals into chunks. Set short-term weekly goals for small things — studying a specific number of hours each day, getting an assignment done before the deadline, reviewing notes for 20 minutes daily, etc.
- Use structured time blocks for studying. Studying in 25–40 minute blocks with frequent short breaks helps improve focus and concentration.
- Organize by making reminders and lists and placing them somewhere they're always visible to you, such as on your desk or fridge. Reminders are harder to miss when they're frequently in your field of view.
- Change up your study environment. Declutter your workspace, adjust the lighting, or occasionally switch study spots (going to the library, a café, or even just a different room).
- Set aside time to relax and be creative. Giving your brain a break is important! It reduces burnout and gives you a chance to process all the information your brain is constantly receiving. Just make sure that your chill time doesn't turn into procrastination.
- Finally, limit distractions. I know we've all heard this before, but keeping your phone out of reach while you're studying really does make a difference!

Finishing off the year strong is less about sudden inspiration and more about consistent habits. Bringing in that extra little bit of structure and strategy can help you make the transition into spring feeling accomplished rather than overwhelmed. Good luck with the rest of the semester, Bulldogs!



NICOLE YU

IS THE MUSIC INDUSTRY CHANGING?

Amelia Gartner

Historically, the music industry has always experienced large shifts in genre. From the 90s to the 2000s, the industry's values and styles changed to accommodate a shifting world. Whether we notice it or not, music consistently changes to fit the listener. Today, artists such as Taylor Swift, Bad Bunny and The Weeknd dominate the billboard charts, with music focused on message and lyrics. But has it really changed that much?

What about in 2018? In 2018, the music industry was fueled by rappers such as Drake, Cardi B, XXXTENTACION and Bad Bunny. The infamous year of 2020 was where music truly made a genre shift.

By the end of 2019, the top artist was Post Malone, whose style mixes rap and pop into one. Then, by the end of 2020, pop music was dominating the industry again, with Billie Eilish, Taylor Swift, Ariana Grande and even Dua Lipa. This is a drastic change, all happening within the first few months of 2020. But why?

Well, with everyone stuck indoors by March of 2020, people often took social media as a way to communicate, through trends and popular dances. Due to this, there was a spike of genreless, independent music that went viral. Songs like "Renegade" and artists like Bo Burnham made independent, unique music rise and become the standard. People could now focus more on the lyrics and messages rather than just the beat of the song. Tracks now consisted more of a message to spread awareness on, rather than just a beat that was catchy for listeners. There were also lots of popular genre-blending artists that blended hip-hop, rap, R&B and pop to make an independent style.

In 2022, Bad Bunny and Taylor Swift continued to rank high on the top 100s chart, along with Harry Styles and BTS. The style then was lighter, less dialed in on lyrics, but rather how it made you feel, often following trends on social media in order to gain listeners or popularity.

Now, as of 2026, artists focus more on the message of the song rather than the catchiness of the rhythm itself. Political beliefs and morals are more incorporated into music than ever, and overall, the music industry has been changing for the last 50 years. It has switched genres, styles have adapted to the altering industry, and as listeners, we hold the power of how we listen and who we support.

Creative Writing Club

Static Part 2 - By Anon

The world outside the city is silent. His footsteps kick up sullen dust that stays suspended mid-air. Whatever stars are left are too far away and the constant night is too tired to give the dust any concept of what it's supposed to weigh.

He kicks at it, watching the particles waver around his foot. They're not sure how to react with an intruder and he's already passed through the cloud before it can decide.

He makes his path up on fleeting whims. The imprints his boots leave in the dry dirt collapse before he's even made the next.

The orange moon watches his journey, perpetually hovering a few inches above the horizon, too scared to venture into the darkness of a dead world.

He settles on a rock bathed in its golden glow. His body aches, the electricity buzzing under his skin is starting to hurt as it prods his muscles into a flurry.

The moon gazes down curiously at his craters of red and black skin. He closes his eyes, still seeing stars shiver behind the lids.

