



Al Sahafa Talks

Issue No. .2 | Spring 2021



Global activities
and many more!

Senior Yearbook

Essential Skills
for 2021

Book
Recommendations

Seniors 2021

...let the adventure begin....

Al Sahafa students are all around
the world

Meet our future authors and poets

What's cooking in our kitchen?

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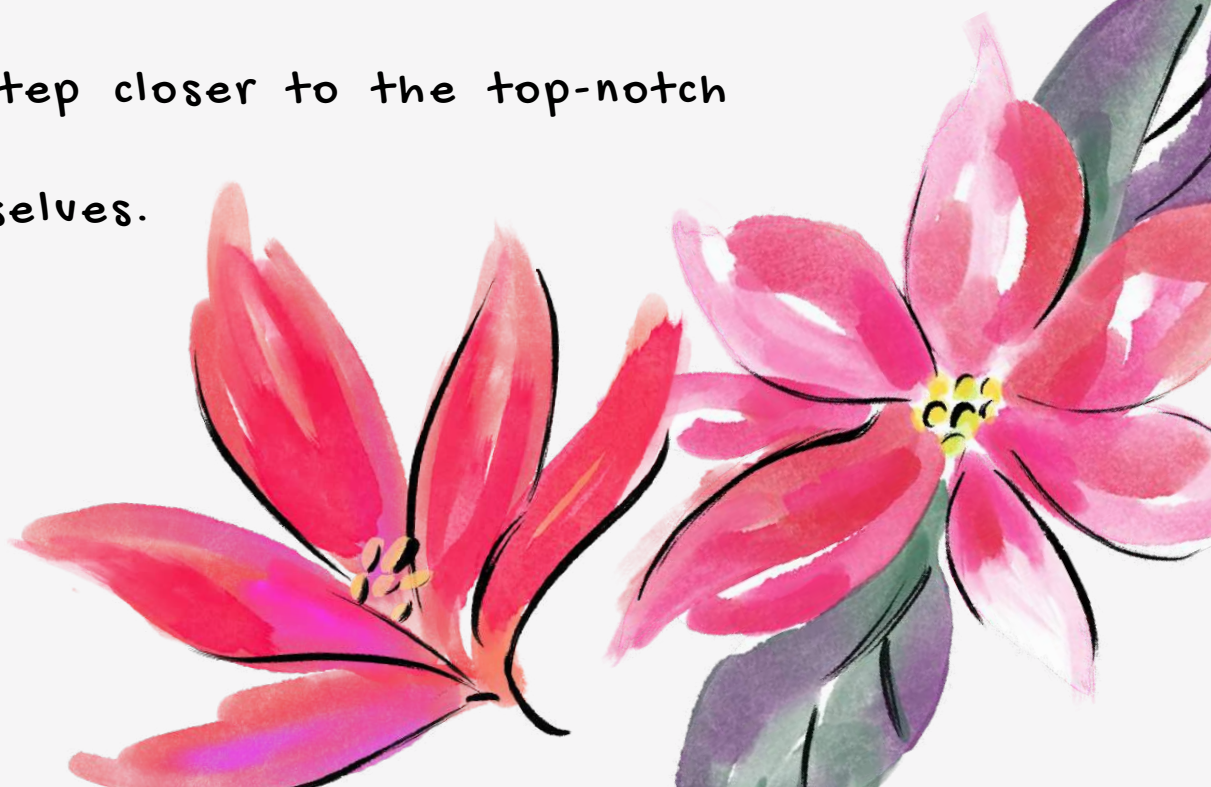
RECIPES

*"To associate, to share, to tackle" **Alсахafa talks** is an online outlet for self-expression made by the students and for the students. Here we are driven by the sole purpose of creating a community of students who are woke about their surroundings and are inspired to create a change. Alсахafa talks is comprised of numerous topics from articles, reflections, and interviews to our favorite books and recipes. You'll find it all here!*





As the droplets of the morning dew land on the petals of each flower, they blossom into the finest version of themselves by noon. Allow this volume of *Al Sahafa Talks* to be the morning dew you were waiting for; as we witness the leaves gain their color back this season. Let's bloom and become one step closer to the top-notch version of ourselves.





AL SAHAF TALKS TEAM

Mrs. Noor Wehbe
Leen Abdrabbo
Sama Islam
Nour Shehabeddine
Aida Al Masri
Maysoun Kabbani
Yara Bou Ghannam

The tassel was worth the hassle!

Congrats to the Heroes
Congratulations, Graduates!
You will forever be recognized as the special group who faced the first full transition to a digital, virtual classroom. May these unique circumstances inspire you to be always the first in a world full of surprises and challenges..
I am proud of you!
I'm confident of your abilities, and I'm looking forward to hear about your achievements.
May success accompany your journey! ♥
♥♥

A Proud Principal
Ola Mourad

Although we couldn't see you in school, being your teacher has been incredible. I hope our efforts reside in your memories because I am going to miss you! You did it! You graduated! And this roller coaster of a journey is only the beginning

Miss Hanadi Ammar

Congrats!!
Congratulations seniors! I cannot believe the year is over and you are about to graduate, that we won't be seeing your beautiful hopeful faces at school online or in-person. You have showed great tolerance and flexibility trying to cope to this huge change in all aspects of your lives. I will miss each and every one of you, but my mind and heart will be at peace knowing that you will be somewhere doing your best at something you love. Best of luck to all of you. Love you all

Suzane Taleb



*If you want to GLOW★
You better SHINE ☐☐*

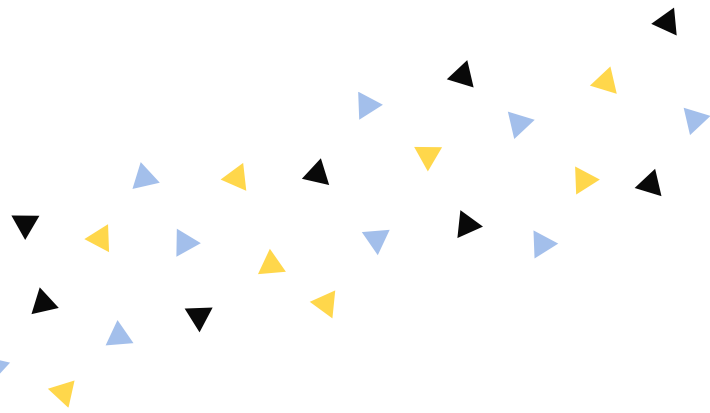
And yes you CAN ☐☐☐

Nadine Maatouk

congrats!

Happy graduation. I bless you with all that you need to earn many more achievements and facts in life ahead. Congratulations and best wishes in your next journey . I am so happy for you and I Wish you great success with your dreams and career.

Maha Saad



Although these uncertain times have brought challenges for everyone, you have proved to be a resilient batch who was able to overcome obstacles that no one has ever experienced. On your graduation, I stand assured knowing that you will be heading towards a new journey to change the world.

"and so the adventure begins..."

With Love, ♥
Mrs. Noor Wehbe

congrats!

Hi there, Class of 2021! So here's my one-way conversation with you lot! I can't begin to tell you how excited I am for you all (all the great things that await you in your future) and how proud I am of seeing this day (and how old I feel thinking where did all the years go? But that's beside the point). Many of you were part of the very first batch of students I taught here at Sahafa, and are therefore so very dear to my heart. I can't believe my newbie freshmen are all graduating seniors!! *insert bucketload of proud tears*

