

Have It Your Way!

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JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2018

# New Moon GIRLS™

Muggles Quiz 10

Boy Friends? 12

Your Dream School

15

girl  
Created!



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**New Moon Girls™** is the original girl-centered media. Girl editors, writers, filmmakers, and artists from around the world direct our content, working with adults through our pioneering Share the Power method. New Moon Girls provides innovative, safe, respectful, and advertising-free spaces online and in the magazine where girls develop their full potential through self-discovery, creativity, and community. NMG is for every girl who wants her voice heard and her dreams taken seriously in the world.

## Luna's Team

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Seven-time winner of  
Parents' Choice Gold Award



# contents

Have It  
Your Way!

8

## You Can Say It!

Get talk-confident, starting now.

10

## All Things Hogwarts ✖

Potter quiz, art, what-ifs, and more



14

## Your Way: School ✖

Plus, girls are teachers, too.

26

## Book Besties ✖

Get great reading ideas and add yours!

✖ *by girls*

## Boy Friend Problems?

PAGE

5

- 2 **Girl Talk ✖**  
Meet a Moon Girl and Luna Tics
- 3 **Inside the Moon**  
Look for Birthday Treats!
- 4 **Letters to Luna ✖**
- 6 **Ask a Girl ✖**  
Grown Up Too Fast? and more
- 12 **Break the Rules**  
Like Who You Like or Not
- 13 **Staying in Touch**  
It's Normal to Want Closeness
- 18 **Global Village: Uganda ✖**  
Meet Awesome Aisha!
- 20 **For the Curious ✖**  
We Heart Math
- 24 **Fiction ✖**  
Truth and Dare by Lila
- 28 **Luna's Art Gallery ✖**
- 29 **Poetry ✖**
- 30 **How Aggravating ✖**  
Girl-Caught: Twin Peaks
- 31 **Howling at the Moon ✖**  
Girl-Caught: Doctor Who
- 32 **Calendar**
- **The Last Word ✖**  
Maria Montessori

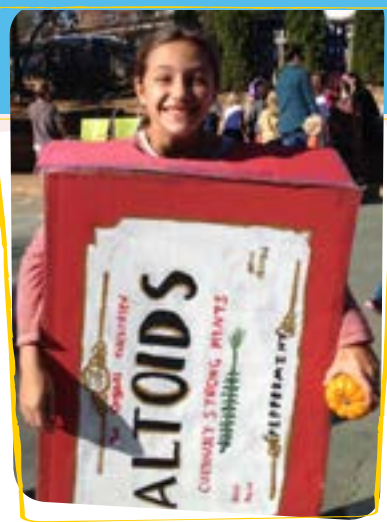
### Friends Sharing

When you join our supportive online community at [NMGmembers.com](http://NMGmembers.com), you can share your own opinions, art, stories, advice, photos, and more, and meet lots of other friendly, creative girls. Parents sign you up here: [NewMoonGirls.com/shop](http://NewMoonGirls.com/shop).



# girl Talk

## Meet a Moon Girl!



Say hey to Phoebe, 13, Virginia! She's always friendly and supportive in our online community AND she submits super ideas for Luna's Team. Here are some: a theme about what we believe; a Global Village from India, and a look at the racist rally in Charlottesville last August (see p. 8). Thanks, Phoebe!

**About Me:** I love pretty much anything that involves singing, acting, or playing an instrument. I play oboe, guitar, and saxophone. I love to doodle, daydream, read, and write, especially poems and serials. I also love practicing my calligraphy with colorful pens. I spend a lot of my time dreaming up crazy ideas and trying to change the world quietly. I am an introvert. I LOVE to bake brownies and cakes and frost cupcakes. I love hanging with my friends and watching My Little Pony with them.

**My Pets:** I have two adorable outdoor cats named Effie and Chasey.

**My Dreams:** I hope to run a six-minute mile and perform on Broadway. I dream that one day we can resolve global warming and achieve world peace.

**Favorite Music:** I love Tori Kelly, Ingrid Michaelson, Sara Bareillis, Coldplay, Kelly Clarkson, Shawn Mendes, The Beatles, The Indigo Girls, The Wailin' Jennys, Ruth B., MisterWives, Hailey Knox, Abba, and Alessia Cara. I also love musicals like Hamilton, Waitress, Wicked, Aida, Lion King, and Mamma Mia.

**Foods:** I really love food. Like a lot. I love frozen desserts and brownies. I love all of my grandma's Italian recipes that she got from her grandma. I also love tacos, burritos, potato chips, hamburgers, green beans, potatoes, corn, cucumbers, pickles, olives, meat, and cheese.



Playing Dorothy in  
The Wizard of Oz

*Have fun, Phoebe*

Find the **10 Luna Tics** hidden in every issue!



Send  
YOUR Luna Tics at  
[NewMoonGirls.com/  
girls-get-published.](http://NewMoonGirls.com/girls-get-published)

This issue's Luna Tics are created by: Gracecat, 13, California; Cedric, 13, Massachusetts; Nerpkin of the Sea Dragons, 10, California; Shirmash the Patriarchy, 11, New Mexico; Noreen, 11, Illinois; Amelia, 12, Pennsylvania; Gemella, 13, Massachusetts; Tori, 11, Wisconsin; Gretchen, 14, New Jersey; Sophia, 13, California

## Happy Birthday to Us!

*Dear Girls -*

*It happened in Duluth, Minnesota,  
on March 21, 1993.*

*The very first issue of New Moon  
magazine was printed.*

*It was 25 years ago that this  
awesome magazine, made by girls and adults together,  
came into the world and started connecting girls.*

*We're celebrating the whole month of March, with special  
surprises for you and your parents!*

*Stay tuned and check our websites so you don't miss any  
of the excitement!*

*NewMoonGirls.com & NMGmembers.com*

*Love, Nancy*



## How to Get Published

We want to see what you make! You can write, draw, and send photos for all parts of the magazine and online community. It's easy to send your work and ideas.

- 1 Online members, post your stuff at [NMGmembers.com](http://NMGmembers.com). Any girl, submit your work at [NewMoon.com/girls-get-published](http://NewMoon.com/girls-get-published). Online members can send work here, too.
- 2 Check your email—we email you or message you on [NMGmembers.com](http://NMGmembers.com) if we want to publish something you made. We can't publish your work if you don't reply to our emails.
- 3 Read the regular enews your parents get from Nancy for special times to send us your work.
- 4 Answer the new polls at [NewMoon.com/polls](http://NewMoon.com/polls). A lot of poll answers are included in our articles and fun surveys.

## Magazine Themes

### Where Will You Go?

Deadline: February 15, 2018

Share your dreams about passions, travel bucket list, and future jobs.

### We're All Connected

Deadline: April 1, 2018

Tell about bonds with friends, family, pets, and the world.

### Meet the Makers

Deadline: June 1, 2018

Share creativity and inventiveness in any area, whether it's done by you or someone you admire.

## Seaerra's Art Journey



We love Seaerra's awesome art on p. 24—many thanks! Here's what Seaerra (left) says about her love of art. See more work at [SeaerraMiller.com](http://SeaerraMiller.com). I was the kid who drew. In school, the margins of all my papers and worksheets were a tapestry of doodles. At restaurants, my napkins were tiny canvases filled with people and trees and creatures, mini works of art left under the edge of my plate.

Maybe my pictures evolved into stories, or my stories gave rise to pictures. Either way, my art became a fusion of image and narrative. After high school, I knew I wanted to concentrate on illustration, so I moved from my small hometown of Casper, Wyoming, to pursue illustration at the Pacific Northwest College of Art and Design in Portland, Oregon. It was there that I realized I wanted to illustrate mainly for kids.

It is the stories and images from my own childhood that have shaped me as an artist, and continue to inspire my work. I hope that my art can be a part of someone else's inspiration.



# letters to luna

I'm Luna, the spirit of New Moon. I love to hear from you! Write me at [NewMoonGirls.com/girls-get-published](http://NewMoonGirls.com/girls-get-published).

Dear Luna,

Can we please add one (or two) issues that are all about Harry Potter? Girls can talk about everything they do or do not like about Harry Potter. Thanks!

Ava, 9  
Illinois

Dear Luna,

I joined NMG because I want to change the world and I figured this was a good place to start. Ever since before the U.S. presidential election, I've felt like I wanted to be a better feminist and human rights activist.

Dear Ava,

Check out p. 10! You'll find plenty of Pottermania in our online community, too: [NMGmembers.com](http://NMGmembers.com).

How can we make a difference?

We can all make things change, so let's come together and brainstorm. How can we make a difference? How can we change the world?

Elsa, 13  
Vermont



## Pass-It-On + New Poll



If you enjoy NMG, then share the joy! It's as simple as a quick comment, text, or showing someone a magazine issue or our online community. That's what Maya (above), 13, Wisconsin, has done ever since she learned about NMG: She told girls at summer camp, homeschool activities, on the bus, and emailed friends who are afar. "It feels good to spread the word," Maya says. Thanks so much, Maya!

Like to take quickie polls? So do girls in our online community. We'd like to share the fun, so chime in on this important issue recently debated on the "Silly Debates" message board: What's better, milk chocolate or dark chocolate? Zip over to [NewMoon.com/polls](http://NewMoon.com/polls) to vote for your fave form of chocolate. And tell us other short and sweet votes you'd like to cast!



## Luna's Team Spotlight

Here's what one girl, Georgia, 11, New Jersey, suggests.

Theme: It's Great to Be a Kid . . . Inspiring Woman or Girl: Bethany Hamilton [*Editor: Bethany is a surfer and author who lost an arm to a shark*] . . . Column idea: A whole issue of Ask a Girl . . . Global Village: Puerto Rico . . . Herstory: Harriet Tubman . . . Online idea: Talking about how or whether we should get involved in politics

Thanks for your awesome ideas, Georgia!

## Pssst . . .

Want to help create the magazine and online community?

It's super easy to join Luna's Team by sending us an idea or two or more. Go to [NMGmembers.com](http://NMGmembers.com)—remember, anyone can browse there and see what our community is all about, whether you're an online member or not.

Click on "Share It!" and see all the ways you can be on Luna's Team. You can submit an idea for themes or articles or art or any part of the magazine. Or suggest creative content to feature in our online community, or share a way you helped spread the NMG word.

Thanks so much, and we'll thank you in the magazine masthead.



## Boy Friend Problems?



Welcome to Voice Box, where you speak out about hot topics. This time, we're talking about attitudes about boys who are your friends. How do you want others to treat these friendships? Share YOUR opinions for the "Sound Off" topic below.

My boy friend is the Dipper to my Mable (the twins in Gravity Falls). I'm the alpha twin! We even look alike. Gender doesn't matter in a friendship—what matters is that he/she is a good person. It's not true that if you're friends with a boy, you HAVE to have a crush on him.

