



THE
SPINE

JORDAN FOR 'TOURISTS'

Met Gala 2015

Advice for IB Art Students

Book, Movie and Game
Reviews

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THE SPINE

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THE SPINE MAGAZINE



THESPINEABS



THESPINEABS

Editor's Letter

Dear reader,

As this academic year nears an end, students are working frantically hoping to save their grades, teachers are cramming in as much of the syllabus as possible, and *The Spine* team have been sacrificing their sleep to get the third issue of *The Spine* out before finals.

Our summer vacation is almost here and the meetings will halt, as will the endless hours of photoshopping and planning for *The Spine*... only to begin again during the next academic year. This is why we chose this issue's theme to be, "To Be Continued...", because despite the absolute silence *The Spine's* meeting room will experience over the next few months, soon enough those very rooms will again be filled with Spine members old and new. Even though we will be losing our beloved editor Samira Shabsogh, *The Spine* has not concluded. Her knowledge and experiences have influenced us and will influence future Spine members, regardless of her ability to attend future meetings.

To commemorate this theme, and Samira, the cover chosen is a fractal. A fractal is a mathematical set that repeats to a sometimes-infinite scale. Just like this fractal, which breaks into an infinite number of branches as you zoom in, *The Spine* continues to expand into a larger and larger community only limited by our ability to expand it. This summer will not stop us from zooming into the fractal that is *The Spine*, but merely slow us down ever so slightly.

Finally, I would like to congratulate my team for their hard work and devotion this year, and thank them for making my dream of a school magazine come true. I hope that you enjoy this issue of *The Spine* as you will have to wait quite a while for the next one.

Regards,
Suleiman Mashini
Editor of *The Spine*

Welcome to issue three of *The Spine*!

I can't believe how quickly the end of the year has come about – and I'm sure I'm not the only one! We have some wonderful features in the magazine this term, with coverage of the opening of the new IB College Building, film reviews, a peek at the Red Carpet coverage from the 2015 Met Ball, an insight into life around ostriches, and much more.

The end of a school year is always a little bittersweet – getting excited about the up-coming holidays for the chance of sleeping-in and lazy summer days, finally getting to the end of all the deadlines and exams for the year, and the promise of the new academic year just up ahead. New students, new classes, moving into a new grade... but then there's the 'bitter' part. As we wave goodbye to the 2014/15 school year, we're also waving goodbye to many of our friends – the current Grade 12 and teachers who are leaving. *The Spine* will particularly miss editor Samira and supervisor Miss Jennifer, and so here we have the theme of this issue – 'To Be Continued...'

So as we welcome our newest Features Writer, Jude Bawalsa, to the team, we are also saying 'goodbye and good luck' to all our friends setting off on their new adventures, sending them off on their way with a wave and a smile, and a gentle warning – beware of the ostriches...

TTFN, Miss Gill

Advice for IB Art Students

Written by: *Alia Kaway*

Taking Art in IB is not an easy task, especially because you also have seven other subjects. It's difficult to constantly come up with new ideas for pieces, so finding inspiration from art galleries, travelling and nature really helps. Take time to be inspired and motivated for your artwork. Although the process is challenging the outcome is rewarding.

Make use of your art journey and enjoy it. It's about the learning and self development.

Here's some advice from current DP Visual Arts students and Ms.Karamah Aweidah for next year's art students:

-Don't compare your work to other people's work. Compare your new work to your old work.

-Really good work takes a really long time to make. Be patient.

-Create every single day. Even if it's not good. You can't improve on a blank canvas.

“Make use of your art journey and enjoy it. It's about the learning and self development.”

-Be ambitious enough to do your best.

-Use primary sources for observational drawings and your studies.

-Put in a lot of hours each day.

-PPPPP= Proper Planning Prevents Poor Performance.

-Be creative, think out of the box. Create art that has not been seen or done.

-Be organised.

-To enrich your painting, integrate who you are. Be influenced by your culture and other cultures around the world.

-To be a great artist, you have to be passionate and obsessed.

-Don't settle for the first idea you get, keep on working and developing your thoughts until you come up with a sketch that's original and well thought through.

-Time management: never procrastinate.

-Have a theme so that you will have continuity.

-Be confident, be unique and be yourself.

-Stick to deadlines. Never leave anything to the day before the work is due.

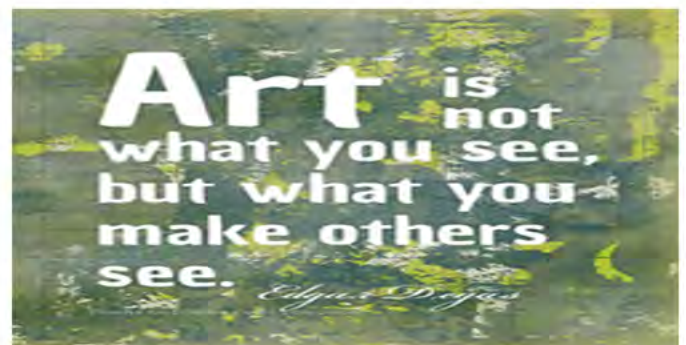
-Be on top of your work, literally sleep on top of it, canvas is comfortable.

-Don't change your theme at the last minute.

-Do a lot of research before a piece.

-Be ready to fail, because when you have success you begin to reproduce the same type of work, but you need to take risks.

-Whatever you are going to do is going to reveal your self-portrait.



<http://www.quotesvalley.com/art-is-not-what-you-see-but-what-you-make-others-see-2/>

The IB College Opening

Written by: Alia Kawar & Lara Abdulla

Photography by: Amman Baccalaureate School

On the 31st of March 2015 the Amman Baccalaureate School opened the doors and welcomed students and their parents, to the Randa Kawar IB College Building. The opening was held under the patronage of their Royal Highnesses Princess Sarvath Al-Hassan and Princess Sumaya Bint Al-Hassan.

The IB College is an environmentally friendly building, and is the product of the deliberation of the ABS board members and the school's team. The opening of the IB College was attended by her Excellency, Dr. Siva Kumari, the Director General of the IB. The IB College students along with their teachers attended an opening ceremony where the speakers expressed their gratitude towards the school and its staff for being able to come together and speed up the process of the 10-year plan for the new building. Dr. Siva Kumari expressed her satisfaction with the school's ability to comply with the guidelines of the International Baccalaureate Organization and she said she is excited to continue aiding ABS in fully establishing their IB programmes. This news was thrilling for the ABS community, especially since the school recently received the full authorization of the Primary Years Programme, making it one of the few schools which is implementing all four programmes of the IB worldwide.

