



QUARTERLY QUILL

Quirky Queries & Quests



CHROMATIC CHRONICLE - BALLOT BATTLE: WILL MAYOR MAGENTA SERVE ANOTHER TERM?

Georgie Garnet

Following the kidnappings from Greyson’s Orphanage in late August, public approval for the current Mayor of the Chromatic City, Melanie Magenta, has plummeted to only 17%. This marks a decrease of 48% from April, and the prospects for the Mayor’s reelection in December aren’t looking promising.

“Mayor Magenta isn’t taking the threat to this city seriously enough,” claims Zachary Zaffre, the Mayor’s main opponent in the polls.

Zaffre, a prominent citizen from the Blue Borough, has promised to reduce crime in the City if he is elected. Under Mayor Magenta’s leadership, crime has almost doubled, with black-market trading schemes and disappearances being the most prevalent among these statistics.

In response, the Mayor released a statement about the recent increase in homicides and kidnappings in the City.

“We are dedicated to the safety and well-being of our citizens,” she said on the broadcast. “There is no need for fear. I have personally been informed that the City-Wide Police are closing in on a suspect. The threat of these murders will pass, and I promise to keep the people of the Chromatic City updated with all relevant information.”

However, many citizens remain dissatisfied.

“These are empty words from the Mayor and the City-Wide Police,” complains merchant Anastasia Azure.

“If the Mayor were genuinely committed to the safety of the people, she would have assigned me a police escort. I am in severe danger from the Greyscale Murderer who is still targeting the most affluent residents. This is an incredibly disappointing lack of action.”

This sentiment is shared by many other prominent figures in the Chromatic City, including farming tycoon Tony Turquoise, whose daughter went missing in June, and technology magnate Felicia Fuschia, who runs the Lost Children’s Foundation. Both have publicly voiced support for Zaffre, who is predicted to win by a landslide in the December election...



Despite the negative view of the Mayor, many are still eagerly anticipating the annual Colourful Carnival, which is funded by the Council and has received multiple personal donations from Mayor Magenta herself.

continue on page 2...

This newspaper is compiled of stories by young writers, aged from 6 to 18 years old, from Melbourne Young Writers’ Studio (Story Studios’ Australia)



"My dislike for [the Mayor] won't stop me from enjoying myself," says an anonymous Chronicle reader, "She can spend as much money as she wants to try and distract us from her terrible policies; I'm still not voting for her. But a free carnival? Yes, please."

With the polls fast approaching and the Mayor's approval ratings plummeting, the leadership of the Chromatic City seems to be heading in a new direction.



THE WRITE STUFF



A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS Orangey Snickers (AKA Sophia)



Beware: Spoilers to come...

The most unfortunate book I've read is *A Series Of Unfortunate Events*. Hence the name, *A Series Of Unfortunate Events*, is about some unfortunate events where the three Baudelaire siblings, Violet, Klaus, and Sunny, whose parents died in a tragic fire. Since then, they could not escape the misery of being stalked by the dreadful Count Olaf. He left a baby dangling out of the window, tried to steal money, killed poor Uncle Monty, and framed a snake, kidnapped the Quagmire triplets, and ruined the young Baudelaire's lives. I could go on and on about the terrible things he's done, but let's try to stay on the bright side. My favourites.

The Bad Beginning.

In the very first book, the youngsters received the heartbreaking news that their parents had passed. Then, they were handed over to their uncle, Olaf (not the snowman). He treated the siblings like servants and threatened them. Olaf and his theatre troupe arranged a secret wedding to Violet, pretending it was all part of his show, "The Marvellous Marriage." But the clever Baudelaire children caught up just in time, and Violet, who was right-handed, signed it with her left hand, and therefore, the marriage was not valid. (I know it's complicated.)...

It all seems to equal a happy ending, right? Well, no. Lemony Snicket (AKA Daniel Handler) had to make it so that Olaf and his theatre troupe created a distraction and escaped. It left the Baudelaire children wondering who would be their guardian next..

The Reptile Room.

