DO IT WITH THY MIGHT

PURPLE PANTHER POST

By Tanner Dandridge and Gisele Cestaro

Winter 2016 - 2017
Presidents’ Day
By Tanner Dandridge

As many people may know, Presidents’ Day just occurred. Presidents’ Day is an American holiday that originally started out as a tribute to George Washington, considering his birthday was on February 22nd. Many people also celebrate the holiday for Abraham Lincoln, because his birthday was on February 12th. It is a federal holiday and occurs on the third Monday of every February. The holiday was officially recognized by Congress in 1879, and it was made a federal holiday in 1885. Nowadays, the holiday is a major savings day, where many car dealerships and department stores hold sales honoring the holiday. Many schools have days off, and some even have an entire week off honoring the holiday. In conclusion, Presidents’ Day is an important holiday that honors our first president, as well as all of our other commanders-in-chief.

Sources:
We Were Liars Book Review
By Gisele Cestaro

Last week, I read a book called We Were Liars by E. Lockhart. I finished it in two days. I don’t think I have ever read a book that fast. It’s probably the best book I have ever read. It is about four teenagers who have been going to Beechwood Island in the summer since they were kids. They call themselves the liars, because they lie. The Sinclairs are proud, fearless, brave, and confident. Nothing can bring them down. Cadence Sinclair Eastman is a girl who becomes very sick and does something bad to the liars. Because she’s sick, she has migraines, and they are never-ending and will never go away. It took forever for the doctors to diagnose her with it. She became so sick with these migraines that she did something terrible. Unthinkable. The liars were always protective of her since she was diagnosed, until the liars become distant and started lying... I won’t tell too much, but please read it. It’s an amazing book.
What Actually Happened During the Election
By Tanner Dandridge

Surprise, fear, joy, apathy. These were some of the many emotions going through viewers’ minds as the results were announced. Donald Trump, a former business man and reality television host, was announced as president-elect. After a long and brutal campaign trail with many controversies and surprises, Donald Trump triumphed over his opponent. Hillary Clinton contested after a complete loss in the electoral college, even though she won in the popular vote.

The electoral college is a group of 538 electors who represent their state by choosing a specific candidate. Donald Trump had 306 electoral votes, whereas Clinton only had 232. Donald Trump was able to win battleground states such as: Ohio and Florida, as well as flipping Democratic states such as: Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and Michigan. Hillary Clinton was able to win Vermont.

The win was unexpected by most, even by president Barack Obama, who was quoted saying, “Canada’s education system is clearly a lot better than ours. They would never elect someone as buffoonish and incompetent as Trump.” Other politicians such as Lindsey Graham have expressed their dismay at Trump’s election. Trump’s election was a surprise to most, even his supporters.

The debates were highly anticipated and were at record-high viewing numbers. The third debate had 71.5 million viewers and all people watching were excited to see what the third and final debate would bring. There was a lot of hostility during the debate. One particular event that most were shocked by was that neither side shook hands with one another. The debate proceeded with many interruptions, such as the time Donald Trump called Hillary Clinton a “nasty woman.” The debate ended with even more people confused about who to vote for.

Donald Trump took the win with 306 electoral votes and was able to win person of the year by TIME magazine. Hillary Clinton conceded early on Wednesday morning to acknowledge her defeat. The Masters School even had their own mock election in the Upper School and 166 votes were cast for Hillary Clinton, while only 19 votes were cast for Donald Trump. The election was a time of turmoil, defeat, triumph, and change for all.
School Dress Code and Uniforms
By Gisele Cestaro

Some schools have dress codes, some schools don’t. Some schools say that it doesn’t matter what students wear to school because you learn the same. Other schools disagree and say that it’s important to have a dress code or the students would wear something unbefitting. Should students be allowed to have freedom in what they wear? Would students look improper if they had freedom in what they wear? Do you believe that if students wear uniforms or have a strict dress code such as no jeans, no writing on shirts, can’t show your shoulders, no hats, can’t wear sports sneakers, etc., that students will fit in better? Or will they not be made fun of because of what somebody wears? Let’s look at the different opinions and see which one you agree with.

