

KAMSC's

84



Steps

Back-to-School Edition 2021

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Letter From The Editors

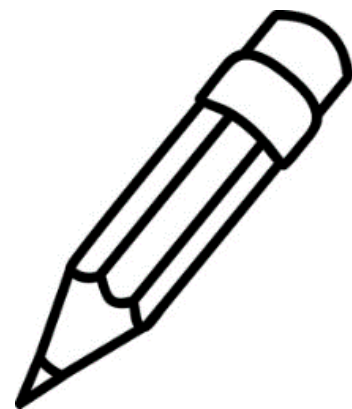
Hello 84 Steps readers!

We are so excited to bring you this Halloween edition of 84 Steps. I know that many of you are living your best lives as the leaves change color and the temperature drops. Though Halloween is technically over, in honor of an extended Spooky Season, this edition is dedicated to all you readers. You're scary amazing, and getting to know each and every one of you is a treat. Thanks for being your spooktacular selves. We hope you enjoy this edition!

Thanks,

Genevieve Kim

and the 84 Steps Team



What Should Really Scare You This Spooky Season

By Genevieve Kim

The ones we all know:

1. The parking jobs in the KAMSC parking lot - You know who you are.
2. Bagel Beanery closing - It showed up as permanently closed on Google Maps and I almost cried. Is it actually closing? I don't want to ask.
3. Time disappearing - I didn't know I took comfort from the slow passage of time until I realized we've had far too many weeks of school already for me to still be this dependent on the thought that I still have time left to get things done.
4. Walking up the 84 steps to KAMSC - Don't trip, don't slip, and don't lose hope that you'll reach the top eventually.

The Serious Ones:

1. Procrastination - Beware the dreaded "I can do it later" mindset. Write out a schedule for yourself and pretend each assignment is due after each session that you plan out to work on it.
2. Stress - Spooky Season should be fun. Please don't focus so much on your grades that you don't have fun. Don't stop caring about academics, but let yourself breathe if you don't do as well as you thought you would on one quiz.
3. Overbooking - Don't take on too many things! This is a tendency many of you have, but try writing out a schedule with times written in, including driving time, with an extra 10 minutes attached to each block. If the schedule doesn't work comfortably on paper, don't attempt it in real life. While you're at it, schedule yourself at least 6 hours of sleep please.
4. College Application deadlines - This one's for you, seniors. Even if early applications are all submitted, regular application deadlines will come before you know it:(

Five Favorite Fall Festivities

By Amanda Meinert

1. **Gull Meadow Farms (GMF):** A staple point of its region, this wonderful southwest Michigan farm and bakery embodies everything fall with their vast apple orchard, relaxing hayride, intricate corn maze (with a new design each year), a wonderful pumpkin patch, and the furry friends that make up their one of a kind petting farm. All these fall activities can be followed with a quick (or long!) trip straight to their cozy market and bakery. An assortment of caramel apples, apple cider, donuts, and any type of fall decor imaginable can be found here.
2. **Pumpkin Carving:** There's nothing like gutting and carving a pumpkin whether it's from the store, a place like GMF, or even your very own backyard garden. Pumpkins rot fast so make sure to start this process 3-5 days at most before Halloween. Another pro tip: save the leftover pumpkin seeds and search up a recipe online for how to cook them. My personal favorites are the batches with sea salt or cinnamon!
3. **Kalamazoo Candle Company:** With the chillier weather, a fall scented candle always seems to warm up the ambiance of a room. Located in Downtown Kalamazoo, The Kalamazoo Candle Company has a cozy collection of fall candles that encompasses the true aura of the season. Feeling creative? Another option is to make your own personal candle whether you do it in store, schedule a private event, or even buy a DIY kit. This way you get to have a candle that's suited to your liking and a fun, unique experience.
4. **Decorate Your Front Porch:** Whether it's covered in pumpkins, spiderwebs, or festive gourds- nothing beats a fun looking front porch to trick or treat on as a kid. To spice up your carved pumpkin display, make sure to add a color changing light on the inside of your orange masterpiece. As for the spiderwebs, any local Spirit Halloween store is bound to have the white string along with a surplus of other spooky season decorations.

5. SkeleTour: The final Kalamazoo fall attraction, this unique skeleton tour brings you through downtown Kalamazoo while adding the element of surprise and laughter. These skeleton men, women, and even animals are placed throughout the heart of the city and represent different local businesses and organizations around town. Fun for anyone with a fall loving heart!