"The second book of the series ought to be more cheerful than the first, right?" I found myself asking that very question as I picked up the second book of *A Series Of Unfortunate Events*. Sadly, I was wrong. In "The Reptile Room," the kids have an amazing uncle (Dr. Montgomery Montgomery) who has millions of reptiles in his greenhouse. Unfortunately, Uncle Monty has a co-worker who is none other than Count Olaf! They were leaving for Peru when Olaf suddenly murdered Monty! He then put the blame on The Incredibly Deadly Viper, but the children alerted Mr. Poe (the banker) and proved that Olaf did it because the name is a misnomer (a misleading name), and The Incredibly Deadly Viper is harmless.

The Austere Academy.

Have you ever wondered about Sunny, Klaus, and Violet's friends? Well, they finally get some in the...fifth(?) book of *A Series of Unfortunate Events*. Isadora and Duncan Quagmire are orphans. Their parents (and twin brother) died in a fire. Their parents were part of the secret organisation VFD. (No, it doesn't stand for very fancy doilies.) A perfect match, right? When they discovered Count Olaf was disguised as the P.E teacher, again they alerted Mr. Poe, but of course, he didn't believe them. After SORE (Special Orphan Running Exercises), they realised that he was plotting to kidnap the Quagmires and steal the sapphires or diamonds or emeralds (I can't remember). And... he kidnapped them. Now I have finished this dreadful report; it'll be official when I say one word. Beetroot.

MUDDLING MYSTERIES

DOGGY DETECTIVE 3: THE SECRET MESSAGE PART 1

Ryan Sendi

Relaxing was normal for a corgi at this day and at this age, but lately, I feel like I've been followed. I got two calls that strangely said:

The first one: "Your car is broken." (But I don't have a car)

The second one: "You have to pay for your pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanoconiosis." (Whatever that is!)

So, I decided to call both, simultaneously, with two phones, just to see what they would say and get more description. This is what they said:

The first one: "Thank you for calling the refund department; this is Brandon. How may I help you?"

The second one: "Sorry, sir, I think you have the wrong phone number."

They kept on chatting when I heard a perplexing thing from the scammers.

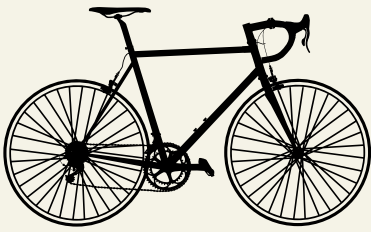
"Tell me the truth, or else I will beat your doggy butt cheek."

"I'm calling the boss. Please give me mercy."

"Wait... nice try, PANCAKE."

When I woke up, I was imprisoned as my hope faded slowly and slowly. But then I saw the boss... it was Doggy Ten.

To be continued...



A STOLEN BIKE **Olive Branscombe**

“STOLEN! Can you believe it? I was in an important staff meeting when my bike was stolen!”

It all started on a regular afternoon.

Tuesday, 4:30 pm, Penders Grove Primary School.

I was at a staff meeting at the school where I work, Pender's Grove Primary School. We were discussing the broken water trough near the amphitheatre when I received a phone call. It was more like an alarm, a seriously loud alarm. The principal permitted me to leave, and I rushed outside to find my bike lock in pieces. Someone had come in with a pair of bolt cutters and stolen my brand-new bike. I was infuriated that someone could do this to me, and I stomped off. I was going to find my bike, whatever it took. I would even go to the extreme of calling Donald Trump, ABBA, Britney Spears, my basketball coach, or even Eloise Barrett, my mother!

Wednesday, 9:15 am, Pender's Grove Primary School.

Because I was a teacher, I had to go to school on weekdays. So on Wednesday morning, I was sitting at my desk using my planning time while my class, 34N, was at music. They would be back soon, and I was quickly searching up ways to find stolen bikes when a girl named Olive strode into the classroom. Olive was a year four student with dark brown hair and olive skin. I wondered what she wanted to talk to me about.

"I've been snooping," she declared. I jumped. Olive's voice was so direct I knew she had to be talking to me, yet I had no idea what she was talking about.

"Someone has stolen your teddy bear and my toy bike."

I was so confused, and I had no idea what Olive was talking about. I didn't have any clue why she kept emphasizing particular words.