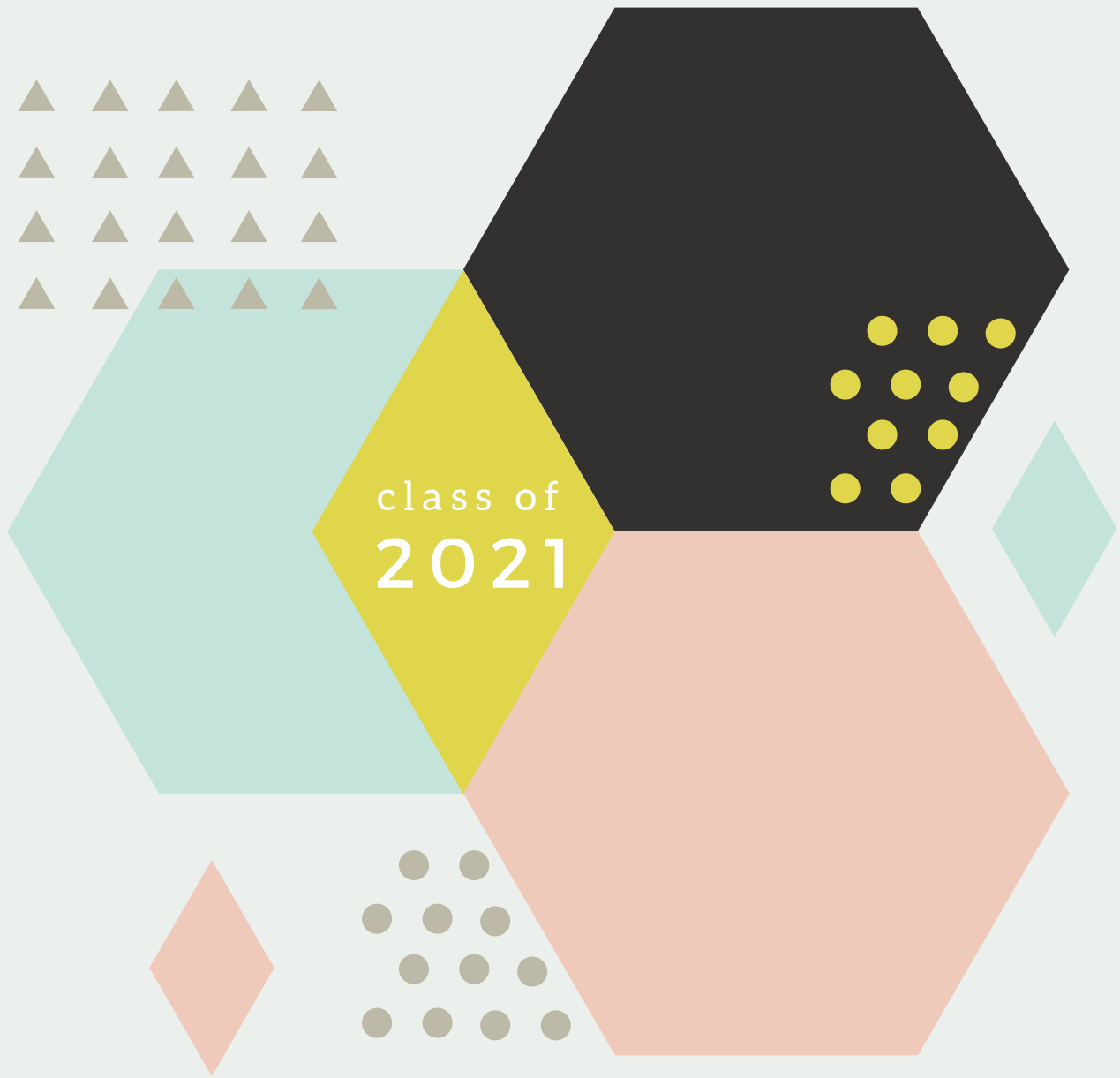
Every one of you girls should be very proud of yourselves for making it through the year! I am rooting for you all (ones I know personally, and ones I do not)! What a year it's been. Whew! This milestone deserves to be celebrated even if it can't be the old traditional way. Unconventional times call for unconventional methods. Please know that you deserve to enjoy this moment and you deserve to celebrate all your successes. You made it against unprecedented challenges. You made it! You're here! Yep. That makes you all AWESOME. <3 <3 <3

CONGRATULATIONS!! &

Lots of love and endless virtual hugs and kisses!! ~Ms. Salwa ~

P.S. I hope my excessive use of exclamation marks convinces you of how excited I truly am for you, and infects you too with the same enthusiasm!! :D

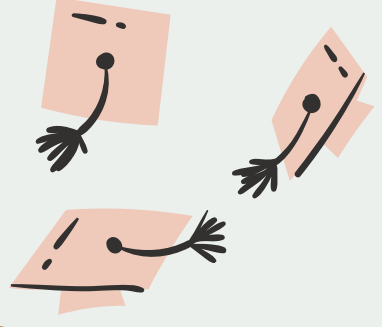




Al Sahafa International
School

“My mission in life is
not merely to
survive, but to
thrive; and to do so
with some passion,
some compassion,
some humor, and
some style.”

Maya Angelou





AIDA AL MASRI

Year I joined: 2018

Understand that one day you will have the power to make a difference, so use it well.



BANAN MARWA

Year I joined: 2015

"Your life is your story and the adventure ahead of you is the journey to fulfill your own purpose and potential, yet an investment in knowledge always pays the best interest."



DANA TERRO

Year I joined: 2019

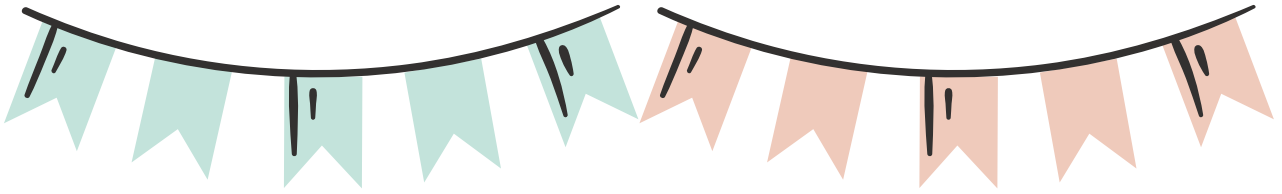
Don't be trapped in someone else's dream. Be yourself.



DARA AL GHAZAWI

Year I joined: 2013

We are all here for some special reason. Stop being a prisoner of your past. Become the architect of your future.



DIALA SHAHWAN

Year I joined: 2012

Graduation is an exciting time, it's both an ending and a beginning, it's warm memories of the past and big dreams for the future.



GHALIA IMRAN

Year I joined: 2016

You may never know what results come of your action, but if you do nothing there will be no result. — Mahatma Gandhi



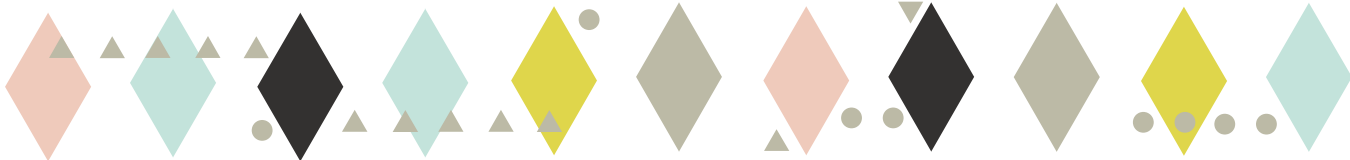
HALA NAZZAL



JAWAHER AL KATHIRI

Year I joined: 2018

I really need to sleep because reality is too much.



JUDE OBEIDAT

Year I joined: 2013

"We know what we are, but know not what we may be."



JUMAN FAHHAM

Year I joined: 2019

"Surround yourself with people that reflect who you want to be and how you want to feel. Energies are contagious."



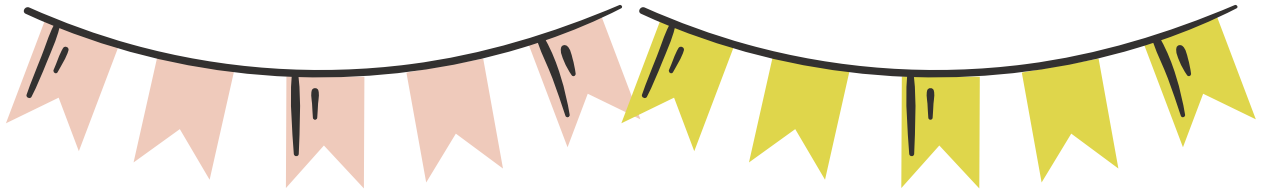
JUMAN AL ZENBARAKJI



LANA FARWANA

Year I joined: 2014

"we don't know where we're going but we know where we belong"



LARISSA ARKADAN

Year I joined: 2011

'I paint my own reality.' – Frida Kahlo



LEEN ABD-RABBOU

Year I joined: 2013

What is done in love is done well - Van Gogh



MAHITAB OUF

Year I joined: 2017

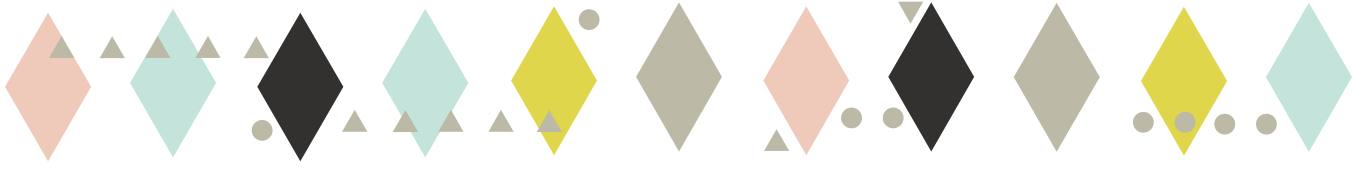
You can't jump straight to the end, the journey is the best part.