Halloween Entertainment Roulette

By Layla Adams

Pick one option and don't look it up beforehand. You may love it or hate it, but you won't know until you try...

Movies:

1. The Shining - (1980)
2. Beetlejuice - (1988)
3. Ghostbusters - (1984)
4. Halloween - (series, 1978)
5. A Nightmare on Elm Street - (series, 1984)
6. The Nightmare Before Christmas - (1993)

Books:

1. Scary Stories to Tell In the Dark - Alvin Schwartz - (1981-1991)
2. Dracula - Bram Stoker - (1897)
3. The Silence of the Lambs - Thomas Harris - (1988)
4. Frankenstein - Mary Shelley - (1818)
5. I am Legend - Richard Matheson - (1954)

Songs:

1. Thriller - Michael Jackson - (1982)
2. Somebody's Watching Me - Rockwell ft. Michael Jackson - (1984)
3. Monster Mash - Bobby Pickett - (1962)
4. I Put A Spell On You - Screamin Jay Hawkins - (1956)
5. The Man Who Sold The World - David Bowie - (1970)
6. The Phantom of the Opera - Andrew Lloyd Webber - (1986)

Top 10 Things to Do on Halloween

By Claire Keegan

The spooky season is quickly approaching and schedules are filling up. Before it is too late, here are the top ten things you can do this Halloween.

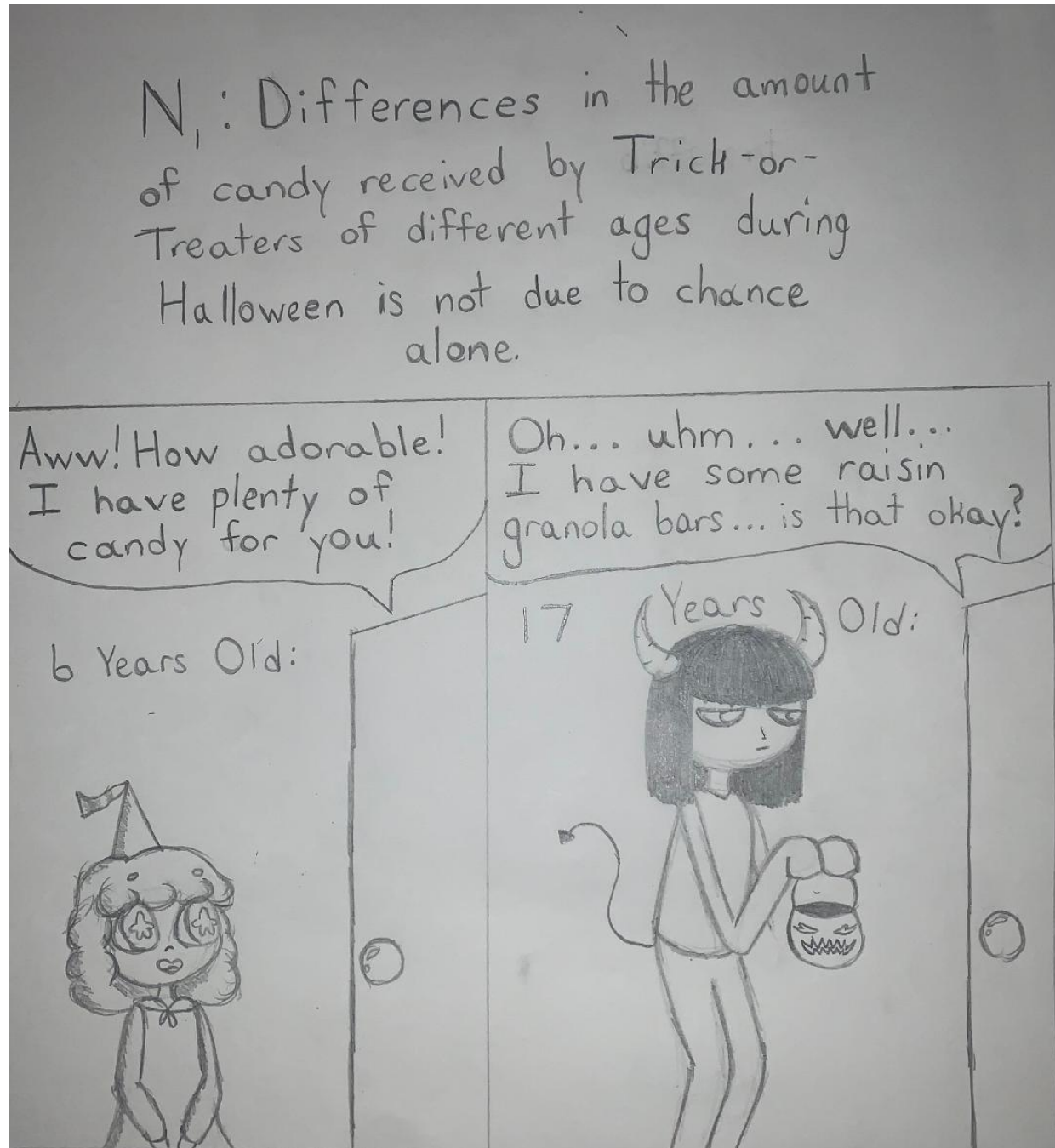
1. Go to a corn maze. Especially with a group of your friends from KAMSC, a corn maze is such a fun way to get in the Halloween spirit. Since you will be with your super-smart peers, it will be a total breeze to get through the maze ;) and even if it isn't a breeze, you'll have fun spending time with friends in the fall air.
2. Trick or Treat. Yes, we may be a little old for trick or treating, but hey, free candy! If you don't feel like trick or treating, maybe dress up and give out candy to the trick or treaters that come to your house.
3. Have a costume contest. Whoever has the most creative costume wins some candy!
4. Bake some spooky cookies. Maybe you don't like candy, so instead bake some cookies! There are many fun Halloween-themed recipes out there to try out.
5. Eat as much candy as you want! This one may seem obvious but in case you forgot, it's Halloween! Live it up! Just make sure to not eat so much that your stomach hurts at KAMSC on Monday.
6. Go to a haunted house. Although it is not everyone's cup of tea, a haunted house can be super fun! Get some friends together and go get scared! I promise you'll have fun in the process, or at least you can laugh about it later :).
7. Watch some scary movies. There are tons of scary movies out there, and if you don't like scary movies, there are still fun Halloween movies like *The Great Pumpkin Charlie Brown*, *Hocus Pocus*, and *Twitches*.
8. Read a horror book. There are many scary books on the shelves, so go to Barnes and Noble or your local library and check some out! Just be sure to not read it at night ;)
9. Look up events at your local library or other community centers. Many libraries LOVE Halloween, check up on local events to see if there are any fun activities you can do that don't cost much and are super fun!