**Skye, 10**  
Texas

One of my best friends for the past two years is a boy. We both have a really stupid sense of humor, we both love Harry Potter, and we have the best inside jokes! Sometimes I'll mention him, and kids will say, "Oooh, do you liiiiiike him??" It's annoying when people assume that because a guy and a girl are friends they must like each other, or that they'll eventually develop feelings for each other.

**Ellie, 14**  
North Carolina

Most of my best friends are boys. Protective parents can overreact and make assumptions about boy friends. They are completely fine about girl friendships, though. It's very unfair, because what if I'm gay? Anything can happen! My mom gave me a 'talk' about 'choosing the right guy' after my boy friend and I went off

alone together at the lake. After I danced with a boy several times, my dad was at first disapproving but then started teasing me, which is not respectful. Teasing and stereotypes are big relationship killers, and both girls and boys should never let that get in the way.

**Anise, 12**  
British Columbia

One of my closest friendships is with a boy who is funny, kind, respectful, accepting, responsible, and caring. It's a shame that friendships might never be explored simply because the person is a different gender. Try getting out of your comfort zone and see how many awesome people are out there that you've never even tried talking to yet!

**Ava, 13**  
Arizona

A lot of my girl friends and my classmates tease me about my close relationships with boys. They often try to match us up or assume I have a crush on one of them, which I find very upsetting. Why can't girls be normal friends with guys without anyone assuming things? My boy friends and I play video games, argue about Pokemon, and rant about silly stories. Boys may seem

annoying and rowdy at first, but they generally open up, treat you very nicely, and are fun to be around.

**Claire, 13**  
Hong Kong

I talk about my boy friends about as much as I talk about girl friends. But those friendships are treated completely different. I hate it. A friend teases me about my friends on my cycling team being my "boyfriends." Now when she finally meets them, it's going to be really awkward.

**Turtle, 12**  
North Carolina

### Sound Off!

Do you ever feel too busy? Or do you sometimes feel not busy enough? What activities do you do outside of school? Would you rather be doing another activity? Or nothing at all?

Share your activity thoughts in the "Active Life?" poll at [NewMoon.com/polls](http://NewMoon.com/polls). Your answer could be in the magazine. Thanks!



# ask a girl



Ask a Girl is an advice column for girls, by girls. Thanks to our online members who ask questions and give great advice!

## Dear Ask a Girl:

A lot of people at my school act like they want to grow up quickly and be adults as soon as they can. I just want to be a kid and have fun my entire life! Some kids may feel cool acting like they are grown up now that they are in middle school. Or maybe some people don't have the courage to be themselves. But everyone should be accepted as who they are, right?

**Kid Forever, 12**  
California

Dear Kid Forever,

Growing up is way overrated. When I look at the responsibilities and stresses of being an adult, I just don't get what the rush is. When I was 10, I couldn't wait to be a teenager. I wanted to act

like one and be treated with the respect of someone older. Now that I'm 15 I have to behave as a mature person (sometimes!) and I have worries about colleges and careers and the future, I just wish I could be 10 again.

Enjoy the wonderful freedom of being a kid while you can. One day your friends will wish they had enjoyed it with you rather than trying to grow up before they needed to. I still enjoy acting like a kid. My friends and I have discovered that being a teen isn't as awesome as it seemed at 10 (though there are plenty of perks such as driving and more independence), and we have a great time just acting like kids sometimes.

Some kids may feel cool acting like they are grown up.

**Rina, 15**  
Michigan

Dear Kid Forever,

Childhood does not last forever and once you're a

grownup, everyone expects you to act like it. As a kid though, you can act foolish and silly and laugh with your friends, carefree about stuff grown-ups have to worry about a lot.

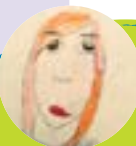
**EJ, 12**  
New York

## Dear Ask a Girl:

I've been best friends with "T" since kindergarten, but lately we seem to be growing apart. Once she started middle school we hardly saw each other outside of Girl Scouts. I may join a new troop with other friends.

I have fun when I see T, but I can't help feeling awkward. She isn't responding to my emails. Should I let this friendship slide or try to renew it?

**Leave BFF?, 13**  
California





Dear Leave BFF?,

You could let the friendship go, but if it's really important to you then call her and ask her why she's not responding to your emails. Ask her if she still wants to be friends with you and why she now seems to not be interested in hanging out with you. I hope this helps!

**Maya of the Fairylands, 13**  
Wisconsin

Dear Leave BFF?,

If you have other friends, don't try too hard to stay together or else it will seem forced and clingy and won't work out. Try to hang out at a time that isn't as awkward—with other mutual friends, at the movies, or at an arcade. If things are still awkward, it's OK to let the friendship drift apart.

People change and some people who once were friends now have nothing in common. Make sure not to get in a big fight, though. I know from personal experience that this makes things awkward if you get back together.

**Kaia, 14**  
Ontario

Dear Leave BFF?,

Try to stay in touch. Call and ask her to hang out. Maybe she has been more busy than usual. You could ask if she wants to join your new Girl Scout troop. Or maybe you could introduce your new friends to her or you could try to meet her new friends.

**Annabelle, 12**  
California

Dear Leave BFF?,

Stay in touch. Even if she won't be your closest friend anymore, she was once one of your best friends and she's not being mean to you. She's worth fighting for. I lost touch with many of my friends. That feels pretty bad, and ever since I went to middle school I feel like I have fewer friends. Even if you don't stay really close, one more good friend is always worth having.

**Ella, 12**  
New York

Dear Ask a Girl:

How do you girls balance all your activities? I have confirmation class every other Wednesday, travel soccer, rec soccer, rec softball, and travel softball, plus school work. I just need some time for myself without staying up too late. What should I do?

**Too Much Stuff, 10**  
Pennsylvania

Dear Too Much Stuff,

If you want a break, you should talk to your parents about not having as many activities. I totally understand the need for time by yourself. It's really important!

In the meantime, you could wake up earlier in the morning before your family gets up, or instead of watching TV or playing games you could head up to your room and have some major self time.

You could always carry a book with you and you could read in between activities and meets.

**Acasia, 13**  
British Columbia

Dear Too Much Stuff,

Wow, that does sound like a lot! It's great that you're doing so many things. But if you're feeling overwhelmed, it may be a good idea to discuss this with your parents and consider dropping one or two of your activities. As someone who gets stressed easily and definitely needs my "me time" when I can get it, I can definitely say that having time to yourself is important. Remember, too, that sleep is extremely important to your well-being in so many ways, physical and emotional, so don't cut that back.

Think about a few things you would be okay stopping, at least temporarily, in order to give yourself more time to connect with yourself. You could probably rejoin the activity at some later point if you change your mind. For example, maybe you stay involved with one sport, but drop one of your soccer teams or one of your softball teams? Good luck!

**Sarah, 17, Sister to Sister Mentor**  
Michigan

Tell us about your activities—see p. 5. Thanks!

How do you balance all your activities?

Want to ask a girl?  
Visit [NewMoonGirls.com](http://NewMoonGirls.com) to join our online community.

# You Can *say it!*

Ever felt bad because you were too scared to share your opinions or stand up for yourself? Here's how to speak up!

By Halley Bondy

Your voice is a truly amazing tool. You use it to sing, shout, share stories, laugh, make friends, get close, answer questions in class, and so much more, every single day. Nobody can read your mind, so your voice is the key to letting the world know who you are and what you want. It is your connection between your brain and the rest of the world.

While your voice is just screaming to be heard, far too often, outside forces silence it. There is a lot of pressure on people—and on girls specifically—to say the “right” thing, rather than say the thing that are really on their minds. Sometimes other people—teachers, parents, kids at school—make you feel like your opinion isn’t worth expressing. Other times, girls silence themselves through self-doubt.

Maybe someone at your school dissed a movie you loved, but you didn’t feel comfortable disagreeing with him or her. Maybe a friend “got mad” at you, made fun of you, or ignored you, and you didn’t

## What Matters to You?

Real-life talking isn't the only way to "talk" about things that matter to you! In our online community, girls discuss anything that's on their mind. Last fall, girls shared their anger, sadness, and fear about the racist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia. They wondered how to best respond to hateful speech.

Check out NMG's online community if you sometimes prefer to share feelings in writing rather than F2F. And if you'd also like help to handle any hateful speech and bullying you might observe or experience, check out our free anti-bullying guide here: [NewMoonGirls.com/product/break-out-of-bystanding-feature](http://NewMoonGirls.com/product/break-out-of-bystanding-feature)



feel like you had the right to defend yourself. In scenarios like this, it’s easy to ignore your feelings and instead get caught up in questions like: “What if I embarrass myself?” or “What if people get mad at me?” or “What will my friends say?” or “Will I get in trouble?”

We’ve all had moments when we had something important to say, but we ignored our instincts because we thought what we had to say was too silly, too serious, or that it would have negative consequences. But if you never speak up when it’s important, your feelings will be buried. And if your feelings are buried, you’ll have a tough time identifying what you’re actually feeling. And that will make it hard for you to become the person you want to be.

## Why Speaking Up Matters

For one, you can help someone who is having trouble speaking up for herself. If a new girl is being bullied or is too shy to make friends, helping her out would just *feel* good.

Also, speaking up will earn you respect from other kids and adults. If people know that you’re the type of girl who speaks her mind, they’ll remember to respect your feelings in the future. If you never speak up, they may not ever know how to respect you.

But most importantly, when you speak up you are more likely to get what you want. Think of a few women in your life who got what they wanted, whether they’re your favorite teachers, sports heroes, Beyoncé, your mom, anyone. Chances are, they didn’t get to where they are by simply accepting what came their way. They got there after disagreeing with the people who silenced them, by saying “no way” to others’ unfair expectations and



judgements! Maybe they felt embarrassed or scared along the way, but so what? As long as you're not hurting or silencing anyone else, getting what you want is one of the greatest pleasures in life.

## Be Gone, Negative Thoughts

A good place to start saying what you feel is to get a grip on the negative thoughts that run through your head too often. You may not even notice them every time, but they run through your mind lightning fast and seem like total truths. The problem is, if you don't stop and think about them critically, they can hold you back from speaking your mind.

Recognize any of these? I want to play, but I suck at this game . . . My friend says I'm shy, so I'll probably be shy forever . . . I thought I knew a lot about this class discussion, but that guy seems to know everything so maybe I don't? . . . Everyone is looking at my bad haircut. I just want to hide until it grows out . . . Two answers wrong—I'm always so bad at math.

We often act as though these thoughts are true! But here are some for-real truths you should bring front and center as soon as the negative thoughts appear.

Nothing is forever. You have the ability to grow and change anytime you want, whether it's getting better at a sport or math or to be less shy.

You can't read peoples' minds. If someone seems to ignore you or reacts oddly, it often has nothing to do with you. If you always assume the worst, you'll be too afraid to take risks.

