

CONNECTION



Sharing the day-to-day learning experience
at

Community Homes & Services

PO Box 744, Novato CA 94948

415-408-3604

www.communityhomesandservices.com

The Fly

by William Blake

Little Fly,
Thy summer's play
My thoughtless hand
Has brushed away.

Am not I
A fly like thee?
Or art not thou
A man like me?

For I dance
And drink, and sing,
Till some blind hand
Shall brush my wing.

If thought is life
And strength and breath
And the want
Of thought is death;

Then am I
A happy fly,
If I live,
Or if I die.



Okay, let's go deep. There are different ways to look at this poem. Let's begin by looking at the loose structure and the trimester rhyme scheme. The purpose of using this rhyme scheme could be that the short lines symbolize the brevity of life:

The first of the five stanzas describes an innocent fly being thoughtlessly killed by a human being. The second compares a man to a fly and a fly to a man. The third and fourth explain how flies and humans are similar, and the fifth affirms that man is indeed like a fly.

Death is repeatedly referred to as a hand. The fly is killed by being "brushed away" by the human's "thoughtless hand." The human is killed by the "blind hand" of death.

The human sees the fly as powerless and then realizes that humans could be seen in the same manner by a higher order. He says he is fated to live his life "Till some blind hand/ Shall brush my wing", comparing his death to that of the fly.

The poem uses the imagery of the human placed in a God-like position when he kills the fly. When the human, speaks from the point of view of a human, the fly symbolizes those below the speaker in society. The theme of "The Fly" is man's extreme weakness in comparison to God/death/fate.

The poem also uses a common theme of Blake's--innocence and experience. The fly is totally innocent and powerless, and the speaker realizes that human beings are powerless in the same way. Hmm, what do you think of "The Fly"?



CH&S May Birthdays

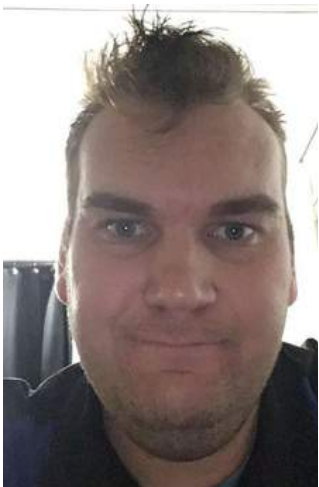


5/2 - Gail and Karen
5/7 - David G. and Katie
5/8 - Andrew N.
5/11 - Colleen and Harold

12 Questions with Devlin



1. **Name/Title:** Devlin Zeiganhagen, (self-appointed) Student T.A.
2. **What do you want our students to know?** I am a good, honest, nice, hardworking, guy who always ;-) follows directions. I'm always a winner.
3. **What's your favorite magical or fictional animal?** Green Goblin.
4. **If you had to eat one meal every day for the rest of your life what would it be?** Pepperoni and pineapple pizza with ranch dressing.
5. **What breed of dog would you be?** Choweenie (a chow and dachshund mix).
6. **What would your superpower be?** I would have "The Force" from Star Wars.
7. **If aliens landed on Earth tomorrow and offered to take you home with them would you go?** Only if one of them was Ashley Tisdale!
8. **What is your favorite ice cream and topping?** Oreo cookie ice cream with gummy bears.
9. **As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?** An actor in Hollywood.
10. **What fictional world or place would you like to visit?** The *Two and a Half Men* world in Malibu.
11. **What's the most embarrassing fashion trend you used to rock?** Suits and ties in high school. I started a trend.
12. **What's your favorite sandwich?** Turkey club.



WHAT'S UP WITH THE MONTH OF MAY?