"Um, aren't you supposed to be at music?" I asked.

She ignored me.

"Look, I have found my toy at the supermarket," she said, then stalked off.

I was terribly and utterly confused until I realized something; it was a code.

'Someone has stolen your bike. Look at the supermarket...'

Wednesday, 5:00 pm, Woolworths Northland.

I still had no idea what Olive meant, but one thing was clear: I should look for it at the supermarket. I probably shouldn't have been listening to a nine-year-old girl, but if it meant finding my bike, I'd do it.

First, I looked inside the supermarket. I looked through every aisle, but no bike. After hours of looking, I gave up. I was tired and just wanted to go home. On the way back to my car, I passed the bike racks, and can you guess what I found? My bike!

It was locked up, and I ran over to it. I had to be quick. I tried the first code I thought of, 0000. It worked! I wheeled my bike away, exhausted and happy at the same time.

FYI, this is based on a true story.

MOTTO THE MAGICAL MAGICIAN HAS DISAPPEARED

Thierry Spiliopoulos

Whoosh! Motto, the Magical Magician, was gone...

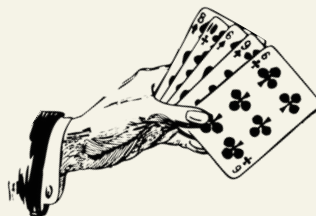
Motto was performing his best magic trick of all time. It was a misty Thursday night, and he was performing outdoors on stage in the middle of the big town with flashing bright lights.

The audience was closely watching with suspense to see what was going to happen, or where he was hiding the falcon for his next trick.

He was performing 'the disappearing and reappearing of his Peregrine falcon bird and his magic box.'

There was a gust of wind, and as Motto was about to put the falcon into his black magic box, he got blinded by the flashing cameras, tripped over his feet, and tumbled into the magical box. The falcon was startled and flapped. The lid landed on the box from the wind, and the box was closed. The audience ran to the box and opened the lid. Motto was gone... The whole town went searching for Motto; they searched high and low around the buildings, over the trees, and even in his travelling caravan. They could not find him.

Only this reporter knows that Motto was sitting in a quiet corner in the library, reading about some new magical tricks.



A REPORTER'S ACCOUNT OF HTEBAZ

Sophia Yap

There was once a town called Htebaz that lived in terror because of the dictator that ruled it. His name was Ini and he was cruel to everyone except himself and his spoiled cats. Every day he would go and feed them the remains of the people he had hanged the day before. It was truly a horrible town. People got hanged or executed every other day for things like laughing too loudly in public or wearing dirty clothes.

Then Amil was born, and he was Ini's little brother. He grew to be like Ini and was determined to get the throne one day. So he hatched an evil plan. One day, he poured poison into his drink, and Ini (not so) tragically died.

The people were excited for a new leader, but then they realised that Amil was worse than Ini. He whipped the cats if they were a nuisance; put listening devices outside everyone's houses and more. The people of Htebaz were under constant threat and terror from Amil and his gang he called 'The Amil Gang' (not very creative, I know). The Amil Gang carried guns over their shoulders and laughed and joked and drank as they walked through Htebaz.

"Hahahaha, great joke, Dan," told an unlucky man who laughed really loudly when Amil and the Amil Gang were walking by.

"Hands up!" drawled Amil, pointing his gun.

"P-please don't kill me. I have a family. Please," begged the man.

Amil took no notice of this and fired. The bang echoed through Htebaz, drawing attention to the man. He lay there, bloody and untouched for months. And this is what it was like for two years...

Then, the day came where Amil died. It all happened quickly. The slithering reptile, the flash of brown, the scream.

Without their leader, the Amil Gang quickly broke up, and the people of Htebaz elected a new leader named Olivia. They were happy but they couldn't help but wonder how? Amil always hated snakes and even hired an exterminator to get rid of them. So how did the snake get in?

Odd things were happening in Htebaz. Strange voices were heard at nightfall, and there were rumours about the spirit of Amil coming back. One day, a young boy, maybe around eight, decided to look for the spirit of Amil. His name was Christopher, and he was an adventurous little boy. So, leaving behind a note in his orphanage and grabbing enough supplies to last him a decade, he set off into the forest, not knowing what would await him.