NOUR SHEHAB ALDIN

Year I joined: 2019

"We'll never be those kids again"- Frank Ocean



SALMA AL ATTILI



SAMA ISLAM

Year I joined: 2013

"I've learned from the bad times and was humbled by the good. Thank you for all of the great life lessons."



SARA ABU SADA

Year I joined: 2019

"You could rattle the stars. You could do anything, if only you dared"





*Congratulations
Batch '21*

*Join Our Virtual
Graduation*

SATURDAY MAY 1ST, 2021

Essential Skills to Develop in 2021



2020 and 2021 are the years everything changed. It looks like in many respects we won't be going back to the old ways of doing things. In fact, almost every aspect of our lives will be different going forward. That includes the way we shop, do business, and communicate. So, to make sure you're in the best place to succeed in whatever the new different looks like, here are some of the most in-demand job skills for graduates.

IT and Cybersecurity

The new technological challenges of remote work and the ever-changing digital landscape have kept IT and tech skills in high demand in 2021.

2020 saw a mismatch between the IT demands of companies and the skills or personnel they had on hand to handle significant changes in their technology needs. Other high-demand skills in the IT/tech space include:

- Cloud computing
- AI and machine learning
- Blockchain
- Virtual reality and augmented reality
- User-experience design
- Mobile app development



Video and Audio Production

The ability to produce compelling video and audio assets is one of the most in demand skills in the current job market. Video marketing is particularly effective within the tech space, where 80% of consumers purchased an app or piece of software after viewing a video from the brand.

Here are some resources to get you started on your video and audio production journey:

- OpenShot is an award-winning free video-editing software that is very intuitive.
- Udemy has compiled a list of free video production and editing courses.
- Smart Film School offers a course on smartphone video production for beginners
- GarageBand is beloved for its simplicity and functionality. If you're a Mac user, Garageband is a great place to get started recording audio.
- Audacity is another great audio production application for PC and Mac users.



Foreign Languages and Translation

We are operating within an economy that is increasingly globalized. This has created a significant demand for multi-language fluency.

Need more incentive? Foreign language skills will make you more competitive in the job market.

There are many tools that are just a click away to help you gain new language skills, or take your second language to the next level.

Here are some great ways to build your language skills:

- Rosetta Stone: One of the original digital language learning platforms, Rosetta Stone has had years to dial it in and create a strong language learning platform.
- Duolingo: Although it does offer a premium membership, many of Duolingo's amazing language features can be used for free!
- Babbel: Babbel is subscription based and offers many great features, including language learning geared towards the business world.
- Tandem: Tandem offers a very cool model: language exchange. Build your language skills and share your knowledge through real conversations with native speakers.



Data Analysis and Statistics

Left-brain thinkers rejoice: data is the name of the game across many industries in 2021.

If you're looking for an example of how data is driving business choices, consider Netflix.

Netflix has developed sophisticated data modeling based on consumers' viewing choice, and they've used the results to drive content purchasing to fit consumer tastes.

Data analytics have become a top priority in marketing and advertising. These days, data is where it all begins, and the ability to collect and interpret data will be a major asset in your career.

Here are some ways to boost your skills in this critical subject:

Applying Data Analytics in Marketing is a free Coursera course

Intro to Statistics: Udacity offers this free eight-week course from Stanford.

Foundations of Data Analysis: This University of Texas course taught through EdX will give you a strong foundation in stats and data analysis, and teach you how to use R, a common program for data analysis.



Creativity

Creativity is consistently one of the most in-demand skills that a candidate or employee can show. And yet, too few of us take the time to build our creativity.

So how to grow your creativity? For many of us who already have creative hobbies such as journaling or drawing, it could be as simple as carving out the proper time to devote to these things. But maybe you can't find the right outlet to get the creative juices flowing.

If that sounds like you, here are some ideas to get you started:

- **Redecorate a room in your house and apartment.** Start from scratch, pick a fresh color, seek out some new decor to spice things up. This doesn't have to mean spending a lot of money; a can of paint and some carefully thrifted items will go a long way. This type of activity will challenge you to see new possibilities, almost like confronting an old problem with a brand-new solution.
- **Take an online drawing class.** Drawing is a great way to get a fresh perspective. A drawing practice will help you see things in a new light, literally! We all need to channel our inner kindergartener sometimes to feel more alive, am I right?
- **Pick up a musical instrument.** It's never too late! Really. Studies show that playing an instrument is one the best things you can do for your brain, boosting gray matter and neural connections. And you're bound to hear the world in a different way.

Science tells us that the more you learn, the better a learner you become. There's no day like today, and there's never been more chances to learn available to us. Wishing you all the best on your journey to a more skilled you!





International Days

WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY - April 2

World Autism Awareness Day (WAAD), on April 2nd each year shines a bright light on a growing global health crisis.



Defining Autism

ASD, or more widely recognized as Autism Spectrum Disorder, is a neurological disorder that develops in a child's early years, usually before the age of 3. It affects a person's ability to interact with those surrounding them, whether it's verbally or non-verbally. As wide as the Autism spectrum is, symptoms differ depending on the severity of an individual's Autism state. General symptoms include difficulty expressing needs, repetitive communications, and atypical posture/tone.

How to Act With an Autistic Person

- 1- If the person is grown, treat them as you would treat any other person their age.
- 2- Be literal when talking to someone with autism, and try your best to avoid using slang, metaphors, and sarcasm as it may cause some confusion.
- 3- Give them some time to explain what they're trying to say, and take your time to listen and thoroughly understand what they're trying to convey.
- 4- Wait for their response after asking them a question; they may need some time to process the question asked before giving you their response
- 5- Give them constructive feedback when needed; if you notice a person with ASD saying an inappropriate phrase provide them with honest, non-judgmental, and clear feedback.
- 6- Try to include them in the conversations you have in their presence and don't speak as if the person is not around.

WORLD HEALTH DAY – APRIL 7

World Health Day is the global observance of health as a human right. From healthcare professionals to policymakers and individuals, families with young children or elderly, we all have a role to play in our personal health and the wellbeing of those around us.

World Health Day is celebrated on April 7 every year, with a different theme. The theme for world health day 2021 is **Building a fairer, healthier world.**

Amid this pandemic and unprecedented situations, we would like to give a shout out to all frontline health care workers.

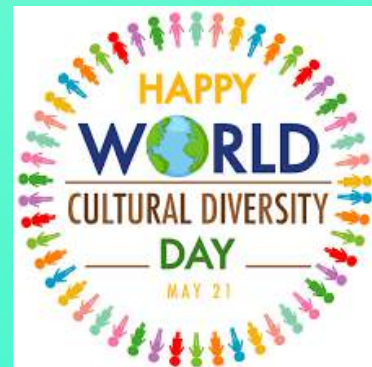


WORLD DAY FOR CULTURAL DIVERSITY – May 21

Every year on May 21st, the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development urges everyone to do their part to bridge the gap between cultures. The day is often referred to as Diversity Day.

According to the UN, bridging this gap is essential for peace, development, and stability. When we deepen our understanding of the values of cultural diversity we can achieve these four goals:

- Support sustainable systems for the governance of culture.
- Achieve a balanced flow of cultural goods and services.
- Integrate culture into the frameworks of sustainable development.
- Promote human rights and fundamental freedoms.





Our Future Authors

The Crophers Map by Hala Goumah grade 5A

It was nearly dawn, Ava was sitting in her bed, thinking about the dream she had that occupied her brain without leaving any meaning behind. Her mind wasn't able to think of anything else except it. What was this dream trying to tell her? Ava herself couldn't answer this question. She started to rewind it in her head, hoping she didn't forget it. She knew her dream isn't true as there is no way that she is a witch. "Imagine me as a witch. I'd die from the first second of realizing it," Ava whispered. She thought about what would happen if she was one.