May Throughout History

Here are some facts about the month of May put together by Darnell and her group:

- May is named for the goddess of fertility, *Maia*. The Romans called it *Maius*, but it was officially changed to May sometime in the 1400s.
- The May birthstone is the emerald. It is the symbol of success and love, and it's green which is perfect for spring! And for the many, many staff and students whose favorite color is green.
- **The official flower for May is the Lily of the Valley.**
- In Old English, the way English was spoken in the early Middle Ages, **May was called "the month of three milkings,"** referring to a time when cows could be milked three times a day. I wonder how the cows feel about that, probably relieved, right?
- **The Indianapolis 500 auto race happens in May.**
- The Kentucky Derby, a prestigious horse race, happens in May.
- May is the month we celebrate our moms on Mother's Day, which is the second Sunday in May. We can do something nice for our moms or maybe we can think of sweet memories of mom when she was here for us.
- May also means **Cinco de Mayo**! Cinco de Mayo is Spanish for the fifth of May. On this day in 1862, the Mexican army defeated the French in the battle of Puebla. People often think that it is the same as the Mexican independence day but it is not. (Mexican Independence Day is celebrated on September 16th.) In the Battle of Puebla, the Mexican people were badly outnumbered for this battle, but won anyway! Cinco de Mayo is celebrated more in the United States than in Mexico. In fact, about *7 million pounds* of avocados are eaten on Cinco de Mayo in the United States! We do love our guac, don't we?

Here are some celebrity birthdays celebrated in May:

- 5/1 Tim McGraw
- 5/2 Duane "The Rock" Johnson
- 5/6 George Clooney
- 5/20 Cher
- 5/24 Bob Dylan



Andrew's Corner

Las Vegas

The town of Las Vegas is known for its gambling casinos, nightlife, entertainment, fine dining and shopping. Las Vegas also serves as the leading financial, commercial and cultural center for Nevada.

Las Vegas is Spanish for "the meadows". It calls itself "the entertainment capital of the world." The city is known as one of the world's most famous tourist destinations.

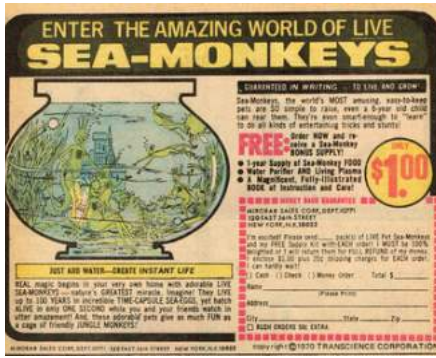
Las Vegas has its own ferris wheel, called the *High Roller*. Some casinos in Las Vegas include the Pioneer Club and the Golden Nugget.

Some shows in the Las Vegas casinos have included Penn and Teller, Siegfried and Roy and Cirque Du Soleil. In Las Vegas on July 31, 1969, Elvis Presley started a four-week engagement at the new International Hotel. He hadn't performed live on stage in more than eight years and he was very nervous before the show began. The performance lasted an hour and fifteen minutes and was so successful that over the next seven years, Elvis performed more than 600 shows in Las Vegas and sold out every one. You can now catch one of several Elvis Presley tribute acts in Las Vegas if you missed Elvis's performances.

Las Vegas used to have a railroad which was the prime stop along the San Pedro, Salt Lake City and Los Angeles Railroad Route. One famous landmark of Las Vegas is the "welcome to Las Vegas" sign at the front entrance of the city. All in all, it is a city I am really interested in going to!



Bio: Andrew Newson is a student at Life College and is 23 years old. He likes comic books, video games, hiking, exploring new places with his mom.... and babies. He is an authority in all things Star Wars, Star Trek and great places to go in the Bay Area. He is currently learning Mandarin and loves to research and learn new things.