He journeyed into the forest, getting sleepy after around an hour. He lay against a rock and fell asleep. When he woke up, he decided to keep walking north, so he did.

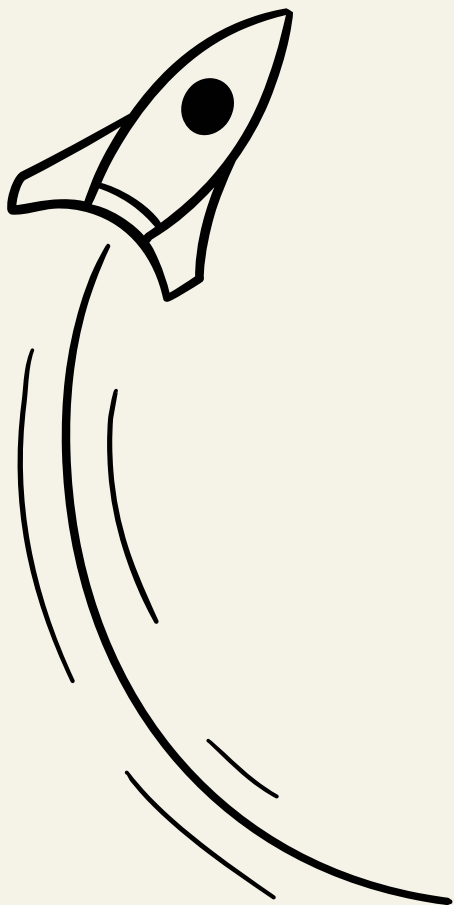
continue on page 4....

Eventually, he found a cottage and decided he should walk in... Christopher had the heebie-jeebies as he approached me.

"I've been waiting for you," I said dramatically.

"H-how did you know?"

"I was watching you. Bad people don't deserve fame. I sent the snake."



THE LANDING OF THE SPACE X 2000 ROCKET

Peter Arvanitakis

The Space X 2000 finally landed on Mars on October 31 2023; the first ever rocket that landed on Mars with humans on board. Their names were Nina Culley, Elliot Seidel and Matt Kazacos. But we are still waiting for more feedback. And this is 9999 news reporting from the Quarterly Quill.

Visit
**THE WRITERS'
STORE**

thewritersstore.myshopify.com
170 Elgin Street, Carlton VIC

CHROMATIC CHRONICLE: CHILDREN MISSING IN CHROMATIC CITY

Georgie Garnet

The City-Wide Police kindly ask for your assistance in finding these missing children. Please contact the Missing Person's Department at Hex 374F6B with any information.

MISSING: Charlie Chartreuse

Last Seen: 30th August

Charlie was lost in Green Grove Park on the 30th of August. He was last seen wearing a bright green suit and tie.

Charlie is 12 years old and doesn't know his way home. Please help.

Reward: Four hints of Chartreuse, two tones of Yellow, one hue of Blue

MISSING: Georgia Greyson

Last Seen: 21st August

Please help us find our child. Georgia is 11 years old and was last seen exiting Non-Primary-Colour School on the 21st of August. She has pale grey hair and eyes and was last seen wearing a white dress.

Reward: Three hues of Blue

MISSING: Alexander Alabaster

Last Seen: 17th August

Alexander, a 15-year-old boy, vanished on the way to a friend's house in the Achromic District on the 17th of August. He has black hair and was wearing a grey overcoat.

Reward: One shade of Red, one tone of Yellow

MISSING: Ferdinand Fulvous

Last Seen: 13th August

Ferdinand Fulvous, 17, went missing from Jade Park in the Hue Houses district on the 13th of August. His parents, Finneas and Fiona Fulvous, are offering a substantial reward for his safe return. Dial hex E48400 with information.

Reward: Seven sachets of Indigo, Fifteen notches of Orange, Sixty notes of Green

MISSING: Ester, Kerry, Joshua

Please help us find our children, who were lost on the Pale Parade on the 11th of August. These three kids were wearing school uniforms.