Ava would study in Seaxiton, the academy for wizards and witches that no Nizard (a term used for non-magic humans) ever saw. Her parents told her a lot about it before they died. Does it have anything to do with them? Of course, it didn't! It would be hilarious if it did. While she was rewinding her dream, she remembered the map she saw. It had giant words written on it that said "The Crophers Map." Ava didn't think of it. She only saw her family name because she was the one dreaming, and that's the end of that. Then, she felt a tap on her shoulder.

"Joya (Ava's cousin), why on Earth are you awake now? It's 6 in the-"

"Ava, there is something I must tell you."

"Tell me-"

"Ava! Joya! It's time for breakfast!" Said James, the youngest (and most annoying) kid in foster care.

Joya marched to James and hit him in the head.

"Get out. Now."

Joya had an angry face. It was somehow creepy.

James's dark brown hair was all over the place. His innocent black eyes filled with tears. James ran out of the room, crying, and Joya sat on Ava's bed. Her dark blue eyes were staring right at Ava's.

"What did you want to tell me?"

"Ava, you're not normal."

Continued...



"How come?"

"You are a witch."

"Haha. As if."

"Believe me."

"And how the heck do you know?"

"Ava, we come from a magic family. All our ancestors are wizards and witches."

"Are you for real?"

"I am," Joya said, rolling her eyes.

Ava's eyes widened. How come she didn't know about this? Why not until she was 12?

"Joya..."

"Hm?"

"I had a dream about this today."

"So?"

"Does that mean if anything can happen in my dream, it can happen in real life as well?"

"I don't know. Maybe we can find an answer in Seaxiton."

"We're going there?"

"How are we going to study, idiot?" Said Joya, pulling her long, red hair in a ponytail.

"How are we going get there, idiot?"

"Using the Crophers Map, idiot."

Ava covered her mouth with her hand. Now, she was sure of two things. Ava was sure that Seaxiton was related to her family in some way. She was also confident that anything she dreams of is a reality.



Our beautiful author, Hala

My Poem

by Jawad Skaiki

Grade 1G

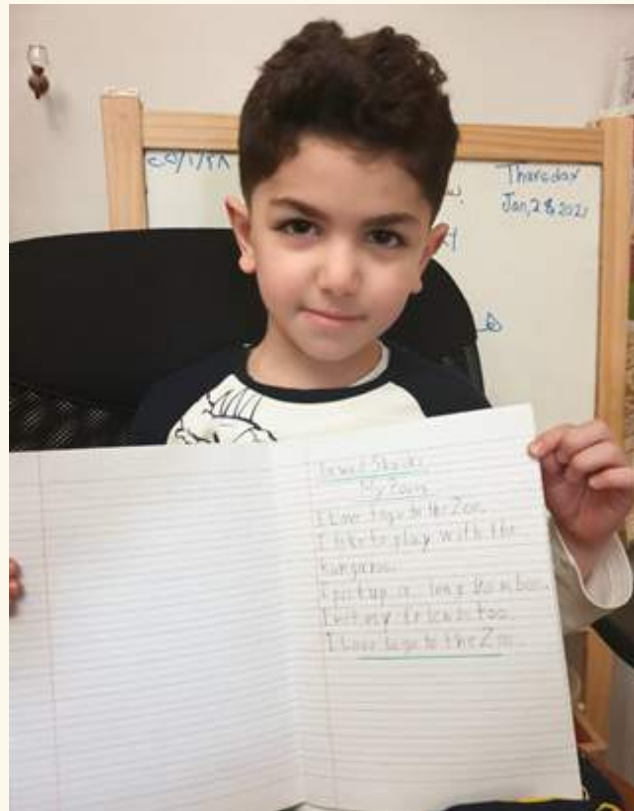
I Love to go to the Zoo

I like to play with the Kangaroo

I pick up a long Bamboo.

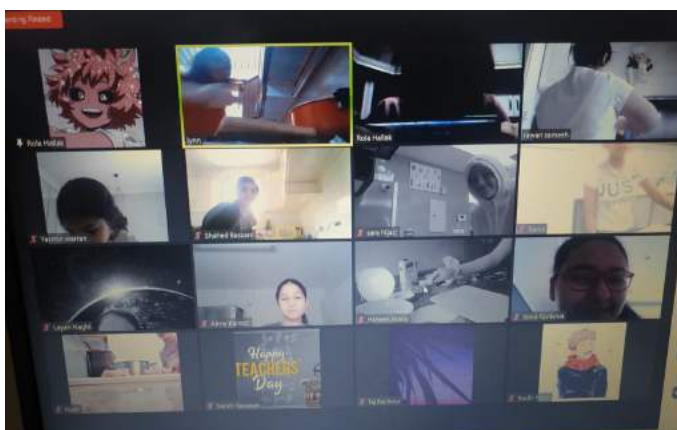
I met my friends too.

I Love to to the zoo.



Baking and Cooking Sessions

There has been something cooking in our kitchens. Grade 7 students enjoyed baking with Mrs. Rola Hallak and here are some photos



The students' feedback:

This experience was very fun and entertaining! My classmates and I enjoyed the interaction with each other and baking with our teacher. We also had a great time afterwards tasting the amazing cake.

Amena

Even though I couldn't participate, it was really fun and enjoyable. The smiles on everyone's faces brightened up my day. The place was filled with positive energy that made me more than happy. I love how we laughed together and made the best out of this session it made me feel like I am with my second family. This session was so wholesome and filled with happy spirits I would absolutely love to repeat it again. (huge, warm virtual hug :)))

Tuleen

the cooking session on Thursday was very enjoyable. i feel like it was needed as a small break and refreshment from our daily schedule in school. The spirit of the session was very fruitful and fun. looking at my friends different setups and how they are cooking was a really fun experience. if i had the chance to repeat it i would definitely say yes

Shahid

Hi teacher, it was an interesting and fruitful session I wish we repeat it. And the cake was unbelievably delicious my mom liked it so much even my grandmother thought it was ready-made at outside cake shops and the rest of my family liked it as well. Thanks allot for the time you gave and your hard work you did for this session we enjoyed it allot. ❤️❤️❤️

Aseel

The session was wonderful and the recipe was delicious. The most thing I liked was that it was delicious and easy to cook. It is only boiling the pasta, doing the sauce, and decorating the plate. It was the first time I cooked fettuccine and the first time I cooked with my friends and teacher in a virtual class in school. I would like to repeat it because it was a new activity that the school did with my friends and teacher.

In a sunny afternoon Thursday, we were almost done with our exceptional Cooking Session. It was an online wonderful experience, also the most unique session. I wish that I can repeat it with my dear teacher and friends💕

Ghazal

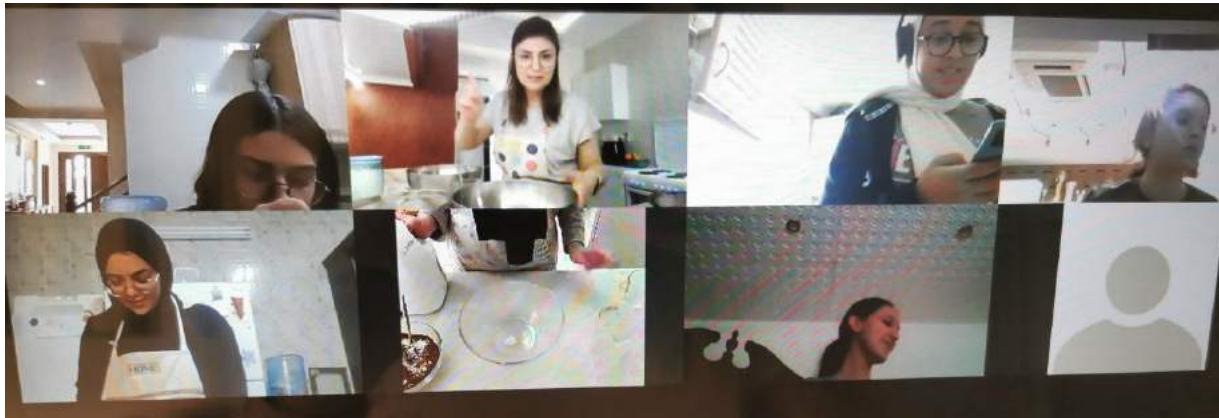
One of the most wonderful experiences I had in my life ,was a cooking session with all our friends in the online learning. It was a brilliant idea from our teacher ,since she wanted us to try a unique session full of spirits.