The opening ceremony of the IB College showcased the broad range of talents of the ABS community. The stand-out performance was by Aeona Winchcombe and Yanal Qushair with their performance of "A Sky Full of Stars" by Coldplay in memory of Mrs. Randa Kawar, may her soul rest in peace. The performances also featured a short skit by Karim Nematt and classical Arabic music and traditional Arabic songs by the choir group guided by the music teachers, Miss Ruth Gardener and Mr. Ahmad Radaideh. The ceremony was followed by the unveiling of a plaque and the ribbon ceremony cutting. There was a brief tour of the IB College for their highnesses where they had the chance to speak to grade 4 students about science projects they made under the theme "Jordan 2050".

This tour concluded the official opening of the IB College, and was followed by another tour the next day by His Royal Highness Prince Hassan Bin Talal.

As her Royal Highness Princess Sumaya Bint Al-Hassan said, "And in 10 years time when you feel lonely, I hope that this building will bring back memories and it will bring you back to it, back to home."

The opening of the new IB College memorializes one of ABS's greatest supporters, founding member, Mrs. Randa Kawar.

Mrs. Randa Kawar served on the Amman Baccalaureate School Board from its inception, over thirty years ago. She worked tirelessly to make the vision of the ABS a reality. She was passionate about educating young people in the best way possible, using the most successful methods. She worked closely with HRH Princess Sarvath on the curricula and all detailed matters required to bring the school up to the best international standards.

Mrs. Kawar was a forward thinking, independent woman who highly valued education. She obtained a Masters Degree from the London School of Economics at a time when few women ventured abroad for Higher Education. She was also a very compassionate person, and never hesitated to help anyone who approached her. She was a role model as a dedicated, hard working, loving, giving person in every way.

The new IB College building is a truly wonderful way of not only remembering this extraordinary woman, but also allowing her passion for educating young people to live on.





Randa Kawar



Karim Nematt performing an extract of Romeo & Juliet



The MYP Choir singing traditional Arabic songs



The button pressing ceremony



Jasmine Abu Hamdan gifting her artwork



ABS staff and guests standing on the IB porch

Confessions of an ABS Student

Written by: Sanad Tabbaa

Photography by: IB Memes

We IB students are, without argument, pressured by masses of work, but we are human (contrary to popular belief), and we as humans have done things that need confession.

Here is a short list of my own:

- I use Wikipedia, no matter what anyone says, it is the most reliable source.
- Memorization, the true definition of learning.
- I really shouldn't be in Arabic B.
- I couldn't care less about World Religions, I just go to not get a warning letter.
- I speak for all of us when saying you confiscating bags won't make us use the lockers... MAKE THEM CUBBIES
- I seriously don't get enough sleep, but I'm not sure why? It isn't because I'm studying the entire time.
- I forget everything I studied for an exam right after I do it... sometimes before.
- I have never actually surveyed people, my primary research is always me.
- Our parents know nothing, IB is harder than college, END OF STORY.
- I can't count how many times I've wanted to be a garbage man and drop out.
- I miss the days math had numbers.
- For a while I only ate one meal a day, not for a diet but because I was too strapped for time
- I can use my TI-84 calculator better than I can ManageBac
- Currently I drink more coffee than water. It stopped being for energy a while ago, now I'm

just addicted

- The existence of ManageBac annoys me.
- I stopped reading Peter Carrigan's emails; When I get one I just do a few CAS reflections
- Why is it that in the outside world Community Service is a federal punishment, but in IB it is a requirement?
- If given the choice between curing cancer and getting a 42 out of 42 effortlessly, God would probably send me to hell.
- What you put on your senior jacket remains to be the most important decision of your school life. One that I have yet to decide.
- I bought most of my books for nothing.... Just saying
- I haven't started a single Internal Assessment, and haven't even thought about Extended Essay
- No matter what a teacher says, I CAN do the assignment the night before and I do.
- If its isn't mandatory, it isn't going to be done.
- I didn't do the assignment because you've assigned it yesterday, I've got a waiting list.

LONG TIME AGO, PEOPLE WHO
SACRIFICED THEIR SLEEP, FAMILY,
FOOD, LAUGHTER AND OTHER JOYS
OF LIFE WERE CALLED

SAINTS

NOW, THEY ARE CALLED

**I . B .
STUDENTS**

Paul Walker

Written by: Oun Nuqul

Photography by: Andre Louis

Paul Walker AKA Brian O'Conner was a great actor. Sadly he passed away in a tragic but ironic car accident during the filming of "Furious 7" which was released recently. Most people know Walker from his lead role along side Vin Diesel in the "Fast and Furious" movie series and for good reason. I hadn't watched the movies until the trailer for the seventh installment came out. I really wanted to watch it but at the same time I wanted to understand all the inside jokes and the character backstories. I watched six Fast and Furious movies within two weeks.

Walker had a generally interesting life even before the conception of the Fast and Furious movie series. He was born in Glendale, California in 1973. His mom, Cheryl née Crabtree, was a fashion model and his father was both a sewer contractor and, wait for it... a golden glove winning boxer. His father was named Paul William Walker III.... I'm going to give you a second to take this in, because now you must understand that Paul Walker is actually Paul Walker THE FOURTH.

Paul IV was a diaper model for Pampers at two years old and hasn't left the lime light since. At the age of 12 he took to the TV world in the series "Highway to Heaven" and has been in nine other TV series in total. When he was 13 he began appearing in movies, the first being "Monster in the Closet" and from that point on Paul focused on movies more than TV. His first big break was a soap opera called "The Young and the Restless" which saw him nominated for the Youth Soap Opera Film Awards. This put him up for the 2001 blockbuster, "The Fast and the Furious". Between the Fast and Furious movies Walker filmed several other movies, mostly during the filming of the third installment, "Tokyo Drift" as his character wasn't included in it. Because of this commitment to the Fast and Furious series Paul became very close to other cast members Vin Diesel and Tyrese Gibson. These relationships were both on and off screen and one story proves it without a doubt.

Immediately after the car accident. Vin, Tyrese and the rest of the Fast and Furious crew went to Paul's family to mourn together. Vin attempted to give a heart warming speech to comfort Paul's mother saying that they were brothers and he was amazing, but ended up breaking into tears, prompting Paul's mother to start comforting him. Vin Diesel truly did consider Paul to be a brother and often called him "Pablo", he also named his new born daughter Pauline. Paul's mother says Vin is her son's other half.

