

Y² M

YOUNG MENSAN MAGAZINE

YOUR FAVORITE
HOBBIT NAMES

ASK AN M:
PRACTICAL ADVICE
FROM YOUNG
MENSANS LIKE YOU!

IF ART HAD LEGS
IT WOULD BE
FASHION



I WISH FOR
LUCK!

TABLE OF CONTENTS TOC

3 BOOKSHELVES
BY MARILLA H.

4 BIRTHDAY PRESENT
BY NICHOLAS I.

5 THE MAGIC OF THE NUTCRACKER SEASON
BY INDIA B.

6 Your Voice

8 Bright Light

10 Creative Space

14 Book Reviews

17 Puzzles

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FROM THE EDITOR



Welcome to the first issue with our brand new name! Do you like it? We're pretty excited about it ourselves! *YM² (Young Mensan Magazine)* will have all the same wonderful stuff you've come to expect from *FRED* with some fun changes thrown in as well. You'll notice our new advice column, "Ask an M", and RandoM, the section where you send in all those fun, random facts you find and never know who to share them with.

This issue focuses on luck, and as luck would have it, Isabella T. of Lone Star Mensa was the Young Mensan who won the box of Lucky Charms (we

drew her name from all of the people who submitted for the issue). We got some interesting responses to our survey on luck, and you'll definitely want to make your voice heard on our new survey.

Our next issue will be All about Ancestors, so we want to hear from you about your favorite stories and traditions that involve your ancestors (you can count your parents, even!). What memories do you have about grandparents, great-grandparents, even your own immediate family? When did your family come to the United States? Where did they settle? What foods and traditions do you still have in your family that trace back to your roots? Who are you named after?

We get lots of questions about what kinds of things Young Mensans can send in to be printed in the magazine, and so here are some ideas: jokes, stories, poems, articles about things you're doing, responses to our theme (see above), random facts, questions for our advice columns, pictures you drew or photographed or anything else you think may interest other YMs.

Send your submissions to YMMagazine@us.mensa.org by March 15th for inclusion in the next issue. ■

ASK AN **M**



? Ask an M is our new advice column with questions and answers written by Young Mensans. Have a question? Send it in to YMagazine@us.mensa.org with "Ask an M" in the subject line. Want to be just a little bit famous? We are also looking for a boy Young Mensan to answer questions that come in (we have a girl answerer already, and we'd like to make sure our advice is balanced), so if you would like to be a regular here at YM2 (and you're a boy), let us know! You will be responsible for giving thoughtful answers to the questions that come in.

Q: At school, I never know whether or not to tell people I'm in Mensa. When is a good time to share that?

A: You don't want to brag about being in Mensa, because it could make others that aren't a part of Mensa feel bad. A good time to tell people that you are in Mensa is when it comes up. When you are talking to friends or a teacher about what clubs you belong to, that is an excellent time to say that you are a part of Mensa. You could also mention that you are a part of Mensa to your other gifted friends. Letting them know what a great experience you are having in Mensa might make them want to join as well. Also, when filling out an application to get into a certain club or school, mentioning that you are a part of Mensa might be something extra for your application. ■

Q: I have trouble following along when other people are reading out loud because they go so slowly. My teachers make me do it, though. How can I handle that?

A: When another student reads too slowly for you, no one can really change how the student reads. You just have to follow along as best as you can. On the bright side, you will completely understand what they are talking about!

Do you have a question you'd like answered? We've got other YMs standing by, ready to share their advice with you. Would you like another perspective on something that's troubling you with school, homework, siblings, other family, friends, teachers, or anything else? Send them to us! If you see advice printed that you'd like to add to, we'll take that, too! Send your questions or comments to YMagazine@us.mensa.org.



Have you ever had the experience of finding some random, strange fact and you just wanted to share it with someone? Well, here's your opportunity! Young Mensans love random facts, and we want to read yours. Please send them to YMMagazine@us.mensa.org with "randoM" in the subject line. We can't wait to see what you come up with!

RANDOM

Here are some randoM facts to inspire you.



- Forest fires move faster **uphill** than downhill.
- People use an average of 57 sheets of **toilet paper** per day.
- A person who owns geese is called a **gizzard**.
- Poop is 75% **water** (approximately).
- Thomas Edison was afraid of the **dark**.
- If you were to spell out numbers, you would have to go until **1,000** until you would find the letter "A."

How random is that? .

HU **M**OROUS



? This is the jokes section of our magazine, and we'd love to have you share jokes you think are funny because one of the best things about being a Young Mensan is having other people get your jokes!

If you would like to send us a joke to include, please email it to YMMagazine@us.mensa.org with "huMorous" in the subject line.