10. Throw a party! (Safely of course) Invite your friends over and do some of these activities I already listed or come up with some new ones! You could play Halloween games including making toilet paper mummy brides and spooky charades.

No matter what you do this Halloween, I hope you have the best time and eat all the candy you possibly can (without feeling sick for class the next day)!

Being Old on Halloween

By Zamari Alexander



HORRORscopes

By Benjamin Whitsett

Reese's Pieces (March 1 – April 19): Who knew pumpkin carving could be such an art form? You did. Your designs are so high quality, they look just like stencils! Wait, could they be?? Surely not... No, of course not! Why would someone lie about their artistic talent on a *pumpkin*? We'll never be able to figure you out, but nonetheless your pumpkin dominates the porch.

Twizzlers (April 20 – May 20): Control freak alert! (luckily the kids won't notice) You remember all the best trick-or-treat routes from your younger years, and can't help but pass on the knowledge to the little ones now. Whether you drive them across the city or just lead them around your neighborhood, they have a lot to gain from you and should worship you through the sacrifice of candy to you. They won't, but you would totally deserve it if they did.

Gummy Bears (June 21 – May 21): It's not the most important election year, but nonetheless you stand around shouting about the vote in a few days to all the trick-or-treaters who can't vote, and their parents who don't like you because their kids don't like you. We still like you, but maybe you should calm down and relax. The holiday of candy and the "holiday" (?) of voting are, much to your surprise, *not* the same thing. You should really treat them as such.

Caramel (June 22 – July 22): You're too old to trick-or-treat now, but your parents have finally given away where the household why-is-there-so-much candy stash is located. You'll probably steal a sizeable chunk of the stash, but maybe save some for your siblings and friends. In the meantime, stop jumping on the furniture!

Laffy Taffy (July 23 – August 22): Are you the one who convinced Pez to hang out instead of hand out candy? You're planning your own Halloween party, as well as planning to attend three more. No idea how that works, but whatever. Just make sure to not have a sugar crash during all that driving, and keep an eye out for neighborhood trick-or-treaters in your way!