Paul's daughter, Meadow Walker, who is now 18, didn't live with Paul until 2011. Her mother was a one time girl friend of Paul, Rebecca Soteros. After Paul's death Vin became Meadow's Godfather and would now be the guardian of Meadow if she wasn't 18, but the bond remains there as Vin visits Meadow and treats her like his own daughter.

It really isn't fair that such a good actor/ person died because of his friends reckless driving. Paul Walker is remembered through his legacy in movies and through the many charities he started. Today the Reach Out World Wide (ROWW) foundation helps families that have been through natural disasters, and that was all Paul's doing. Forming the charity after visiting Haiti in 2010, Walker will always be remembered through the good work of his charity.



The Spring Festival

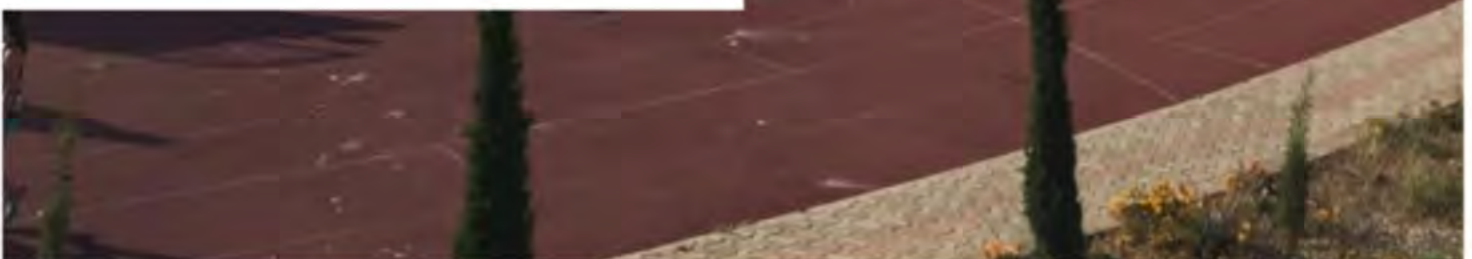
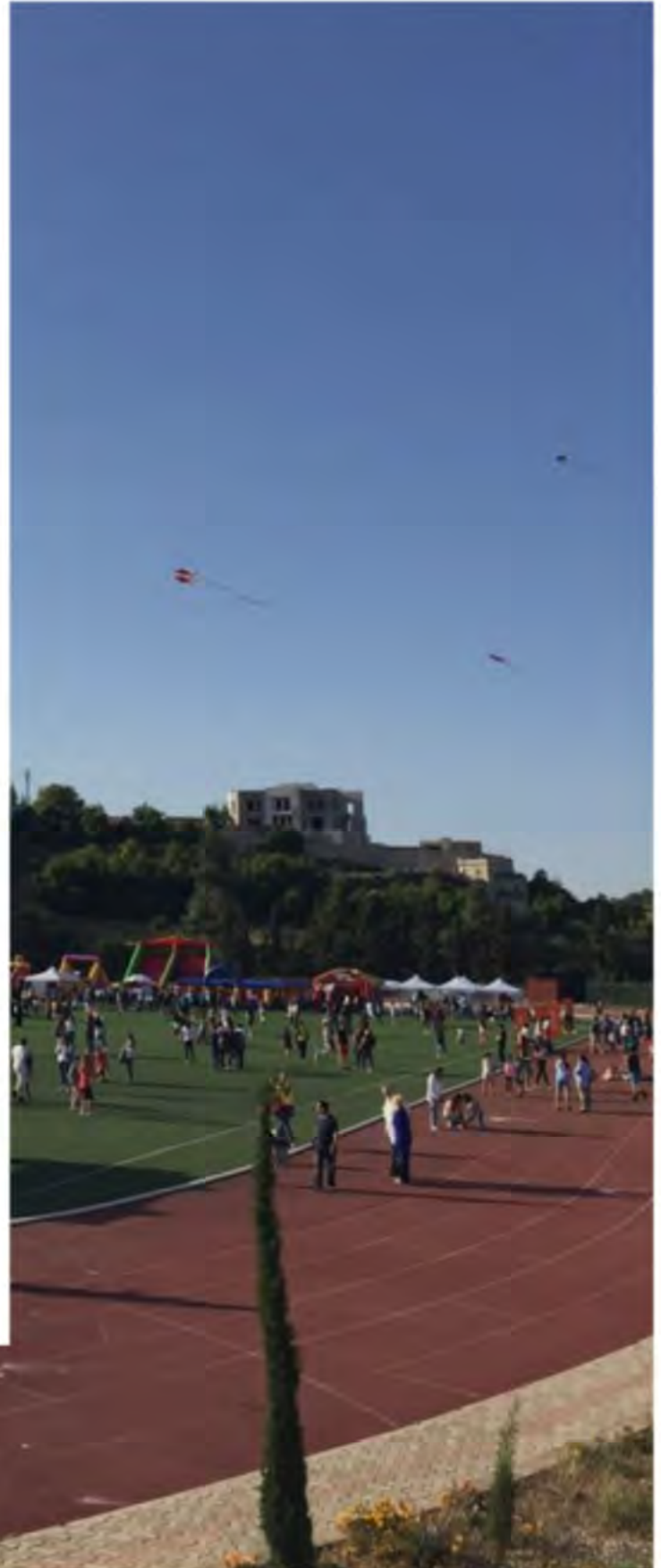
Written by: Lara Abdulla

Photography by: Amman Baccalaureate School

“S omething in the air this morning made me feel like flying. . . ” Ellen Granfors’s song, and without a doubt Spring, makes us all feel like flying. Spring is the year’s first smile, and that is why it should always be celebrated with joy and happiness. This year, the ABS welcomed people from the ABS community and beyond to its first annual Spring Festival. Joining hundreds of people, the festival had all sorts of festivities and entertainment. The ABS fields swarmed with children running around and waiting in queues for their turn to enter the jumping castle or play the treasure hunt. On the other side, the people were standing in line waiting for their food from different stands or waiting impatiently for the raffle ticket numbers to be called out, because any one of them could be the next winner of a two way ticket to Athens!

The organizers of the festival ranged from students to teachers but of course this success couldn’t have happened without the leadership of Mr. Peter Carrigan who worked day and night to ensure that everything was in order and that it would all work out. The Festival is renowned for its wide range of booths, ranging from different stationary shops to the MUN and what it is all about. Towards the afternoon, the festival witnessed a change of mood when ABS performers took their places and gave performances that amazed the crowd. Musicians showcased their vocals by covering a variety of genres of songs.