MAY 2022 NATIONAL DAYS

Hamburger Month BBQ Month

- 5/1 - May Day
- 5/2 - Brothers and Sisters Day
- 5/3 - Garden Meditation Day and Teacher's Day
- **5/4 - Star Wars Day**
- 5/5 - Cinco de Mayo
- 5/6 - Space Day
- 5/7 - Kentucky Derby Day
- 5/8 - Mothers Day and Iris Day
- 5/9 - Lost Sock Memorial Day
- **5/12 - Nurses Day**
- 5/13 - Friday the 13th
- **5/14 - Dance Like a Chicken Day**
- **5/16 - Sea Monkey Day**
- 5/18 - International Museum Day
- 5/19 - Plant a Vegetable Garden Day
- 5/20 - Endangered Species Day
- 5/21 - Armed Forces Day
- **5/23 - World Turtle Day**
- **5/28 - Hamburger Day**
- 5/29 - Learn About Composting Day
- 5/30 - Memorial Day (holiday)



Burger by Connor Richey



Happy Hamburger Month!

- If all the burgers eaten in America were lined up, they would circle the earth 32 times!
- The biggest burger in the world measured 10 feet across and weighed over 2,000 pounds.

Nino, our resident hamburger expert, has personally been a burger for Halloween, owns a burger charger for his phone, and loves his botanical art print of burgers growing on a tree! Would you like fries with that? French fries are the most popular side orders for burgers, followed by onion rings. Nino's pick: Tater Tots!

A.I. Art



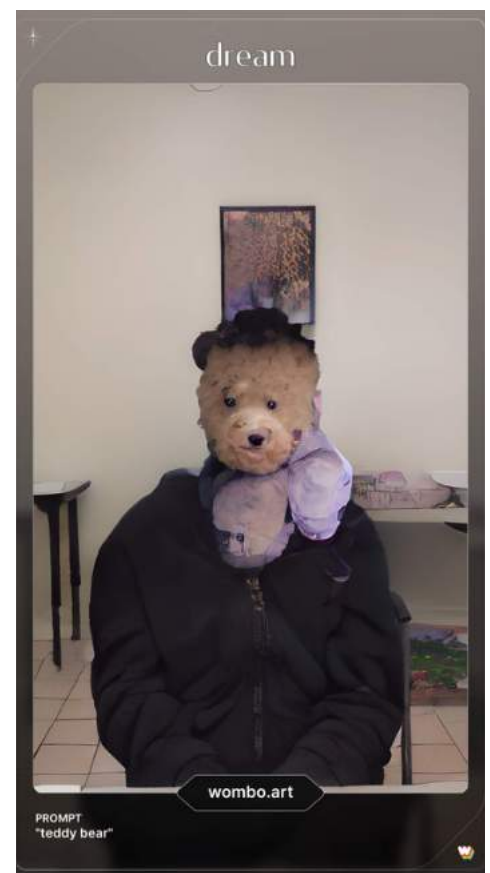
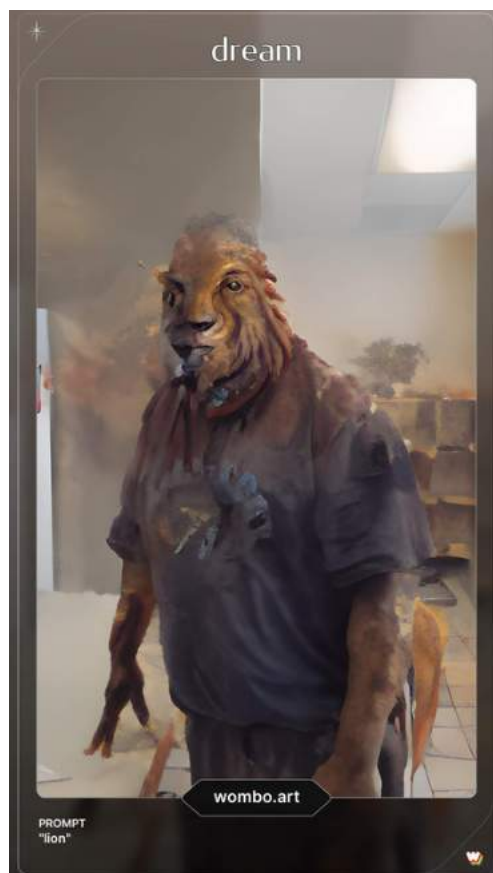
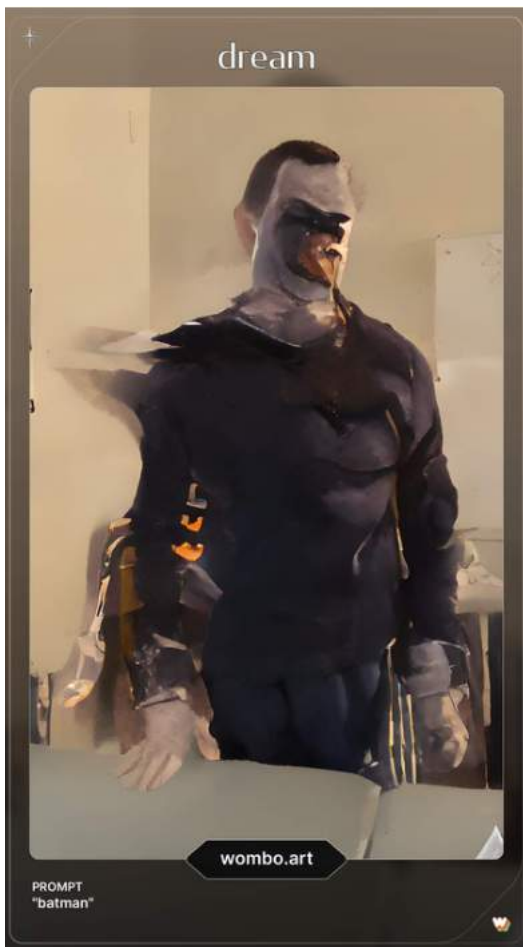
Art teacher, Chris, recently found this app called [Dream](#) which is a free, open-source art program that uses artificial intelligence (A.I.) to create images based on your keywords and/or photos.