Oreo (August 23 – September 22): We need to remind you about this whole holiday coming up, because you don't seem to remember. Your plans for the last day of October include sleeping until noon, eating breakfast, cramming for the next test,

eating dinner, and heading to sleep before anyone rings the doorbell. Sleeping until noon isn't a bad thing, but get in the holiday spirit! Plus, don't forget that there's *no way* you can fall asleep during the constant doorbell ringing. Maybe Starbursts can find something worthwhile for you to do instead.

Life Savers (September 23 – October 32): The designated candy-giver, you're watching your front door like a hawk. The kids will never remember you were there, so you act like it. The candy seems to just magically appear in their bags, and they walk away amazed. Running around so much is rather exhausting, though, so you should talk to your resident Caramel about access to the just-for-family candy stash.

Kit Kats (October 33 – November 21): Ever the classic lover of Halloween, you're probably wearing a witch hat or a black-cat mask (or even a full relevant costume). The pizza slices and construction workers are just plain wrong, and you can't resist asking your friends and family what on earth their costumes have to do with Halloween. You should *really* talk to Candy Corn, but I don't think your argument will go anywhere.

Starbursts (November 22 – December 21): You're the only one that wants to watch all those movies, but that doesn't stop you. From cartoon Halloween specials to the worst-rated scary movies, you've got the whole list well-prepared. Others might sit down with you for a movie, or even two, but they don't share your level of devotion. Just don't forget there's school tomorrow!

Candy Corn (December 22 – January 19): You refuse to let your younger self steal all the fun, and insist on wearing that cheesy costume. We get it, it's Halloween, but you don't need to be so Halloweeny. Anyway, enjoy your nothing-to-do-with-Halloween costume for the few hours it's pseudo-acceptable to wear it, and then please return to the rest of society.

Airheads (January 20 – February 18): Unfortunately, you're not exactly conscious this Halloween. Yesterday you went out to Gull Meadow Farms to see the giant pumpkin dropped from 100ft up, and it was incredible. A huge hunk of pumpkin flew at you, but you weren't hit. Instead, your injury resulted from standing too close to the apple cannons (stuffed with candy). If only those hard candies weren't so *hard...* but you were hit and now there's not much else to talk about. We hope you feel better, and our fingers are crossed that you won't stand that close to the cannons next year. We'll make sure to save you some candy.

Pez (February 19 – February 30): It's hard to tell if you're really kind-hearted, or just lazy. The first time a kid walks up to your door, you just can't resist giving them

the whole bag of candy. You turn off the porch light and walk in, with everyone around you aghast. Whatever your motives, now you can do whatever you want with the rest of the evening. If that needs to include spending your own money to replace the bag of candy your parents bought and then tediously handing it out piece-by-piece, so be it.

Books to Read This Spooky Season

By Victoria Ryan

Fall brings change in numerous forms. Leaves fall, the air becomes crisp, and darkness falls a lot earlier in the day. For readers, fall marks a shift in genre for many. In summer we typically are drawn to lighter reads, often called “beach reads”. These novels are happier and have elements of romance and celebration. Autumn sets the stage for more ominous stories. We see the genres shift to horror, thriller, and mystery. The “dark academia” vibe often sets the scene for many popular fall reads. Classics by authors such as the Brontë sisters, Jane Austen, and Charles Dickens often fit this very well. Halloween novels are very popular during this time of year as well. Getting into the Halloween spirit is not complete without a trip to a haunted house or watching a horror movie. If that does not interest you, reading horror stories might. Reading is a great way to destress between study sessions and can take your mind off of worrying about turning in your college paper on time or finishing your next lab report. Here are some great books to enjoy during the fall/Halloween season.

1. “Moon Lake” by Joe R. Lansdale. This story revolves around Daniel Russell, a thirteen-year-old boy who was almost killed in a car crash after his father attempted to kill them both. This story is more mystery than horror, and also deals with themes of racism in the small Texas town where the story takes place.
2. “The Picture of Dorian Gray” by Oscar Wilde. In this famous novel, a young man named Dorian is painted by an artist. He becomes obsessed with himself and sells his soul for eternal beauty and youth. The catch is that every bad action that Dorian commits causes the painting to age. He tries to stop it, but it may be too late.
3. “The Bone Weaver’s Orchard” by Sarah Read. This story is perfect for Halloween. A young boy named Charley Winslow is sent to boarding school in England in the 1920s. After weird things start to happen and a classmate goes missing, Charley begins to wonder if supernatural forces are at work. A very gothic and haunting novel.
4. “The Hound of the Baskervilles” by Sir Arther Conan Doyle. This book is in the Sherlock Holmes series and tells the story of Holmes and Watson investigating the murder of Sir Charles Baskerville. Taking place in the moors of England, there is an overall spooky theme to this story. An ancient family curse comes into play, and the murder turns out to be more complicated than originally perceived.