A simple chocolate cake recipe was sent to our mails , i think all of it's ingredients were in every house , so i didn't find it overwhelming at all . every one prepared the ingredients before the class. when the class started we dumped our ingredients one by one following with the teacher steps .i would definitely say it was organized and planned very well .any ways we completed doing the cake ,my own experience about it that i felt that i am an adult who can cook very well :) . after we finished baking the cake, we prepared the icing and added it on the top , the cake was delicious after all ,although my mom helped me behind the camera cause i couldn't do every thing by my own . we took of it pictures and sent it on our group . I felt that finally we can do something fun in that boring distance learning , and this kind of project raised my spirits and drew a smile on my face , i would defenitly like to repeat this experience , it really mattered with me ,and removed all my negative vibes.

Thanks T.Rola for this day :)

Mariam 7B

With the school year coming to an end and to help "break the routine", Mrs. Suzan Taleb held baking and cooking sessions with grades 12. The students' work was impressive!!



Cultural Exchange Activity

In our mission to break the boundaries of the lockdown and to get the best out of this occasion, we are glad to announce that Al Sahafa School has organized this year its first cultural exchange program. The students were able to represent their culture that is shaped with great traditions and rich values to the students of different countries (Poland, Indonesia, India)

At our school we believe that this cultural exchange has a great impact on student's learning, and it is definitely a great opportunity for them to practice their language skills.

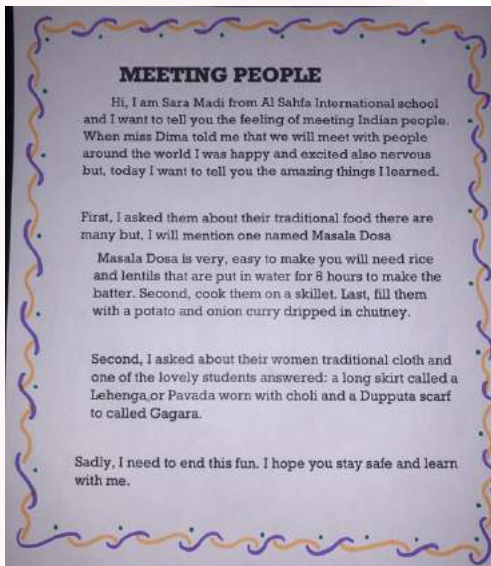
This initiative enabled them to trade their ideas, feelings, stories and customs with their peers from around the world. It helped them celebrate their diversity and it was a source of good learning that is a very different form of their daily academic achievement

We must say that our students were fully prepared to be part of this virtual meeting and they genuinely performed confidently. All the teachers and students from the other schools were captivated by the performance of our students.

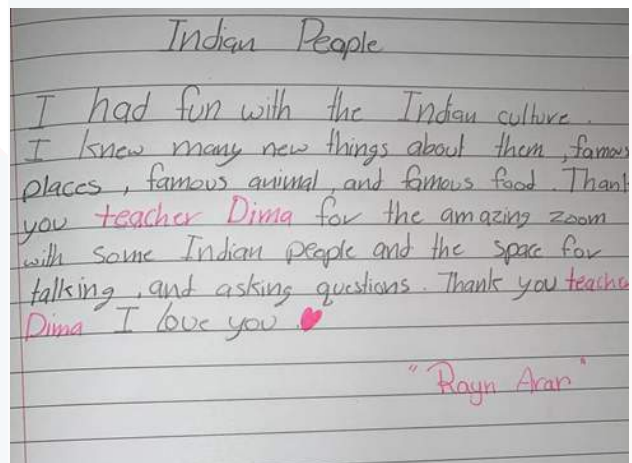


Grade 4

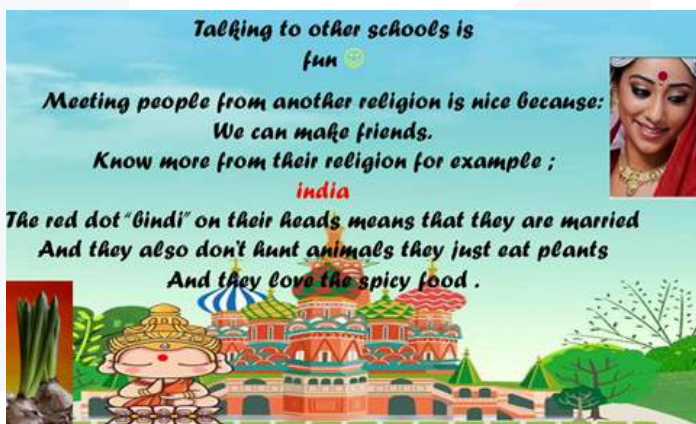
Sara Madi:



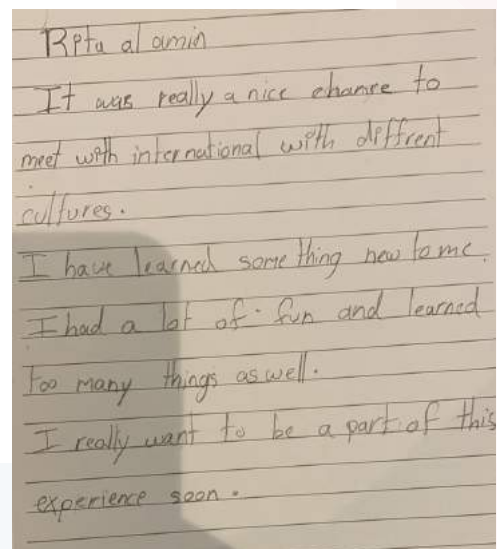
Ryan Arar:



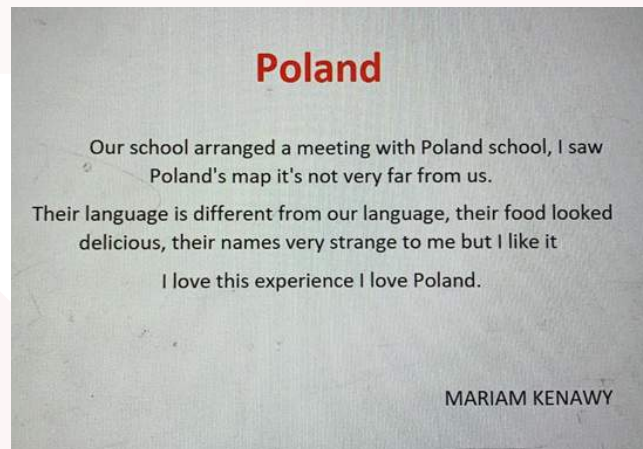
Lilas Alaa tomiza:



Rita Al-amin:



Mariam Kinawi:



Retaj skaiki:



As a teacher, this brought me joy, happiness and playfulness. It was a new discovery!

Cultural exchange is truly an eye opening experience to remember. It broadened the vision of our grade 4 students this year, so we are grateful to all those who provided them with such a wonderful opportunity 😊

T. Dima Sufian



Grade 5

I enjoyed joining Gr. 6 at Hawthorne public school for many reasons. They were nice, sweet, friendly, and polite. And I think that it was a marvelous idea to join native students from Canada who told us all about their country. They told us about their culture and people. And so did we. In my opinion, we did a good job telling them about how people live in our countries. It was nice to meet people our age and learn about how they think. It made me realize how different a person can be from the other, how we are not the same. After all, I believe that I have made new friends. - **Zeina Zaidan**



The culture exchange was awesome! It was very scary at first, meeting new people, yet I can't say I didn't enjoy it. The students from the other school were so nice and funny that made me feel as though I knew them for years! Their teacher isn't any different. I also found it quite interesting to learn a little bit about Canada. I can regard it as a mingle of both fun and learning. But I would have loved if the first meeting contained a bit more things to do such as activities that needed students from both schools to work together. This can help us get used to working with other people that aren't our friends.

This experience was wonderful despite any problems we faced. Bravo!! **Hala Jumaa**



My meeting with Hawthorne Public School in Ottawa was something I never experienced before. At first when the teacher told us about the culture exchange I was actually shy and not self-confident, but as days go by I tried to think about it in a different way and thought it will be fun. As I opened zoom and joined the class, I was more than excited! I met the 6th grade students and their teacher. We started to introduce ourselves, our country, and school. Then they shared with us a power point presentation to illustrate their community. Their Traditional sports were mainly basketball and hockey, they are also my favorite. They briefly mentioned what Canada is famous for like the Niagara Falls. I was so happy that I joined and honestly I wanted it to be longer. I learned a lesson that you should break your shyness, try to express yourself confidently, and basically the major lesson I got is differences in culture shouldn't constitute obstacles and barriers between people. Finally I want to thank Mrs. Samar for her great effort to organize such a meeting and her encouragement for us to be self-confident. **Lujain Natsheh**



I was very glad to experience the cultural exchange with Hawthorne Public School in Canada. It was exciting to share different ideas and knowledge with someone else who is coming from a whole different background than ours. I got the chance to know about the interesting sites, famous places and sports in Canada. As well as the different activities they get to do each season. Moreover, we were able to represent our country Saudi Arabia to them and shared our unique yearly school activities like the Fall and Winter Festival. Hopefully soon we get the chance to have more meetings to share various topics. I would like to take the opportunity to thank my English teacher and our school principal for this great opportunity.