Your opinion is just as valid as everybody else's. It's true all the time and everyday, no matter how popular or self-assured the other person is.

Nobody is as critical of you as you are. People are mostly self-consumed and have little time or interest in picking you apart.

One mistake doesn't mean that you're doomed. Doing poorly on one test doesn't change who you are or where your abilities lie. Learn from mistakes and move on. And remember: You aren't perfect (neither is anyone else), and that's OK. Accept it, and you'll feel less stressed.

## Confident Talking Tips

- **Fake it until you make it.** Rehearse at home. Pretending that you're confident about what you're saying gives you practice, and you'll see that the world doesn't fall apart when you speak up. Ask yourself: "What would I do if I weren't afraid?" Then do it!
- **Cut the apologies.** Girls tend to apologize more than boys, saying "Sorry" when we have an opinion or ask for things we need. We also start sentences with apologies: "I'm not sure this is right, but . . ." Notice how often you do this, and each time, ask yourself: "Did I really do something wrong?"
- **Confident body, confident mind.** Simple actions such as walking with your head up and taking up more space with your body are scientifically proven to boost your self-image. Try it and feel it!
- **Leave those questions at the door.** When you hear your thoughts saying "Am I really right?" or "Am I going to look stupid?", don't listen. Getting caught up in these doubts will keep you silent.
- **Sometime, uncertainty is okay!** Let's say you aren't 100% sure of an answer, or you aren't sure about all of your opinion. That's fine, and rest assured that many others who are speaking out aren't completely certain either. Just say it anyway, or use phrases such as "I'm not sure if I agree" or "I see many different sides to this" to get started.

## PRACTICE!

- Raise your hand and keep it up. Then talk.
- Ask for help. Everyone needs help sometime. Others too shy to ask will appreciate your asking.
- Don't be afraid to disagree. This may also inspire others who disagree to speak up.
- Lead group projects. Now you have to talk!

Excerpted from Halley Bondy's awesome book, *Speak Up! A Guide to Having Your Say and Speaking Your Mind* (Zest Books). Find lots more speaking-up guidance there!





# All Things *Hogwarts*

We're the biggest Potter fans! Search "Harry Potter" at [NMGmembers.com](http://NMGmembers.com) to see role-plays, art, tons of chat, and more.

## Test Your Potter Power!

By Dearbhail O'Mahoney

1. Which Hufflepuff student is related to someone in the ministry?

- A. Hannah Abbott
- B. Susan Bones
- C. Zacharius Smith

2. Which of Malfoy's cronies dies in book 7?

- A. Vincent Crabbe
- B. Gregory Goyle

3. What color was the Polyjuice Potion Hermione made with Harry's hair in it?

Choose: Green, blue, red, or gold?

4. Name three Death Eaters who were in the tower when Dumbledore died.

5. What words did Harry carve into (sob) Dobby's gravestone? (Sorry if I made you cry.)

6. Which ear did George lose, right or left?

7. What curse did it and who cast the curse?

8. Which dragon did Harry get in the Triwizard Tournament first challenge?

9. Who tells Harry about the Room of Requirement?

- A. Luna
- B. Dumbledore
- C. Dobby



Hermione, Harry, and Ron

10. What is the name for a non-magical person born to magical parents?

11. True or false: Bellatrix Lestrange is Draco Malfoy's cousin.

12. What creature does Ginny purchase in Weasleys' Wizard Wheezes?

13. True or false: Harry, Ron, and Hermione all sit in a carriage together on their first ride to Hogwarts in the Hogwarts Express.

14. How many attempts does Dobby make to stop Harry from going back to Hogwarts?

15. What form does Hermione's patronus take?

16. What people are "resurrected" by the resurrection stone as Harry is walking into the Forbidden Forest?

17. What do you call someone who can change their appearance at will?

18. Name Harry and Ginny's kids AND Ron and Hermione's kids.

19. Who replaces the Fat Lady when she is slashed by Sirius Black?

20. What is Albus Dombledore's full name? (In the right order, please!)

Dearbhail, 13, Ireland, loves Harry Potter, Lord of the Rings, and Star Trek.



## Would You Rather . . .

Bet you've imagined yourself in Potter World as you read the books or watched the movies. What would you rather do in these options posed by girls in our online community? Ask your friends!

Would you rather be chased by a troll in the dungeon or the snake in the Chamber of Secrets?

Would you rather have Remedial Potions with Snape or Detention with Umbridge?



Zoe Mae Marshmallow, 10, Illinois, drew Hermione.

Would you rather be muggle-born, half-blood, or pure-blood?

Would you rather play quidditch or explore Hogsmeade all day?

Would you rather join the Order of the Phoenix or Dumbledore's Army?

Would you rather eat a huge box of Honeydukes fudge or a bag of Sugar Quills?

Would you rather spend the day with Nymphadora Tonks or Remus Lupin?

Would you rather be Hermione for a day, Luna for a day, or Harry for a day?

Would you rather your patronus be a beetle or a frog?

Would you rather attend Beauxbatons Academy of Magic or Durmstrang Institute?

Would you rather get to ride Buckbeak or a broom?

Would you rather be friends with Neville or Ron?

If Harry wasn't the main character, who would you want to be the main character?



Luna Lovegood drawn by Day, 12, Minnesota

## Hogwarts: You Are There

Here's just a bit of a Harry Potter roleplay started by Maya, 12, California. Have a Potter party and do roleplays with friends. Come dressed as your favorite Potter person!

At last I come to a door with no keyhole or handle. At about eye-level there is a bronze door knocker in the shape of an eagle. I instinctively knock once with the handle. Suddenly the eagle's beak opens and it asks, "What travels around the world but always stays in a corner?" I think for a moment.

"Perhaps . . ." I think some more, then it comes to me. "Ah! A stamp!"

"Well reasoned," says the eagle, and the door swings forward. The beautiful oaken door reveals a large, airy room with graceful, arched windows. The walls are hung with blue and bronze silks. Outside, the snowy mountains are silhouetted against the soft light from the sky. I look up and see the familiar domed ceiling, painted with beautiful, sparkling silver stars. As I walk over to a blue couch, I step across the carpet that is modeled after the starry ceiling. In a niche in the

wall, there is a curved bookshelf, which is centered by a striking bust of Rowena Ravenclaw, diadem and all. I sigh, contented, and when the first years make it to the common room, I clear out and make my way to my bed. Hardly noticing the exceptionally decorated room, I climb into my pajamas and sink into the warm bed. I close my eyes and instantly fall asleep.



## Quiz Answers

1. Susan Bones 2. Crabbe 3. Gold 4. Possible answers: Bellatrix Lestrange, Fenrir Greyback, Draco Malfoy, Severus Snape, Ecto Carrow or Amycus Carrow 5. "Here lies Dobby, a Free Elf." 6. Left 7. Sectumsempra, Severus Snape 8. Hungarian Horntail 9. Dobby 10. Squib 11. False 12. Pygmy Puff 13. False 14. Three 15. Other 16. James Potter, Lily Potter, Sirius Black, Remus Lupin 17. Metamorphmagus 18. James Sirius, Albus Severus, and Lily Luna Potter; Rose and Hugo Granger-Weasley 19. Sir Cadogan 20. Albus Percival Wulfric Brian Dumbledore

# Have It *Your Way!*

As we get older, the world seems to want us to pair off and get "boyfriends." But we can make our friendships reflect what's true for us.



## Friendships: Break the Rules!

Ever had this happen? You mention a boy you're friends with, and someone—kid or adult—says, "Oh, is that your boyfriend?" Or classmates keep asking you: "Who do you have a crush on?"

It's normal to start to have romantic thoughts as you go through puberty. It's also normal to feel that you'd like to show feelings with hand-holding or more physical closeness. And it's normal to not have any of those feelings, and to feel pushed into saying you have them or want them.

We can decide what we want. Give yourself some quiet time to figure out what's right for you—and whether you might simply be doing or saying things because everyone else seems to be. It's interesting to discuss this issue with friends, too. Maybe they'd appreciate knowing that it's OK for a person to follow her own path. Check out this advice and see more views on p. 5.

"Friends and family usually seem to think that I have a crush on any male friend I mention," says Anika, 15, North Carolina. "So I try not to mention my male friends. That's really hard, because I want to talk about them just as much as my female friends. When people assume that

boys and girls always have crushes on each other, it promotes sexism and stereotypes. Don't let what other people think affect who your friends are."

Sadly, it's hard for girls and boys around the world to be friends. Friendships and play between girls and boys ages 10-14 dropped way down in 15 countries worldwide, a new study found. Kids said they feel pressured to conform to what girls and boys "should" do.

They also feel pushed into getting a boyfriend or girlfriend. Boys are encouraged to be tough and bold; girls are encouraged to focus on appearance and to be "nice." Head researcher Kristin Mmari of Johns Hopkins University says we should help kids understand early on that they don't have to change their friendships and dreams because of gender expectations.

In a British study, kids aged 10-12 said they felt pressured to stop boy-girl friendship, or felt they had to make such friendships romantic to stay connected. One boy said he pretended his best friend was his cousin so he could remain friends with her without teasing. Cardiff University Emma Renold, who led the study, says we need to change rigid gender expectations. Try breaking the "rules" and saying why—bet you'll find others agree!

## Crushes?

Having a crush on someone is normal, and so is not having one. Girls and Sister to Sister Mentors trade advice in our online community—here's a sampling. **Crushes can be really confusing. Wait and see if your feelings get stronger or fade . . . Talk to the boy you like as if you're**

**making friends with anyone else. Ask him about your favorite movies or books, and ask him what his favorites are. It's always good to find things in common . . . I've seen girls pressure each other to start dating; at school and in books and movies. It's OK not to be interested . . . Talk to him; get to be friends with him; tell him you like him; and see what happens . . . I'm crushing on Annabeth from Percy Jackson— nothing wrong with crushes on fictional people!**





## Staying in Touch

Did you know that studies show that hugs are as important as vitamins to keep us feeling happy, healthy, and emotionally connected? We humans like touch. And as we get older, we might want "some holding hands and kissing," as one girl says. Or not! Here are some thoughts to consider whether you aren't interested in romance yet or just don't want to feel pressured to look for all your touch needs in a dating relationship. There are plenty of ways to feel loved and be loving.

- Do you ever think that you're getting to be "too old" to snuggle with a parent or sibling? Maybe there's no such thing as being too old for that. But if you feel embarrassed about a hug or cuddle, you could let family know that you're great with home snugs, but not ones in public.
- Speaking of parents, they're actually great resources for talking about feelings you might have about wanting a little romance in your life. Guess what—they have experience with this! Don't assume that they'll freak out. You can assure them that you want to know about their concerns, and they'll listen better to you. Older siblings or relatives are good for "previewing" a parent talk.



