

# The Mirror

New Paltz Middle School Newspaper

Issue Number 1

November 3, 2022

## Student Council Elections

*by Willow Swan*

NPMS is bringing back an old club that was absent last year due to Covid - Student Council. Student Council, which is run by Ms. Conrad, is a club that has a few meeting times throughout the school year. One thing the Student Council could plan is the Co-Recs, an event held at the school that has recently been brought back.

In addition to having the student body give input about different events, the Student Council is electing a President, Vice President, Social Director, and Treasurer. The President and Vice President will work together to represent their grade in decision making, bring together the grade as one, and act as a mentor/leader to all students in their grade. The Social Director will make sure everyone is included and represented in different activities. The Treasurer will keep track of the money and finances of the club.

Students running for a position have to create posters and a speech to win. More rules and information are in the Student Council Google Classroom (there are 3 different ones for different grades). I apologize if there is any misinformation in this article; I wanted to get the word out about the elections a little more, and the best place to find information is your grade's Student Council Google Classroom.

## Game Section

*by Waverly Swan*

Hello readers! I am Waverly Swan and in this section of the Mirror I will be sharing jokes, riddles, online puzzles and games, comic clips, brain teasers, pools and so much more! I will also be posting a link at the bottom of the article for you to share jokes, riddles, online puzzles and games, comic clips, and brain teasers with me! Now... to the fun stuff!

I'm going to start off with a game I enjoy playing: [wordle](#). You've probably heard of it. It's okay if you haven't. In Wordle, you try to guess a five letter word. If the letter is

not in the word, it turns gray. If it is in the word but not in the correct spot, it turns yellow, and if it is in the exact spot in the word it will turn green. Enjoy!

This article joke is:

Q. What do you get when you throw a bunch of books in the ocean?

This article riddle:

Q. You are trapped in a room with three doors. Each door leads into another room. In the first room is a huge poisonous spider, the second is a lion that hasn't eaten in 10 years, the third is a fire. Which room do you go in?

*If you want to guess the answer then put it in the answer form at the bottom of the article you can also request jokes and riddles there too. The first person in each grade to get both the riddle and joke right will get a shout out. It could be you :)*

Here you can click to type in your answers for the joke and riddle and request a joke. It's the same form; just click [here](#).

Sources:

[-https://blog.reallygoodstuff.com/20-kid-friendly-jokes-for-the-new-school-year/nytimes.com/games/wordle/index.html](https://blog.reallygoodstuff.com/20-kid-friendly-jokes-for-the-new-school-year/nytimes.com/games/wordle/index.html)

## Disney and Marvel

*by James O'Sullivan*

### Marvel

Marvel is a superhero based company using comic books, movies and TV to expand their stories of the Marvel universe. Some of their characters you might know are Hulk, Captain America, Iron Man, Thor, Black Widow, Hawkeye, Antman, and The Wasp. These are the main Avengers in the movies and the comic books. The only difference is that in the comics Black Widow and Hawkeye are not in the main Avengers. And in the movies Antman and The Wasp aren't in the main avengers. This depends on the movie or comic book.

### Disney

Disney is a company started by a guy named Walt Disney. It focuses on princesses and magical creatures. Some of their characters include Snow White, Rapunzel, Ariel, and many others. It's just I'm not that big of a Disney fan. In November of 2019 Disney released Disney + and now owns National Geographic (NatGeo), Star Wars, Pixar, and Marvel creating an army of powers and eventually making the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) really bad. And also apparently had already bought Marvel in 2009 and only now have decided to make it really bad.

## My thoughts

Marvel is not bad. It's only Disney that ruined Marvel by introducing characters we don't care about and giving them their own shows.

## Sources:

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/entertainment/2022/07/28/when-did-disney-buy-marvel/10147483002/>

## Awareness of Cancer

*by Grace Goodnow*



Cancer awareness is observed internationally on February 4th. Research has shown more than 40 percent of cancer patients are nearly most of the deaths from cancer in the United States. Cancer targets anyone; race, gender, age or ethnicity don't matter. Sometimes families have a history of getting cancer, but some families have never had it before. It also affects people's looks because they lose their hair from their treatments due to very strong medication or treatment. There are many kinds of cancer, but I will focus on two kinds.