Mira Faroun



Hi I'm Bana Daqqa, in my point of view the culture exchange is a brilliant idea, because online students are bored and this year they couldn't see each other face to face at school, so this idea gave them the chance to meet new faces. Being introduced to new cultures and systems from the other side of the world has been the most remarkable. I am sure that the students were amazed with us as we were by them. During the session we both introduced ourselves, country, and school. Also we went to breakout rooms and asked lots of questions but some questions were funny and under our age. It would be a great pleasure to meet students from other cultures more and more.

Bana Daqqa



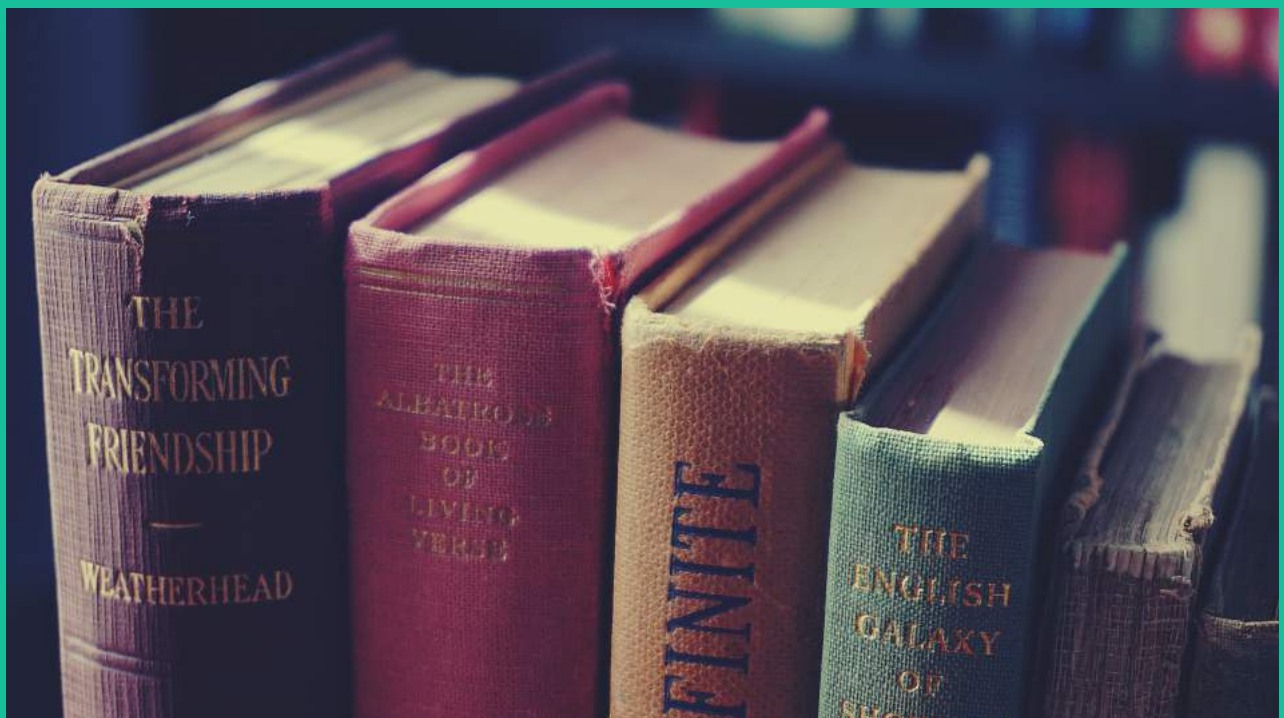
The best way to learn about a country's culture is to experience it in the native language. It also gives young people other perspectives and encourages them to develop their opinions and ideas. In my opinion culture exchange is a fun way for education. You get to meet new people and learn about their culture and they know about yours. I noticed that while experiencing the culture exchange, I was very curious to learn more confident of myself and proud of what we have. - **Basma Bassam**



BOOK CORNER

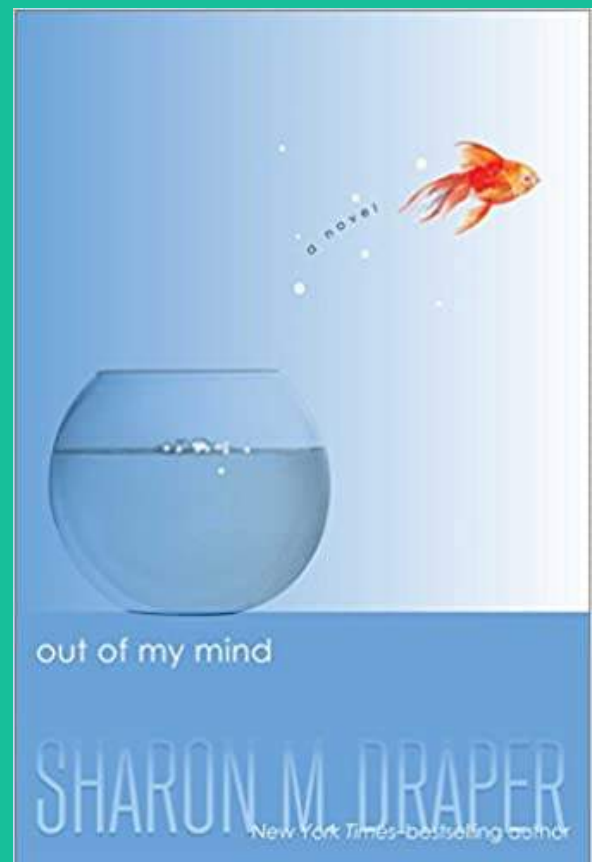
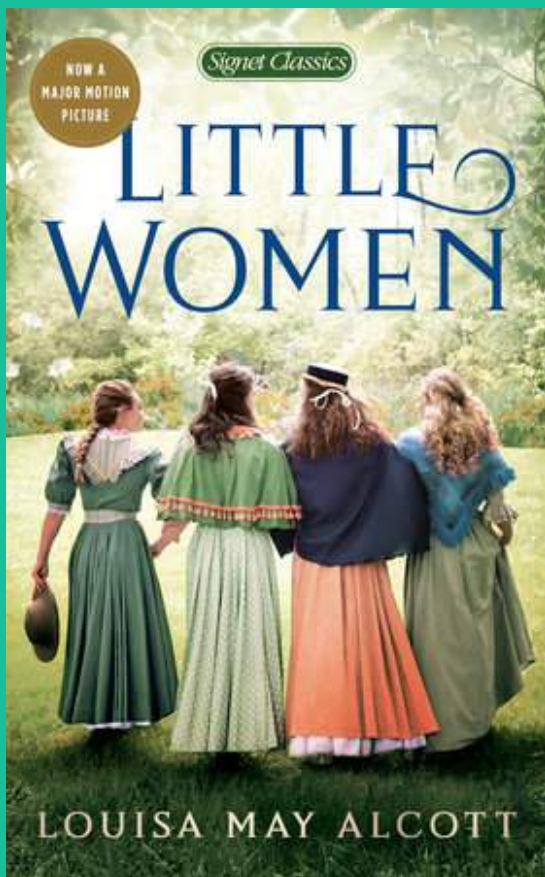
Book Recommendations