Chris found this technology very interesting and he could not wait to see what it might lead. Chris asked some of our students a question: ***If I was going to make an image of you as a character or animal, what would want to be?***

For example, to the left is Chas and a parakeet (we call this hybrid animal a Chas-akeet).

Now this gets a bit more challenging: Can you guess who the three CH&S students are below? (Answers on next page)

- (Top left) Chas + parakeet = Chasakeet
- (Bottom left) _____ + batman = Jatman
- (Bottom middle) _____ + lion = Tion
- (Bottom right) _____ + teddy bear = Jeddy Bear



It's Good to be Back in Person



FEBRUARY 12, 2022 is the historic date when when our two campuses reopened from the Omicron closure... and every day since, in addition to washing our hands, taking our temperatures, and wearing our masks, we have been incessantly pinching ourselves.

It has been very nice (and also a little dream-like) to be all together and back in person. Now our community seems more connected than ever and, taking nothing for granted, we face forward mindfully, enthusiastically, and with love.

If you have big ideas, bring them on!

YOU CAN WATCH the NBA play-offs if you want to see some beautiful basketball, or you can just look out our back window to see Tyrone doing his thing. Click this link to our [Instagram](#) to see what we mean. Simply watch this clip over and over and over if it is a deep, fulfilling meditative state that you seek.

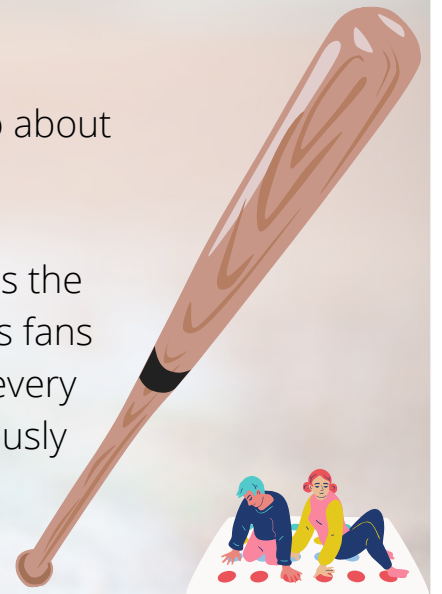


Play Ball!