- No need to be self-conscious about hugging pals just as you always have. Some girls say they get "Is he your boyfriend?" comments if they hug guy friends. But if more of us keep hugging whatever friends we want to, we'll help make affection be normal, even with boy friends. At the same time, if you don't want hugs—or any other physical expression—let people know. That's normal, too!

- You can get lots of awesome furry hugs by caring for your pet or a friend's pet or volunteering with animals. Babysitting kids is great for emotional connections. And how about taking ballroom dancing lessons with friends? Or giving (and getting) a foot rub, back rub, or manicure? What's your terrific touch tip?



## Labels? Or Just Liking?

Feeling "crushy" toward another girl—or crushing on both boys and girls—can be normal, and also confusing. One girl wrote our volunteer therapist, Jill, that she was stressed out because she couldn't decide if she was straight (females attracted to males) or gay (meaning female-female or male-male attraction) or bisexual (attracted to both males and females). She wondered how she should identify herself to others.

Jill told her that attraction to females was normal and something many girls experience. But she noted that most people do not definitely know their sexual identity until their twenties. "You have a lot of time to think about who you are, and to explore your feelings," Jill said. "Your sexual identity is just a piece of the puzzle of who you are, and who you will be, as a person."

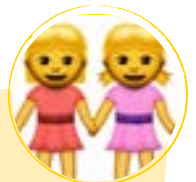


It's fine to share with others about your feelings and to give yourself an identity

if you'd like, Jill said. But if a label feels stressful or uncertain, then there's no need to have one. And if you feel like you want help, you should talk with a parent, trusted adult, or counselor.

Many girls gave the same advice in online community discussions. "Never feel pressured by other people to figure out the perfect label," one girl said. "I spent a lot of time trying to figure it out and stressing about it. I feel like one's sexuality usually fluctuates over the years, so getting attached to a certain label can cause problems and stress if it changes."

And don't feel abnormal if you don't have crushes on either boys or girls. One girl suggested using "squish" for a person you really like (but not in a romantic way). Whatever you want to call it, like who you like!



# Your Way: *School*

Here's what girls love about their learning. And see how girls would make school better.

## All-Girl School



Science-loving girls at Mathilde's school

I go to an all-girls STEAM-oriented middle school. I love the hands-on learning, community, and feminist focus. I love that everyone is so close, and that I feel I can ask for help any time I need it.

The only thing

better would be an all-girls boarding school close to my home with girls who like to work hard and with academics based on tech and language.

—Mathilde (right), 12, Washington



## Progressive School

I go to a private progressive school. I love how it feels like everyone is a part of one big community and the teachers get to know everyone and help you if you're struggling. One of my favorite projects was learning about tectonic plates and landforms by researching a landform. I made clay models of nearby Mt. Whitney, showing each step of its formation. It was cool to see my classmates' projects, which included animations, dioramas, and models of sandy riverbeds showing the effects of erosion. At my school, they are always open to all of your ideas, and encourage you to think outside of the box.

—Neorah (left), 12, California

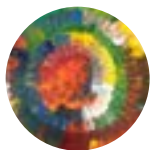


Anna (right) as Maid Marion with friends Katrina (left) as Robin Hood and Alena (center) as the Queen in their "The Outlaws of Sherwood Forest" school play

## Arts School

I love my arts middle school because I get art in every class, even core classes. I love that we have dance instead of P. E. I'm having tons of fun doing a year-long drama elective, where we'll perform short plays. My favorite dance is jazz, but I also have tap and ballet. I'm in an after-school drama class. We performed Romeo and Juliet for our Shakespeare festival. I played Lord Montague, Romeo's dad. And my friends and I (above) had so much fun with the singing and dancing in another school play, a twisted take on Robin Hood. I love my teachers and I love this school!

—Anna (above), 12, Oregon



## Waldorf School



Waldorf schools are different from most because kids are encouraged to play outside or just enjoy being outside. Kids get to study at their own pace instead of taking tons of tests from kindergarten on up.

My favorite thing about Waldorf schools is that you get to use your hands to make things. I learned to knit, crochet, carve wood, cross-stitch, sew, and more. Above are some things I made: knitted socks and hat; a bag embroidered with a face; a clay design; and a drum I painted.

—Zoe (right), 12, Washington



## Make School Cooler

If you were in charge of a school, what would you do to make it an awesome learning experience? How would you change it from what you have?

- No reading rules! At my school, you can't read above or below your tested level. I'm very aggravated when I see a good book and then have to put it down because it's not my level. —Sophia, 10, California
- Shorter school days; longer lunches; student-designed courses; less testing; more outdoor classes; more group projects and cooperation; rewards for good behavior; students could listen to music; tuition-free; teachers are paid well —Ellie, 14, North Carolina
- Every girl and boy gets along, and no one is left behind. No middle-school drama. —Erin, 12, Ohio
- No bullies; no obnoxious or annoying people; and most of all, NO mean teachers! —Anise, 11, British Columbia
- I'd love to be able to learn anything I want to learn. I want to learn to code and to become an engineer. —Evie, 11, Maryland



School cartoon by Katya, 13, British Columbia

- My dream school is a virtual reality one, like the one in my favorite book, *Ready Player One*. We could interact with friends, walk around, and touch things without actually going anywhere or doing these things. —Neorah, 12, California
- I'd love to go on an overnight trip with my class. —Celia, 9, Pennsylvania
- I love homeschooling; I'm already living the dream! —Solène, 12, Alberta
- Our school has A LOT of bullying, which really hurts people, so my dream school would have none. —Turtle, 12, North Carolina

## Home School

For me, "homeschooling" is definitely not schooling inside the home! I do lots of stuff with a big group of homeschoolers. We regularly meet at a local library, where parents talk with us about their work passion or skills. Sometimes the older kids are the teachers, which makes learning super fun. Plus we have picnics at zoos or wildlife places or at each other's houses!

Some friends and I did a writing project, where we'd meet and get a writing challenge. One was to create a whole magazine, doing interviews with interesting people and writing other things like short stories and poems. We wrote letters to the editor—which is us!

We even had a writer's retreat at my house, which is a tiny cabin in the woods where we have boats for our pond, secret places in the forest, and farm animals. We went out to different places—the

edge of the forest, a meadow by the pond, and a hole in a tree—to write haikus about nature. One day, we pretended to be someone fictional. We started our own novels. I hope to become an author as soon as possible! My magazine was about activism and human rights, while my friend Raquel's was about her passion, babysitting. —Ani, 12, Virginia, above left with Raquel, 12



## UnSchooling

I'm unschooled, which means that kids lead their schooling, and parents are there for advice or help when needed. I like how I can do and learn whatever I want at my own pace. Here's me (above) in our production of Shakespeare's *The Comedy of Errors*! —Lola, 15, Wisconsin





# Learn AND Teach

You're not too young to be a teacher! Join girls who are showing adults and kids how to make the world better.

Meet Sheilah from Uganda! She's on our cover and with friends at right—she's second from right. Sheilah told author/photographer Paola Gianturco how she and others in their Rhythmic Voices group are helping girls fulfill their dreams. They make presentations to lawmakers and other groups and, working with the women's group Rhythm of Life, also teach their peers how to reach their goals. Sharon of Rhythmic Voices (below) worked to

get menstrual pads in her school so girls wouldn't miss school because of their periods, and she encourages girls to stay in school.

You can find stories from girls around the world in Paola's awesome book, *Wonder Girls: Changing Our World*. Paola traveled with her granddaughter, Alex, 11, to lots of countries so they

could talk to girls who are making the world better. They found Indonesian girls getting environmental laws enacted; girls in India helping other girls escape being sold to older men; and girls in Myanmar who help girls stay safe on public transit and continue their education, among many more. Check out all the inspiring stories and beautiful photos in *Wonder Girls*!

## Join Malala: School for Girls

Bet you know about Malala, the awesome Pakistani activist for girls' education who was nearly killed at 15 for her work. Malala is studying now at the University of Oxford, but she continues to travel around the world to get more girls going to school and achieving their dreams.

You can help Malala in lots of fun ways! Check out ideas at the organization she started at [Malala.org](http://Malala.org). Like to read? So do girls in New York who started Girls Read for Girls in third grade to raise money

Here's part of Sheilah's story about her life.

My mother started selling bananas in Kampala. Her cousin told her that since she had a baby, she should work hard and get her own house. She worked hard and got her own house for 30,000 shillings (U. S. \$9). She would lay clothes on the ground and we would sleep.

I remember becoming sick. She took me for a check-up. I was shaking like a mad person. She told my dad I was HIV positive. My dad told my mom, 'I couldn't produce an HIV-positive girl, so that is not my child.'

A friend asked, 'How could I help you?' She said, 'My children are not in school.' Her friend told her, 'You come. I will take you to a Universal Primary Education school.' He got another friend to write to Rhythm of Life. Now I have gotten many things from that organization. I got a full scholarship, including books, pens, rulers, and eraser. I was elected Academic Prefect at school, responsible for debate competition between the classes.

I want to reduce the number of girls who are getting AIDS. I want to be a lawyer. What interests me is bringing justice.

each year for Malala's work. Last year, girls raised \$20,000 through pledges that lots of girls got for doing at-home reading. They also sell books and teeshirts. That's two Girls Read for Girls founders, Mairin and Rosa, above with Malala.

Another idea: For your birthday or another holiday, ask people to give to girls' education instead of a present. You can educate adults about education!



Photos of Sheilah (here and on the cover) and Sharon © Paola Gianturco and Alex Sangster

## Quinceañera Activism

For Latina girls, a quinceañera celebration at age 15 is a day to tell the world that she is moving on from childhood. AND she'll enjoy being the star of an amazing party, wearing a really awesome dress. Recently, a group of teens in Austin, Texas, transformed the quinceañera tradition into an

activist opportunity to fight for rights for immigrants and other issues in their community.

These girls gathered at the state capitol in dazzling quinceañera dresses, and each spoke to the crowd about fighting for justice and fairness.

Wearing sashes that

said "No Racism," "Equality," "No Fear," and more, they asked people to join them in defeating unjust laws and giving a fair voice to Latinos. "If



lawmakers want to attack and criminalize us, then we will fight back," said Magdalena Juarez (above in red). "We will resist through standing in unity and showing that we are not going to back down."

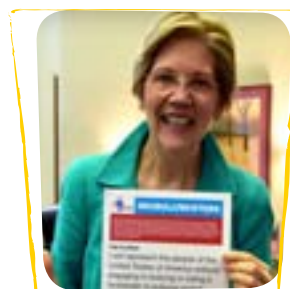
The girls also took their message directly to lawmakers inside the capitol, going to offices (left) to educate legislators about issues important to them. And they'll continue working as members of the Texas-based national organization Jolt (JoltTX.org) to get access to education, economic justice, and voting rights for Latinos everywhere.