Reward: One tone of yellow per child

MISSING: Lavinia Lavender

Last Seen: 4th August

Lavinia, wearing a purple suit, is 16 years old. She was last seen in the Achromic District.

Reward: 14 shades of red.

POETS OF THE QUILL

THE SMALL BLUE ROSE

Charlotte Corrigan

Once there was a small blue rose
That stood in a rather stiff pose
Until one midsummer day
When a young girl called May
Went to pick the flower
Under a soft rain shower
And the rose was happy
And 'twas no longer scrappy
May was more merry
Because she gave it to King Zerry
Who gave a reward
Of a pure gold sword.



FLASH FICTION

TOUGH TO BE A GOD

Leila Romanes

Tracing lines on the parchment is catharsis. Breathing life into forests and rivers and watching the ink spread brings a sense of deep relief. Roadways, cities, the winding train-tracks. Names and contour-lines show the way through my earth. My life's project. The enterprise of my heart. I plan each stroke with patience and care, give each location the affection of a loving parent. And I am repaid by the beauty of my maps, by the sweet knowledge of creation. Building a world. I am the Map-Maker, watching from the heavens. Carving the patterns of the universe.



- Be careful - the heat should be enough to reduce your house to a cinder. Wait a millennia. You won't die - the fumes of the Caffiendish will allow you to live.
- Take it out of the oven and wait for it to cool. This might take several years...

Enjoy your Anti-Crumble Explosion Rings! The maker of this recipe is not responsible for any deaths caused by the final product.



ZOMBIE STEW

Luna Mendes

For best results, we recommend this recipe be prepared at your local graveyard at precisely midnight under a full moon.

Ingredients

- 4 litres of dirty water
- 5 Zombie eyes
- 4 wax-filled Zombie ears (the more wax, the better)
- 2 frozen Zombie hearts
- 12 broken Zombie bones
- Werewolf toenail clippings (garnish)

Tools

- 1 electric cauldron
- 1 mixing wand
- A tombstone
- Eye protection goggles and gloves

Method

- Preheat the cauldron to 663 degrees. If you prefer a more sizzling step, turn up the heat to 6375 degrees.
- In your cauldron filled with the dirty water, combine the Zombie eyes, ears (be sure to scoop out all that earwax for a creamier consistency), hearts, and bones.
- Use your mixing wand to stir all ingredients.
- Place the cauldron on the tombstone to infuse graveyard aromas and simmer for 3 hours. (Use this time to practise your spells and moonlight dancing!)
- Once cooked, strain your Zombie stew and discard the bones. (They do make a nutritious meal for your children)
- Divide Zombie stew into serving bowls and garnish with werewolf toenail clippings. Perhaps even some vampire teeth for extra crunch!
- Now serve your food to your guests, and we're sure that even the toughest critics like Ghosten Ramsay will be back for seconds!

WHACKY WEATHER

WHERE ON EARTH (OR NOT ON EARTH) HAS THE WEATHER GONE?

Olive Branscombe

Hi, my name is Miranda Chestnut, and I'm here to provide you with your weekly weather update. Over the last week in the northern and southern hemispheres, people have experienced the craziest weather ever noted in history. There's no weather at all! Today, I've decided to interview a local from Melbourne, Australia. Their name is Toby Russo.

Me: So, Toby, how have the last seven days been in Melbourne?

Toby: "Well, you've probably heard. Lately, there has been the unusual occurrence of having no weather at all."

Me: Everyone is saying that, Toby, but what does that mean to you?

Toby: Well, I think, to me, it means... Well, I guess it means that the Earth is slowly dying. There has been no rainfall in India during what is normally the wet season, no volcanic eruptions in Hawaii, no snow in Antarctica, and Melbourne has been listed as the most dangerous city in the world and the least happy on this year's World Happiness Report.

Me: Can you describe what's happening in Melbourne, Toby?

Toby: Well, Miranda, lately, Melbourne has been grey and black. There has been no wind, making it an unhappy place to live. Scientists believe this is happening because of all the new factories, but they are still trying to gather more proof.