Who can be more lonely than a sports fan with nobody to talk to about baseball?

Now that March Madness is over and the NBA play-offs as well as the 2022 Baseball Season have begun, Harold and Chas invite sports fans within and beyond CH&S to our new Sport Talk Show on Zoom every Monday and every Friday at 11:30 a.m. We are even magnanimously willing to suffer the presence of (well-behaved) Dodger fans.

Question: Is Twister a sport?



FLY FACTS

Most people view flies as pests. They buzz in your ear, land on your food or crawl in your house. But, did you know that birds, frogs and snakes eat flies and find them quite tasty?

Did you know...

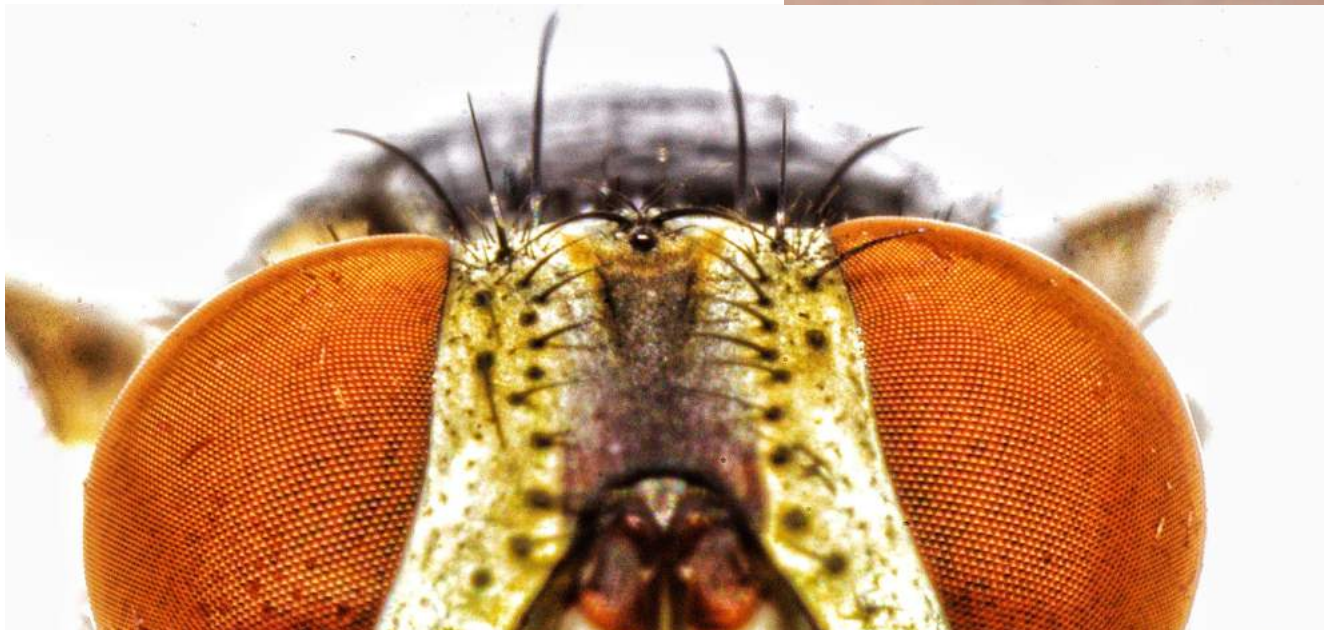
- Most flying insects have four wings, but flies have two.
- They can fly up and down, side to side and even backwards.
- Flies have hairy, sticky feet (like some people we know!) and can stick to almost any surface.
- Flies can even walk across your ceiling.
- Flies lay their eggs on fruit, food, other animals and even rotting flesh. Their larvae are known as maggots. They look like bits of rice.