Two atoms are walking down the street when one atom says "Oh no, I just lost an electron!" The other atom says "Are you sure?" The first atom says, "I'm positive!"

What did Bach and Beethoven become after they died?
Decomposers.

Never trust an atom. They makeup everything.

What do you get when you cross the Atlantic with the Titanic?
About half way.

Argon walks into a bar. The bartender says "We don't serve noble gasses here!" Argon doesn't react.

What do you call a 5 ft. psychic that's just escaped from jail? A small medium at large.



As you may remember, our last issue was all about holidays. Two of our wonderful submissions didn't get included, and we're lucky to have them here!

YMM² ASKS:

What's your favorite holiday tradition?

HALLOWEEN TRADITIONS

Andrew R. ■ age 14 ■ Southern Connecticut Mensa

We celebrate many holidays at our home, but our family favorite is always Halloween. For as long as I can remember my parents, older sister and brother, and I have worked to set up a haunted house in our front garage. Every year, right after we have completed one haunted house, we begin discussing the theme for next year's. We have had a jungle theme, a pirate theme, and an alien theme to name a few. Last year we had a 60's theme complete with my dad's jukebox and old Mustang convertible. Each year we expand a little bit more. We used our boat as a prop in the yard one year. We covered it in cobwebs and skeletons wearing pirate accessories. A strobe light and music finished it off. While we all love planning out our haunted house, my dad really gets into Halloween. He has a gorilla costume that he wears almost every year. When we were in grade school, he would put it on and drive us to school in his convertible. Every September boxes start arriving on our doorstep with new props and costumes for the big day. My mom says we have more Halloween decorations than we do all other holidays combined. We have fog machines, crystal balls, remote control animals and witches, countless masks and costumes, lights and basically enough things to decorate the whole neighborhood. Every October we pull all the boxes out and open them up. The grand plan begins to take shape as we sort and create. By Halloween afternoon we are working full speed to finish our job, and we get into our costumes. Finally, we are ready to greet the trick-or-treaters. People come year after year to see our haunted house. It has become as much of a tradition for them as it has for us. And as with any tradition, the best part is doing it together as a family.

MAKING MEMORIES ON CHRISTMAS EVE

Isabella N. ■ age 10 ■ Greater New York Mensa



Every year my family celebrates Christmas Eve at my house. When I wake up on Christmas Eve morning my Dad makes luscious, fluffy pancakes. My mom, dad and I eat them all up. They're delicious! After breakfast, my dad and I play Christmas carols and dance to a swing version of "Frosty the Snowman."

We do it every year, it's a family tradition. Then we cuddle up under our fleece blanket and watch a Christmas movie like "The Grinch Who Stole Christmas." Once the movie is over my mom and I clean the house and put out candles. We have a special Christmas Eve candle that smells like fresh baked sugar cookies. We make the final touches to our Christmas tree like adding shiny, peppermint candy canes.

Next, we prepare some of the food. We make every dish imaginable! From seafood to salad! Then my mom, dad and I get dressed. My mom buys me a gorgeous dress every year just for Christmas Eve. My mom curls my hair and puts it up with sparkling crystal clips. She only uses them for special occasions. My dad puts on a crackling fire and he uses logs that burn cool blue.

My mom and I touch up the house. We want everything to be perfect for every guest. I wait by the door for the guests. It seems like forever until they arrive. I welcome each and every person inside. When everyone has arrived we sit on the couch and talk, laugh and tell jokes. We all end up cracking up. We sing Christmas carols and dance together. Everyone eats all the appetizers.

We put on old videos of ourselves and end up laughing even more! We look at old family pictures too! Everyone looks at the tree and compliments our variety of ornaments. We have an amazing "Harry Potter" train that circles our tree too! We take turns taking family pictures together by the tree.

When it is time for dinner everyone stuffs themselves! We have lots of delicious foods! My mom buys a seafood platter every year. The platter is always a hit. After dinner I put on a violin concert for everyone. I play Christmas songs like "We wish you a Merry Christmas." I get lots of applause. Then we open gifts and take turns passing our gifts around. We admire and use our gifts. Then we scurry to the computer and huddle around to track Santa Claus. We look at all the places he's been and where he is. Everyone tries to figure out how long it will take before Santa comes to New York.