One type of cancer is **lung cancer**. Don't smoke. Not smoking decreases the chance of getting lung cancer. People are at risk also from air pollution, family history, and inhaling bad things like asbestos which is a chemical insulation that was used a long time ago. Cigarettes are not just made with tobacco, they are filled with cancer causing things such as tar. They turn your lungs black, making it hard to breathe. Lung cancer is when there are tumors inside the lungs that have cells growing very fast and spreading.

Another type of cancer is **breast cancer**. This happens when the cells inside the breast grow too fast. There are three areas that the cells can multiply in and this decides what kind of cancer treatment is needed. Most common breast cancer is found in the ducts and lobules. Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in women. It affects mostly women but men can also get breast cancer. It is detected by sore areas or lumps that are found. Prevention for women is yearly mammograms starting at the age of 40 unless they have a family history and then it's younger for testing. When chemotherapy isn't successful, or to eliminate the cancerous areas, women usually have a mastectomy. This is where part of the breast or the entire thing is removed.

Treatment of cancers is different depending on what cancer someone has. There is chemotherapy, which is a very strong medication that is given through an IV,

radiation which is similar to x-rays but a lot stronger, and surgery to remove the areas that are cancerous. As of 2020, there were over 1.8 million deaths from cancer and this number is going up quickly. The most important part to prevent cancer is to be aware of family history and to make sure to check yearly that there isn't anything wrong. Detecting lumps, pain, or things not feeling right is important to starting treatment early and hopefully saving someone's life. People should talk to their doctor right away if they are concerned. Cancer is horrible and has killed so many people that tried so hard to beat it. My grandma had breast cancer and beat it but not everyone is so lucky.

Sources:

1. CDC Breast Cancer Information ([cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov))
2. Mayo Clinic - Breast Cancer ([mayoclinic.org diseases-conditions-breast](https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions-breast))
3. Wikipedia -Lung Cancer ([en.m.wikipedia.org](https://en.m.wikipedia.org))
4. American Association for Cancer Research

## Ostriches

*by Karina Mansilla*

### General information about ostriches

Ostriches are one of the few birds that cannot fly, but they can run very fast and this is one of their features.

The ostriches are big birds. They can grow 9 feet tall and weigh over 350 pounds. As I said, these birds are very fast. They can run up to 43 miles per hour for short periods. Most of the time they run 30 miles per hour. Ostriches live in the African savannah. There ostriches eat seeds, plants and grain. They also munch on insects and small animals.

### Short information:

**Height; weight:** 9 feet tall; over 350 pounds

**Speed per hour:** 43 miles (most of time they run 30 miles)

**Habitat:** African savannah

**Food:** Seeds, plants, grain, insects and small animals

Maybe not the most interesting facts:

- Scientific name: *Struthio camelus*.
- Family name: Struthionidae.
- Classification: Bird.
- IUCN status: Least concern.
- Lifespan (in wild): 30-40 years.

- Weight: More than 150kg.
- Body length: 2.1-2.7m tall.
- Top speed: 70km/h.

Sources: <https://easyscienceforkids.com/all-about-ostriches/>

## Unique Dinosaurs

by Emmett DeGrassi

### Unique Dinosaurs

There were many dinosaurs over time, some looking very similar, due to them being related, and there were some dinosaurs that were different, and weren't related to many other dinosaurs. These dinosaurs had unique features

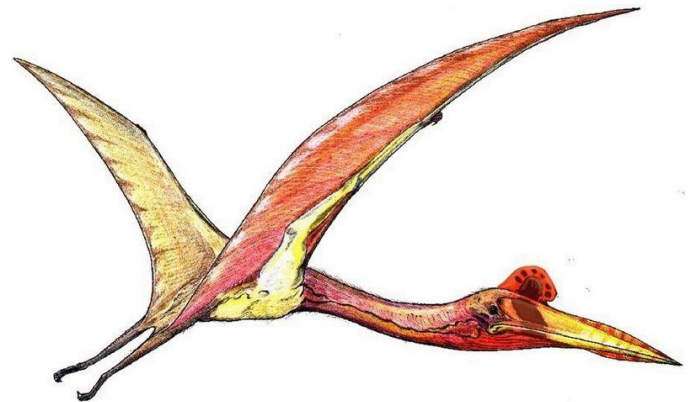
#### Therizinosaurus



Therizinosaurus was a dinosaur that lived in the cretaceous period. It is thought to be a herbivore, although it had claws around 2 to 3 feet in length, and arms around 10 feet in length. This dinosaur is unique because when it was first discovered it was just arms, so it looked like a giant or a beast.