The eating habits of flies are disgusting:

Flies don't have teeth. Instead, they have a long tongue called a proboscis, which sucks up food like a straw. Some flies drink nectar or blood. House flies like the food we eat. When a fly lands on your lunch, it vomits on the food. Acids in the vomit dissolve the food so the fly can suck it up. See? Disgusting!

Fly Vocabulary

- Pest: unwanted, annoying
- Maggots: fly larva
- Proboscis: insect tongue
- Nectar: sweet liquid from flowers
- Vomit: throw up



A.I. art answers:

- jian + teddy bear = jeddy bear
- Tyrone + lion = Tion
- Jake + batman = jatman

Environmental Consciousness



We love nature and taking care of the environment! Here at Community Homes & Services, we organize community cleanup efforts, offer an environmentally conscious curriculum, and generally spend as much time as we can celebrating our beautiful slice of Mother Earth.



Weekly outings to the North Bay's wonderful parks and hiking trails are always a highlight for Bert, Joe, Mike, Tyrone, and Phoebe. On these outings, we often meet a fuzzy or feathered friend, and we have a few here that we'd love to share with everyone.

(Top left) Why push a gas guzzling lawnmower all over the hillside when you can get some environmentally friendly goats to trim the grass for you?

(Top right) This stately tree resides along the banks of Novato Creek. We don't usually get to see how many roots there are under the ground!

(Bottom left) California has a large feral peacock population. If you ever run into one in the wild, just remember to keep a safe distance and check your shoes before going back inside. This fellow lives in Blue Rock Springs Park in Vallejo. His name is John.

(Bottom middle) There are many types of palm trees in Marin County, but the Washington filifera (pictured here) is the only variety that's native to California. Can you spot the other CA native in the photo?



Art, Food, and Chillaxation



Ricky's Special Elote

Recipe (see pic above and to the right):

- Nibblers (small corns) white or yellow, fresh or frozen
- Miracle Whip
- Parmesan cheese
- Smoked paprika
- Chili Lime powder (from Trader Joe's)
- Splash of lime

Boil corn until tender, dry so ingredients will stick to kernels. Completely coat corn with Miracle Whip, then roll corn in parmesan cheese, sprinkle about 1/2 t. chili lime powder and 1/2 t. paprika onto *each* corn nibbler. Splash lime on top of each corn cob. Mmmm, buen provecho!



Mother's Day is May 8th

A mom interviews other moms on CH&S staff.

Zayde: What do you love the most about being a mother?

Carolyn: Wow, there's so much I could say! I would have to say the memories from the childbirth to the school years to vacations to sports, to my kids becoming adults and getting into their own relationships so now I have grandchildren. What an amazing legacy that will go on forever! It wasn't always easy but my kids are the greatest accomplishments in my life.

Darnell: No one prepared me for the fierceness of motherhood. I thought I had experienced unconditional love before, but it's different with my boys—I know with 100% certainty that I would walk through fire or try to stop an oncoming truck to save them. There is a sense of selfless purpose that being a mom gives you—life is no longer all about what I want or need, but what do my kids want or need. It doesn't sound very pleasant, but it really is!

What I love most about being a mother is the warm pride that fills me when my kids are happy and doing well. When they are sad and come to me, if I'm able to help in any way no matter how small, it feels like life has meaning and I have meaning.

And then there are strong fellas to do my heavy lifting. That's pretty cool too. (wink)



(Above) Carolyn's sons and grandbabies!



Darnell and her family (left). Her two sons are below.



Moms on Mother's Day



Zayde with her husband, sons, and stepsons!



Zayde sons



Rickina is mom to so many—including CH&S students (and staff!)

Jennifer: Bath time and story time are my favorite part of the day. I love looking at the world through my childrens' eyes. And I love how every age is my favorite age!

Rickina: I'd never known love like this before! Becoming a mom has made me a better person. Building life-long memories together, teaching and learning from each other, and building unbreakable bonds are some of the endless joys of being a mom.