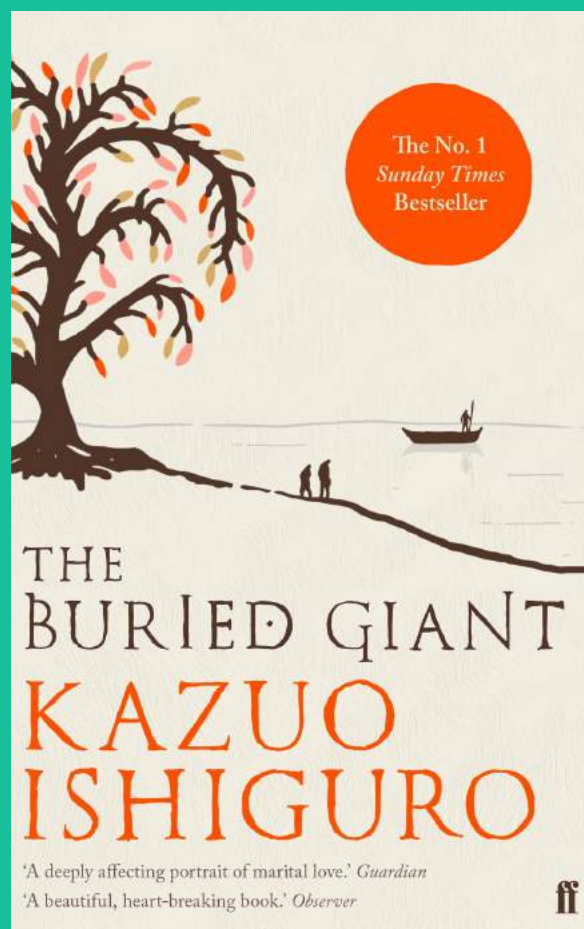
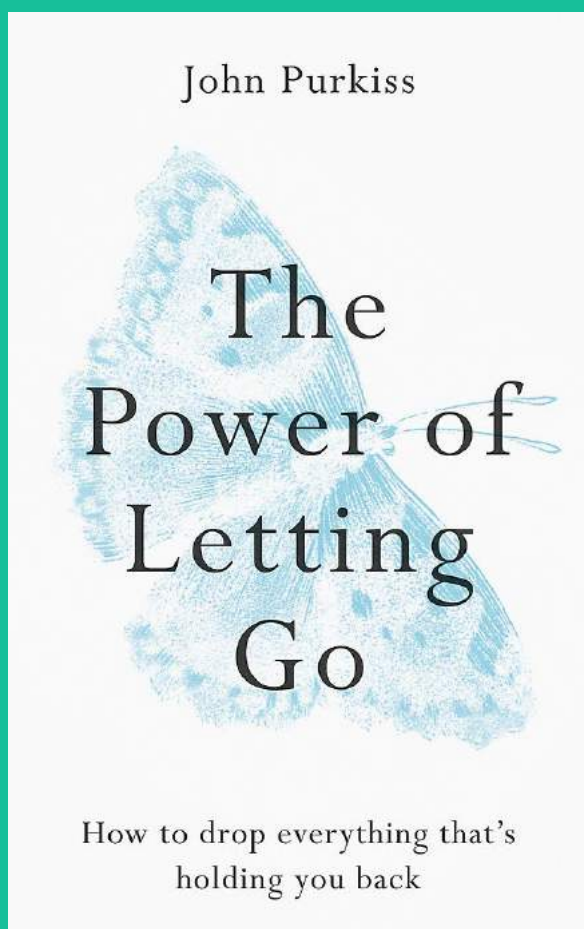
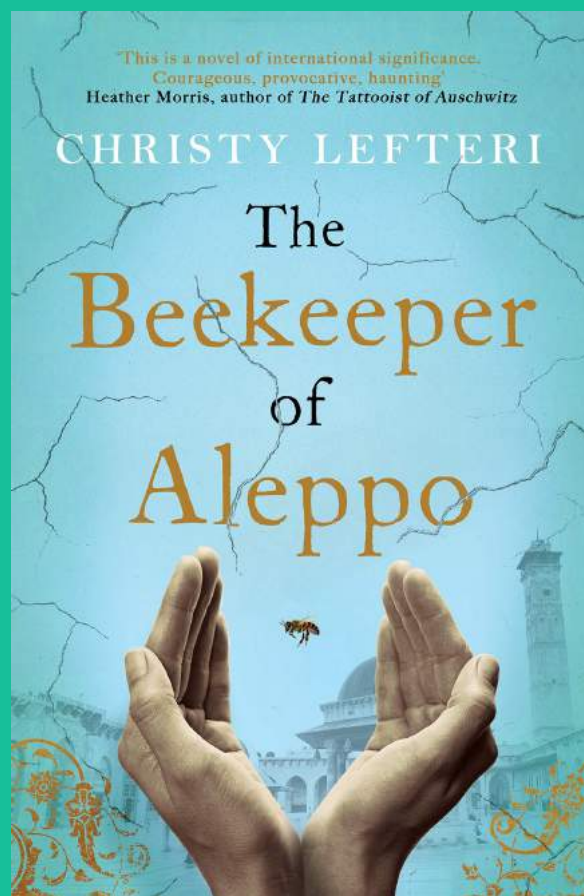
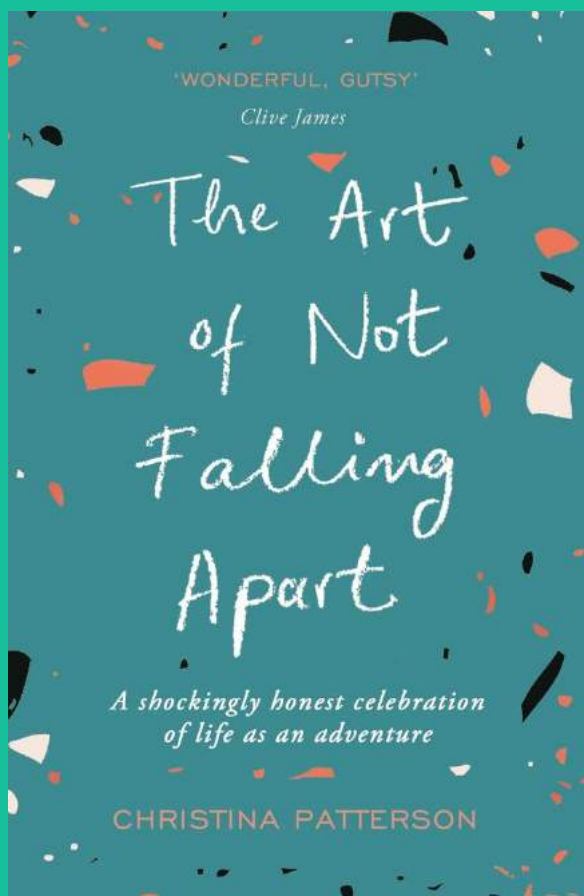
**"You can find magic wherever you
look... All you need is a book." - Dr.
Seuss**