#### Quetzalcoatlus

Quetzalcoatlus, the flying terror, although not exactly a dinosaur, due to it being a pterosaur, was huge. The average adult Quetzalcoatlus was the same size as a giraffe, and would eat small dinosaurs and rodents, which is known from the size of its beak.



#### Shunosaurus



Shunosaurus, a sauropod, had ordinary sauropod traits; it was a large, grazing animal, with a long neck. It was four legged with a smaller head, but this animal had a club similar to Ankylosaurus, except with spikes

similar to the thagomizer and the stegosaurus. These were most likely used for defense against predators or for display for mates.

## Orange Sugar Cookies - A Final Taste of Summer

*by Noah Solano*

These orange sugar cookies are classic sugar cookies with a refreshing orange twist. For even more orange flavor, you can add a delectable orange-rosemary glaze.

### Ingredients

2  $\frac{3}{4}$  cups all-purpose flour  
1 teaspoon baking soda  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon baking powder  
1 cup softened butter  
1  $\frac{1}{2}$  cups white sugar  
1 egg  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract

### Directions

- 1) Preheat the oven to 375 degrees fahrenheit.
- 2) Stir flour, baking soda, and baking powder together.
- 3) Beat sugar, butter, and orange zest together in a bowl.
- 4) Add the egg and vanilla, and beat it all.
- 5) Slowly add in the flour mixture and blend.
- 6) Roll out the cookies and cut them with cookie cutters.
- 7) Put the cookies on a baking sheet and bake for 8-10 min.
- 9) Once the cookies are out, let them cool and enjoy!

Sources: [Allrecipes Easy Sugar Cookies](#), Chelsea Farley

## Halloween

*by Noah Solano*

No matter how old you get, Halloween is a fun day. Disguises, darkness, and all that sugar create an atmosphere like no other. In this article, we'll be discussing all things Halloween, from popular costumes to the origins of this spooky holiday.

Halloween is an insanely popular holiday. The top fifteen most popular Halloween costumes of 2021 were as follows:

- 15) A vampire
- 14) An angel
- 13) A pumpkin

- 12) A pirate
- 11) A cheerleader
- 10) Chucky
- 9) A clown
- 8) A cowboy
- 7) Harley Quinn
- 6) A fairy
- 5) Cruella De Vil
- 4) Spider-Man
- 3) A dinosaur
- 2) A rabbit
- 1) A witch

Were any of these your costume last year?

Costumes are one of the most popular parts of Halloween, but there are many other popular traditions. One is trick-or-treating. Both of these traditions have very interesting origins, which we will further discuss in this article.

Costumes first started during the ancient festival of Samhain. This is a Celtic holiday that will be discussed a lot in this article, as it greatly influenced modern day Halloween. During this holiday, people dressed in animal skins. Later, Samhain was merged with two Roman holidays: Feralia and All Saint's Day. All Saint's Day was eventually replaced with All *Soul's* Day, which included dressing up as saints, angels, and devils. All Soul's Day became All-hallows or All-hallowmas, and the night before was called All Hallow's Eve, and then simply Halloween. Halloween followed immigrants to America, where Americans embraced the spooky holiday. People dressed up in all sorts of creepy costumes.

By the 1920s and 1930s, people began preparing costumes as early as August. These decades also saw the beginnings of pop culture costumes and commercial costume manufacturing (up until this point, costumes were homemade). Post World War II America brought televisions. Because of this, superheroes became popular costumes - something we still see today. In the 1960s, adults started to dress up, too, and childrens' costumes became more fun than scary. However, the 1970s and 80s were riddled with horror films, which brought creepy costumes back into the spotlight. Now we see combinations of all these things: Character costumes are cool. So are scary ones. Pop culture looks are everywhere, particularly with adults.

