

B A Today

A publication of Bessemer Academy's Creative Writing Class

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FINAL: The Mystery of the Missing Moonstone

by: Warren Rocksvold

The scene had been processed. The trail of blood led back to the master suite where the open safe was discovered. Sure enough, a large, empty ring case was found among the various important looking papers and other valuable objects. Physical evidence such as fibers, blood samples, and fingerprints had been collected and sent to the crime lab for analysis. Now it was time for the clean up crew to come in and for Detective Reperio to call in his suspects.

He started by tracking down the cook, Amanda Eates, for interrogation. Amanda said that she, along with the rest of the usual staff, had known for a while about the upcoming party. She would be given the night off as it would be unlikely she would need to prepare a meal for Mr. Buchanan that evening. The rest of the staff, however, were expected to keep performing their duties. She claimed that she had spent the evening with a friend. Yet she did let slip that there was unrest among the employees of Mr. Buchanan as to their pay and his attitude toward them. Apparently, Mr. Buchanan had been steadily docking the pay of all those in his employ and had become more and more verbally abusive over the past few years. According to her, Mr. Vines had gotten the worst of things as he received the most pay cuts thus far and was becoming more incompetent at his job. There were rumors that he would be fired that upcoming week. Yet these were only rumors, and Mrs. Eates admitted that she feared for her own job. Yet no one would leave for Mr. Buchanan had a habit of making it so those who left his employ would not be able to find another job.

Next, Reperio brought in Joshua Meeks, the butler, for questioning. According to him, Mr. Meeks was allowed to leave for a few hours as Mr. Buchanan usually insisted on getting himself ready for his parties. According to Mr. Meeks, this was because he did not want anyone to have even the slightest chance of discovering the code to his safe. It seemed that the man was highly paranoid when it came to his "vault of secrets." When Mr. Meeks left the estate around 5 pm, Mrs. Eates had already gone, and Mr. Vines was tending the gardens. Ms. Mundi had not yet arrived, as it was apparently her custom to be late. The old butler admitted that he had been looking forward to a night that he did not have to put up with Mr. Buchanan's endless moaning and bitter remarks. The constantly sour attitude was enough to drive anyone crazy. When asked about his whereabouts at the time of the murder, he mentioned a little pub on 5th Street called the Naga's Head and gave the names of three people who could provide an alibi.

Lastly, Detective Reperio called Joseph Vines to get his side of the story. According to Mr. Vines, he was working in the garden until 5:30, at which time he decided to call it quits for the day. He said how he had already received a stiff verbal berating from Mr. Buchanan that day, and since he was the only staff member present at the time, he was in no mood to be the only target of his employer's wrath. He would leave that to "that stupid little prep Mundi." By the time he left the estate, Mundi had still not arrived. Vines claimed to never have entered the house on that day. When asked where he was at the time of the murder, Vines stated that he was neck deep in bumper to bumper traffic.

Detective Reperio sat at his desk in the precinct looking over his notes from all the interrogations. As he began his second re-read of the notes, there was a knock at the door.

"Come in." Adam said.

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Teacher of the Week: Miss Gilbert

by: Tila Vines



This week's teacher of the week is none other than the spunky Miss Gilbert aka Miss G! Miss G teaches middle school math and freshman algebra I. I sat down with her to find out a little bit about her and her exciting news!

Where did you receive your college education?

At UAB with a degree in mathematical reasoning and a minor in education.

Outside of school, what are some of your hobbies?

I enjoy coaching softball, being outside, and spending time with my family.

We all know you big new that you are recently engaged! Tell us a little about your fiancé.

His name is Taylor Griffin. He is currently in nursing school, he enjoys hunting, he likes to work on cars, sing, and he is a gentle giant.

How did you and your fiancé meet?

We met at church when I was five, started dating at age fifteen, and we've been together ever since.

What is something about yourself that most students don't know?

I rode dirtbikes, and I took my boyfriend hunting to kill his first deer.