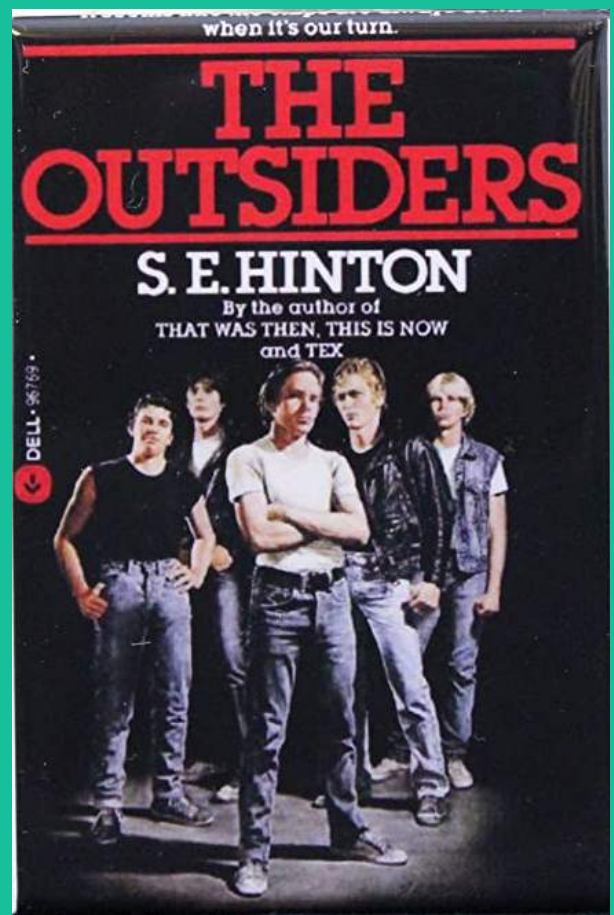
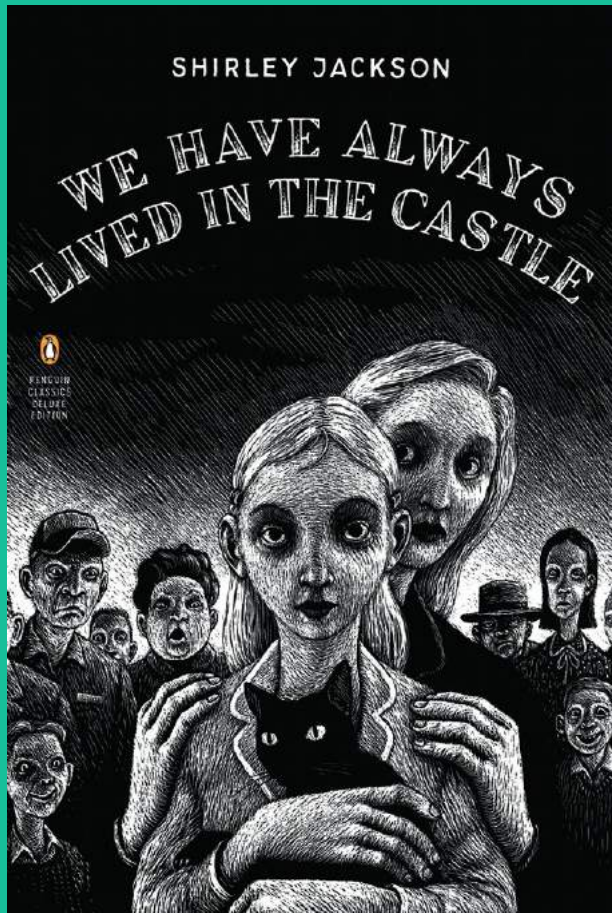
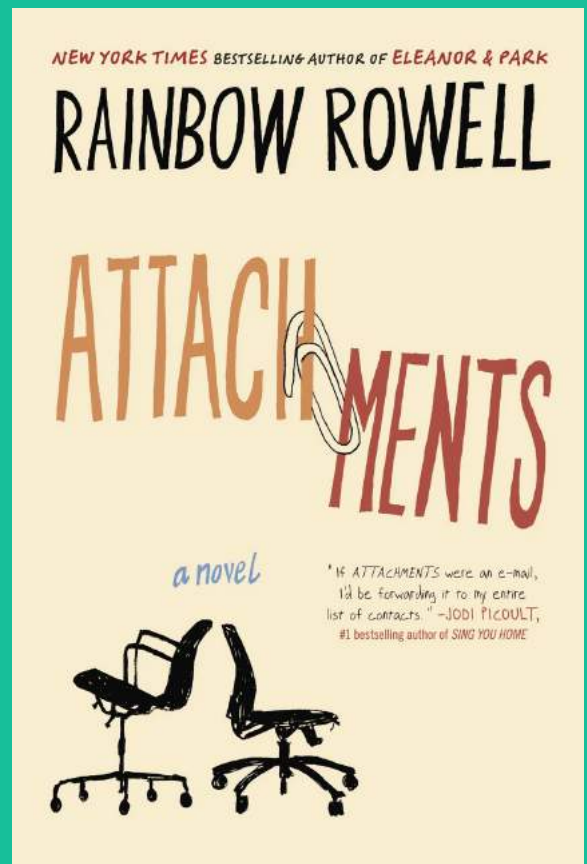
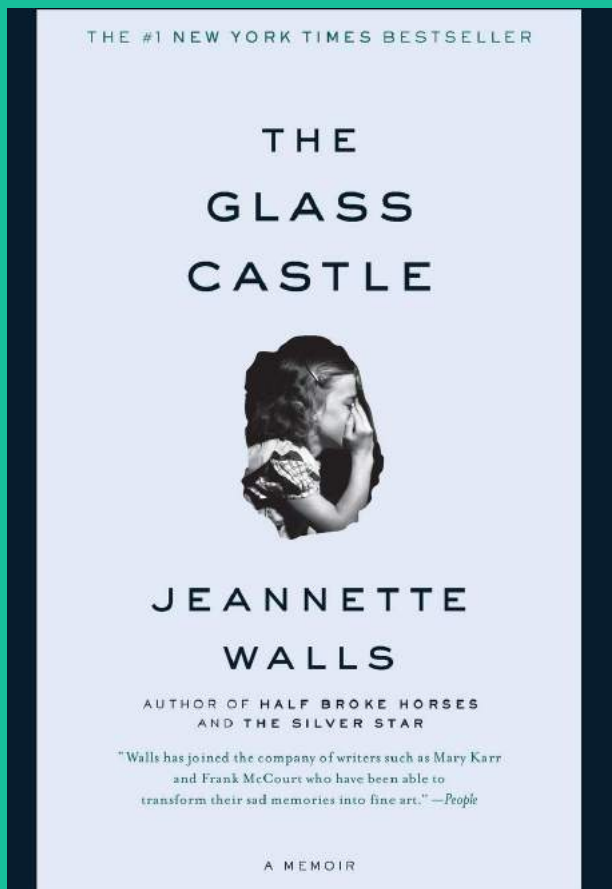


No matter what plans you have for this summer, leave some room for reading.

Below you will find some book recommendations which you will definitely enjoy.









How to Fall in Love with Salad

For me salad is not just a leafy greens mix with some vegetables. Salad is more like a piece of art, a colorful painting, a musical script, and a Shakespearean sonnet. I am not exaggerating as salad is my passion, salad is my true love. It is an art. If you are an anti-salad just give my recipe a try.

*Few steps and you are ready to fall in love with Salad:

Preparation time: 20 minutes

Ingredients:

1 cup dried pasta like fusilli, penne, rotini or farfalle bow tie

1 cup halved cherry tomatoes

1 cup sliced bell pepper (1 medium)

1/5 cup halved mixed olives

Iceberg lettuce / Romanian lettuce

1 1/5 cup Arugula

1/5 cup red beans

1/5 cup corn

1 avocado (optional)

1 shredded carrot

1 cucumber (sliced)

Feta cheese cubes (optional)

***For dressing :**

1/2 teaspoon fresh ground black pepper

1 Garlic cloves

1/2 teaspoon dried oregano

4 table spoons extra-virgin olive oil

1 table spoon mayonnaise

1/5 table spoon mustard

Date molasses (my secret ingredient, do not tell any one) or honey

1 halved onion

Salt to taste

(Use a blender to mix the dressing)

Are you in love?

by Mrs. Rola Hallak



Fudgy Chocolate Cake Recipe

Ingredients

Cake:

4 oz. dark chocolate chips	1 tbsp. salted butter	2 eggs
1 ½ cups of white sugar	⅓ cup cocoa powder	⅓ cup cocoa powder
1 tsp vanilla extract	1 cup boiling hot water	1 tbsp. coffee granules
1 cup flour	1 tsp baking powder	

Ganache:

1 cup heavy cream
8 oz. dark chocolate chips

Directions

- Preheat the oven to 150 C/ 300 F. Grease a 22 cm pan and line with parchment/ baking paper.
- Melt butter and chocolate: Place butter and chocolate in a heatproof bowl. Microwave 3 x 30 seconds on high, mix in between, until melted. Mix. Oil, vanilla & Sugar: Add oil, vanilla and sugar, mix to combine (this brings down batter temp).
- Eggs: Add eggs and mix until combined.
- Dry Ingredients: Sift cocoa, baking powder and flour (and coffee, if using) directly into the bowl. Mix until smooth, batter will be thin. Some small lumps are ok.
- Hot water: Add hot water. Mix until incorporated.
- Bake: Pour into the cake tin and bake for 1 hour or until a skewer inserted into the center comes out moist but clean. Check at 50 minutes.
- The surface will crack (sometimes badly!) but will subside when it cools and gets covered with frosting so don't stress!
- Cool: Remove sides from the cake pan and transfer to a cooling rack to cool. Cool completely before carefully handling to remove base.

GANACHE:

Place chocolate and cream in a heatproof bowl. Microwave 3 x 30 seconds, mixing in between, until chocolate melts. DO NOT let cream come to boil. Stir chocolate until smooth.

Refrigerate for 1 to 2 hours or until thickened to a spreadable consistency like peanut butter.

Spread over the cake - tops and sides.

Use a teaspoon in a swirling motion to achieve the textured surface you see in the photos.

A decorative illustration of pink flowers with green leaves, positioned in the top right and bottom right corners of the page. The flowers are painted in a soft, watercolor style with visible brushstrokes.

A Year Like No Other

A year is a long time and different for each person. You might say that this year was like no other, but EVERY year is a year like no other!" Years are unique, like snowflakes, flowers, and butterflies. What we are sure of is that this is a year to remember.

Until we meet again..
Stay safe
and we will be counting the days
to see you again..

Al Sahafa Talks