Another necessary Halloween tradition is trick-or-treating. This can also be led back to Samhain. People originally left out banquets for the spirits; in later centuries,

people dressed as mischievous spirits and went around performing in exchange for food and drink. This was known as mumming.

When All Soul's Day was incorporated into Samhain, poorer people would go from door to door for All Soul's Day and ask for "soul cakes" under the promise that they would pray for the homeowners' late relatives. This later became an activity for children, who would ask for money, food, and ale. In Scotland and Ireland, children had a tradition called "guising". They would sing a song, tell a joke, recite a poem, or do another trick for a treat (typically fruit, nuts, or coins). Guising was done in costume.

Bonfire Day, or Guy Fawkes Day, was an English holiday that commemorated the Gunpowder Plot being thwarted. Children wore masks while going around begging for candy.

While some American colonists celebrated Bonfire Day, immigrants helped popularize Halloween. Soon, teenagers were pulling pranks on Halloween (these could get violent). Some theorize that trick-or-treating was used to stop these pranks. However, this would have stopped quickly during the Great Depression, when there weren't many treats to go around. But post-war, Halloween boomed, and with it, trick-or-treating boomed.

Halloween is a very popular holiday. In 2017, 71.7% of Americans celebrated Halloween. This year, New Paltz, Gardiner, and other surrounding towns have many celebrations planned. These include the Halloween parade (which New Paltz Middle School band students have been invited to perform in), Night of One Hundred Pumpkins, the Haunted Library at the Gardiner Library, many parties, and more! Have fun!

Sources: [USA Today's Google's 'FrightGeist' lists the most popular 2021 Halloween costumes. Is yours one of them](#)), [Google's FrightGeist list](#), [History Channel's Halloween 2022](#), [CNN's From pagan spirits to Wonder Woman: A brief history of the Halloween Costume](#), [History Channel's How Trick-or-Treating Became a Halloween Tradition](#), [Statista's Do you plan to celebrate Halloween or participate in Halloween activities this year?](#)



# Surgeon General's Chilling Statement Freezes Twitter In Its Tracks

by Noah Solano

A lot of people like ice cream. A lot of people like waffles. A lot of people like ice cream in waffle cones. But liking *just* the cone? Not so typical. However, one important American has recently revealed that he prefers ice creamless cones! America's top doctor, the surgeon general, whose name is Dr. Vivek Murthy, posted the following on Twitter on National Ice Cream Cone Day (September 22): "This might be an unpopular opinion, but I love ice cream cones - without the ice cream. Happy #NationalIceCreamDay!"

(A source close to the surgeon general has confirmed for the Mirror that Dr. Murthy eats ice cream cones without the ice cream, meaning that this was not just a publicity stunt.)

Twitter users caused an uproar at this strange statement. One user said "You're a deviant." Another user said "This 'expert' is in charge of US public health." Another doctor, Dr. Eric Feigl-Ding, wrote, "My friend Vivek has more gray hairs than me after 2 years of the pandemic. Someone, please get this man some frozen yogurt or custard for his empty ice cream cone!" Others wondered if Dr. Murthy knows of President Biden's affinity for ice cream. Some even jokingly called for Dr. Murthy's impeachment, while others have stated that "this is serial killer behavior" or "this is a crime" and since Dr. Murthy is surgeon *general* "this is a war crime"!

Many peoples' opinions were just that he likes waffles, with one person Tweeting "Just say you like waffles my man there's nothing wrong with liking waffles." What do you think?

Sources: [US surgeon general sparks horror after sharing 'unpopular' ice cream opinion: 'Impeach', 'Deranged' surgeon general baffles internet with ice cream cone choice](#)

# Ryuu's Backstory

by Zoe Curtis



It's so nice to have some extra time to think in the winter.

\*Rustle\*

My whole life changed after finding out what was behind that bush...

Huh?! What was that? I should check.

Gha!

5 minutes later...

He is stuck enough a fallen tree! He's stuck! He'll suffer if I leave him alone!

Where am I? It seems like I'm inside a building... I've never been inside a building.

Oh good! You're awake! I was worried my name is Rai. What's your name?

I-I... Don't have one...