Pros: Schools need dress codes. If students don’t have dress codes, students could dress inappropriately. In Long Beach, California, after two years of strict dress code, assaults decreased by 34%, fighting incidents decreased by 51%, robbery decreased by 65%, and vandalism decreased by 18%. When all students wear the same clothes, nobody has to worry about fitting in, or how they look. They can focus only on schoolwork. A 2010 University of Houston study showed that language tests taken by elementary school girls increased by three points due to uniforms. In terms of bullying, if students wear the same thing, they won’t have to worry about having a competition on who dresses the best or who wears the most expensive clothing. This could decrease students’ chances of getting bullied. School uniforms may improve attendance and discipline. In 2010, a study found in the University of Houston that absences decreased by 7% for middle and upper schoolers after introducing uniforms.

Cons: School dress code doesn’t let students have freedom of expression and students can’t be who they truly are. If you restrict students from wearing what they want, they may have more of a chance to rebel. A 2007 study found that school uniforms increased assaults by approximately fourteen a year. In 1999 a Texas Southern University study found that school incidents increased by 12% after uniforms were introduced to the students. School uniforms may not help with being prepared, showing up on time, or exams. A 2009 study found that there was a negative effect for students who wear uniforms when they took their tests. Students also can oppose school uniforms. A 2012 study at the University of Nevada at Reno found that 90% of seventh grade and eighth grade students do not want school uniforms. Another study from 2007 said that 87.9% of public school students in Harford County oppose uniforms.

Now that you know the pros and cons of uniforms, which side do you think is right? Each side has a point, so it’s going to be hard to choose. So uniforms or no uniforms? Dress code or no dress code?
Sources:
http://school-uniforms.procon.org/
Maniac Magee by Jerry Spinelli is a book about a town that is very racist. This book is about Jeffrey “Maniac” Magee, who wanted to end the racism in the town of Two Mills. The people of the town are racist because they don't enjoy Maniac acting like all people are equal. The town of Two Mills also is racist because they treat each other terribly, they have segregated areas of the town, and they are not familiar and friendly with each other.

The people of Two Mills show that they are racist by separating their town into the East and West Ends (black for east and white for west). Later in the book when Mars Bar, an East Ender, and Maniac enter the McNabs’ house located in the West End, George McNab says, “What he doin’ here?” (Spinelli, pg. 163). This happens during Russell and Piper McNab’s birthday party when Maniac brings Mars Bar. The thing that stands out is that it shows that the McNabs are not used to visitors and that they are extremely hostile towards blacks. Another clue that the people of this town are racist is when Maniac told Mr. Beale to stop and let him out in the East End because it was his home. Mr. Beale knew that he was lying since whites don't live in the East End. This proves that they only live in separate sides and never stray into the other, much less live there. Another reason that the town is separated and that they don't correspond with each other is when Maniac stops Amanda and she asks, “Where are you from, West End?” (Spinelli, pg. 11). She assumed this because Maniac is white. This happens when Maniac runs
into Two Mills and stops Amanda to talk. The importance of this quote is that it shows that people just assume where you’re from due to your skin color. All these evidences and proofs show that the West and East End, black and white people, are very separated.

People of different colors treat each other terribly by building pillboxes (a guard post with holes to fire weapons through) against the other race, calling each other names, and generally being mean to each other. The McNabs built a “pillbox” against the blacks, claiming that they will become wild and attack them so they have to be prepared. This shows that they don't trust each other and that they fear attacks from each other’s side. When a resident got mad at Maniac for living in the East End, Mars Bar wrote in chalk on the Beales’ house “Go home Fishbelly.” This happens after some blacks got mad at Maniac for living in the East End. The importance of this phrase that Mars Bar wrote is that it shows that they can't tolerate a white person living at a home in the East End. Another scene that shows racism between the sides is when Maniac bites the chocolate bar that Mars Bar had taken a bite of. Not only that, he bit right where Mars Bar had bitten. This scene is especially significant because no one takes a bite over Mars Bar, nonetheless a white person. This scene is important because it shows again the hostility and hatred between the sides. Due to discrimination and segregation each of the sides calls each other rude names and don’t think of each other as equals.