Me: Thank you for the interview, Toby. I hope this worldwide problem will not last too long. That's all I have today, but come back next week; hopefully, we will have an answer to the question everyone is asking: 'Where on Earth (or not on Earth) has the weather gone?'

Disclaimer: Toby Russo is Olive Branscombe's dad.



MYWS LIBRARY

Story Studios' library is open for book borrowing! Borrow a novel for up to 2 weeks or check out a comic from our awesome collection for up to 1 week.

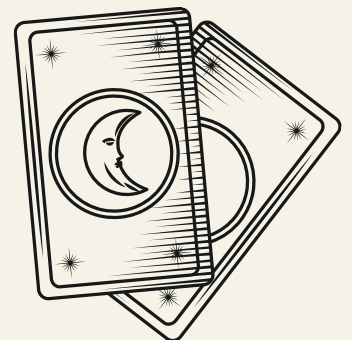
OWLBURTA'S HOROSCOPES

Aries (Mar 21 - April 19)

Explore with fearless enthusiasm, and dream of being a superhero at night. Now is not the time to play it safe.

Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20)

Get ready to spend some time in nature. Talk a walk, pluck a flower; the birds are calling you.



Gemini (May 21 - June 20)

Your curiosity knows no bounds; the universe is your playground. Grab a bucket and spade and get stuck in.

Cancer (Jun 21 - July 22)

Your love for stories and fairy tales will transport you to far-off lands. Dive into books, share your own tales, and create fantastical adventures.

Leo (July 23 - Aug 22)

Your inner star is shining bright! Put on a show, sing, dance, or act your heart out. Your dramatic talents will leave everyone in awe.

Virgo (Aug 23 - Sept 22)

Don't be sad. Dream of mystical lands and cosmic journeys that only a Virgo can envision.

Libra (Sep 23 - Oct 22)

You will need to play peacemaker in your group, bringing friends together and resolving conflicts.

Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)

Solve imaginary mysteries, create secret treasure maps, and go on thrilling quests in search of hidden treasures.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

Don't forget to embrace the odd and quirky. There's plenty of mischievous magic wherever you go.

Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)

Collaborate and create together with those you hold dear. Whether it's crafting or storytelling, working side by side will forge wonderful memories and strengthen your bonds.

Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)

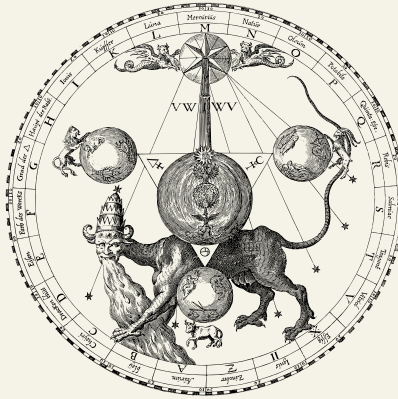
You're a true social butterfly. Plan fun get-togethers with your friends and discover exciting new activities. A bike ride or walk in the part would work!

Pisces (Feb 19 - Mar 20)

As you watch movies, pay attention to the characters' emotions and experiences. Your compassion and understanding will allow you to connect deeply with the stories and characters on the screen.

A special note...

Greetings, wise and feathered friends! Owlburta, your humble owl guide, is back, this time with horoscopes! I promise they won't ruffle your feathers. And apologies for the "hootenanny" and the mail mix-ups – I blame a certain other owl...



QUARTERLY QUILL GUIDELINES

Are you interested in submitting to Issue 4 of *The Quarterly Quill*? Well there's no time like the present!

Here are the sections...