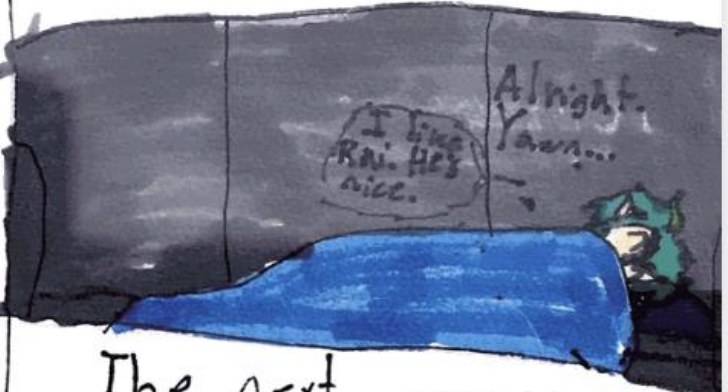
Well then I can give you one. It might take a few days though. Also you're welcome to stay here with me. I can take care of you.



Okay! I never actually had a home before.



I recommend resting. Your leg is hurt, and you have some frostbite.



The next morning...



He's a nice kid. I wonder if he knows any magic... I have to tell him that I'm a wizard...



Good morning. You want breakfast? I can heat your grow in stomach. Can I help you with anything?



\*Sniff\* My leg hurts. It hurts a lot!



Don't cry. I know someone who can help you.

13 minutes later.



Your leg doesn't only have a bad spot on it, it's also broken. That's what is causing the pain.

My leg hurts enough for me not to be able to move it at all...



I have something that can neutralize the pain. It's up to you and Rai.

10-okay. \*yawn\* I just want the pain to go away.



2 days later...



2 He seems to be feeling a lot better, Agapi. I can't help but wonder why his cat's twitch though.



1 twi Ice make sword!



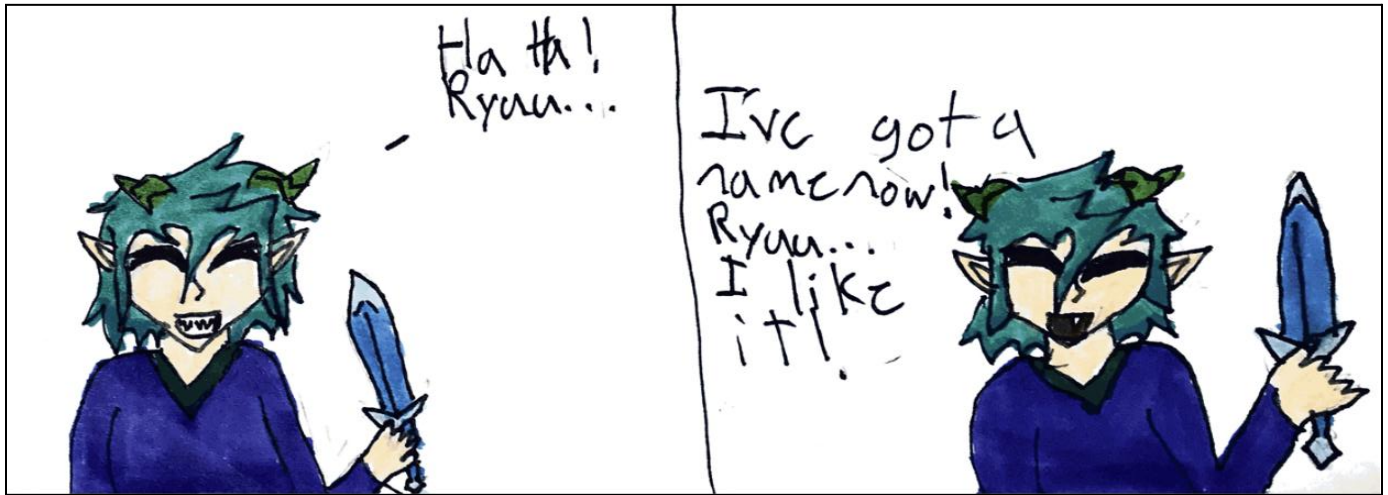
Yeah. I fixed his horn while I was helping him. It made his day. He told me his cat's twitch for multiple reasons, like ice photos, or ice he's a tabby. He's not a cat.