Zayde: What I love most about being a mom is when my boys come up to me to give me a big hug and tell me that they love me. Mother's Day always reminds me of a poem I've given to my mother since I was in kindergarten.




Zayde's family



Jennifer's family

Here is the poem Zayde has been giving her mom since kindergarten...

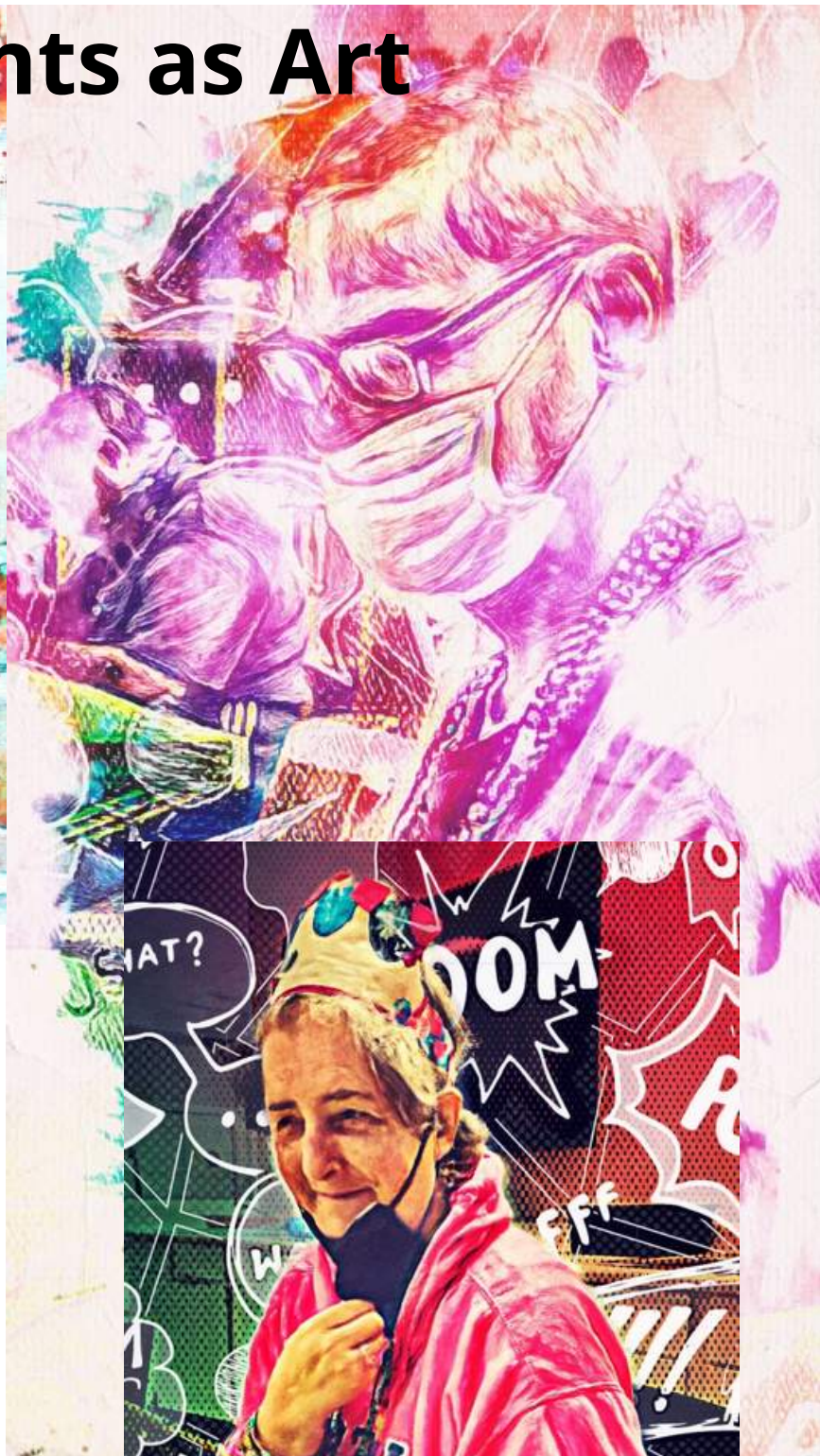
Del Cielo Cayo Una Rosa



Del cielo cayo una rosa
Mi madre la recojio
Se la puso en el cabello
Y que hermosa se miro
Mi madre es una rosa
Mi padre es un clavel
Y yo soy un botoncito
Que acava de nacer.

A rose fell from the sky
My mother picked it up,
She put it in her hair
And how beautiful she looked.
My mother is a rose,
My father is a carnation,
And I am just a
Rosebud that was just born.

Students as Art



We accept and appreciate donations
of any size or kind.
All donations to CH&S are
tax-deductible.
CH&S is a 501(c)(3) non-profit
organization.

THE GLAD GAME

The Glad Game is a fun activity!

Things I'm grateful for...

Carolyn and her class played *The Glad Game* and wanted to share it with you.

Play your own version of the game with friends or family, spend some time cutting out pictures from old magazines that represent things you make you feel glad or grateful. For example, you could cut out a picture of a dog or a family to represent your own family.

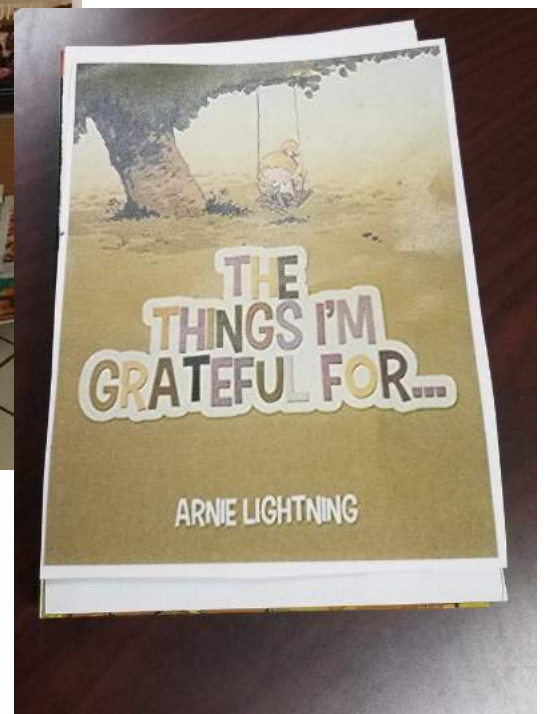