When it's time for dessert, we all run into the room to see the goodies. There are cookies, cakes, brownies, and my dad's special homemade mint chocolate chip ice cream. Everyone eats his special ice cream. It's creamy and made like no other ice cream! When we're done devouring everything in sight we sit by the warm fire. We all talk together. When we get tired we turn on a movie to watch. After the movie I head up to bed with my mom. I crawl into bed. My mom and I listen to the chatter of the guests. I fall asleep knowing that every Christmas Eve is different and amazing. ■

IF **ART** HAD LEGS, IT WOULD BE FASHION

BY ISABELLA T. ■ AGE 11 ■ LONE STAR MENSA



I have always loved fashion. But, after going to a summer camp on fashion design & sewing three years and a half years ago, my interest grew. With encouragement and support from my family, I have developed a clothing line that caters to tweens. Currently, I have a resort collection, a fall collection, and a new evening collection. I am directly inspired by my art and that influences my fashion design. Here is one of my couture pieces that I am currently working on along with my painting “Winter Roses” that directly inspired this dress.

My tagline is *“If art had legs, it would be fashion.”*

Travel has also played a tremendous part in what I create and how I am influenced. I have been fortunate enough to travel to various countries like South Africa, Iceland, Canada, England, Turkey and Mexico. I have always been fascinated by the unique fashion sensibilities of other cultures.

When I am not painting or designing I really enjoy reading and writing, especially poetry. I’ve written hundreds of poems, several of them being published right here in FRED. I am very grateful and fortunate to have participated in local and international poetry competitions.

I truly believe in pursuing your passions at any age!

Currently my paintings are available at **Kristy Stubbs Gallery** in Highland Park Village and online, and my fashion can be obtained exclusively online at www.isbellarosetaylor.com You can visit my blog at: www.isbellart.wordpress.com. ■

Art has always played an enormous role in my life. I cannot remember a time when I did not want to create something. Though I am eleven-years-old, I have been painting since I was three. I’ve been selling my paintings for a few years. The sales have helped raise funds for several charitable organizations. For the most part I, consider myself an impressionistic and abstract painter. I especially like the works of Willem de Kooning and Cy Twombly. For me, painting is practically a daily occurrence. It inspires me to try different mediums and that is what lead me into the world of fashion design.

STORY!

SPOOKY'S

MONSTER POTION

BY SKY S. ■ AGE 7 ■ MENSA ALASKA

Spoooky is a monster who lives in a slimy cave deep in the woods of an alien planet called "Mensa". His cave smells like rotten banana peels and smoked bat wings. Spooky thinks it smells out-of-this-world! Spooky is green and has three little white horns on the top of his head. He loves practicing his magic. He can turn macaroni and slime into soft mushy worms. He is trying to turn monster coins into squirting slime. For the annual Halloween Festival, he wants to amaze his magic teachers by creating some scary, stinky witches.

His friends Gooley and Bubba came over after school to help him with his Halloween project.

"Mr. Lorcan thinks you can complete the spell if you use more nerd brains in your potion," laughed Gooley.

"Very funny," Spooky mumbled.

Bubba took a dusty monster coin off his shelf and threw it high up into the air. When the coin hit the cave floor, it exploded and green slime splattered out! A drop fell into the cauldron and caused the potion to begin to heat up. Brown gassy bubbles began to boil and the smell of stinky feet permeated the air.

Bubba snickered, "Looks like you aced your coin spell!"

Spooky winced, "Yeah, but so much for my scary witch spell!" I wish this potion would have created the greatest witch in the land of Mensa!"

All three agreed that it was a good time to take a break from magic practice.

Bubba asked, "Swimming anyone?"

The back of Spooky's cave sported a huge underground pond. And the monster boys took off running for water. They liked to pretend that they were monster pirates while floating on their snapping alligators.

"First one there is a troll," said Gooley.

The pond was beautiful. Lush plants grew along the edges as sunlight streamed through a hole in the cave's roof. The circular opening also allowed flying creatures to fly in and visit.

While swimming, Spooky completely forgot about his witch potion. And by the time the monster boys had finished drying off, Spooky barely had enough time to get to the table. His mother was already complaining that his dinner---whipped snail and cheese sandwiches---was getting warm. He sat down and ate quickly, and then remembered his potion brewing.

He ran back to his laboratory and saw that the cauldron had turned from brown to pink! And the pot smelled of flowers and sweet candy. YUCK!

"This brew is stinking up my room," he thought while pinching his nose with his fingers. He held his breath and whipped the brew that spilled to the floor.

Spooky didn't notice his pet lizard, Lazarus, lying near the puddle of brew. He tripped on Lazarus' spiky tail and let out a scream as he fell into the monster brew! Stuck inside the pot his eyes stung, his head hurt, and his skin was starting to glow.

Spooky griped, "I wish this spell would have worked! Now I stink like flowers and I'm still no closer to my Halloween Festival project."