1 Yeah. I thought he didn't know magic...



2 Ryan, I'll name you Ryan!

(3)



How to read my comic instructions:

- 1) If there is a line around the words in a comic picture, someone is narrating.
- 2) If there are multiple lines around what something is saying, they are thinking that.
- 3) Numbers above/next to what someone is saying tells you what to read first.
- 4) My comics DO NOT go backwards from American books (like traditional mangas do).

They go the same way.

Note: My comics are fan art of the show Fairy Tail. I created the characters in my comics, though.

# The Esper Association

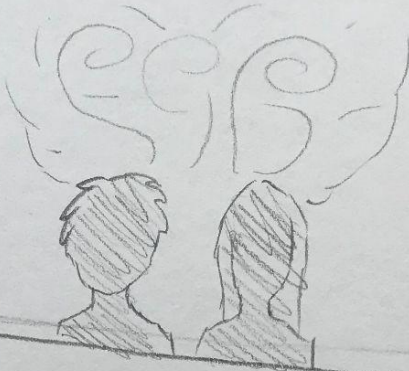
by Jena Chamas

This is  
Earth



The home planet  
to the homo sapien  
species.

Homo sapiens, commonly  
known as humans,  
were normal creatures  
with advanced minds



They were creators  
of so much technology,  
such as cars, factories,  
everyday items, a  
house, food.

Despite everything they  
invented and thought  
of, they were still  
just normal people.



They did not  
posses magical  
ability. They only  
wrote of it in  
fairytales and stories

However, one mind wanted to take it  
one step further.

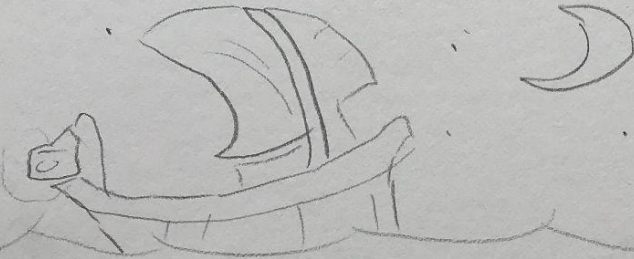
His name was Indexo,  
Son of Albert Einstein.

every day, Indexo would study an ancient story.



It was  
of a  
special  
mushroom  
that  
was said to  
give power  
to whoever  
ate it.

He searched the world for the mushroom



Everyone told him to give it  
up, that it was fake,  
but he wouldn't listen.

He searched every desert, every  
ocean, every forest, every town,  
but he was always unsuccessful.



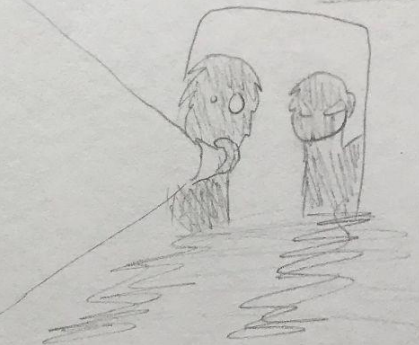
However, on his final  
search, he found the  
mushroom hidden deep  
in a crystal cave.

He was 80 years old  
when he found it, so  
he knew he couldn't  
use it.

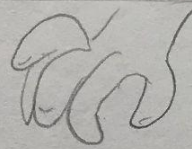
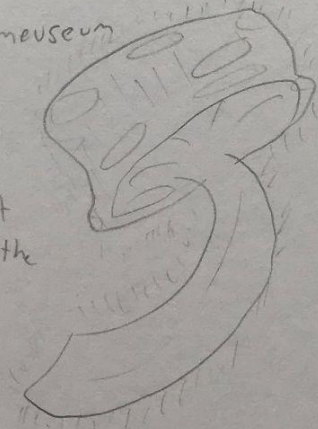
Unfortunately, before he could figure out what to do with it, he had a heart attack and died choking on a cough drop.