## Lawmakers: No Bullying!

Do you hear politicians speaking with disrespect and hatred for others? Tell them to stop. That's the aim of the Washington 6th-grade girls who started the national group DC Bully Busters.

The girls traveled to Washington, DC, to ask lawmakers to sign a pledge that says this: "I will represent the people of the United States of America without engaging in bullying or being a bystander to bullying tactics." So far, 36 legislators have signed, including Rep. John Lewis (right).

DC Bully Busters urges politicians and all adults to use the same 3-R guidelines that kids learn: They should Recognize bullying, Refuse to be a bystander who doesn't help, and Report the bullying. For example, that should have happened when Sen. Elizabeth Warren (right) was not allowed to read a letter from Coretta Scott King during Congressional hearings, a move among many that angered girls.



You can write or email local and national lawmakers to remind them of the 3 Rs and tell them that you and your family will not support bullies. You or your parents can then share your letter on social media if you want.

Get more tips on how to stop political bullying at [DCBullybusters.com](http://DCBullybusters.com). You can do a presentation for kids or adults at school or with a community group. Or write a letter to the local paper about it.

Get some friends to host an Instagram party to share info. When candidates hold a public event, go ask them to sign the pledge and stop the bullying and disrespect going on around them. And consider running for office (class president?) yourself, and include bullying in your platform.





## Ki Kati from Uganda

Meet awesome Aisha, 9, and see what life's like for her in Uganda!

Ki Kati! That's "Hi" in Luganda, a language common where I live. I'm Aisha, and I live with my mother, sister, and brother in a town area called Kabalagala. It's on the outskirts of Kampala, Uganda's capital and largest city. Kabalagala is a very busy area both during the day and at night.

My school is called Rays of Hope, and I love being there so much! We start classes at 8 in the morning, and we get a break time at 10 a.m. Lunch is at 1 p.m., and we have class until 4:30. Then we have playtime until 5 p.m. That's me with my class below—I'm in the yellow shirt in the left center with my friend to my right in her yellow shirt.



**About Aisha's school:** The idea for Rays of Hope school started when Emily Hashima and her family, new to the area, were puzzled by children who would come to house doors holding big plastic bags. Emily realized that they hoped to be paid to take away household garbage. While public education is free, the children's families could not afford school fees and uniform costs.

Emily (below) started teaching the children at her home and helping their families. With the help of volunteers and donations, Rays of Hope now has a school building for nearly 150 children from nursery school through high school. Families can get food, medicine, and counseling. Women can get small loans to start or grow businesses. And some of the first children taught by Emily are now attending a university.



Aisha with Rhythm of Life leader Harriet Kamashanya (left) and her mother Mrs. Sharifah

My favorite things about school are playing with my friends, dancing and singing, debating, and going on our school tours to tourist areas and other neighboring schools.

I belong to a club for music, dance, and drama, as well as a debating club. I belong to a girl's group called Rhythmic Voices. It's a part of Rhythm of Life, a group that helps women. We advocate for girls' rights in our communities. I tell my friends and other girls that they should not stay at home. They should be at school because it is their right. Here, girls are not treated as well as boys.

When I'm not at school, I like to watch movies. My favorite things to eat are rice and fish. I enjoy celebrating holidays with my family, especially Christmas! We eat good meals, go to church, and go out together to have fun.

On weekends, I often go with my mum to the salon and help her with work. At home, I have jobs to do every day. I wash utensils, mop the house, clean the compound around our house, and bathe my younger sister and brother.

I like to go see the Kasese Islands (below) in western Uganda. The water, big stones, and sunsets there are very beautiful.

When I grow up, I would like to be a nurse. For now, I am happy to be a girl and the first-born in my family. It has helped me be a better girl leader in my community.

And I am now very happy to have my story in an international magazine!



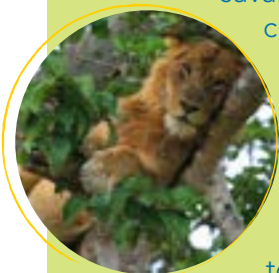


## Uganda Snapshot

**Where?** Uganda is neighbors with Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, South Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.



**Geography?** There's lots of savannah where the rather rare tree-climbing lion (left) hangs out. You'll also find mountains; marshes; desert; Lake Victoria, Africa's largest lake; and the Nile River.



**Weather?** Whew! It's tropical and hot, especially from December to February. But it stays chilly at the snow-capped top of the Rwenzori Mountains, Africa's highest peaks.

**Cool Wildlife:** Almost half of the world's endangered mountain gorillas (right) live here, along with golden monkeys, hippos, zebras, and the crested crane, the national bird.



**Girls and Women?** Over one-third of Parliament members are women. Over 90% of girls enroll in school, but many leave by high school to help family or because they are pregnant or married.

Many people are working to make things better for girls.



**Games?** Have you played mancala? Ugandans call this game of moving stones on a board "omweso."

**Languages?** Ugandans usually speak English, and among the many regional languages, Luganda is most spoken. Here are some Luganda words.

**Oli otya?:** How are you?  
**Nkwagala:** I love you.

**Maama:** Mother  
**Abawala:** Girls

## Harriet Helps Girls



Harriet Kamashanyu grew up near Aisha's neighborhood. When the mother of Harriet's close friend Resty died when the girls were in middle school, Harriet made a decision. The mother was a "sex worker" who like many women turn to selling sex because they must feed their families. The mother contracted HIV/AIDS from her work, and died because she could not afford health care. Harriet resolved to do something about this.

Since then, Harriet founded Rhythm of Life, an organization that gets healthcare for women who are sex workers and helps them find other ways to support themselves and their families.

And Harriet's passion is helping the daughters of these women because the girls often end up doing sex work when they're older. She started Rhythmic Voices to reach girls early and support them to stay in school and fulfill their dreams as they get older. The girls learn to be ambassadors who spread that message to other girls. Thank you, Harriet, and thank you, girls!

## Make Kabalagalas!

Like doughnuts? These snacks are similar, and they gave Aisha's neighborhood its name because of all the vendors calling out to people to buy their kabalagalas.



In Uganda, the snacks use cassava flour, made from the plentiful cassava root. You can find cassava flour at many stores in the U.S., but if not, you can use wheat or another flour.

Here's how to make them. Peel two very ripe bananas and mash them in a bowl. Add 1/2 teaspoon baking soda and 1/4 teaspoon salt and mix well. Mix in one cup of flour, adding more if needed until the dough is stiff enough to roll out on a counter lightly dusted with flour.

Roll the dough to a half-inch thickness, and cut out circles or other shapes. Cover the bottom of a skillet with a bland oil such as canola to 1/4 inch, and heat. Get help from an adult if needed. Carefully lower the kabalagala into the oil and fry until brown. Flip it and brown the other side. Take out and sprinkle with powdered sugar. Devour!



# We *Heart* Math

If you don't like math, reconsider that notion today. Math opens up worlds of fun and possibilities!

By Kara Christensen

"I hate math! Why do we even learn it? It's not like calculators can't solve every problem. And honestly, when will I need the quadratic formula in real life?" The cloud of people around me all nod and laugh in agreement. Some even open up the calculator apps on their phones to prove the point, but I clam up. Because I have a secret.

I hope to do math every day for the rest of my life. I love math. For me, math is a natural extension of how I interpret every aspect of the world around me. I know not everyone feels this way, but I believe that everyone can benefit by embracing math rather than avoiding it. Because math is used in every field you ARE interested in, from art to music to science to sports and beyond.



Take just one part of making art, when you want to make your drawing or sculpture or whatever look as your subject appears in real life. Say you wanted to draw me—you probably wouldn't draw me literally life size. That wouldn't fit on your page or canvas. But you would want your version of me to look like me—to have proportions such as height and face size that match me but appear in a much smaller form. Check out p. 21 for some proportional math magic!

Math gives us answers to all sorts of everyday questions. Take science, which aims to figure out why and how everything in the world happens the way that it happens. Scientists (and we,



Want to make murals? Math helps. Here's Afghanistan's feminist street artist, Shamsia Hassani.

too) wonder: Why do we need to eat, and how does eating fuel our bodies? Or if you want to get better at a sport, you'd want to know factors and patterns that make a ball go where you want it to go.

Math is the code that allows us to apply and analyze the numbers and values that we observe in daily life. It unlocks the patterns in complex processes. Math is used to quantify a calorie, which predicts how much energy we get from a certain amount of a certain type of food.

Math can predict where a ball will hit the ground as long as you know its starting height and its original speed. This is one of the main concepts in physics.



Math was created in every part of the world to define real-life situations and find patterns. Numbers can represent anything you want. This unlimited power is why I love math, because math is often the best way to solve real-life problems. So open up to math possibilities to help you better understand our world and make it better.

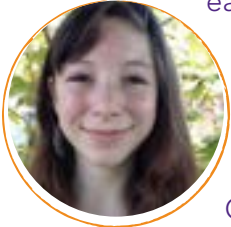
Kara is a former NMG Girls Editorial Board member. She's now a first year applied math major at UCLA who enjoys reading, hiking, and going to the beach.





# Math Magic Artmaking

Ever see some art (maybe art you made) that you wanted to copy into something BIG—maybe a poster or a huge chalk sidewalk mural? It's easy when you use math and a grid to replicate the original. Give it a try—maybe with the awesome Wonder Woman at right drawn by Carmen (left), 13, Ohio.



Carmen also posted more of her awesome women drawings in our online community—search "inspiring women" at [NMGmembers.com](http://NMGmembers.com) to see them. And download some awesome women to color or enlarge (like Ruth Bader Ginsburg) at [NewMoon.com/coloring-pages-of-inspiring-women-girls](http://NewMoon.com/coloring-pages-of-inspiring-women-girls).

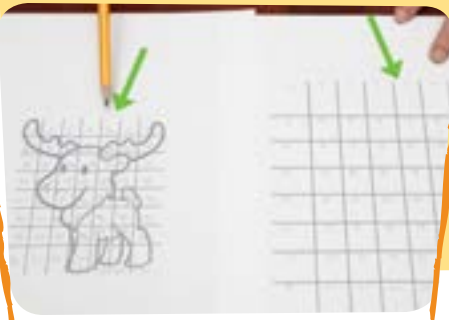


Here's how to copy and expand art or photos.

**1. Measure your original art.** The Wonder Woman above is 4 X 4 inches. How big do you want the new art? It's easier if you choose a multiple of your dimensions for your larger copy. For Wonder Woman, that might mean making a 16 X 16-inch poster or making a 4 X 4-foot mural.

**2. Here's the math for this.** Choosing a multiple of your original art size means that the proportion of the art stays the same. Your art will look exactly the same. Mathwise, that means you multiply the dimensions by a fraction that always equals 1, such as this:  $4/4 \times 4/4 = 16/16$ . Changing inches to feet for a mural makes it easy to keep the 1:1 ratio.