Suddenly, he felt something twitching in the pot with him. Something had moved! He shrieked in horror! When he opened his eyes, he saw a pink girl; a little witch with green hair smiling at him. Spooky froze and was completely shocked.

She smiled at him and said, "Hello, my name is Sky!" Spooky's eyes widened with amazement and he leaped out of the pot!

"It worked!" he shouted. "I am a genius!"

"You wished me here Spooky, and here I am!"

Spooky was so thrilled, the monster roared with laughter. Sky jumped out of the pot and began to twirl around the room. She was whimsical and smart. She glowed with happiness. Spooky had expected witches to be scary and frightening. But Sky was the furthest thing from scary--she was nice and she made Spooky laugh with her magic and her jokes.

"Would you like to be my guest at the Halloween Festival tomorrow night?" asked Spooky.

"It would be my pleasure," said Sky.

Sky was a big hit at the Halloween festival! He was so proud to bring Sky as his guest. She performed an amazing magic show. She made trolls and goblins appear. Human too! Sky even gave students rides on her magic broom!

When Gooley and Bubba saw Sky at the Festival, they clapped him on the back and congratulated him on a great project!

Spooky and Sky became the best of friends. As for her smell, the scent of flowers was now his favorite. His friendship was the greatest magic of all! ■

MENSA'S YOUNG WONDER



This past December, at the CNN Heroes All-Star Tribute Awards in Los Angeles, nine-year-old Will Lourcey received a very special honor. He was named CNN's first Young Wonder for pioneering a charitable group dedicated to helping a local food bank to fight the issue of hunger.

After coming home from a Little League game, Will saw a homeless man with a sign that read "Need A Meal" and he told his mother he wanted to do something to help. Shortly thereafter, Will began the group, FROGS, which stands for Friends Reaching Our Goals. Attesting to Will's outstanding accomplishments and great personality, Bo Sodergerh, direction of the Tarrant Area Food Bank commented "I think

every time you meet Will, you look at him and you say, are you kidding me? But together with his buddies, they have raised over \$20,000, or the equivalent of 100,000 meals."

When introducing Will to the audience, news anchor, Anderson Cooper, humorously declared, "By the time he's 12 we're all going to be working for him. I guarantee you."

We here at YM2 congratulate Will for being a young Mensan who is using his intellect to benefit those in need. Keep up the fantastic work! ■

(website referenced: <http://transcripts.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/1212/25/se.04.html>)



CALLING ALL MATHEMETICIANS!

WRITE A WITTY WORD PROBLEM!

Leary the Leprechaun is trying to find his way to the end of the rainbow, and he needs your help! Leary is a huge fan of math (I mean, really, who isn't?), and he knows that the only way to get home is with a lucky word problem. That's where you come in! Leary has enlisted the help of Young Mensans to create a word problem that includes him and a rainbow (or the pot of gold at the end of it).

HOW DOES THE CONTEST WORK?

Create a word problem that will help Leary find the end of the rainbow, and it will be judged on the following criteria:

1. The problem is solvable
2. Math operations challenging for age (each entrant's age will be considered)
3. Creativity/originality
4. Incorporates both Leary the Leprechaun AND the rainbow or pot of gold into the problem

THE PRIZE

There will be three divisions, each with its own prize.

- 7 & Under Division: Think Fun Math Dice Junior
- 8 - 12 Division: Set game
- 13 & Up Division: Sumoku game

Submit your problem by emailing it to
GiftedYouth@americanmensa.org

DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 28, 2013

LUCKY

LIMERICKS



IN HONOR OF THIS LUCKY ISSUE, we go to the land of luck – the Emerald Isle of Ireland – to find a quirky poem tradition called “limericks.” Limericks aren’t very old as poetic forms go, and they were popularized by Irish poet Edward Lear who wrote over 200 of them.

HERE’S ONE OF LEAR’S LIMERICKS:

There was an old man with a beard,
who said, “It is just as I feared!
Two owls and a hen
four larks and a wren,
have all built their nests in my beard!

HERE’S A PERFECT LIMERICK FOR YOUNG MENSANS:

There once was a young lady named bright
Whose speed was much faster than light
She set out one day
In a relative way
And returned on the previous night.

- Anonymous

Want more information on how to write a limerick? Visit this site bit.ly/UL0ghE. If you write a limerick you’re willing to share, send it in to us! We’d love to publish it! Email us at YMmagazine@us.mensa.org. ■

AND THE SURVEY SAYS...

The results of our Just Your Luck Survey are in, and Young Mensans have some strong feelings about luck! Here’s what you said:

What do you do for luck?