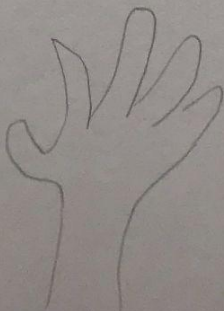
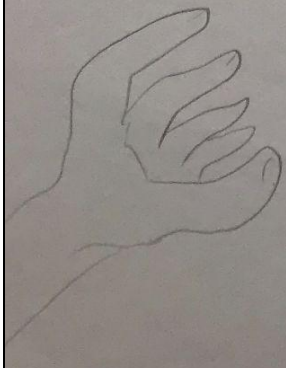
A few decades later, his lab was found in ruins, but the mushroom survived.



But the recognized mushroom from the fairytale, it was sent to be transported to a museum that had strong security, however a thief snagged it before it got to the museum.



The thief sold it for a ton of money, to someone who sold it to someone else, who sold it to someone else, and after all the buying and selling, the mushroom found itself inside a man's belly after a pleasant dinner one evening.





That man's child,



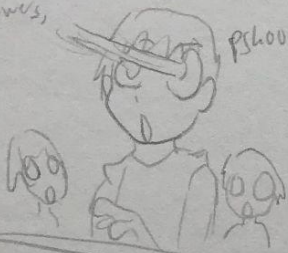
was the very first esper.

Ever since the child was born,



The world changed.

It started when the boy first developed powers,



when he was six, he started to levitate objects and create fire

As the boy continued to use his powers, word spread through social media,



And eventually he became worldwide famous

Breaking News: First Esper Boy



However, fame doesn't necessarily mean good.

That man's child,



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Ever since the child was born,



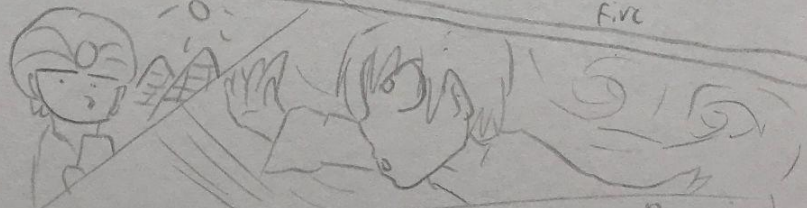
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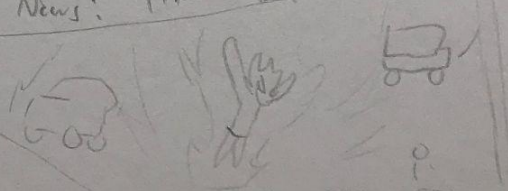
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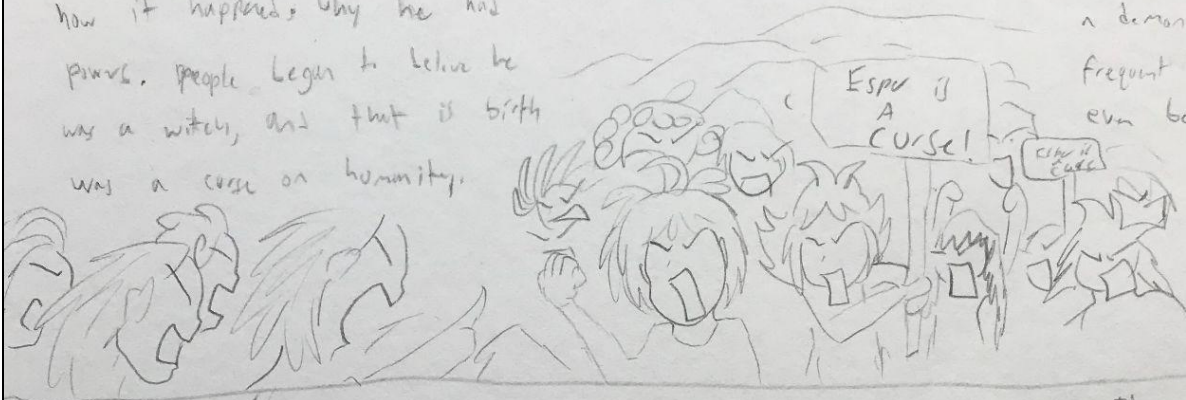
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Breaking News: First Esper Boy