The inside of his skin is crawling, the legs of a dozen tiny beetles stampeding over his pressure points. Their shells bulge out of his body, tiny iridescent larvae, horribly itchy as they grow to join their family in traversing his innards.

The pressure it brings is worse, heavy, stagnant, heat pressing upwards out of his organs. It never leaves, his exhaustion sticks like sludge to his bones, gaining drops with every step he takes. He rests his head on his knees, ignoring the quiet complaints of his worn-out nerves, they can suck it up one more time.

His breaths are fizzy, bubbling uncomfortably in his chest, its papery skin and scorched ribs are suddenly too tight. His organs feel swollen and close to popping, pumped full with the electrified air right before a thunderstorm.

He waits, and the moon watches.

As his skin unfolds, imploding into a fuzzy figure made of lightbulbs and lightning strikes. The figure condenses, sinking into itself until all that's left is a single golden beetle.

It buzzes its wings once before zipping off into the darkness, seeking out the glowing skyscrapers and artificially cold wind of a city where it can start to rebuild itself into a human being.



Should the Voting Age Be Changed?



By Nathan H

Change isn't something that happens instantly. It goes through a process as time moves forward, as traditions evolve, and as systems adapt. Each generation changes the world in different ways; ideas that were once radical become normal while older ideas disappear into history. As our technology and education advances, one question raises above the others: Should the voting age be lowered?

In Canada, the legal voting age is 18, and citizens must reach that age to cast a ballot. This law has been upheld for 56 years, when the parliamentary government lowered the age from 21 years old to 18. However, some countries such as Austria and Malta have lowered the voting age to 16 in recent years. Supporters of this change believe that the younger generation are already engaged in political discussions directly affected by government decisions.

Of course, students have always been closely connected to public issues, but now, this impacts them more than ever. Policies related to climate change, education and employment opportunities or other problems like inflation will shape their futures in the long term. Students have also experienced a shift of news sources from traditional sources like television and newspaper to social media. While social media can provide political awareness among teens, it also exposes them to misinformation. Critics argue that 16 year olds aren't educated enough, or that they're more vulnerable to manipulation, but misinformation has always affected voters of all generations, raising the question of whether age alone determines political responsibility.

Supporters of lowering the voting age argue that many high school students are already actively participating in society. Some are employed, some volunteer and many follow world events or political discussions closely. In countries with a lower voting age, they have seen that 16 to 17 year olds have a higher voter turnout percentage than ones aged 18-20 in some years. Advocates further argue that allowing students to vote can strengthen their sense of political participation and build lifelong voting habits.

At the same time, some people believe that younger voters can be more susceptible to peer pressure or parental influence, adding onto the possibility of misinformation. Others argue that the responsibilities of adulthood can prepare individuals to make informed decisions much better. From this side of the perspective, the current voting age reflects legal, personal and political responsibility.

Ultimately, this debate comes down to how other members of society define readiness to vote. Should the voting age change as a new generation comes along? Or maybe, if adulthood is meant to be a threshold of complete independence, should 18 years old also stay as the legal voting age?





SHOCK WAVES IN THE SEA:

A NEW DEVICE COULD SAVE SHARKS

BY: SIDDHARTH

A new scientific breakthrough is making waves in ocean conservation. Researchers have developed an affordable electric device that can keep sharks away from fishing hooks, offering a promising solution to one of the biggest threats facing shark populations today.

Each year, thousands of sharks are accidentally caught by commercial fishing operations in what is known as bycatch. Sharks are often not the intended target, yet they become trapped on longlines and hooked gear meant for other fish. Because sharks reproduce slowly and have relatively few offspring, even small increases in accidental deaths can significantly impact their populations. Many species are already considered vulnerable or endangered.