**3. Now make a grid for your original art.** You can photocopy the original art and use this copy to make the grid with pencil. Make a mark at each inch on all sides, and draw a line on every inch both ways—vertically and horizontally. You can number your squares like this example does.



Make a grid for your bigger art. The number of grid lines and number of squares should

be the same as the smaller work's grid. That way you'll be able to copy the work, grid square by grid square. For a 16 X 16 inch poster, make the grid lines every 4 inches. For a 4 X 4 foot mural, make the grid lines at every foot. You can also number the big grid squares.

**4. Start copying!** Replicate each square from small to big, and soon you'll have your superized art. It's fun to do this art with friends—each gets a square or two. Look below to see how a New York class made an awesome mural using a grid for the original drawing that matched a grid on their wall.



Try this out with a stretch of sidewalk and some colored chalk. Get friends to join in and put on an outdoors art show!





# Just *You* Wait!

By Justine Moore

Disclaimer: Some say I'm obsessed with Hamilton.

The words "The Force is Female" emblazon banners hung along Sunset Boulevard in front of The Archer School for Girls in Brentwood, California. My amazing all-girl school encourages girls to be strong, passionate individualists who are leaders in the face of adversity. Every girl must stand up for what they believe in! "If you stand for nothing, Burr, what'll you fall for?" (from "Aaron Burr, Sir").

Math is my favorite subject in school. Or is it? Loving math is non-negotiable in my home. My mom is a math educator and has always inspired me (made me?) to love math, for as long as I can remember. I've always gone to math or science camps and tons of STEM conferences. Can't a girl just have fun in the summer?!

But I understand why she does it. I know she wants the best for me. She wants me to rise above the negative portrayal of math and the abilities of African-American girls, and to be my best self. Whatever that may be, math will help me get there. "I am the one thing in life I can control. I am inimitable, I am an original." (from "Wait for it")



Hamilton cast in the song "Satisfied"

I like math because it helps you think of ways to figure out the world. Our world needs people who love math enough to solve problems and create the next generation of solutions. Math is not just about formulas and getting right answers. Math is all around us in everything we do from how many reps I do in Archer Fit or how tall the explosion will be if I drop sodium in water. You can't escape it, so surrender and love it! Every day, I hope to learn more. "There's a million things I haven't done, just you wait, just you wait." (from "Satisfied")

If math seems hard for you, don't worry. Just be brave, ask questions, and speak up for yourself. There are no dumb questions. You are worth it! You deserve to be heard and to share your unique understanding with the world. I have a shirt that says "STEMINIST." I think I am a STEM Feminist. Don't let anyone hold you back from your greatness! "I'm just like my country—I'm young, scrappy, and hungry, and I'm not throwing away my shot." (from "My Shot")

Justine, 13, California, loves to read, make people laugh, act in plays, code, and hang out with friends.



## Undo Math Fear

"I'm no good at math!" If you've said or heard this, please begin changing this attitude for yourself or others. It's simply not true. Math ability isn't something you're born with; it's something you develop. Sure, math may seem less fun to you now than to others, but that doesn't mean you can't learn any math you choose to study. Once that effort pays off, you may notice you enjoy it more!

Negative self-messages also increase anxiety about math. So if you're unhappy in class and even

more so during tests because you believe you aren't good at math, you're likely to not do as well as you actually could without your math dread.

Why not say something else instead? Try "I'm good at some math areas and I'm learning the others." And you can apply this to any area of your life where you'd like to improve. You'll strengthen what psychologist Carol Dweck calls "growth mindset." Soon, you'll be growing confidence and maybe discovering new interests, too.

## Drum Up a Puzzle

One of my favorite things about math (we call it "maths" in the United Kingdom) is using pi. It seems incredible to me that this number is so useful for working with circles. Circles seem impossible to measure compared to squares and other straight-edged shapes, but pi makes it easy! Pi is also a bit of a mysterious number—it is "irrational" so it can't be written as a fraction, and when it's written as a decimal, it goes on forever! We will never know all its digits . . .

Here's how the pi formula makes life easier. Let's say you are wrapping up a drum to give as a present to your musical cousin and want to know how long the ribbon needs to be to go right



Want to drum? Try out a Girls Rock Camp!

round. All you need to do is measure across the drum with your ruler to find the diameter is 20 inches. How long does the ribbon need to be?

—Lucy (right), 12, United Kingdom



## Missing Numbers?



I love math because it isn't just a bunch of puzzles; it's organized puzzles. You simply use tools like rules and values and formulas. You can use these same tools to make your own puzzles and solutions. You can use math to change the world, and there's always more you can do with it.

ones involving variables and missing pieces to find. In this problem, the @ symbol could mean any sequence of operations. You could square, multiply, add, or subtract the missing numbers.

$$a @ b = b/a$$

$$a/b = 0.75$$

What is a @ b equal to?

—Annabelle (right), 13, California



I love multiple-step problems, especially

## Adventurous Beagle

Cindy and Luke's family had just adopted a beagle named Trevor from an animal shelter. One thing they soon learned was that beagles go wherever their sense of smell leads them. So they'd have to attach chicken wire to their fence to keep Trevor in.

feet long. At the store, they saw that chicken wire came in rolls of 40 feet. "We'll need 6 of these," Cindy said. "No, that's too much," Luke said. "You wanna bet?" Cindy asked.

Cindy and Luke measured the yard. It was a rectangle. Eight feet of fence ran out on each side from the back of the house, which was 33 feet wide. The fence along the sides of the yard was 60

—This puzzle is from *One Minute Mysteries: Short Mysteries You Solve with Math*. It's by Natalie and Eric Yoder, a daughter-father duo who wrote three awesome math and science mysteries.



## ANSWERS

back, which equals the size of the front (33 feet for the house back plus the 8 feet of fence coming out from both sides of the back of the house; that's 49 feet plus 49 feet). The total perimeter of Trevor's yard is 218 feet, but you need to subtract 33 for the fenceless house back. The fencing needs to be 185 feet, less than the 200 feet in the five rolls.

Adventurous Beagle: Only five rolls needed! Add up the two yard sides (60 feet plus 60 feet); the

Missing Numbers:  $4/3$  or  $1\frac{1}{3}$

Drum Up a Puzzle: The ribbon should be 62.8 inches, because circumference equals the diameter (20) multiplied by pi, which equals 3.14.

# Truth and Dare

By Lila Popell

Illustration by Seaerra Miller

When Chloë ignored the “No Trespassing” signs on Mr. Sedgewick’s property line, she had no idea what the consequences would be. On a regular day, she would never have dreamed of going anywhere near his creepy old mansion. But this wasn’t an ordinary day. It was the day of Rachel Turner’s 12th birthday party. Let me explain a bit.

Chloë was shocked and thrilled to get Rachel’s pink-and-purple sparkly evite. Rachel was the most popular girl in the 6th grade. She wore eye shadow to school, shopped at Forever 21, and even had her own laptop. Chloë wasn’t usually considered a super-popular girl. She liked to think that she was semi-popular; lots of kids liked her. The only reason she was among the lucky few to get an invite from Rachel is that this year she went out for track—Rachel and her BFFs all did track.

That morning, Chloë agonized over what to bring to the sleepover party. She borrowed her mom’s camping sleeping bag to avoid having to use her way-too-childish-for-Rachel-Turner’s-party mermaid sleeping bag. She picked out her cutest PJs and brushed her long, wavy, caramel-brown hair to banish the frizz (though she was pretty sure the excessive brushing just added to the frizziness).

When her mom dropped her off at Rachel’s (really big!) house, Chloë breathed in the gala details: bowls overflowing with candy and popcorn, movie videos ready, and Taylor Swift blasting. Rachel had just announced they’d play Truth or Dare, and girls gathered in a circle. “Alison! You’re first,” Rachel said to her official BFF. “Truth or dare?”

“Truth!” Alison squealed. “Okay,” Rachel grinned. “Do you like Alex Jackson?”

“Eeeeeek! Yes!” Alison blurted, then hid her face under a pink Meghan Trainor throw pillow as everyone else giggled up a storm. Then Rachel’s gaze swiveled. “Chloë! Truth or dare?” Rachel asked imperiously.



“Dare!” Chloë answered with fake confidence. “Okay,” Rachel crowed. “I dare you to go sneak into Mr. Sedgewick’s house—right now!”

Allison grinned triumphantly as Chloë blanched. “And you will take pictures for evidence!” Rachel added.

“Wait,” one girl asked. “Who’s Mr. Sedgewick?”

“Mr. Sedgewick is the old man who lives in the big old mansion down the street from me,” Rachel told her. “He’s the creepiest, scariest old man EVER!” Chloë blurted with a shiver.

“He’s also super ugly,” a girl said. “He has a really big cucumber nose and he probably has warts.” Another girl chimed in. “He lives by himself—he probably never got married. Or if he did, maybe he killed his wife. You don’t want to cross him.”

Chloë’s heart sank, but she knew she had to take the dare. She could NOT look like a loser in front of Rachel and all of her mega-popular friends. So she headed out into the dusk, following the dim yellow street lamps leading her to her certain doom. Reaching the edge of his yard, she spotted a cellar door, and tiptoe-ran across the grass and eased open the thick, creaky door. She slid inside with heart pounding. All she could think of were the rumors that swirled after Alison’s dog Peaches went



missing. After posting dozens of “Missing Dog” posters and hounding the shelter, Alison finally found Peaches, skinny and missing chunks of fur—right down the block from Mr. Sedgewick’s house! Even though Alison’s parents said the dog has just wandered off, everyone at school said that Peaches had been trapped and starved by Mr. Sedgewick.

As Chloë slowly shuffled her brand-new black high-top Converse along the dusty cellar floor, something long and cold brushed her face. She clamped a clammy hand over her face, biting back a scream. Tentatively, she reached a trembling arm to where the thing had been, dreading the possibility of a bat leg or huge suspended spider. Her fingers closed around a smooth chain, and she yanked it down, filling the basement with the soft glow of an old lightbulb. She rounded a corner of the enormous basement and abruptly stopped short.

Under the light was a large, dusty, metal cage. Was this where that fiend imprisoned Peaches? She snapped a quick photo, for proof. But as she edged closer, she saw that the cage was filled with brown boxes, stacked neatly on shelves. She opened the door, and lifted out the nearest box.

Inside was a photo album. Chloë opened it, and saw photo after photo of the same girl. There she was as a baby smiling sweetly, wrapped up like a burrito in a blanket. Then as a chubby toddler with tight red curls all over her head, grinning and holding her mother’s hand. Here she was laughing and zooming down a park slide.

Chloë opened another box. This album showed a pale little girl without hair, still smiling, baking cookies with her grandmother in the kitchen. The same hairless girl, curled up like a cat in a big yellow chair that dwarfed her, a half-smile on her face and sparkles in her eyes. And then again, this time happily hugging a large fluffy yellow dog.