■ Every single YM who responded crosses his or her fingers for luck. Carrying something that someone else gave you was also very popular (75%), as was wearing a particular item of clothing and praying (both garnered a respectable 50%). Rubbing something was less popular (25%), and you’re a clean bunch – no one leaves something unwashed to feel more lucky!

Which of the following do you think is MOST lucky?

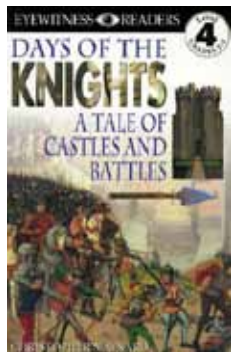
■ Four-leaf clover was the big winner, with 57% of the respondents agreeing that they are lucky. The humble penny came in second with 29%, and religious medals rounded out the lucky charms with 14%. No one thought rabbit’s feet were lucky (perhaps they were looking at it from the rabbit’s point of view).

Which of the following do you think is the MOST unlucky?

■ Young Mensans agree you should steer clear of the number 13 and avoid opening an umbrella inside. Walking under a ladder, spilling salt, or seeing an owl during daylight also gives you pause. Black cats can celebrate – you didn’t think they were unlucky at all, and broken mirrors were not a worry, either.

Have your voice heard! Participate in our next survey on your ancestors and family at <http://bit.ly/ancestorsurvey>. The survey will only be open until March 15, so hurry over!

Looking for something new to read? Here are a few books our Young Mensan book reviewers recommend.



DAYS OF THE KNIGHTS

by Christopher Maynard

Review by Rami P., age 7, Broward Mensa

This is an adventure story of Thomas and his life growing up in the days of castles and knights. Thomas grew up watching and admiring the ways of the castle knights. Thomas decided when he grew up he would like to become a knight. His life was filled with many adventures as he grew up. Part of becoming a knight was to joust in a tournament and Thomas was so skilled he won! Thomas caught the attention of the king who made him his favored knight and granted him permission to build a castle of his own. Thomas married Lady Elaine and they lived very happily in their new castle. I liked this story very much since it showed the difference between lifestyles today and medieval times. It is a story filled with adventure and the pictures are amazing! It is a great book and I learned a bit of history. I also learned quite a bit of how castles were built. Reading this book made me realize that life is much easier and better for kids today!

4 stars



FRENCH DUCKS IN VENICE

by Garret Freymann

Review by Isabella S., age 7, San Francisco Regional Mensa

The book *French Ducks in Venice* is about a wonderful friendship between Polina, a Russian Dress Maker, and Georges and Cecile, two French duck siblings who live in Venice, California. The magical friendship between talking ducks and talented clothes designer Polina was painted throughout the book softly and calmly as if looking at a beautiful watercolor painting.

At the beginning of the story Polina lived in a small and charming bungalow happily with her boyfriend, Sebastian. Polina made beautiful dresses everyday and her two French duck friends visited her everyday to admire her out-of-the-world creations. The

ducks called Polina a Russian Princess for her majestic creations.

But, one day, Polina lost her inspiration because her boyfriend, Sebastian, left her to make movies in L.A. Polina was too sad to create any more dresses. Her royal friends, George and Cecile were also sad for her. The two French ducks try to encourage Polina, but nothing worked.

Finally, George decided to take on a journey to find an inspiration for Polina. After searching all over the world, George finally brought Polina a golden and soothing light as a gift. The gift helped Polina to regain strength and inspiration to create beautiful dresses again.

My favorite part of the book was a dreamy illustration by Erin Mcquire. McGuire captured the beauty of the canal city, Venice along with gorgeous designs on dresses.

This book would definitely appeal to the girls who appreciate beauty, independence, and strength. I think that girls age between 8 and 13 would mostly enjoy this book.

Definitely four stars and up!



DRAGON SLIPPERS

by Jessica Day George

Review by Emerson O., age 10, GLAAM

When Creelisel (Creel) Carlburn's evil aunt sends her to be eaten by a dragon, her whole life changes. She is given a magic pair of slippers from the brown dragon named Theoradus. She is safely let go from the dragon's cave when she starts her journey looking for work. Along her journey she meets a prince, Ulfrid, and the spoiled Roulaini princess named Amalia. When she finds work in a dress shop and has worked for a few days, Amalia comes in to the shop for a scarlet sash ribbon. No one can find it, so Creel finds it and brings it out. When the princess sees Creel's shoes she demands to have them, but Creel refuses. A few mornings later she wakes up to find that they are gone. She finds out that the shop seamstress has stolen the shoes and given them to Amalia. Creel soon discovers the slippers can be used to control all dragons within 200 miles. Amalia uses them for evil and starts a war. Creel has to go on an adventure to stop the war.