- Features Fancies (for non-fiction, creative non-fiction, memoir, and more) 500 word limit
- The Write Stuff (for any and all reviews) 500 word limit
- Muddling Mysteries (for investigations and crimes reportage) 500 word limit
- Poets of the Quill (for poems of any kind) 12 line maximum
- Flash Fiction (for super short stories) 100 words maximum **NEW!**
- Curiosity Corner (for bizarre advertisements) 200 word limit
- Recipe Revolution (for recipes) 500 word limit
- Super Sport Section (for fictional sports news) 300 word limit
- Whacky Weather (fictional weather reports) 300 word limit
- Whimsy Wit & Quirky Quips (for jokes) 5 jokes max **NEW!**
- Owlburta's Advice Column (questions for our wise and wonderful studio owl and Assistant Editor – Owlburta) 200 words max **NEW!**

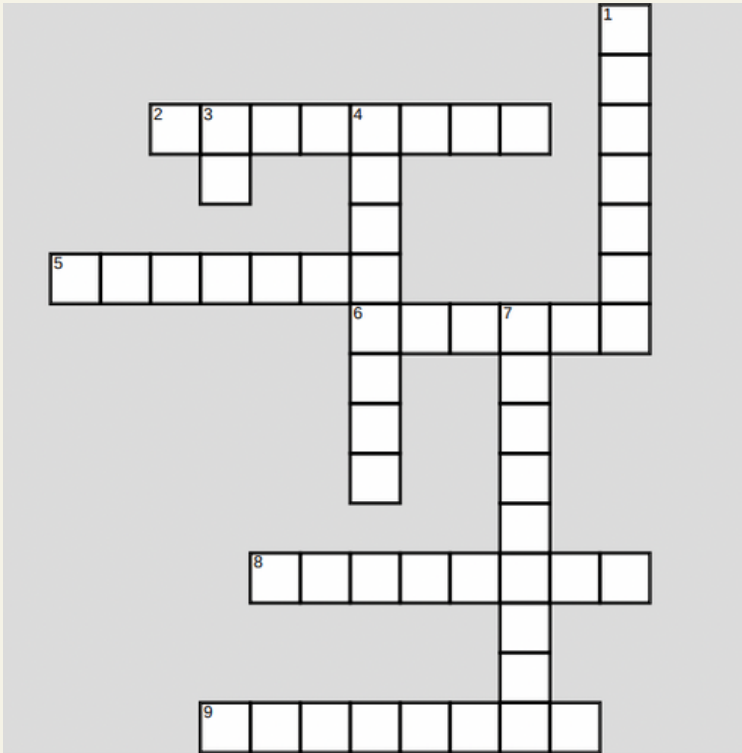
Email us at publishing@mywritersstudio.com.au with the title of your piece and your pen name.

QUILL QUIZZES

TYPES OF POEMS - WORD SEARCH

R Q R U F F N Y V F C Y U C F	HAIKU FREEVERSE EPIC SONNET ACROSTIC LIMERICK ODE ELEGY CINQUAIN PASTORAL
J S A F F V A G Z W I I U M O	
I H O T T X F E I V T U P M F	
C T W V E F N L P A S O E E S	
I C C G N G D E N Y O M K O E	
E S D U N P B H L X R S F D P	
R M Z S O Q A S A M C E H E D	
W Z Z I S I F A F D A J S H U	
P X E G K Q R L I M E R I C K	
I Z R U E V F P A S T O R A L	
L M J Z L J U E U C T L H G U	
Z Q T T D G Z M H C Z Q F C F	
F V E V H C O K E Y K U G E R	
B Z C G C I N Q U A I N I C R	
F R E E V E R S E N D O C G Q	

QUIRKY PLACES - CROSSWORD



Across

- 2 School of Witchcraft and Wizardry in the Harry Potter series.
- 5 Triangle infamous for mysterious disappearances.
- 6 Magical world through the wardrobe in C.S. Lewis's series.
- 8 The town where the Whos live, according to Dr. Seuss.
- 9 Mythical city of gold sought by Spanish explorers.

Down

- 1 The lush and alien moon featured in the movie "Avatar."
- 3 Land of enchantment in L. Frank Baum's "The Wizard of ____."
- 4 Legendary island that supposedly disappeared into the sea.
- 7 Peter Pan's whimsical island home.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR



There's nothing better than flipping through the paper in springtime – on a picnic blanket under a tree or whilst digging your toes in the sand. So, find a special place to enjoy this edition, and bring a pencil. Oh and don't miss the debut of Owlbert's advice column in our next issue, where our wise, feathered friend will offer wisdom and guidance for those who need it.

Until next time.

-N.P. Culley