Other authors to look at during the fall include Jane Austen, the Bronte sisters, and Stephen King. I hope you enjoy these suggestions! Happy reading!

Halloween Word Search

By Nathan Gleason

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

Stab	Demon	Skelton	Grim reaper	Scarecrow
Witch	Coffin	Full moon	Werewolf	Horror movie
Autumn	Zombie	Costumes	Jack o' lantern	Trick or treat
Mummy	Cornfield	Midnight	Pumpkin	Haunted house
Candy	Vampire	Ghost	Graveyard	

31 Spooky Movies to Watch This Halloween

By Maia Lintner

Looking for some spooky movies to watch this month to get you in the Halloween spirit? Look no further than this list, where you can find a variety of Halloween-related movies, from *Hocus Pocus* to *The Exorcist*.

Family:

- The Addams Family (1991)
 - Gomez, Morticia and Lurch give you campy jokes, goofiness and gothic style. Plus, Angelica Huston stars as the marvelous Morticia.
- Hocus Pocus (1993)
 - This comedy has an all star cast. Three Salem, Massachusetts witches, resurrected just in time for Halloween, plus a talking cat.
- Hotel Transylvania (2012)
 - Classic story of a vampire operating a high-end resort away from the human world. Twist: Dracula has a teen daughter.
- Haunted Mansion (2003)
 - Based on the ride at Disney World, Eddie Murphy stars in this story of a family that ends up stuck in a (you guessed it) haunted mansion due to a spooky case of mistaken identity.
- The Nightmare Before Christmas (1993)
 - Halloween and Christmas collide so you can keep watching this animated feature from October through December. Jack Skellington and the Boogeyman and Santa, oh my!
- Coraline (2009)
 - Hold on to your eyeballs...Other Mother is sure to creep out some younger viewers here...and maybe me, too.
- Harry Potter (series 2001-2011)
 - Witches, wizards, fantasy creatures and soul-stealing Dementors. What's not to love?



New Classics:

- *Us* (2019)
 - After watching this, you'll never see yourself the same way again. Self sabotage, anyone?
- *Get Out* (2017)
 - Jordan Peele explores the eeriness of racism in this new classic.
- *The Quiet Place* (2018)
 - After surviving the pandemic, this one definitely seems possible. Shhh...don't let them hear you.
- *The Conjuring* (series 2013-2021)
 - Paranormal investigation, haunted house, evil dolls and demonic nuns. Lots of adrenaline pumping thrills with this series.



Humorous Horror:

- *Sleepy Hollow* (1999)
 - Johnny Depp and Christina Ricci star in this investigation of the Headless Horseman murders in small-town Sleepy Hollow.
- *Knives Out* (2019)
 - Detective Benoit Blanc must find the murderer...white lies and red herrings, plus quirky humor.
- *Ghostbusters* (1984)
 - Lots of weirdness here. Ghosts, slime and don't forget the Stay Puft Marshmallow Man!
- *Edward Scissorhands* (1990)
 - Fantasy romance. Heartwarming twist on the Frankenstein story. Another Tim Burton/Johnny Depp classic.
- *Beetlejuice* (1988)
 - Two ghosts team up with an annoying poltergeist to try and scare away the new inhabitants of their home.

Thrillers:

- *Psycho* (1960)
 - No one did thrillers quite like Hitchcock. The shower scene. It's a scream.
- *What Lies Beneath* (2000)
 - A modern take on the Hitchcock movies. Soaking in the tub will never be the same after watching this movie. What is it with horror movies and bathrooms?

- Rear Window (1954)
 - Wheelchair-bound photographer spends his time watching the occupants of neighbouring apartments. Did he see a murder?
- Silence of the Lambs (1991)
 - A young FBI agent tries to track down a deeply disturbed serial killer. Fair warning—this movie is not for the faint of heart. It will have you on the edge of your seat.
- The Shining (1980)
 - Stephen King classic. Jack Nicholson stars as an innkeeper isolated at a mountainside resort in the deep, dark winter. R-E-D-R-U-M.
- Gone Girl (2014)
 - Thriller that will have you thinking twice about ever getting hitched. Based on the book by the same name.