At 8pm, ABS closed its gates on a tiring but absolutely thrilling day, and as the gates were shut a promise to continue this tradition of celebrating Spring was made and the expectations for next year’s festival only grew.



Short Film Competition

Written by: Sanad Tabbaa

After months of preparation, judging and filmmaking a few inspired groups of talented students have broken through the veil of mediocrity to come up with something truly amazing. The Short Film Competition's winners have been announced and although it was a rather tight competition, we have a winning group or individual for each of the three categories.

To recap, the rules of the competition were as follows: each contestant had to produce a short film from 45 seconds to 3 minutes long, the theme of the film was to be "Spy Games" and there was a winner for a film from each section of the school (KG/JS, MYS and IBC). A particularly interesting thing is the variation within the winning films. Each of the films is quite unique in its own way, with the JS winner producing a documentary, the MYS winner producing a trailer and the IB winners having a full short film and all three groups producing some truly amazing films that could captivate even the most picky of viewers.

The winners are as follows:

- KG/JS Hashim Ababneh - Detective Hashim/Go Green
- MYP Natalie Hadidi - Spy Games Caramella's Choice
- IBC Farah Zreikat, Faisal Kawar and Sukayna Judeh - Spy Games

"It was wonderful to see so much talent from all areas of the school. There were some fabulous ideas and excellent films in all categories - everyone who entered should be extremely proud of themselves!"

-Gill Rogers

There was also a public vote for the overall winner which took place at the Spring Festival, which was won by the IBC squad, ensuring that a good portion of students' parents saw and were able to comment on the ingenuity of the students.

Links for each of the short films can be found on YouTube and Miss Gill Rogers has sent an email with the links to the winning films. On the topic of Ms. Gill (who also served as one of the judges to the films), she had this to say: "It was wonderful to see so much talent from all areas of the school. There were some fabulous ideas and excellent films in all categories - everyone who entered should be extremely proud of themselves! The students showed just how creative and innovative they are, and I'm looking forward to seeing more amazing work entered into the Short Film Competition in years to come."



In addition to the reward of recognition, the winning teams were given prizes. Each winner got a bag of Candy Box and the public vote winners got 50 JD's to spend at Casereccio and the runner ups of the public vote were given a pair of cinema tickets. If that's not enough incentive, I don't know what is. So get out there, make movies and next year you can not only showcase your skills but also destroy the competition.

Jordan For Tourists

Written by: Sanad Tabbaa

Photography by: Ahmad Tabbaa

I've never been a patriot. IB history has eradicated any possibility of me thinking of it as anything but nationalism and all the aggressive devotion for this country my grandmother can fling at me will not change that. I do, however, feel great affinity for this land upon which I live; not because of its name, government, people or the fact that I live on it, but because it is beautiful and underrated, and if there's anything I love it's an underdog.

I'm surprised that only myself and the hordes of Russians who visit us every year seem to have discovered the immense awesomeness of the land which Jordan is located on. This country really is quite magnificent from a natural point of view.



First let's talk scenery. When you think Jordan, you probably don't take flora and fauna into account. The thing is, we have some truly incredible landscape. Jordan has managed to use a combination of tectonic luck, inaccessibility and water (or lack thereof) to produce some truly excellent sites. Consider Wadi Mujib. Erosion from the river which runs through the Wadi to the Dead Sea has produced the strangest and most incredible rock formations which happen to be home to some rare and gorgeous birds which are totally trumped in importance and coolness by

Hyenas and Ibexes, the latter of which is found almost nowhere else in the world.



While we're on the subject of water it is only fitting to really dive into it, deeply and very literally. Although the Aqaba I know (not the one marketed to tourists), is a pit of teen alcoholism and misery, you would be surprised to note that a good chunk of Aqaba is not lame or milked for tourism in a way that makes Lady Gaga's fashion sense seem subtle: the part that is underwater. Aqaba is noted for being an excellent diving site, and for good reason. The undersea wildlife is the most prevalent and dense in all of Jordan; you can find species of marine flora and fauna that are exclusive, endangered and plainly exquisite ranging from sea turtles to whale sharks and corals of immaculate delicacy.



Since we're on the topic of life, let's talk about the two areas of Jordan that are most known for their wildlife: Dana and Ajloun. Both areas are home to a quantity of wildlife rarely seen anywhere in the Middle East but are two entirely different biospheres. Ajloun is a forest; an actual forest, not like Ghamadan which is, in actuality, just the home of a fairly questionable zoo. Ajloun, on the other hand is the home of wildlife in Jordan including animals such as the porcupine, deer and jackal.



Dana is a scene straight out of the Lord of the Rings. The rocky outcroppings shown in the Lord of the Rings films are emulated in Dana. It is what inspired this article in the first place. Over 300 km² of untouched nature, a few species of flora exclusive to the area, and critically endangered animals combined with landscape that legitimately almost made me cry make this (in my opinion) one of the most amazing sites in all of Jordan and the world.



Another majestic site in Jordan is one almost completely devoid of life, and that is what makes it so awesome. Awesome is a word which has devolved to be used for nearly any and everything but Wadi Rum's emptiness and the feeling that you are truly alone in everything is without compare, and being in a landscape as all-consuming and astounding as Wadi Rum's rolling red sands makes the experience unforgettable. Other than simply walking across the land of pure and untouched nothingness you can also take an air-balloon ride. I didn't know there were any since the 1800's and that isn't even Wadi Rum's only surprise. Night-time in Wadi Rum is the most incomparably magnificent sight I have ever witnessed. The total absence of light pollution makes the night sky an astronomer's dream.



And the most surprising thing about all of this is that every single one of these areas has tour, accommodation and is within driving distance of Amman. It's all there and it's all astonishing. All you have to do is book a weekend, any weekend, and drive.

Why Join MUN?

Written by: Suraya Salfiti

Photography by: AMMUN Photography Team

A seemingly elitist group of know it all students that talk a lot, talk loudly and like to argue. Why would you want to be a part of that? You are expected to rule a country for a day. The questions the AMMUN team have been asked are numerous, what is MUN? What is the UN? How can you be part of AMMUN? But no body has really given us a reason to join in the first place! First off – its for everybody, if you're not doing that great at schoolwork, MUN is for you, if you are doing wonderfully, MUN is for you. If you want a future in law, economics, politics or human rights, perfect, if you want a topic to impress parents with then go ahead.