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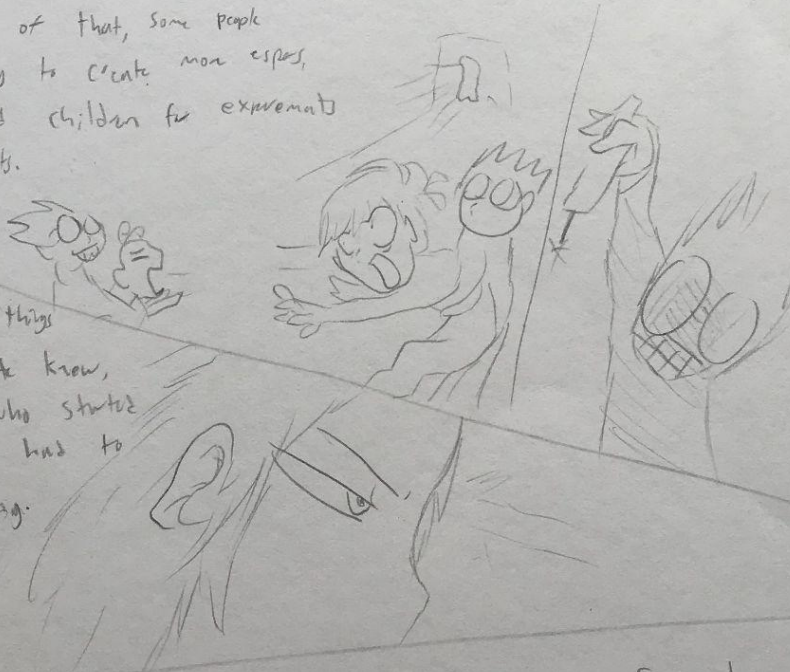
Upon having the first  
esper be born, many questioned  
how it happened, why he had  
powers. People began to believe he  
was a witch, and that his birth  
was a curse on humanity.



Protests broke out,  
People told him he was  
a demon. Fights became more  
frequent than ever. We  
even became a threat.

On top of that, some people  
were trying to create more espers,  
they used children for experiments  
and tests.

The boy  
saw how terrible things  
were getting. He knew,  
as the reason who started  
this, that he had to  
do something.



They were so obsessed  
that they started  
to torture other people  
and do inhuman actions,  
actions that would not  
be named.

So he brainwashed the  
entire world.



Everyone, even his parents,  
had been stripped of their  
memory on espers' existence.

there was still one problem, those people who tried to create espes were successful.



The crazy scientists did not know who their creation was, when the boy brainwashed them.



So the boy took all of the newly-made espes, and created a school on a secret island.

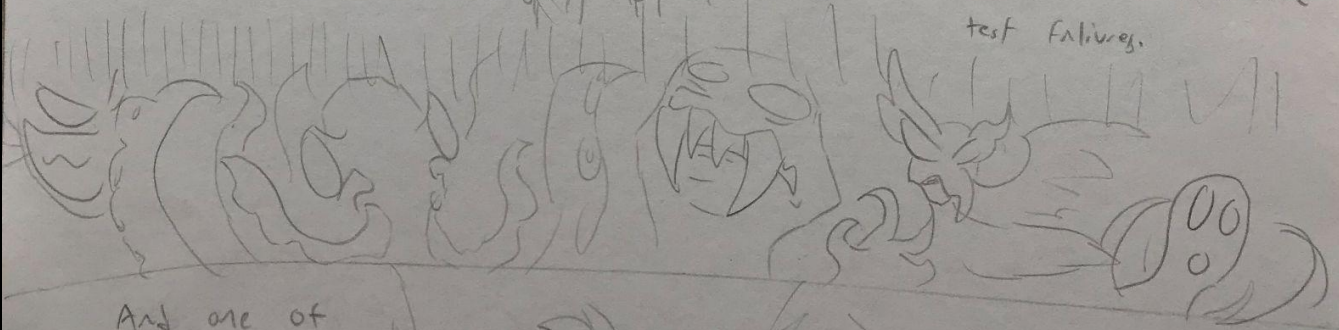


It was called the Esper Association.

The job of all the students in the association was to make sure nobody knew who espes were.



And that meant destroying all of the other creatures those scientist created. The creatures that were test failures.



And one of those students...



was a girl named Vexa.

# CHAPTER 1