Classic Horror:

- Scream (1996)
 - Clever, funny, slasher classic. Ring, ring...
- Friday the 13th (1980)
 - Hockey masks have never been the same since this movie, featuring Kevin Bacon. Summer campers beware!
- Nightmare on Elm Street (1984)
 - Freddie Krueger is legitimately one of the scariest movie characters ever created. He will haunt your dreams.
- The Blair Witch Project (1999)
 - Three hikers go to find the legend of Blair Witch and disappear. Movie consists entirely of "found footage," recovered from the hikers (bodies?).
- Halloween (1978)
 - Mental health is on stage in this slasher movie.
- Rocky Horror Picture Show (1975)
 - Cult-favorite musical. So, grab some friends and let's do the Time Warp again.
- Paranormal Activity (2007)
 - Similar to the footage of Blair Witch. A couple chronicles their interaction with the paranormal.
- Carrie (1976)
 - Lesson learned...don't make fun of people. Karma's a witch.
- The Exorcist (1973)
 - Mom attempts to save daughter from demonic possession through exorcisms. The vomiting. WOW. Just. Watch. It. Great soundtrack, too.

The Spectral Days: A Short Story

By Ningzhi Luo-Li

The first of November crept up on Foxfowl faster than it usually did. The nuclear families that lived in every house of every street noted the changing season with the wandering interest typical of Foxfowl residents. No one could blame them—there was no news to captivate them. Their town was the only one for hundreds of miles. The only topics that held any interest in their eyes were the Spectral Days. That was, of course, the whole point of the Spectral Days. Televisions could only captivate one for so long.

Stories, however, lasted forever.

It was an honor to live in the last year of the century, to breathe in the Spectral Days. The rare returned souls who had already seen the Spectral Days would brag endlessly about their achievements to anyone who bothered to listen. It was a favorite topic of Alice Iyer, a holder of such a soul, who lived on Peacock Street with a family as nondescript as the rest, even if the father was dead and the mother was quickly losing her head.

But there was one thing that set them apart from the town, and that was Gwen Iyer, the youngest child. She was a perfectly nice girl, but she had always been a little strange. The mother, Ada, had always insisted on keeping her inside when possible, so she couldn't go spewing her nonsense to the patrons at the ice cream parlor and spoiling the Iyer name. Scarcely out of kindergarten, she claimed they were prisoners of their entertainment, locked inside cells in their own heads, and that the Spectral Days were more ridiculous than Albert Miller's mullet and she would not deign to participate. Ada always told her to speak quieter.

This was exactly the cause of the ruckus in the Iyer house on the day of November first. As the family bustled around, cleaning the house to prepare for the Spectral Days, Gwen was, as usual, asking questions.

"Mum, really, I've only been here for such a short time!" Gwen complained. "Must I go?"

Alice turned away from the windows she was cleaning, rolling her eyes. "Honestly, Gwen, you'll get used to it. Once you've gone through it once, like me—"

“Cram it,” the brother Abnus growled through the window. He was standing in the yard, raking up the last few leaves that had been stubbornly sticking to the trees for the past month and had finally given up the fight. “The only things you talk about are your reincarnated memories.”

“You won’t be afraid,” Alice continued, as if she hadn’t heard a thing. “Besides, don’t you see our grand role? Once the ritual is completed, the town is filled with ghosts.” She flicked her sponge dramatically, sending flecks of glass cleaner onto the walls. “When the new people start to trickle in, as they inevitably do—although, occasionally, you will get an old pro like me who comes back—they find the remnants of the rituals, and voila. Ghost stories and entertainment for all. And then, the next Spectral Year, they just know what to do. It’s simply innate, the name and the ritual. Still, no one else can go like we can, Gwen. That’s what makes the mystery so odd to the newbies, what makes it such captivating entertainment, although for the two-timers like me—”

Abnus clamped his hands over his ears, the rake falling to the grass with a thump. “Mom, make it stop.”

“Have some respect,” Alice scolded.

Ada shot Alice a reproving look. “Alice, that’s enough. But Gwen, your sister is right. This is something to be proud of. Don’t be afraid. We’re not, and we haven’t done it before like Alice has.”

“In a past life!” Abnus hollered. “Stop encouraging her! She didn’t even do anything!”

Ada ignored him. “Abnus, hurry it up. We need to be done by noon.”

“Mum, even if it’s an honor,” Gwen babbled, tugging at her mother’s smock, “I’ll have wasted so much potential. Who knows what I may be able to do—”

“Gwen, that’s enough,” Ada snapped. “It’s an honor to participate in a Spectral Year. The entertainment is above all else, and you should be grateful you get the chance to provide it.”