Benefit Number 1: You get to travel. Joining the MUN club will get you an excused absence to visit Milan, Qatar, The Netherlands, Turkey etc. It's a guaranteed annual trip with a bunch of your friends to meet people your age that come from a bunch of other countries.

Benefit Number 2: People you meet. Meeting a group of teenagers from across the globe with similar or not so similar interests is wonderful. Well-dressed teenagers, sharing dirty notes, facebook friends, parties and excursions all contributes to a wonderfully enlightening experience.

Benefit Number 3: Politics. You look smart in all social situations, you learn how to talk to adults and maybe even surpass them on the field of current events. You learn absolutely everything that is happening in the world today and feel confident using that knowledge to impress or argue.

Benefit Number 4: You get to control a country. You apply the foreign policy, you make allies, and you decide what goes. Fight for gay rights, go to war against Russia or drop a nuclear bomb, this is all doable.

Benefit Number 5: Confidence boost. People generally fear public speaking more than they do anything else. Impromptu speaking is a skill that you

gain throughout debate. As well the ability to argue and persuade, which becomes almost embedded into you after speaking in front of a large group of people. As a delegate you are trained to get used to being out in situations of difficulty or in front of a crowd and you gain the talent to talk your way out of anything.

Benefit Number 6: CAS Points. This fills up both creativity and service hours. All you need to do is attend a local or international conference, sprinkle in involvement in AMMUN and you won't ever have to worry about CAS requirements again. ManageBac is no longer a worry because then you get to upload documents and pictures instead of actual reflections.

Benefit Number 7: University Applications. Unis want to know that you have been doing something with your time, that doesn't necessarily mean writing your personal statement about AMMUN, but linking anything you do to politics, public speaking or debate adds high regard to any admissions officers opinion. You can advertise the fact that you can talk circles around anybody, write faster than anybody else or get your point across. And this is what they want to see.



Ostriches

Written by: Sanad Tabbaa

Unlike other evil birds such as geese and swans there are no misconceptions about the inherent sadistic streak of the ostrich. I theorise that the reason aliens have yet to visit Earth to share their extra-terrestrial knowledge with us, is because they happened to chance upon the ostrich with their telescopes and decided that any planet with a sentient species stupid enough to allow an abhorrent abomination such as the ostrich to live probably deserved a catastrophe of epic proportions.

The best advice for those who wish to avoid ostrich attacks is to stay 50-100 metres away from any ostrich ever. Ostriches are both vicious and the fastest bipedal runners on the planet and have a pair of legs that make Olympic Sprinter Usain Bolt look like an elderly paraplegic. If an ostrich starts chasing you you're dead unless you have a car, building or tree close by. Ostriches run at a speed of around 72 km/h and won't stop running when you're out of range, they'll stop running when you stop breathing. If you do manage to get somewhere safe, they'll harass you until the perceived thrill of sadism is outweighed by boredom.

Don't work at an ostrich farm, instead shoot yourself in the groin and reevaluate the life choices that made you even consider such a hilariously bad decision. Ostriches are the animal kingdom equivalent of Kung-Fu legend Bruce Lee crossed with a velociraptor. They are completely merciless and will run specifically to kick you with a super-kick that can disembowel a lion. Their kicks are bad enough in terms of blunt-force trauma but when combined with the nails of an Arab secretary they're deadly. Ostriches kill 2-3 people in Oudtshoorn (an ostrich farming community) in South Africa annually. For comparison: in half a century (from 1952-2002) wolves killed 3 people in the entire continent of North America. Ostriches outrank wolves 50:1 in death rates; which might make wolves seem a little weak but at least wolves don't look like they've been plucked and tossed into a blender with essence of ugly.

Ostriches only have two toes. That alone makes

them distrustful, but when combined with their bird chronic baldness and featherless armpits, you've got to embrace the possibility that the idiom "ugly is to the bone" might apply. Ostriches might be slightly more tolerable if they held a smidgeon of intelligence but they don't. Their eyes are larger than their brain and their eyes aren't all that large. This incredible stupidity manifests in an affinity for swallowing everything. Ostriches have as many teeth as a new born baby (none) and as a result have to swallow all of their food. Unfortunately, as stated, ostriches are morons and seem to believe that everything is food. I'm not kidding. Bottles, alarm-clocks, cameras, infants, it all goes down the gullet. If by now you're screaming wildly and asking stuff like: "how can we protect our children?!" I've got some good news for you... There is salvation for these hideous creatures in death. Ostrich meat is similar in flavour to lean beef but low in fat and cholesterol and high in protein and calcium. You can eat them. They're delicious and possibly the healthiest red meat available AND they're so dreadful and repulsive, even vegetarians should have no objections! Eat ostriches. They deserve it.



(This is a satire article, the views represented do not coincide with those of the writer; I actually quite like ostriches. If you agree with me and believe that ostriches are new-age dinosaurs, blame Sam. He let this run).

The Met Gala 2015

China: Through the Looking Glass

Written by: Jude Barwala

Photography by: Jaime McCarthy

The fourth of May marks the most important night of the Fashion year. The Met Gala, or Met Ball, takes place each year in New York at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The Met Gala is an annual fundraising gala for the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute. It marks the grand opening of the institute's annual fashion exhibition. This gala is known to be teeming with models, fashion designers, actors and actresses and 'fashion royalty,' including her 'royal highness', Miss Anna Wintour, Editor-in-Chief of VOGUE magazine.

Following this major event, the annual exhibition runs for many months, allowing the public to visit and offering further chance to raise money. This year the exhibition will remain on view until August. This Gala is one of the most distinguished ways of raising money for the Institute. In 2014, the money raised by the Gala hit the record-breaking amount of 12 million dollars!

This exclusive event has been held at the Met Museum since 1946, where fashion royals and Hollywood stars gather to attend the fashion industry's most exclusive red carpet event.

"The Met Gala is an annual fundraising gala for the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute."

Anna Wintour has been a chair for this event since 1995. She manages the benefit committee and the guest list. This year, the honorary chair was Silas Chou, the King of fashion business. The evening's co-chairs were Jennifer Lawrence, Gong Li, Marissa Mayer and Wendi Murdoch.

Each year, the event changes theme, according to the theme of the art exhibition-taking place. This year, the theme was China: Through The Looking Glass. This year's theme discovers the impact of Chinese aesthetics on western fashion. In this partnership between the Gala and the theme, guests have been

wearing Chinese inspired clothes.