What's Coming Up

Thursday, May 15

Awards Day 6th-11th

Senior Picnic

Friday, May 16

1st @ 8:00/ 2nd @10:00

Monday, May 19

3rd @8:00/5th@ 10:00

Tuesday, May 20

4th @ 8:00/ 6th @10:00

Wednesday, May 21

7th @ 8:00

Make up @ 10:00

Thursday, May 22

9 am Senior Awards Day

12 pm Senior Luncheon

7 pm Graduation

Tech Talk: The Anti-Aging Protein

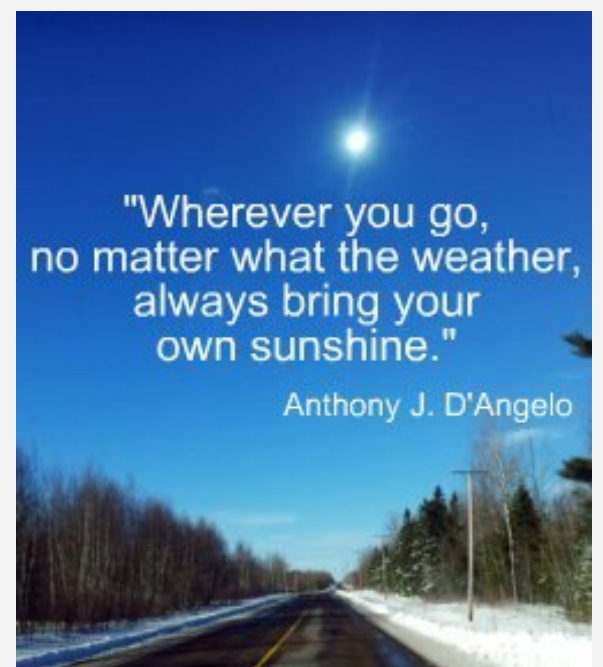
by: iZac

There have been many different fairy tales about the fountain of youth in which the user would suddenly become young again. As science has become highly more advanced over the years, we have dug deep into researching all areas of medicine.

Of course, this has led scientists to search for a way to cure aging or at least reverse it. This led to the discovery of the protein GDF11. GDF11 is a protein which our bodies has when we are younger, but it peters out as we age. GDF11 is now known to help rejuvenate muscles, build new blood vessels, repair damaged hearts, and it helps repair the brain. Scientists have now begun trials on mice, and their research has shown that GDF11 even helps the brain return to more youthful functioning. GDF11 may be part of the cure to aging.

Moving On

by: Tila Vines



As this year is ending, we all are moving on to our next chapter in life. That chapter could be moving up a grade, changing schools, or in my case, college. No matter what chapter is next, we all have our concerns and worries for next year.

What is important to remember is that God is holding your hand all the way through it. No matter how big our fears are, God is bigger. Every fear and thought that goes through our head is not from Him and can be conquered through Him. God has wonderful plans for us in the future instead of our destruction. To fulfill these plans, all we have to do is listen to His word and follow through with what He desire of us.

"I will instruct you and teach you concerning the path you should walk; I will direct you with my eye." Psalm 32:8

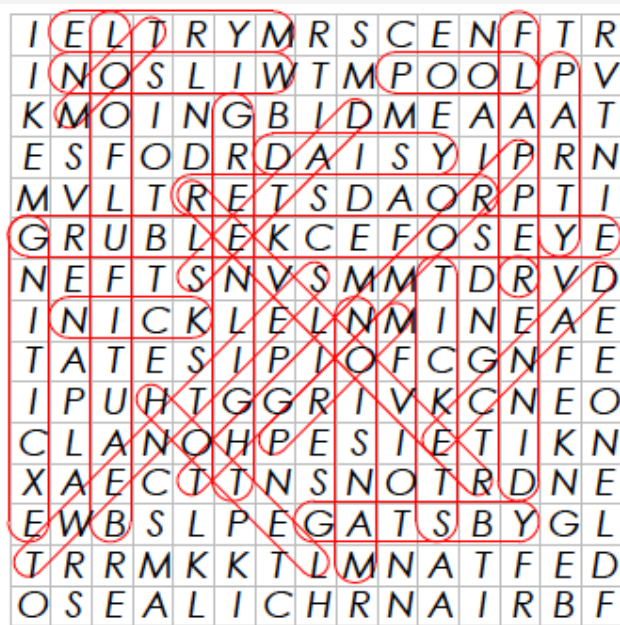
Gamer's Corner:
Call of Duty: Advanced Warfare

by: RJ Coleman



Image courtesy of gamestop.com

Word Search Answers



No peeking!

Just 3 Words

by: Mrs. Ludvik

As part of the final interview of our graduating senior staff members, I asked each one to describe how he or she was feeling with graduation right around the corner.

Describe how you are feeling in just 3 words.