Chloë opened more boxes. Now photos showed a girl about Chloë’s age, but thin and sickly and unsmiling. She turned a page, and saw a photo of a man and a woman, both black-clad, arm in arm, cloaked in sadness. The corners of Chloë’s mouth turned down. Then she felt a hand on her shoulder. And this time, she screamed at the top of her lungs. She looked up, expecting an angry, vengeful tyrant. What she saw was an elderly man, his trembling hand squeezing a cane and his eyes moist. She

hurried to apologize in a jumbled mess mentioning the dare. Mr. Sedgewick smiled kindly, and asked her to have some tea upstairs and chat. As she sipped and munched on ginger snaps at his round mahogany kitchen table, it became clear that he wasn’t mad that she had trespassed. The signs, he explained, were just to discourage salespeople.

Mr. Sedgewick poured out the story of his daughter, Emma. How she loved to bake and read. How she had a fiery personality and was sometimes very stubborn. How she had a special connection with animals. How she was diagnosed with leukemia when she was just nine. And how she died when she was only 13 years old. How his wife died a few years ago, too.

Chloë teared up as she listened to a sad guy who had nobody to talk to. She wished that she could grab back every mean word she’d said about him, but she couldn’t. It was too late to take back her words, but it’s never too late to make amends.

She glanced at the clock—yikes, she had to get back to the party! She realized that she loved hearing his stories, so when he asked shyly if she might come back someday for cookies and chatting, she promised to come by on Saturday (and maybe the Saturday after that). As she walked away, she turned to see him waving from the window with the same half-smile his daughter had in the pictures.

When Chloë walked back into Rachel Turner’s pink and postered bedroom, the girls exploded with questions. “Oh my god! What took you so long? Did he catch you? We thought you died!”

“No—wait!” Chloë shouted. “Mr. Sedgewick isn’t mean or scary or bad.” Chloë told them everything. They listened and understood, finally, who Mr. Sedgewick really was.

That Saturday, Chloë did go back to Mr. Sedgewick’s house. She rang the doorbell and heard him shuffle quickly toward the door. He pulled it open, and gasped. He had expected one girl, and there before him stood more than ten.

And Mr. Sedgewick’s little half-smile blossomed into a big, wide grin.

Lili, 14, California, loves reading, writing, and acting.



# Book *Besties*

What are your top fave books? Check out these ones we love, plus tips on sharing your book besties with others!

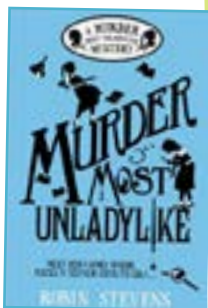


Dive into these awesome and intriguing books, favorites of NMG online community members.



**Wings of Fire** series by Tui T. Sutherland Sophie, 11, British Columbia, couldn't wait to get to reading the latest—she shared a pic of the book and her snuggly reading spot! In *Wings of Fire*, dragonets try to bring peace among warring dragon tribes.

**A Murder Most Unladylike** books by Robin Stevens Epic Eva, 11, United Kingdom, loves these mysteries about Daisy Wells and Hazel Wong, detectives and classmates at Deepdean School for Girls. Eva also likes **The Clockwork Sparrow** books by Katherine Woodfine and wants to be a detective.



**Amulet** series by Kazu Kibuishi Loren, 12, New Jersey, enjoys this graphic series about Emily, 12, who discovers an amulet and must rescue her mother. Loren also likes **Fish in a Tree** by Lynda Mullaly Hunt, about Ally, whose dyslexia makes feeling "smart" hard, and **Counting by 7s** by Holly Goldberg

Sloan, about outsider Willow finding "home."

## Book Talking

Some families have guidelines for when girls read books that are labeled YA for Young Adult. What books you read and when you do are up to you and your family. Talking about guidelines and reading books together can be a wonderful way to discuss all sorts of important things.

## Book Club Fun

Meet the Michigan book club girls above! That's Cambry (left) and Beatrix in the back row, and (from left) Nina, Esme, and Hayden in the front row. The girls have met to talk books and do crafts for two years. Some go to different schools, but they'll all be together in the same middle school.

Here are some of the fun book-related things they do during book club meetups. For **The Uncommoners: The Crooked Sixpence** by Jennifer Bell, the girls drew maps of Lundinor, the secret underground city where magic abounds. For **The Magic Half** by Annie Barrows, they made bracelets while talking about Miri, who discovers a mysterious old lens in her room that conjures a new friend who needs help. For **The Birchbark House** by Louise Erdrich, the girls made nature collages as they discussed how 1850s life in the north forest was for Ojibwe girl Omakayas and her family.



If you'd like to be in a book club, ask a parent or older friend to help you set up one with friends or classmates. Tell them they'll find great how-to for starting a parent-daughter book club at NewMoon.com. Or you could simply ask a friend or two or more if they'd like to talk books over lunch at school. Take turns picking books.

Online book chat works wonderfully, too! Girls in our online community talk books 24-7 with sister book fans. They recommend books and start threads on all things book-related—even fan clubs for specific books such as **My Louisiana Sky** by Kimberly Willis Holt (YA), which is about Tiger Ann, 12, and her challenging family.



## Author Insights



Get writing tips and publishing insider info from NMG's featured authors! NMG online community members can co-host interviews (with contributing editor Lacey Louwagie) and send in questions to authors such as Brenda Woods (above). Just a bit from Woods' recent interview: "My writing inspiration can come from something I hear or see or a chance remark. One day I noticed a tiny diamond was missing from my ring and all at once, I got the idea to write about a girl whose life was missing something, and that's how I wrote **The Blossoming Universe of Violet Diamond**." Try Brenda's awesome **Zoe in Wonderland**, **The Red Rose Box**, and other books.

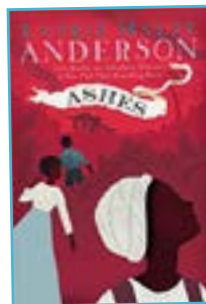


Other author interviews include Ursula Vernon (**Hamster Princess** and **Dragonbreath** series and more); Heather Vogel (**Mother-Daughter Book Club** series and more); Sharon Draper (**Out of My Mind** and more).

**The Thing About Jellyfish** by Ali Benjamin Raina, 12, California, says this story of 7th grader Suzi coming to terms with her friend's drowning is her "favorite book of all time." Raina also likes **Diary of a Wimpy Kid** by Jeff Kinney (an author who loved Judy Blume books as a boy), the story of a boy's rocky road in middle school.



**Ashes** by Laurie Halse Anderson Birdie, 14, Virginia, recommends the saga of how Isabel and friend Curzon search for Ruth, Isabel's enslaved sister. Birdie recommends all books by Halse Anderson! She also likes **The Scorpio Races** (YA) by Maggie Stiefvater, about Puck, the first girl to race mythical water horses.



**The Icarus Project** by Laura Quimby Cool Catastrophy, 13, Idaho, enjoys

this tale of Maya, who makes an incredible discovery on an Arctic excavation with her scientist dad. And like many, many NMG girls, she is a big fan of the **Harry Potter** books!



We need YOUR book besties for future feature! Pop over to [NewMoon.com/polls](http://NewMoon.com/polls) to list a few of your top reads. Thanks!

**Keeper of the Lost Cities** books by Sharon Messenger Avery, 14, Tennessee, likes this saga about telepathic Sophie, 12, and her journey to an elf world. She also likes the **Dragonborn** books by Toby Forward, about apprentice wizards such as Bee and Sam who must stop the spread of evil.



**Dumpling Days** and "everything by Grace Lin" are top picks of Riley, 11, Washington. One Lin series chronicles Pacy, an American girl who searches for identity here and with family in Taiwan. Riley also likes the **Dear America** series of historical fiction of girls throughout history, along with the **Royal Diaries** series about female royalty and the **American Girl** mystery series.



**Paint the Wind** by Pam Muñoz Ryan Amelia, 13, Connecticut, loves the

tale of Maya, who craves freedom and riding her mustang Artemesia. Amelia likes LOTS of other books, as do many NMG members. A few: **The Girl Who Drank the Moon** by Kelly Barnhill, about Luna and her adventures with a kindly witch, a dragon, and a wise monster, and **Gathering Blue** (YA) by Lois Lowry, about Mira, who faces danger in a future world.



**Wonder** by R. J. Palaccio (pen name; actually Raquel Jaramillo) Tessa, 11, Oregon, enjoys this book about how Auggie, who has a facial difference, finds friends. Tessa also likes **The**

**Underland Chronicles** by Suzanne Collins, a series from **The Hunger Games** author Collins about Gregor and his sister Boots in an underground city of intelligent animals. Another favorite is **The Island of the Blue Dolphin** by Scott O'Dell, a true story about Native American girl Karana and how she survives alone on an island.







## She

She  
couldn't do math.  
She  
couldn't do science.  
She  
couldn't be a doctor.  
She  
was stuck at home cooking and cleaning.  
She  
was there to take care of the kids while he went out and worked.  
While he brought home the money.  
While he was recognized for how great he was at sitting at a desk all day.

Well now she can.  
It's a new age  
we are closer, closer to making it so that it doesn't matter if it's her and not him.

She  
still gets paid less than him for the same job.  
She  
still doesn't get treated fairly.  
But she  
is closer to making it.  
Closer to the day when she will be president  
when she will be paid just the same as him  
for just the same job.

**Cailin, 11**  
North Carolina

poetry

## Lost My Mind

Where is it?  
My broken and beat brain  
Seems to be missing.  
It might be over there,  
Here,  
Anywhere.  
Though now that I think,  
I think I left it behind  
At school.  
Curse you math homework!

**Cedric, 13**  
Massachusetts

## Intersection

Cars  
Trample the  
Intersecting roads.  
Hurrying to their destination.  
Everything is set and planned.  
What if they take the other way  
And see where it takes them.  
The road could set you free  
All because of the  
Intersection.

Two, three, or  
Four ways to go.  
Which one will be your  
Choice for an adventure.  
Left, right, forward, or back.  
Take a U-turn and retrace your steps.  
Keep going straight and don't worry  
About turning the vehicle's wheel.  
Turning left or right could give  
A swerving adventure.

Feel free  
When choosing.  
You have every right.  
Choosing could take you  
To a whole new world of life.  
Maybe it is serious and scary.  
It could be a boatload of fun.  
So many different journeys.  
It's all because of the  
Intersection.

**Amrita, 12**  
Minnesota

## The Moon

Shining down upon the earth  
It smiles upon you.  
Watching all with love and care  
It offers protection too.  
Cooling the fiery torment of the sun  
It glows with grace and beauty.  
With twilight's fall, it will rise and stay  
Until the day is again fresh and new.