Other kids would like this book because the author has created a cool world and kids would want to be a part of it.

My favorite part was when Creel meets Shardas, a big gold dragon who later becomes part of Amalia's war.

I think ages 8-13 would like this book. I think mostly girls would like it because it has a romantic aspect.



THE KING OF QUIZZICAL ISLAND

by Gordon Snell

Review by Josie B., age 8, North Texas Mensa

The book was about a King who thought the earth was flat but then he learned that it was round instead. I think other kids would enjoy this book because it offers a fun way to learn that

the earth is round. My favorite part was when the King came back and learned that the Earth was round. I think the book is special because it teaches kids that the Earth is round in a unique way. Boys and girls from six to eight years of age would enjoy it. I give this book five stars.



THE FAIRY-TALE PRINCESS

(SEVEN CLASSIC STORIES FROM THE ENCHANTED FOREST)

by Su Blackwell

Review by Vivian C., age 12 Orange County Mensa

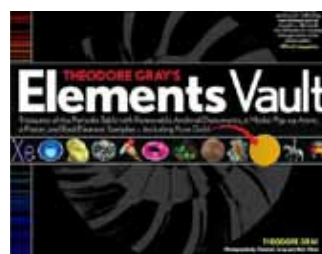
The book *The Fairy-Tale Princess* (Seven Classic Stories from the Enchanted Forest) was a collection of classic fairy tales retold in great detail by the author Su Blackwell. There were seven of these fairytales: Cinderella, The Frog Prince, The Twelve Dancing Princesses, The Princess and the Pea, Snow White, Rapunzel, and Sleeping Beauty.

I definitely think that others would enjoy this book. One of the reasons would be the unique illustrations made of words and paper. It was a clever idea to do that with the pictures. But the pictures would be the least of the reasons that others would enjoy this book. It is a classic, whimsical collection of tales that many can clearly relate to. These stories and their lavish re-tellings could transform anyone into a dreamer. The author paints a beautiful, descriptive picture with her words throughout the book. These stories would be exceptional bedtime stories for young children but could also be enjoyable quick-reads for older children and even adults. For adults, these stories would remind them of when they were a child caught up in the world of fantasy. This book would also be enjoyed by others because of the wonderful morals it contains that condemn cruelty and promote kindness, intelligence, and honoring one's promises. Lastly, this book would be enjoyed by many because of the magical events it contains. These events make it interesting and fun to read.

I believe that all ages would love this book but that girls would enjoy it more than boys. I believe that all ages would love this book because fairy tales are classic and timeless. There is really no age limit on them. The only drawback is that there are a couple parts that are a bit violent, like the huntsman in Snow White killing the deer, and there is a mention of death in Sleeping Beauty. But I

read all of the stories in this book when I was about four and had no real problem with these small bits of violence, so it is my belief that they wouldn't be that big of a deal. And some teenagers might shy away from it because they find it "childish" but half of them would most likely pick it up and read it after their friends had walked away. But the main audience of this book would be young girls (2-6 years old) who were having it read to them by their parents. I believe that girls would enjoy these stories more than boys because they are generally the type to enjoy classic fairy tales and description of objects like sparkling dresses and jeweled trees. Boys are more interested in other types of stories generally.

To conclude, I would give this book a five-star rating out of five. I really enjoyed this spin on the classic fairytales Cinderella, The Frog Prince, The Twelve Dancing Princesses, The Princess and the Pea, Snow White, Rapunzel, and Sleeping Beauty. I hope that the author, Su Blackwell, will retell other fairy tales and write many children's books in the future!



ELEMENTS VAULT

by Theo Gray

Review by Adam W., age 16 GLAAM

The years of work that went into this book truly make it a masterpiece of literary art.

While this book may be a stunning work of art, it does not do so well on the practical side of actually learning the table of elements; the information given for each of the elements leads to a very trivial understanding (at least from a chemist's point of view) of the substance at hand. The book also relays the information in pseudo technical terms, so to a person who has no idea about anything chemistry, this book can be quite confusing. I am currently in a high school honors chemistry class and after reading through the technical information provided within this book, I can honestly look back and say that a good portion of the information is trivial when actually talking about chemistry. For example, when talking about Gold, the book says, "gold is even denser than silver, and copper, softer, and even easier to deform," which gives some technical information, but it also says, "Gold is the most expensive of the coinage metals, and has been widely used for money and jewelry almost since the time those concepts originated," which, in my opinion, is rather trivial and well known.

