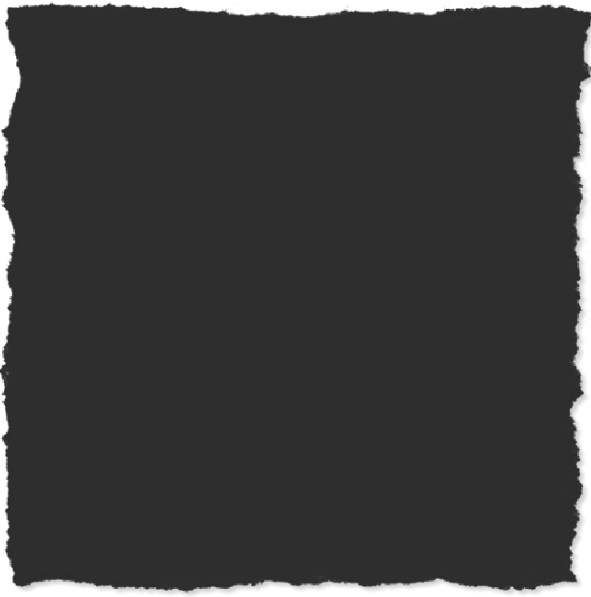


An impressionistic painting of a tropical scene. In the foreground, a red and white striped awning is visible. To the right, a palm tree stands against a background of lush green foliage. In the center, a building with a red wall and a window is depicted. The background shows a body of water and a distant horizon. The overall style is characterized by thick, expressive brushstrokes and a vibrant color palette.

TYPOGRAPHIC

Summer
Issue 3 - 2023

Design team stuff



Dear Reader,

The Typographic has almost completed an entire year of publication, and what a year it's been! Our founding Y11s and original coordinator, Ms Holland, have now gone- but we have remained in our literary mission!

Our Spring edition has had a heavily delayed publication, so please excuse any outdatedness present. Yet our mission remains the same - as a diverse school in a city proud of its tolerance of belief, we fully believe this publication should cater to as many people as possible. We hope you see it in this very issue; from recipes to sport to essays on a variety of riveting topics, it is our goal that hopefully somehow everyone can see themselves.

As per usual, let's recap our basic structure. At our heart we are student led, with nearly every article being student written, collated and formatted. Ms McCullagh organises meetings, and we are indebted to her help after taking over from Ms Holland, but all else comes straight from the school body. We have a core team of editors, who help to proofread and bring articles together, combined with an excellent design team to make the issue look as wonderful as it does now. But to preserve this youth-led spirit, we need help! Any member of any year is welcome, as long as they can bring something - practically anything - to the table. We want artists, designers, reviewers, photographers, poets, writers, journalists - anything goes!

That is not to say nothing is checked. All will be read for potential flags by senior leadership, and must never seek out to actively harm or disparage other groups. But, with this in mind, send your projects in! We look forward to welcoming you next academic year!

- ***Typographic Team***

Contents

International

The Lazarus Group - Max Flexer-Sandiland

Comparing life in Switzerland, Poland and the UK - Emi Kaczorek

Hyperinflation in Argentina - Shiro Schindelheim

National

How the litter and rubbish on the English highways affects the environment - Emi Kaczorek

The Monarchy. Good, bad, or somewhere inbetween? - Arun Webb

Student Essays

1 - Comparing Putin and Stalin's political ambitions at the start of their dictatorships - Max Flexer-Sandiland

2 - Is breeding animals for aesthetics ethical? - Lizzy Jones

3 - How has Greek Mythology influenced literature? - Carmen Montean-Lyefook

Interviews

Interview with Mr Breckenridge - Questions by Logan Burch

Recipes

Pierogi - Emi Kaczorek

Healthy Refreshing Snacks - Emi Kaczorek

Strawberry muffin recipe - Edie Oakman

Entertainment

A Look into the Stereotyping of Neurodiversity in Film and Television - Edie Oakman

Top Ten Reasons I Think Comics Should Be More Appreciated - Lov Khatroth

Reviews

Film Reviews - Remy Todd and Eleanor Grimes

Becoming Jo - Edie Oakman

Sport

Wimbledon - Emi Kaczorek

London Hockey Match - Pratha Gupta

Wellbeing and Mindfulness

Little Steps to Wellbeing - Emi Kaczorek

INTERNATIONAL



The

Lazarus Group

-Max F

Most people are aware of North Korea's authoritarian government, which, according to Kim Jong-un himself, regularly conducts nuclear missile tests as a method to threaten the global community. However with sanctions greatly limiting the country's financial income, many have questioned the origin of the money used to purchase this expensive weaponry.