Maniac helps break the tension of the East and West Ends by going to live in the East End, introducing both peoples, and running through the whole town getting people to start breaking the invisible wall between the East and West End. Maniac goes to live in the East End with the Beales after Amanda invited him to her house to help fix her book. This is significant because Maniac is breaking the code of the East and West End by living in the East End when his race is from the West. Also Maniac helps to break down the tension by introducing Mars Bar
to the McNabs. By doing the act, Mars Bar became affectionate for Russell and Piper, resulting in Mars Bar saving Russell’s life after Maniac ran away. Later when Mars Bar visited Maniac, and Maniac asked what happened Mars Bar replied, “What happened was, I went out and saved the dumb fish” (Spinelli, pg. 176). This happens when Mars Bar finds Maniac in the zoo. The importance of this quote was that it showed that Maniac had broken down the tension. So in conclusion, Maniac really affected the town of Two Mills positively.

The town of Two Mills is racist because they treat each other terribly, they have segregated areas of the town, and they are not familiar and friendly with each other. Maniac Magee wanted the town of Two Mills to end their racism and segregation. The problem is that the town has been separated for a long time and both races are extremely hostile towards each other. Maniac attempts to break down the tension by doing things that benefit both sides. The town slowly breaks its tension but there is still the history of segregation. To help continue Maniac’s job you can treat everybody the same and don’t judge someone until you know him or her fully.
Purple Panther Post: How did you find out about Masters?
Quinn: “A friend at my old school came here and said it was amazing, so I decided to check it out.”
Alisa: “My dad’s dentist patients work at Masters. Since my dad has always lived in Dobbs Ferry most of his life, he always really had his eye on that school.”
Lauren: “My sister Maddie went here, and she found out from a family friend who goes here.”

Purple Panther Post: What’s your favorite sport?
Quinn: “My favorite sport is swimming because I love the water.”
Alisa: “I would say fencing because it’s difficult and challenges you. I respect people who do that sport because you need to have great flexibility and agility.”
Lauren: “My favorite sport is soccer because I love to run and the thrill of scoring a goal is awesome.”

Purple Panther Post: What’s your favorite thing about Masters?
Quinn: “That everyone is so welcoming and including. No one leaves people out.”
Alisa: “I really like how they challenge you with schoolwork and tests. They also really focus on the arts, because not many schools do that. Also, how people are welcoming.”
Lauren: “How everyone is so welcoming, and how you could just go up to the teacher and ask for help. Also, all my friends.”

Purple Panther Post: What do you want to pursue when you grow up?
Quinn: “I would like to be an author because you can create new worlds and bring happiness into other people’s lives.”
Alisa: “I don’t know, it’s tough because I know singing is really hard to pursue, that would be my number one choice, but if that doesn’t work out I would be a singing teacher.”
Lauren: “I would like to be a nurse because I want to save people.”

Purple Panther Post: What are your hobbies? Do you have more than one?
Quinn: “I love reading because you can forget about the world around you. I love writing because you can write what you want the world to be instead of how it really is.”
Alisa: “I do singing, that’s my main hobby. I do a lot of drawing and sometimes I paint. I also do a lot of photography. I babysit dogs a lot as well.”
Purple Panther Post: What type of music do you listen to? Do you listen to any music at all? 

Quinn: “I listen to alternative/soul/rock music. Alternative and rock music get you really pumped up, and soul music can make you feel sad and sometimes you just need both.”

Alisa: “I listen to classical/rock/jazz/theater. I really like classical because it’s relaxing. I like rock because of all the instruments incorporated into it. I also listen to jazz and theater because those are the types of genres I sing.”