Gwen, upon seeing that she could not convince her, sulked away to her room. The rest of the family continued to work in silence, hastening to finish.

At precisely eleven fifty-five, the family gathered in the attic. Abnus had to stoop in order to fit under the gabled ceiling. Gwen sulked behind her mother’s legs as they gathered in a circle, facing each other.

“Yard raked?” Ada asked.

Abnus nodded.

“Windows washed?”

Alice crossed her arms, a cloth bundle clutched in one fist. “You saw me do them.”

“We’ve vacuumed? Dusted? Mopped?”

“Yes.”

Ada consulted her list. “And the garbage is out?”

Alice wrinkled her nose. “Unfortunately.”

“All right,” Ada muttered, balling up the piece of paper and tossing it over her shoulder. She wiped her damp forehead with the back of her sleeve—even though it was an honor, she couldn’t pretend her nerves weren’t wracked at the idea. “Fine. Fine. Alice, you have the knives?”

“Of course.” Alice produced her cloth bundle again, a scroll of fabric, the contents hidden. Everyone knew what was inside before she unraveled the knot and the row of fine kitchen knives rolled out like ribbon. The handles were tucked into pockets along the bottom edge, the blades flush against the fabric. Her hands trembled as she took a blade from its slot.

She slid four knives out, one by one, and passed them around. Abnus took his with a supposed nonchalance, steely to the end. Ada accepted it with a rigid determination. Gwen reluctantly let Alice place hers in her small, innocent palms. She held it gingerly, the only one who treated it with the wariness that matched its potency.

“Are we ready?” Ada asked, looking around the ring of pale, damp faces.

The sounds of four gunshots, fired in rapid succession, interrupted the conversation.

Abnus gave a shuddering breath. “Yeah. I think that was the Petersons.”

“Well, then, what are we waiting for?” Alice asked lightly. “I wanted to be the first.”

Gwen said nothing, staring at the blade in her hands, the honed edge teasing her skin. She had not seized the handle yet as the others had, but the others were too consumed in their own fear to notice.

“One.”

“Two.”

“Three.”

Gwen watched as they all swiftly drove the knives into their chests and collapsed to the attic floor. Their blood soaked her socks before she threw her knife down to the attic floor, ran for her room to grab her packed bag, and fled.

Teacher Mix and Match

By Celia Baublis

Below is a list of the KAMSC teachers and facts that go with them! Your job is to correctly match each teacher to their fun fact! The answer key is on the next page (don't peek).

Teachers:

1. Mr. Alshehri
2. Mrs. Kalnins
3. Mr. Milka
4. Mrs. McCarthy
5. Mr. Houtrouw
6. Mrs. Thomas
7. Mrs. Chapotan
8. Mr. Sinclair
9. Mrs. Hohler

Fun Facts:

1. Was on Nickelodeon Slime Time as a child and has visited 11 countries
2. Likes hiking, boating, and speaks and writes Arabic fluently
3. Volunteered the two years after Hurricane Katrina rebuilding New Orleans with their spouse, has had cats named Willy and Wonka, and their favorite song in 8th grade was "Smells Like Teen Spirit"
4. Ran a marathon and saw a full solar eclipse two days later
5. Is also trilingual and makes village scenes of foam
6. Speaks three languages and has a dual citizenship
7. Didn't want to be a teacher. They also earned an Expert Infantryman's Badge and Jump Wings (or the Parachutist Badge) while in the army for three and a half years.
8. Collected beer cans as a child
9. Loves crocheting and is considering starting a KAMSC crochet club

Answer Key:

Mr. Alsheri - likes hiking, boating, and speaks and writes Arabic fluently.

Mrs. Kalnins - speaks three languages and has a dual citizenship

Mr. Milka - collected beer cans as a child

Mrs. McCarthy - was on Nickelodeon Slime Time as a child and has visited 11 countries