Journalists Jean Lee and Jeff White hold the Lazarus Group accountable.



Source: Bushidotoken

The Lazarus Group is (allegedly) North Korea's state sponsored hacking group, suspected to be behind major hacks such as the Bangladesh Bank Heist (2016), the Sony Pictures Hack (2014) and the spread of the WannaCry ransomware (2017). Many of their attacks seem to be financially motivated: in 2016 one billion dollars was almost stolen from Bangladesh Bank, and in 2017 NHS workers across the UK were threatened with the destruction of crucial files in order for them to pay a ransom. As previously mentioned, this is likely a way to fund North Korea's nuclear weapons programme.

The Bangladesh Bank Heist (2016)

Out of all the hacks performed by the Lazarus Group, the Bangladesh Bank Heist was the most ambitious. The hackers attempted to steal one billion dollars, however a large sum of the money was recovered. Despite this, eighty one million dollars was not. Below is a summary of the events which took place:

- In January 2015 (unbeknownst to the Bangladesh Bank) the bank's computer system was infected with a virus belonging to the Lazarus Group.
- In 2016 The Lazarus Group disabled Bangladesh Bank's printer, which records messages from other banks.
- The hackers manipulated a banking network called the SWIFT system to send a fake message to a New York bank.
- The New York bank was tricked, and transferred all of the Bangladesh Bank's money to the thieves' accounts. They notified the other bank, but their printer was disabled so they did not receive the message.
- A lot of the stolen money entered the Philippines, making reclaiming it much more difficult for the Bangladesh Bank.
- The hackers specifically timed the hack so that holidays and time differences didn't allow the banks involved to communicate quickly after the hack, delaying their response.
- The Lazarus Group made a bank transfer which included the word 'Jupiter' in the receipt. This is coincidentally a sanctioned Iranian vessel, and was flagged by the New York bank. The hackers lost hundreds of millions of dollars.
- Another \$20 million was flagged because of a spelling error.
- The remaining \$81 million was laundered through a casino, and has allegedly been used by the North Korean government.

If you wish to learn more about this group and North Korea, I highly recommend the podcast 'The Lazarus Heist', which details everything in this article and more.

Sources:

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/apr/14/north-korea-missile-launch-was-new-kind-of-icbm-regime-says-as-first-images-emerge>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/w13xtvg9/episodes/downloads>

Comparing life in Switzerland, Poland and the UK *-Emi K*

I have been living in three different countries already, differing from each other and special in their own sort of way. At first I was living in Poland for one year and a half, then moved with my parents to Switzerland. I know, I couldn't really remember my life in Poland, but every second holiday I visit my grandmother in Wrocław and I stay with her for a long time, especially during the summer holidays. For me, my grandmother's house is where I'm feeling the most comfortable and 'safe'. It's the home I can return to, where I know I belong. That's why I probably like Poland the most - people speak there my native language and I can understand everything what they say, which makes me feel in place.

[READ ON](#)



A Swiss town, Upsplash



A Polish square, Upsplash

Hyperinflation in

Argentina

-Sebastian S.

Since the 2002 Argentine financial crisis the Argentine economy has been one of the most fluctuating in the world. And with it now being at an all time low, I can't help but wonder what went wrong.

A brief history of the Argentinian economy:

During the 90s Argentina was controlled by the then far right but now liberal Partido Justicialista led by the "peronist" Carlos Menem. Now peronism is normally an ideology guided by liberal, quasi socialist policies. Carlos Menem was the opposite. For example, he shut down the railways, which are yet to recover. One of his many disastrous economic policies was pegging the value of the peso to the dollar at an unsustainably high rate. Of course he didn't see the effects of this. But the next president, Fernando De Rúa, did.

In 2001, the peso crashed and unemployment skyrocketed, millions went into poverty. And the root cause? The incredibly high value of the peso. After the chaos had somewhat calmed down, Argentina needed funding as the reserves ran dry, so they looked to the IMF (International Monetary Fund, a financial organisation led by the American government) for help. This debt would loom over the government until someone new entered the ring, his name was Nestor Kirchner. He was known for being as left as you could possibly be in an IMF controlled state. He led rise to a new ideology, Kirchnerism. One of Kirchner's most impressive actions was paying off the debt Argentina had incurred in full. His successor (and wife) Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner would also go on to make many laws making the life of the average Argentinian easier.