"This year, the theme was China, Through The Looking Glass."

From John Galliano to custom Givenchy, some guests have gone above and beyond to reflect the theme this year, while others didn't really pay any attention to it - either way, the gowns and appearances are some to remember.



Diane Kruger in Chanel
An amazing combination of pants and a dress!



Zendaya Coleman rocked this year's theme! One of my 'best dressed' in Fausto Puglisi, truly a Chinese inspired look!



Even though I don't love the colour combination of the diamonds, we all know that Queen Bey is the only one who could pull off this Givenchy look!



Amal Clooney in a ravishing John Galliano for Martin Margiela

George Clooney in Armani.

The Secret to the Success of the Golden State Warriors

Written by: Alia Kazwar

Photography by: Robert Galbraith

Teamwork and unselfishness create the backbone of a great team. However, in the NBA many teams may depend on the superstar of that team instead of working together because of surplus of talent. This type of play isn't durable because it's a long season full of intense games. So that is why an unselfish team like the San Francisco Golden State Warriors were able to end the season with the best record because of their teamwork and collaboration. Although they have one of the best shooters in the game today, Stephen Curry, they still remain collaborative in order to fulfill their common goal of winning a championship.

Thirty teams in the NBA all have a mutual aim of getting into the playoffs. However, only 16 teams can get in; eight teams from the West and eight teams from the East.

So, as the playoffs go on, these 16 teams battle for a championship. Every game is a fight as each team is determined to play the best basketball game they can.

The Golden State Warriors really stood out this year. They ended the regular season with the best record in the NBA, 67 wins and only 15 losses. They have improved massively from last year because they haven't recruited many new players.

The Golden State managers were aiming to keep the strong chemistry between the players that has built over the years. The bond between the players allows

them to trust each other and move the ball around. They are willing to pass the ball to the player with the best "look" (an unguarded player) rather than depending on their star players. This mindset has boosted their efficiency and really prepared them for the playoffs.

My prediction is that the Warriors will win the championship since they've had a record-breaking season and are being lead by the most skilled player in the league, Stephen Curry.

As a matter of fact, Stephen Curry, has just been announced the Most Valuable Player (MVP) of the 2014-2015 regular season. He broke his own record of 272 3-pointers set two years ago, hitting 286 from beyond the arc. He already owns three of the five most prolific 3-point shooting seasons in NBA history. Curry averaged 23.8 points, 7.7 assists, 4.3 rebounds and two steals this season.

Curry was chosen for MVP because he was recognized as a team player. He cared more about winning as a team rather than his own accolade. He was a key factor in making his teammates better by passing them the ball and making the right plays at the right times. The bigger idea behind teamwork is hard work, determination, communication and perseverance to achieve a common goal. The Golden State Warriors remain determined to keep working hard in order to achieve the best record in the NBA and be prepared for the playoffs.

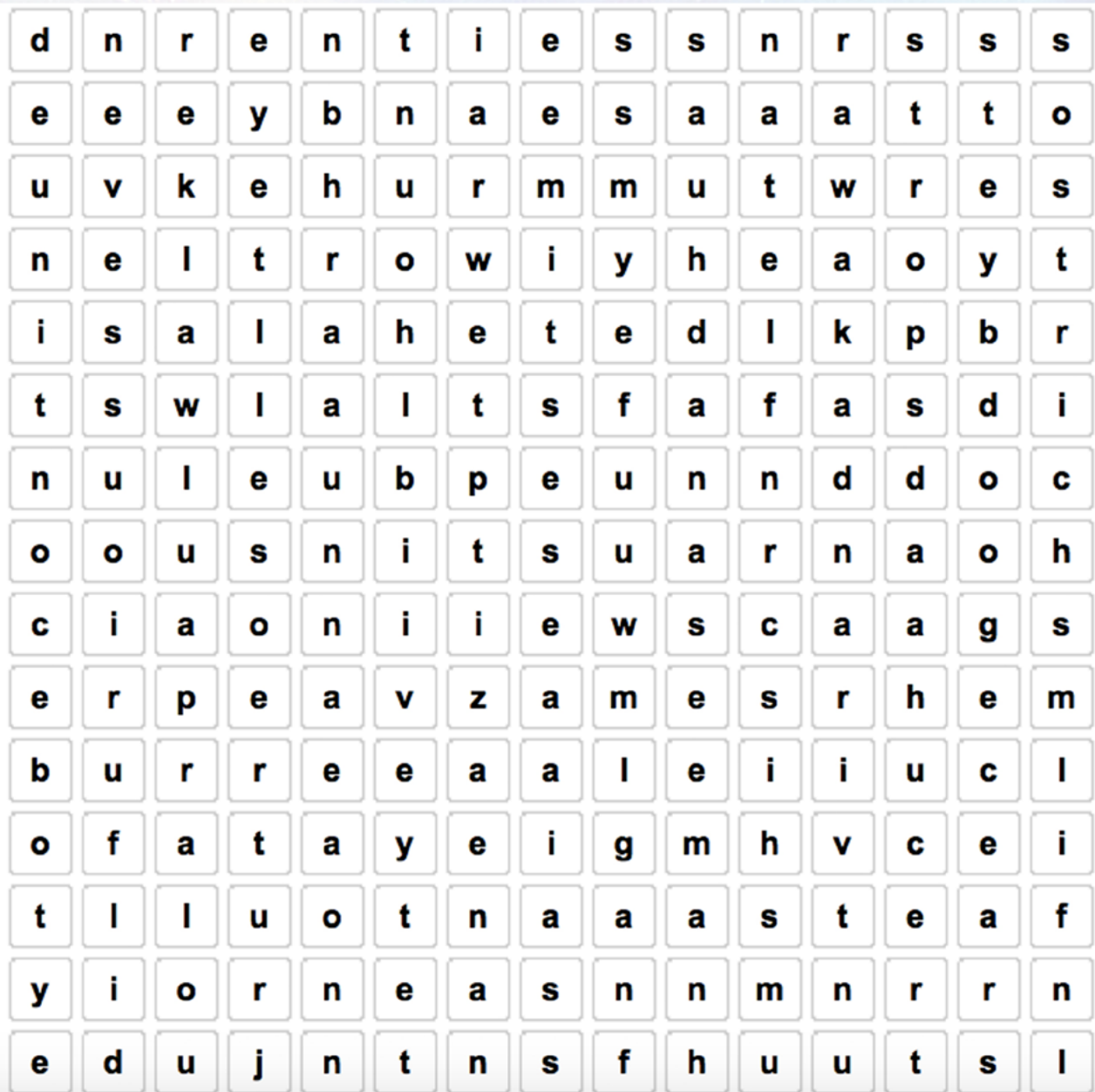
Warriors Franchise Records Broken in 2014-15

Record	Franchise Record Set	Previous Record
Most Wins	67	59 (1975-76)
Most Home Wins	39	36 (1975-76)
Most Road Wins	28	24 (1991-92, 2013-14)
Longest Win Streak	16	11 (1971-72)
Longest Home Win Streak	19	16 (1950, 1959)
Longest Road Win Streak	10	7 (1969, 2013-14)



Word Search Game

Made by: Oun Nuqul



Find the following words and win a prize!