Tila: excited, nervous, brave

Warren: overwhelmed, ecstatic, done

Emily: ready, impatient, irritated

Zac: excited, scared, stressed

RJ: quiet, confident, funny

A very special THANK YOU to Emily Harrison who served as editor as well as layout designer while I was out for surgery and on field trips. I know you didn't do it for praise and accolades or even a mention in the paper, but here is your praise, accolade, and special thank you. Because you are a leader at heart and a go-getter, volunteering to step up and do it came naturally, and you did a fabulous job.

A new era begins now. Developed by Sledgehammer Games, *Call of Duty: Advanced Warfare* harnesses the first three year next gen development cycle in franchise history. *Advanced Warfare* envisages the powerful battlegrounds of the future, where both technology and tactic have evolved to usher in a new era of combat for the franchise. Also, Academy Award winning actor Kevin Spacey stars as Jonathan Irons- one of the most powerful men in the world shaping this chilling vision of the future of war.

In *Advanced Warfare*, the setting takes place in a realistic future in which technological progress and today's military practices have congregated with powerful consequences. Activision has carefully researched and crafted the vision of the future. The PMCs (Private Military Corporations) have become the dominant armed forces for countless nations outsourcing their military needs, redrawing borders, and rewriting the rules of war.

As an Advanced Soldier, you are equipped with a powerful exoskeleton that evolves every aspect of a soldier's battle readiness, enabling combatants to deploy with an advanced lethality and eliminating the need for specialization. The cybernetic exoskeleton lets players achieve boost jumps and grappling, covert cloaking abilities, and biomechanics that provide unparalleled strength, awareness, endurance, and speed. Also, new futuristic gear is provided that includes equipment, technology, perks, and vehicles like hoverbikes and highly specialized drones. These are some of the new features they have added to the Call of Duty franchise. Players will wield weapons that shoot standard ammunition as well as a new class of direct-energy weaponry that enables totally new gameplay dynamics.

All of this comes together to provide a refreshing new take on a Call of Duty gameplay. With the advent of the exoskeleton and newly advanced armor and weaponry, every soldier commands tactical freedom in any terrain unlike ever before, fundamentally changing the way gamers play Call of Duty across all modes.

Parting Words by: Mrs. Ludvik

I had several goals for this creative writing class. I wanted them to 1. have the freedom to write something each person was interested in writing about and 2. create a situation where they needed to use teamwork and personal goals to achieve creating something together. These are all important life skills. After a discussion of all the options, the students decided to write a school newspaper together. It has been my pleasure to teach them about writing, but more importantly, to give them the opportunity to CREATE something of their own choosing. Too often we teachers give out info and expect it to be regurgitated back to us. I love that this special group of students accepted the challenge to lead and not be led, to discover and not just be exposed, and to initiate and not be assigned.

Our graduating seniors are Tila Vines, Emily Harrison, Zac Wade, RJ Coleman, and Warren Rocksvold. I turned the tables on them and interviewed each one for their own parting words.

What's been your favorite part of being a part of this inaugural BA Today Staff?

Tila: It's a very small class. We have had the freedom to be independent with our assignments and to be creative. I got to do something I wanted to do.

Warren: Probably publishing. Putting out new information every week, and it's what I'd like to do in the future, so it's been a great precursor experience.

Emily: Being able to say what I feel like I need to say it.

Zac: Bringing new info to the school, learning what I didn't know and sharing it.

RJ: Doing something that I like- video games.

What advice would you give to next year's BA Today staff if the paper continues?

Tila: Your opinion is important. Don't be embarrassed to say what you want to say. Write about something you are personally interested in.

Warren: Don't forget your deadlines, and always try to out-do yourself. What you thought your standard was, try to expand it each week. Expand your vocabulary. Don't be afraid of big words.

Emily: Make it your own, but remember that you reflect more than just yourself when you are writing for BA Today.

Zac: Make sure to meet your deadlines!

RJ: Be sure to get more involved in the school.

Do you have any parting words for our readers?

Tila: Thank you so much for all the memories! You have all made my high school years memorable. As I look back, I will smile. I wish ya'll good luck in the years to follow. Go Rebels!

Warren: Words, in my humble opinion, are the most inexhaustible source of magic we have. So with that knowledge, please use them well! - Albus Dumbledore

Emily:

Zac: For this being my first and only year here, everyone has been accepting, so it's been a really great year.

RJ: Enjoy your last years in high school.

And in MY parting words, I would like to say that each one of you holds a special place in my heart. I will always treasure the special times AND LAUGHTER we have had together!