When everyone is finished cutting out pictures, without looking at each other's pictures, put them into a basket. Mix up the pictures and take turns picking from the basket and guess who is grateful for what picture. Whoever has the most correct guesses wins the Glad Game.

(Bottom left) Peter, Pam, and Shirley show us their collage of gratitude pictures

(Bottom right) The book we read about gratitude



Choose
- TO BE -
GRATEFUL



GRATITUDE CORNER

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May 2022 Connection Magazine

Endangered Species Day is May 20, 2022

Every year on the third Friday in May, thousands of people around the world participate in Endangered Species Day by celebrating, learning about, and taking action to protect threatened and endangered species. One endangered species is the red panda which is slightly larger than a domestic cat with a bear-like body and thick russet fur. Red pandas (*Ailurus fulgens*), also known as the *lesser panda*, are very skillful and acrobatic animals that predominantly stay in trees.

The red panda was first described in 1825. The evolutionary lineage of the red panda goes back around 25 to 18 million years ago. Almost 50% of the red panda's habitat is in the Eastern Himalayas. They use their long, bushy tails for balance and to cover themselves in winter. Primarily an herbivore, the name *panda* is said to come from the Nepali word "*ponya*," which means bamboo or plant eating animal. Currently, there are less than 10,000 individual red pandas left in the world.