TO ENTER: Send a picture of your completed wordsearch to thespine@abs.edu.jo. The first 5 correct entries win a Candybox gift!

To Be Continued, Furious Seven, Issue Three, The Met Ball, Paul Walker, Randa Kawar, Visual Arts, Magazine, Suleiman, The Spine, Ostrich, Goodbye, Celine, Samira, Sports, Sanad, Films, Jude, Lara Oun.



Ask Alice & Alex!



Welcome to Alex & Alice, the Spine's resident Q&A experts!

1. How do I study for finals if they're so close?

Alice: Stay calm and breathe! There's still some time left for finals! I'd say begin studying bit by bit beginning now, and then revise the day before the exam! You should be fine. Good luck!

Alex: They say that certain foods enhance the memory and increase your knowledge. Basically what I'm saying is eat Rakan Rifai.

2. Why do I have so many internals?!

Alice: ...erm, I cannot find an optimistic answer to this... Good luck with your internals. You'll need it!

Alex: Because the IB is powered by misery; more internals=more green energy!

3. Why do some teachers bully each other?

Alice: It's best we not get into teachers' personal lives, even if bullying each other is wrong, no matter how old.

Alex: Establishing dominance for mating rights.

4. Favourite Atef Driver?

Alice: They're all qualified! :)

Alex: Qussai. Driving with Qussai makes me feel

like I'm in a movie: Fast and Furious.

5. How can I maintain luscious beautiful hair?

Alice: I heard washing your hair in cold water helps lock the moisture in your hair, which keeps it nice and shiny!

Alex: It really has to do with how you care for it. Personally, I'm almost bald but I've heard that orange juice, blood and glue make a real difference when rubbed into the scalp.

6. If you had one wish, what would you wish for?

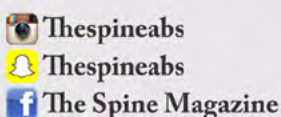
Alice: Probably a small kitten! :D

Alex: I would wish for an atomic bomb so that I could threaten the world's populous into collectively creating a golden statue of me in the middle of Red Square. Long live communism.

7. If you were stuck on a desert island, what would you take with you?

Alice: A survival kit seems to be the most logical thing to me at the moment...that, or a raft. To get off the island!

Alex: Easy, A baby. You'll have companionship, something to do so you don't get bored, a lasting bond and an emergency food supply.



Ask Alice & Alex anything on Survey Monkey!
(www.surveymonkey.com/s/D9NKXC7)

Avengers: Age of Ultron

Reviewed by: Celine Eses



SPOILER ALERT!

It's here at last! The long awaited sequel to the previous hit "The Avengers", has struck theatres by storm. "The Avengers: Age of Ultron" was hyped-up like crazy among Marvel fans due to the general success of the first movie. Naturally, I was incredibly excited! My friends were talking about it, the internet was flooded with chatter, spoilers and trailers - what's not to love! The result? I wasn't disappointed! Well, granted there were a bunch of flaws and all, but nonetheless!

Before I start, I'd like to clarify that I don't exactly keep up with Marvel comics, because I just know some poor sap will ask. I don't have extensive knowledge on these characters and I don't know if the movie changes anything about them. But part of adapting something to a movie is to introduce the characters to a new audience, and you shouldn't have to study up to watch a movie.

Moving on to the movie, the part I enjoyed most was Ultron himself. This may be the side of me who just really enjoys rogue AI's and robots, but I honestly just couldn't resist the Uncanny Valley* effect he had on me. I suppose you can say he was a tad cliché, but I just had so much fun watching this character. Ultron as an Artificial Intelligence is incredibly close to human, which in my opinion makes him all the more ominous. I adore that!

The Avengers are still the same Avengers you knew and loved from the first movie, and the sequel essentially serves its purpose: a continuation to the original story. However, I did feel the story arcs were eerily similar to the first film. Introduction of the villain, midway point fight and then the big finale fight. It felt a bit recycled in retrospect.

Speaking of the Avengers, I personally didn't pay much attention to them. Maybe Ultron, Quicksilver and Scarlet Witch overshadowed them insanely for me, but I didn't really find

myself AMAZINGLY invested in the actual Avengers. The only one I think I got invested in was Hawkeye due to the introduction and reveal of his family. I didn't feel emotionally invested in the Avengers. It's a mystery to me.



A part I must talk about and the main reason for the spoiler warning is the fact that the Hulk and Black Widow actually end up together. While I find it random, I suppose it was an unexpected change that might have appealed to some people. I found it was similar to playing Spin the Bottle and pair up the two the bottle stops at...I'm not totally against the idea and it did introduce some interesting ideas for development of chemistry, I was just a tad bit confused about the entire thing. I'll probably pass it off as trying really hard to appeal to the general audience.

Despite the movie's flaws though, it's necessary to say that the effects and the action are fantastic. I was never once bored during an action scene: it felt both coherent and fun, which is essentially what I came to see - an action movie! A movie full of huge scale battles and interesting ways to fight it out! In its most basic form, that's what this movie is.

I'd say go watch it if you're a fan of Marvel's stuff, but let's face it, if you are, you probably already have. If you aren't, I'd say pick it up if you're looking for an action movie to turn your brain off to. It's not the best action movie, but it will keep you entertained.

*Uncanny Valley: a phenomenon in which a humanoid robot with near identical features to a human causes a sense of unease or revulsion to those who view it.
All images used are official promotions for the movie "Avengers: Age of Ultron"

The Land Before Time

Reviewed by: Celine Eses



The Land Before Time (Bluff, 1988) is a nostalgic movie for all kids, and it is a source of childhood memories for me as well, though it has been a while since I've even seen it. It was directed by the infamous ex-Disney animator Don Bluth, who has directed other animated classics such as All Dogs Go to Heaven (1989) and An American Tail (1986).