BY: AMOGH KUMAR

The newly developed device works by emitting small, pulsed electric signals around baited hooks. Sharks possess specialized sensory organs called ampullae of Lorenzini, which allow them to detect tiny electrical fields in the water. Scientists took advantage of this natural sensitivity. The electric signals produced by the device create an unpleasant sensation for sharks, encouraging them to swim away before biting the hook.

What makes this innovation especially important is its simplicity and affordability. Earlier deterrent systems were often expensive or difficult for fishers to use on a large scale. This new model is designed to be easily attached to existing fishing gear without major modifications. Early testing shows that while sharks are repelled, the target fish species are mostly unaffected. That balance is crucial because it allows fishers to maintain their catches while reducing harm to non-targeted species.

Sharks play a vital role in maintaining healthy marine ecosystems. As apex predators, they help regulate fish populations and maintain balance in ocean food chains. When shark numbers decline, it can trigger ripple effects that disrupt entire ecosystems. Protecting sharks is not just about saving one species. It is about preserving ocean stability as a whole.

If widely adopted, this electric deterrent could mark a major step toward more sustainable fishing practices. It represents a rare win-win situation where conservation goals and economic needs align. Fishers can continue their work while contributing to the protection of marine biodiversity.

THE RYAN

Your skull is still here a week later, nestled in the yellowing grasses,
brilliant as ever in the fading sunlight of the evening prairie.

You are still here.

I am still here. Ever your loyal companion.

I lie here, belly up, pawing at your empty skull and imagining your
face

draped over the hollows.

How could these bones possibly have been you just one week ago?

Your eyes seem so sad—so empty—
and it's hard to remember those times when they weren't.

But there's one time I can't forget.

On the first day: maggots.

Writhing, living, mocking as they thrived where your eyes once lay.

I stood there, batting at them, barking gravel from my throat
as I stared into the hollows of your eyes.

You asked me then: "Are you not tired of being angry?"

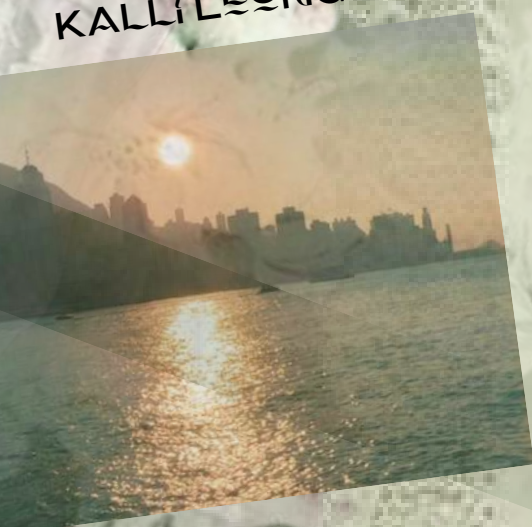
And still, I stayed. Ever your loyal companion.

On the fifth day: rainfall.

First, the gentle pinging of raindrops
before the thudding onslaught of watery pebbles.
My fur grew heavy, and so I slumped to the ground despite
the panging of hunger in my belly.

I lay there, belly down, pressing into the ground
to hold myself over through the night.

KALLI LEUNG



RUNNING TEA

I wanted to leave; that would've been a disservice to you.

Five days? Only five days?

I owed you much more than that—your eyes told me as much.

You asked me then: “Are you not tired of being sad?”

And still, I stayed. Ever your loyal companion.

On this seventh day: silence.

I get up. I drag myself back down.

Because a loyal dog would stay for an eternity—
past the sunset and daybreak, through the flood, into the ground.

Even if I can't muster a whimper for you,

I'll wait through the hunger until I can.

I stare into the hollows of your eyes.

You ask me: “Are you not tired of being tired?” ...

I want to run. Why should I rot here?

Why should I wait until the rain bores right through me
and the maggots take me too? Why should I stay?

I want to run. The grasses can hold you for me.

The rain can weep the tears I cannot.

The wind can howl in my stead until I return, but right now, I
want to live.

There are daisies in your skull; you are no longer here.

I am running tonight.