Including the Asignación universal por hijo (universal income per child). The two planned to rotate terms as president for the foreseeable future until disaster struck! On 27 October 2010 Nestor Kirchner died. And after Kirchner's 2 terms. The neoliberal Mauricio Macri came to power. Along with constant power cuts and hyperinflation, the main disastrous economic decision was taking out the biggest loan in the history of the IMF. Which is now the root cause of most current Argentinian socio-economic problems.


Argentina now:

In 2023 Argentina, while still being run by the same political party, is a vastly different country with vastly different problems. With the poverty rate estimated to be 40 percent of the population and inflation reaching 100 percent. "The real problem is the day to day for the people here" said Sergio, a Buenos Aires resident "I live in a relatively good area but everyday you see people coming up to your door asking for food or clothes or shoes".

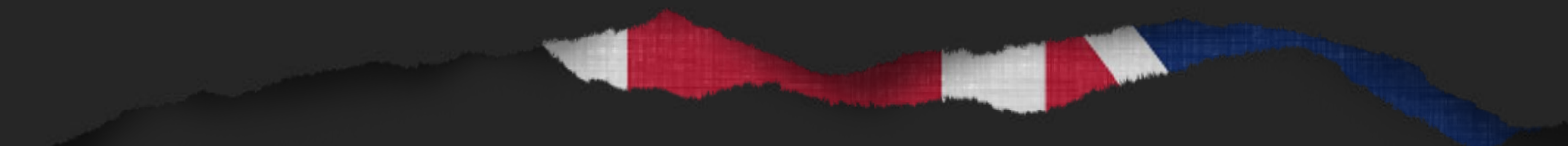
"You go to the supermarket and everything is so much more expensive," said Oscar, a mechanic from the south of Buenos Aires. Although the way this crisis has affected the middle class pales in comparison to the many informal workers in Argentina. You see, Argentina is a very unionised country so even with inflation at 100 percent, wages of on the books (official) workers are able to adjust mostly, meaning the deterioration of standard of living is happening at about the same pace as here in the UK, but for the people who work off the books (unofficially), the aforementioned 40 - 50 percent of the population are seeing the brunt of the effects of Argentina's IMF mandated crisis. Is there a solution? Well yes and no. Unlike in 2005, Argentina does not have enough money in its national reserves to pay of the \$46bn so the only real solution is to not pay and instead focus on improving its relationship with the BRICS alliance to reduce dependency on the US and the US dollar.



How the litter and rubbish on the English highways affects the environment.




Littering has many negative consequences for the environment. For example, it threatens the existence of some animals. These poisons can also make their way into water sources, and impact both humans and animals. Littering makes the roadside look dirty and disgusting, but most people still don't care about it and instead of binning the rubbish, they throw it out of the window of their cars while driving. The amount litter is increasing very fast, and soon there will be no way of cleaning the highways anymore.



That's why we should start looking after the environment before it gets worse. It's so easy to throw rubbish in the bin, or keep it in the car where possible, instead of throwing it.

Together, let's try to reduce the amount of litter on the roadsides and regain hope for the British environment. It's not too late to start! And if you see litter on the pavement, you may pick it up and throw it into the nearest bin, because little acts of kindness are able to change the world.



How I noticed the litter on the english highways and why I think it's overwhelming



I have spent most of my life in Switzerland and regularly visit Poland by driving through many countries such as France, Germany and Belgium. Driving on the highways and roads of these countries I haven't encountered nearly as much rubbish. It's completely unbelievable how much litter there is on the British roadsides, and it's upsetting to just look at it without doing something. We need to save the environment from being littered by making it clear others should not drop rubbish, and instead put it into the bin.



I know that the roadsides will not look 'pretty' by tomorrow, but when we start to look out for the environment, the amount of rubbish and litter will decrease and England will look like other countries around us. Right now, the UK is considered one of the most polluted countries in Europe. I won't deny it. But I know that with the support of others we can change the ranking and become one of the least polluted countries in Europe! Let's work together and protect the environment the best we can. It's worth trying, isn't it?

The Monarchy: Good, Bad Or Somewhere Inbetween?