The story follows a baby brontosaurus by the name of Littlefoot, who gets torn apart from his family during an earthquake. Eventually, he comes across many different friends on the journey to the supposed utopia of "The Great Valley" that his mother always told him about, all the while escaping close encounters with the viciousness of a dinosaur named Sharptooth. Dinosaurs during this time were segregated, and only stuck to other dinosaurs of their kind, aptly named after physical features such as "long necks", "three horns", "flyers", "swimmers", etc...and this serves as a point of conflict with the dinosaur youngsters since their parents have segregated them for their whole life.



Whenever I see "Directed by Don Bluth" in a movie's credits, I know the animation and designs are going to be incredible. I've always been a fan of movies he has directed, with The Secret of NIMH (1982) and All Dogs go to Heaven being two of my personal favorites, thanks to the gritty yet cartoony style he seems to adopt in most of his movies.

The dinosaurs are each designed in a nearly Disney-esque style, but also not as over the top cuties like some of the animals designed by

Disney tend to look.

The story is simplistic, and it's obvious that the target audience are the children. The message is easy to understand: working together will help you achieve anything. There are also underlying themes of poverty, and dare I say, maybe the topic of racism due to the segregation the parents have enforced. The story is slow paced, perhaps to show how long it actually took the group to reach the salvation of the Great Valley. It's perfect movie to watch during a rainy day and if you're feeling a bit nostalgic for 80's animation. I suppose a downside can be that it may be a bit too kid friendly for some people, I went through a bit of a phase where I felt slightly bored watching some parts of the film.



Overall, The Land Before Time is a simple kids film anyone can watch. If you enjoy animation, I would say to try it out, otherwise, if you just feel like watching a movie that has a Disney-like tone, then this is great movie for a rainy day.

Frank Herbert's Dune

Reviewed by: Sanad Tabbaa

Dune and Frank Herbert are to Sci-Fi what Lord of the Rings and JRR Tolkien are to Fantasy: a cornerstone of a genre, a full and totally developed world populated by distinct characters and definitely not for everyone. Absolutely not for everyone, but if you enjoy it; you'll enjoy it more than nearly any other series you'll ever read. I've met people so heavily influenced by the series that they've based portions of their way of life and thinking processes on ideas from this series. You'll struggle to find a better science fiction series anywhere on earth.

“Frank Herbert uses Dune to tackle every topic from prophecy to economic systems to the nature versus nurture argument.”

Dune is a series that takes place over a period of around 13,600 years, covering the birth, expansion, death and aftermath of an empire. Like Star Wars (Lucasfilm), the stuff produced in the 2000's is regarded as total garbage and non-canon by many fans. Unlike Star Wars, this is because the original writer died in the 80's and the final 2 novels were written by his son posthumously. This leaves us with five books by the original author. The majority of the series is set on the planet Dune and covers the journey of the Atreides family throughout the universe. Set millennia in the future, in a galaxy controlled by excessively powerful corporations, Dune features an almost feudal system of government secretly dominated by a mysterious all-female society. All of which is set to the backdrop of the existence of Melange Spice, the most valuable substance in the universe which allows for many things previously impossible such as space-travel and limited prescience.

The level of description in this series is easily above and beyond most novels and creates not just a single world, but an entire universe filled with distinct planets, differing viewpoints, characters with no clear allegiance to a “totally good” or “totally evil” side and many ideas that will challenge the reader's thought processes.

That brings me to my next point: the ideas. You could argue that Frank Herbert created the Dune Universe as a medium through which to expose people to his ideas, without being too wrong. This shouldn't be taken to mean that the story is secondary; it just means that the underlying ideas are thought through, well developed and given the same treatment and importance as the storyline.

Frank Herbert uses Dune to tackle every topic from prophecy to economic systems to the nature versus nurture argument. He gives each idea the respect and depth it deserves and, more importantly, a fitting place within the story. Note that it's not a philosophy book, it's a series of novels but it is a series so well developed that it may actually cause you to evaluate, and maybe profoundly affect, the way you think.

The series is still not for everyone though; it is a heavy read and one that will take time to appreciate. It's also heavy on the description and though many people will acclaim that, others may find it cumbersome. However, if you want a book that will challenge the way you think, and possibly change it, go for Dune. It will be one of the best decisions you will ever make.



Frank Herbert's Dune Cover

Fire Emblem Awakening

Reviewed by: Sulciman Mashini

Are you looking for a game with plot? Character Development? No twelve year olds calling you a noob? A class system? Zombies riding dragons? Your own time travelling child? A customizable protagonist and 40 playable side characters? Yes, Fire Emblem has all that.

If you own a Nintendo 3DS then buying this game is necessary, and if you don't, you may consider buying one just for this game. (Yes, it is that good). The Fire Emblem series has blessed this world for nearly two decades and has been played by far too few people. It is known for its well-developed characters and its Eastern style genre featuring anime inspired cut scenes as well as young characters.

The game places you in a new world where you wake up with no recollection of your past. As you open your eyes, you see a group of strangers wondering where you came from and why you are laying on the floor. Soon you join their group of heroes trying to protect their kingdom from bandits, a neighboring king, and even time-travelling zombies to unravel your past and the complex story line within this great epic.

One thing that makes the game unique is that no player has the same experience. The amount of customizability provided, from weapons to more than forty customizable characters, designing your own avatar and a complex class system; It would be highly unlikely that someone would've played with the same configuration as you.

Permanent Death might as well be Fire Emblem's greatest strength. As you weave your party through the battlefields, you will take risks, accepting the chance of missing an attack and facing retaliation. Throughout the game characters are bound to die, never to be seen again. What makes this even more dreadful is that the developers at Intelligent Systems made sure you would fall in love with every single one of these characters before taking them away. This system forces you to consider risks

and to know that there are possible consequences for being reckless, which is what makes Fire Emblem so unique. (There is also a mode without permanent death if it is too intimidating for you).

Fire Emblem could be called the best strategy game to ever grace a portable system. Fluid and stunning, Fire Emblem never fails to impress, and I would play it repeatedly. However, keep in mind that if your preferred genre is mindless shooting and action-filled gaming, the chess-like and calms style may not be for you.



"This system forces you to consider risks and to know that there are possible consequences for being reckless, which is what makes Fire Emblem so unique"





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