Even so, this book is a fantastic read and is well worth the cost due to the amazing photography, fun pull out reading aids, and real samples of the elements. If you happen to be a hardcore chemistry enthusiast, or a high school honors student, this book is not for you other than decoration; the book merely scratches the surface of what chemistry is all about. This book is more of a collector item than a thorough overview of chemistry. All in all, this is the kind of book that just might inspire someone to get into this field. Over all I would rate this book a 3 out of 5 for high school students and 4 out of 5 for children being introduced into the world of chemistry. ■



SPRING HAS SPRUNG PHOTO CONTEST

WE WANT TO SEE WHAT SPRING LOOKS LIKE IN YOUR NECK OF THE WOODS!

Take a picture of spring in all its glory, and share it with us. Send your JPEG files to GiftedYouth@americanmensa.org (subject: Spring has Sprung Contest) or mail printed photos to

Spring has Sprung Contest
1229 Corporate Drive West
Arlington, TX 76006

PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED IN FIVE CATEGORIES:

- Landscape
- Animals
- People
- Creatively altered (with Photoshop or other software)
- Under 6 years old

PRIZES:

Winners in each category will receive their choice of the following:

- \$15 iTunes gift card or
- age/ability-appropriate photography book

RULES:

- photograph must be taken by the Young Mensan (no parents/siblings/etc.)
- maximum of two submissions per Young Mensan
- the photo must be an original, un cropped image (submissions in Creatively Altered category may be cropped) with a minimum of 300 dpi
- photographs become the property of American Mensa® and may be used by American Mensa in internal publications, publicity, or other use, with name of photographer used only by permission of parent or guardian of photographer

DEADLINE: MAY 31ST, 2013

ALL PARTICIPANTS WILL RECEIVE A CERTIFICATE OF PARTICIPATION.

NAME THE HOBBIT

Young Mensans were recently asked to submit their ideas for names of new hobbits to reside in Hobbiton. Here are their ideas. Which are your favorites?

Vrondel Somersshine
-TIANA F., AGE 17

Piper Baggins
-ROB R., AGE 9

Ripol Dain
Bombo Fillcho
Zamolda Baggins
-DAIN R., AGE 11

Gaaron Took
Barronz Baggins
- JARRED M., AGE 12

Fredmund Bellawise
Jadokien Bellawise
Bramthwar Bellawise
-MICHAEL M., AGE 12

Bobbit Baggins
Criek Chubb
Silverin Goldworthy
-SAM T., AGE 13

Bonswire Knotbuckle
Teesha Fasburr
Lackly Bumbleroot
-AUBREY Z., AGE 11

Cluain Spillan
Fir Mulloy
Alainn Spillan
-AMELIA C., AGE 10

Balfara Brandybuck
-ANNABELLE H., AGE 13

Mordal Baggins
Purplin Gangee
Leebling Yongun
-RAYMOND B., AGE

Killjin Potter
-BRODY D., AGE 7

Penelope Took
Molle Baggins
- CADENCE C., AGE 7

Fourmoonzaputo Baggins
Pewto Baggins
Rueto Baggins
-ISAAC H., AGE 6

Colsen Greenholm
Gropper Bearhan
Turker Treehill
-ALYSSA G., AGE 7

Fern Brandybuck
Hairy Proudfoot
Brogo Baggins
-EKATERINA P., AGE 7

Kopper Took
Aloosa Grasser
Hahacks Harfoot
-KYLE G., AGE 13

Squashbuckle Hornblower
Puffin Brandybuck
Quirdle Bracegirdle
-ROWAN K., AGE 9

Sendof Quickshire
Wobli Wobbit
Yo-yo Gameshire
-UMAR A., AGE 8

Grumpy Baggins
Lumpy Baggins
Hunter Baggins
-ANNALEAH R., AGE 7



■ PUZZLES

FIND THE HIDDEN MESSAGE!