**Iliana, 11**  
Rhode Island

Enjoy lots more awesome girl poetry at our online community! Send us your poetry: [NewMoonGirls.com/girls-get-published](http://NewMoonGirls.com/girls-get-published)



# how aggravating!

What's unfair to girls and women—in your life or around the world? **Members**, post at the "How Aggravating" message board at [NMGMembers.com](http://NMGMembers.com). Any girl can send thoughts at [NewMoonGirls.com/girls-get-published](http://NewMoonGirls.com/girls-get-published).

I really don't like it when someone says "that person is racist/sexist/etc." You should say, "That thing you said was/ seemed racist/sexist/etc." Focus on what the person did, not what they are.

Getting into a conversation with someone about what they are is much too easy to derail and justify, and thinking someone is something is usually an assumption anyway. So if you're ever in one of these awkward situations, hold the person accountable for what they did, not what they are.

**Carrie, 13**  
Nevada

A boy at my school thinks it is an insult to be called a girl. We have a continuing argument on that. He doesn't seem to understand that it's

like saying girls are bad. It make me mad and sad to know that some people still think "girl" is an insult, because it IS NOT!

**Stella, 14**  
Alaska

I saw a boy teasing another boy, asking if he was crying. The boy totally flipped out, saying "No! I am NOT crying." I asked him afterward what's so wrong about crying, and he said something like "Crying is for wussies."

**Edith, 12**  
Michigan

I was at a wedding recently, and part of the vows was for the wife to submit to the husband. Grrrrrr. Why can't a woman have equal rights in a marriage? Annoying!

Some people still think "girl" is an insult.

**Ellie, 11**  
Minnesota

It seems that there aren't many girls who wear skeleton

costumes. I was called a boy SEVEN times while trick or treating for two hours. Ugh!

**Shirmash the Patriarchy, 11**  
New Mexico

This is **GIRL-CAUGHT!**  
It disrespects girls & women.  
**STOP IT!**  
[NewMoonGirls.com](http://NewMoonGirls.com)

## GIRL-CAUGHT!



The Twin Peaks chain of restaurant/bars uses womens' bodies to promote their business, and their ads say that a "perfect" body always has big breasts.

**Amelia, 11**  
Pennsylvania

Show us what you Girl-Caught:  
**[NewMoonGirls.com/girls-get-published](http://NewMoonGirls.com/girls-get-published)**



# Howling at the moon

Howl about the inspiring things you do and see that make life better for girls! Members, visit the "Howl at the Moon" message board at [NMGMembers.com](http://NMGMembers.com). Any girl can share at [NewMoonGirls.com/girls-get-published](http://NewMoonGirls.com/girls-get-published).



Artwork by Liza Ferneyhough

I recently watched a movie about engineering that included a story about an amazing and very successful engineer. She grew up in a poor town. Her high school engineering group won a state competition with a robot that did underwater tasks. They went on to nationals, but this woman couldn't go with the team because of work commitments.

Right before the competition, the team discovered a leak, but they didn't have tools to fix it and the contest was starting soon. Then one guy said, "Aren't tampons really absorbent?" They rushed to a drug store and then used one to plug the leak.

They won the contest, and the big engineering university MIT came in second. And all because of some guy's quick thinking. That's why I agree with NMG friends who say that everyone should be educated about menstruation even if they don't menstruate themselves!

**Sopha, 10**  
California

Everyone should be educated about menstruation.

Did you know that Pope Francis has brought up the possibility of women becoming deacons? Popes haven't allowed women this chance in hundreds of years.

**FoxFeather, 15**  
North Carolina

Ever noticed the ways we describe things such as policemen and snowmen and signs that say "Men at Work"? This is unfair to women and trans people. We should say things like police officer, snow person, and worker. I propose, though, that for one day, January 30th, we use terms such as policewomen, snowwomen, and Women at Work.

I'm not trying to be rude to men or boys. But this is a day to teach people a little equality! On this day, I will wear my girl power sweat pants, and my We Stand By You Malala shirt. I am proud to be a girl. And I am proud of the men and boys in this world who stand up for equality, too.

**Stella, 13**  
Washington

This is **GIRL-CAUGHT!**  
It RESPECTS  
girls & women.  
**THANK YOU!**  
[NewMoonGirls.com](http://NewMoonGirls.com)

**GIRL-CAUGHT!**



Fans have been asking to have a female Doctor Who since the 1970s, so it's exciting to see that we will finally have a female in the show's lead role!

**Cat, 16**  
Vermont

Show us what you Girl-Caught:  
[NewMoonGirls.com/girls-get-published](http://NewMoonGirls.com/girls-get-published)

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

# January

## National Book Blitz Month

**Loretta Chavez** born, 1960  
Served in U.S. Congress along with sis Linda (on right) 7



**Happy Birthday, J.R.R. Tolkien!**  
His books make reading a happy hobbit —Firiell! 3



**Whipped Cream Day**  
Yes to hot chocolate and candy cane, too! 5



**Dress Up Your Pet Day**  
Send your pix: [NewMoonGirls.com/girls-get-published](http://NewMoonGirls.com/girls-get-published) 14



**Author Pat Mora** born, 1942  
Wrote *The Remembering Day* and more 19



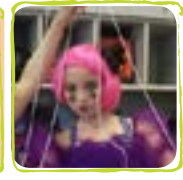
**World Religion Day**  
Talk with friends about their beliefs today and any day. 21



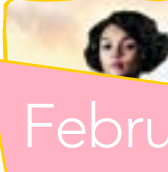
**Global Belly Laugh Day**  
Crack your best jokes to get some super laughs on! 24



**National Big Wig Day**  
Be Effie Trinket or a marionette or any hair you want! 26



**Awesome author and activist Vera B. Williams** born, 1927  
Wrote  *Scooter*  and more 28



# February

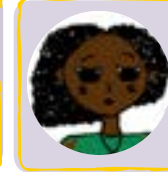
## Black History Month



**World Nutella Day**  
Nutella s'mores, anyone? 5



**National Girls and Women in Sports Day**  
Let's PLAY! 7



**Grace Hamilton** born, 1907  
First female African-American in Georgia legislature 10

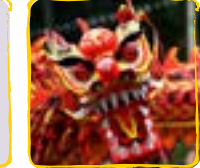
**Florynce Kennedy** born, 1916  
Fierce and funny activist and author 11



**Happy Valentine's Day!**  
Share the love all around... 15



**Celebrate Chinese New Year**  
Happy Year of the Dog! 16



**International Tug of War Day**  
Rope plus pals makes instant fun! 19



**Singer Nina Simone** born, 1933  
She sang for justice and freedom. 21

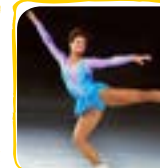


**Tortilla Chip Day**  
Make your own: Brush tortillas with oil, salt, cut shapes, and bake. 24

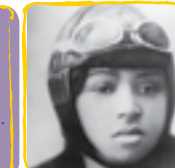


**Tell a Fairy Story Day**  
Remember, you can tell YOUR version! 26

**Figure skater Debi Thomas** first African-American to win Olympic bronze, 1988 27



**Who's your favorite Black History female?** Tell at [NewMoonGirls.com/girls-get-published](http://NewMoonGirls.com/girls-get-published)



Tell us your calendar idea: [NewMoonGirls.com/girls-get-published](http://NewMoonGirls.com/girls-get-published)





Maria (above) as a young woman and at left with children at a Montessori school



“  
A child is . . .  
capable of  
tremendous  
achievements.

”  
—Maria Montessori

By Sonia Rusin-Franke

Maria Montessori is an amazing role model who is very inspirational to me. I loved going to my Montessori school, where I learned about her.

Maria was born in Chiaravalle, Italy on August 31, 1870. A headstrong girl, she told her parents after finishing elementary school that she wanted to go to a technical school (then boys-only) to learn to become an engineer. Her mother, Renilde, supported Maria, but her father, Alessandro, thought that girls should be teachers at most. Maria absolutely resented that idea, and she got into the engineering school in Rome.

After her first year of engineering, Maria told her parents that she was fascinated by biology and wanted to go to medical school and become a doctor. Even her mother was skeptical—no woman in Italy had become a doctor. After being refused admission multiple times, she got into medical school and excelled. As a female, she wasn't allowed to dissect naked bodies with males, so she did it at night after the men left. She graduated in 1896, and as one of the first female doctors in Italy, opened up another option for women.

Maria started a small clinic in Rome, specializing in pediatrics and psychiatry. Many poor families brought her their children, and Maria noticed that almost all of them had developmental disabilities, and some had severe mental instability. Both classmates and teachers tormented the children constantly. The teachers said it was pointless to teach them, but Maria saw their potential. She took charge of the Casa dei Bambini (Children's House) to show that the children could indeed learn.

At the Casa, Maria developed what would become the Montessori Method of Education used in thousands of schools worldwide. Her methods teach children practical life skills, such as preparing food and cleaning. Students get a lot of choice to pick the topics they want to work on each day, and classrooms are full of hands-on learning activities.

Kids are grouped in an age range of two-three years, and children who have learned a particular skill will help other students. Maria wanted the students to direct their own learning and have a sense of freedom within their learning environment.

During World War II, Maria spoke out for peace, and the Italian dictator Benito Mussolini tried to stop her. Her schools were shut down, and she fled to India. It was there that she founded Education for Peace, a program that teaches kids about peace, and this earned her six Nobel Peace Prize nominations. She continued to develop new material and ideas for Montessori classrooms, such as an increased focus on learning about nature for elementary-aged students.

Maria was a great female leader who changed the world. Even though it has been over 60 years since she died, countless children have flourished with the ideas of this fantastic doctor and teacher! ●

Sonia, 11, Ontario, is a relentless dessert sampler and amateur actor. She enjoys dried cranberries, writing short stories, and watching stepdance competitions. Her favorite phrase is "Be yourself. Unless you can be a winged banana. They look cool."





**Don't Miss  
An Issue!**

1. Is your membership expiring?
2. Check at left for your expiration date.
3. Renew 2 months before the expire date.



I'm superglad I found out about NMG—I'm making new friends!

—Iylah, 10, Oregon

Try **NewMoonGirls.com** and see why **Hadley** says: "I'm brand new to your website and I've already made so many new friends!"

### January & February To-Dos

- January 11** - Secret code day! Search "Morse code" to write a mystery message.
- January 14** - Share dressed-up pet pix: [NewMoonGirls.com/girls-get-published](http://NewMoonGirls.com/girls-get-published)
- January 19** - Habla Español? Read a bilingual book to a kid you know.
- February 7** - Grab a ball and invent a goofy new team game.
- February 16** - Tell a pup you love: Happy Chinese Year of the Dog!
- February 26** - Trade fave fairy tales told your way today.

#### For Parents: Free Resources and Wisdom from Other Parents!

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- [Pinterest.com/NewMoonGirls](https://www.pinterest.com/NewMoonGirls)
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