Mr. Houtrouw - ran a marathon and saw a full solar eclipse two days later

Mrs. Thomas - loves crocheting and is considering starting a KAMSC crochet club

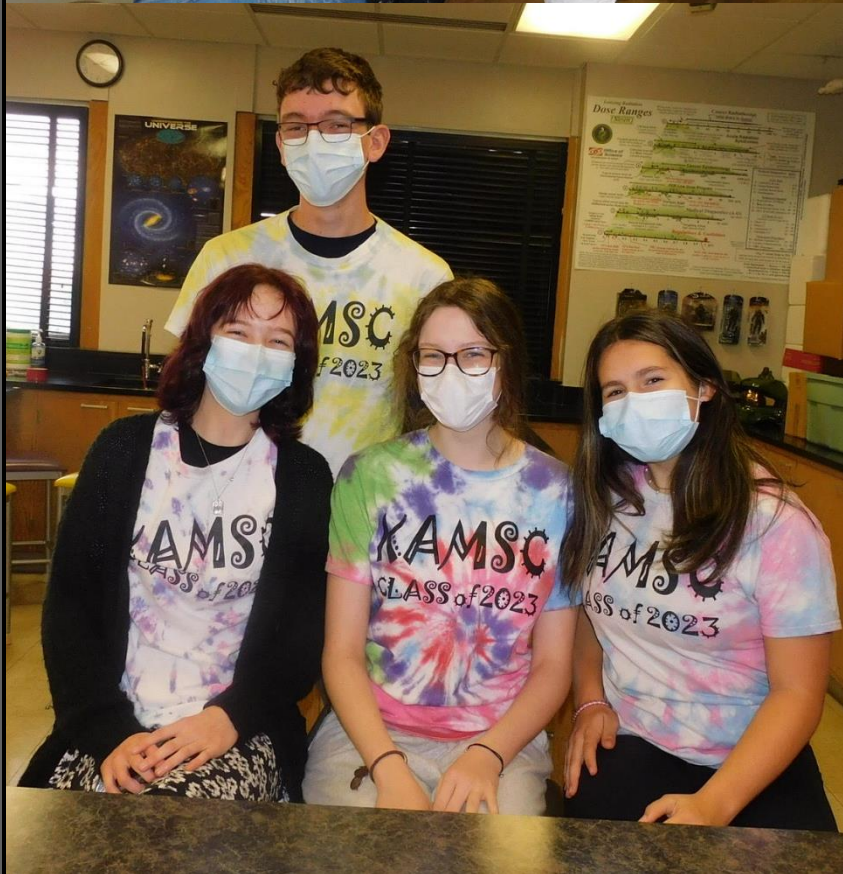
Mrs. Chapoton - Volunteered the two years after Hurricane Katrina rebuilding New Orleans with their spouse, has had cats named Willy and Wonka, and their favorite song in 8th grade was "Smells Like Teen Spirit"

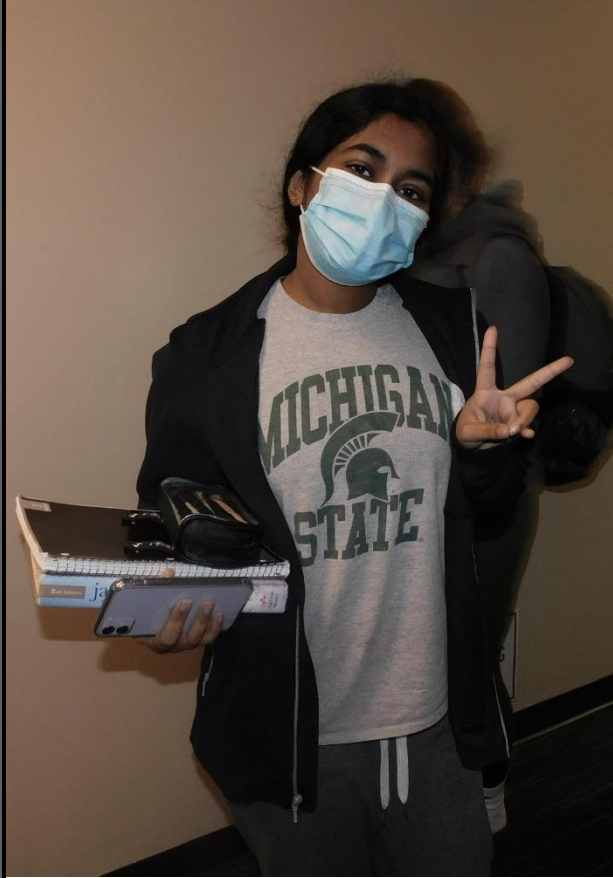
Mr. Sinclair - didn't want to be a teacher. They also earned an Expert Infantryman's Badge and Jump Wings (or the Parachutist Badge) while in the army for three and a half years.

Mrs. Hohler - is also trilingual and makes village scenes of foam.

KAMSC Photography

By Amanda Meinert













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Sincerely,
The Editors

Thank You To All Our Contributors!

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