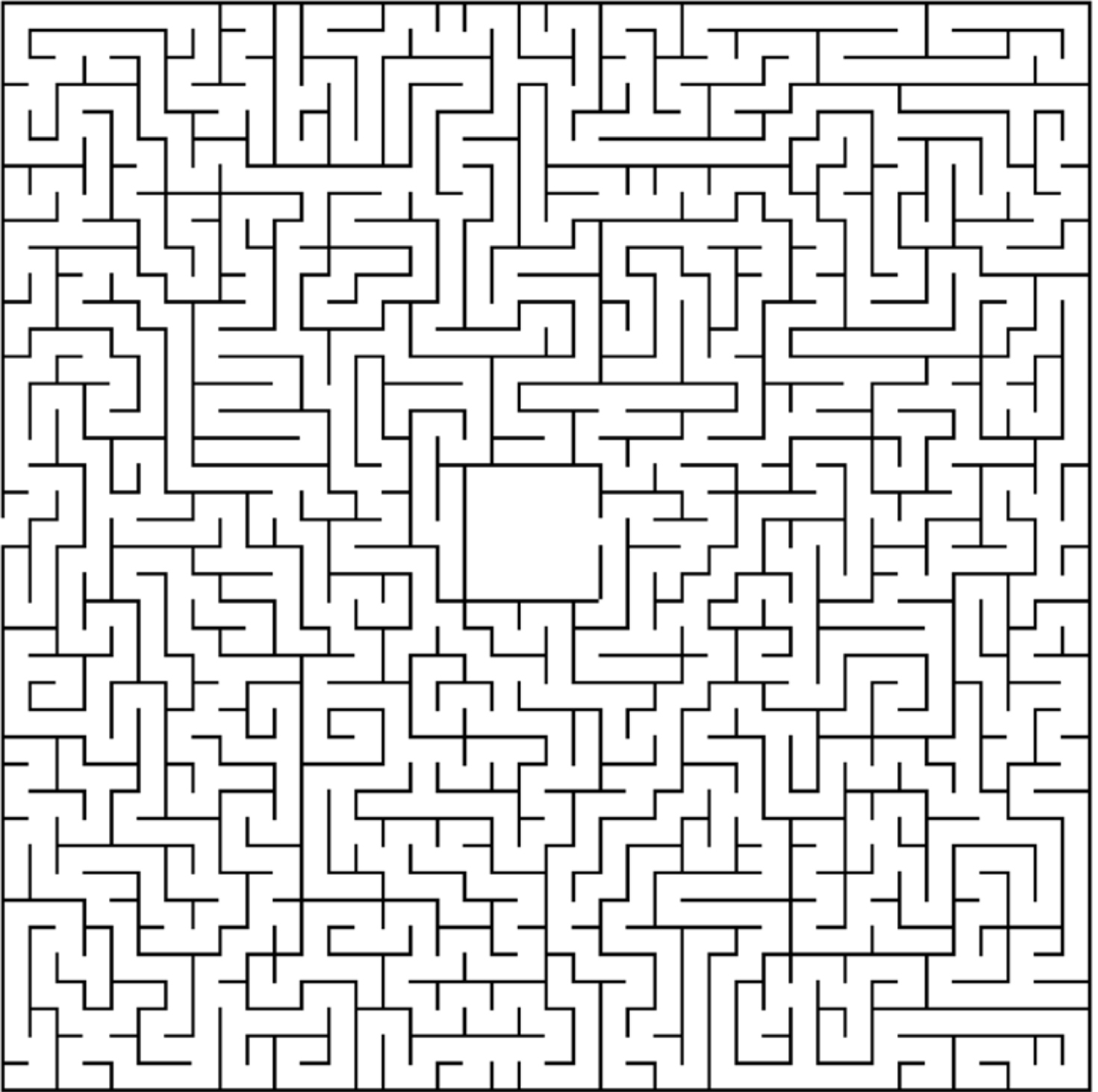
Find the words in the search below, and the remaining letters will spell out a secret message about luck!

R D A I K E L I G S E R S W K
 N E C D K A E I U S A T P O A
 Y H V U V E R O M B O T I B E
 H T L O E A T M B R Y O L N R
 F F I G L I N I A K O O L I T
 D L U P U C T T C C K P E A S
 F R R T I S F U A X C P D R Y
 Y Q R G F D L A Q G H S S B K
 Q O T O C B N Q E H E C A O Y
 F Z O J Y L U E J L Y S L K G
 C T X B V D S H R Q R N T N I
 T A C K C A L B I E F U D L K
 Z J S E N U T R O F S Z O I D
 X B N T T T C K I S M E T F J
 H C H A R M C A T U W D J L S

- ADVANTAGE
- BLACK CAT
- CHARM
- FLUKE
- FORTUITOUS
- FORTUNE
- FOUR LEAF CLOVER
- KARMA
- KISMET
- LUCKY
- RABBITS FOOT
- RAINBOW
- SERENDIPITY
- SPILLED SALT
- STREAK

Solution: Diligence is the mother of good luck.

ARE YOU LUCKY AT FINDING YOUR WAY OUT OF A MAZE? Try your luck at this one!



TRY YOUR LUCK AT THESE RIDDLES:

1. What occurs once in a minute, twice in a moment, but never in a thousand years?
2. What runs, but cannot walk, sometimes sings but never talks. Lacks arms, has hands; lacks a head but has a face?
3. I have a head and a tail, but no legs. I am that for which the beggar begs.

Answers: 1. the letter M 2. clock 3. coin