In case you missed it, a few months ago a 'once in a generation event' passed by, leaving behind, as was to be expected, a string of debates, endless choir singing, quite a lot of Union Jacks, and about a million articles just like this one. So why are we doing it?

Really, it would be weirder if we didn't. It isn't every day a cultural event on the scale of coronation happens, even if we're more than likely to get another in about twenty years. And with all the pomp and ceremony, ludicrous amounts of gold, and a reported cost that varies between £50 to 250 million, how could we not? In a cost of living crisis, it's no surprise that such an event has drawn considerable ire, with one YouGov poll finding republicanism had overtaken royalism among 18-24 year olds; and with it still deeply entrenched among older generations, it seems set to become a defining political divide of the next few decades. So, the monarchy; good, bad, or somewhere inbetween?



[Read On](#)



OPINION

Several of our students in Y10 wrote essays on a variety of topics in a project with Roedean school, often based on their topic for HPQ (Higher Project Qualification). This piece is by Max Flexer-Sandiland

Comparing Putin and Stalin's political ambitions at the start of their dictatorships. -Max F

Abstract

This essay explores the similarities and differences between Joseph Stalin and Vladimir Putin's political ambitions at two specific time periods symbolic of the beginnings of their respective dictatorships. It will discuss the effect of their early lives, the sociopolitical climate of the time, their public image, 'insatiable greed' and the ways in which they eradicated opposition.

Introduction

Vladimir Putin and his political ambitions are regularly debated in the current political climate, and are strikingly similar to those of Joseph Stalin. Since Putin was inaugurated, journalists in particular began comparing the two figures. Thus, I decided to compare what they envisioned to achieve, not only their actions, which could be used to speculate on Russia's future.

In this essay, I define a dictatorship as a 'form of government in which one person . . . possesses absolute power.' (Encyclopaedia Britannica, 2022), and 'political ambitions' as actions that each leader wanted to realise relating to the USSR or the Russian Federation.

[Read on](#)

Students collected notes on issues they were passionate about and gave a talk on these topics at Rodean. Here, we have access to the essay form of their research. This piece is by Lizzy W

Is breeding animals for aesthetics unethical?

-Lizzy W

Abstract:

In this essay I will be exploring the ethics of breeding animals for their aesthetic value. I have researched many credible organisations that specialise in animals and breed-specific health issues like the Kennel club. Most of the sources agree that breeding animals just for aesthetics causes a plethora of health issues which make the animals suffer, therefore making it unethical.

Introduction:

In this day and age, the vast majority of people no longer breed or buy animals for work. Instead the population (mostly) keep animals as pets which has massively influenced the breeding and ideology behind the “ideal” companion. Now most people’s thoughts go to how their beloved pet looks before other factors like temperament or lifestyle. However, how has this affected our beloved pets today, and is the drive for breeding pets for aesthetics ethical? I have chosen this topic because I have a passionate interest in animals and the controversy with pugs or scottish fold cats interests me greatly. Before I started HPQ, I didn’t have much knowledge about my topic other than the fact that pugs had breathing problems. In addition, none of my GCSEs cover anything closely related to my topic. In this essay I will be presenting the data I have gathered as a balanced argument for and against if breeding animals for aesthetics is ethical then concluding with my thoughts.

[Read On](#)

As you can see from the wide range of topics, the chosen subject was nearly entirely up to the student. This allowed for a wide range of ideas to be explored. This piece is by Carmen M

How has greek mythology influenced literature? -Carmen M

Greek Mythology, a collection of stories pertaining to Gods, Heroes and rituals of the Ancient Greeks have been popular for centuries. While generally, the Greeks believed these stories to be true, some more critical of the Greeks, such as philosopher Plato, took the stories with an air of fiction.

Artists, poets and playwrights alike have used Greek mythology as stimulus for their own works, and even more modern literature, such as the Percy Jackson series, The Song of Achilles and The Secret History are all examples of books inspired by Greek mythology. Even the Iliad and The Odyssey are pieces of fiction. Essentially, they were oral traditions, passed down verbally for centuries until they were transcribed - but think of these stories like the game 'chinese whispers' in a sense, in that they made significant changes as they passed down generations.

Let's talk about The Song of Achilles, a very popular book based around the Greek/Trojan war and the relationship between Achilles and his close friend/confidant, Patroclus. It's funny to me, to always see people on TikTok complaining about how TSOA is like a FanFiction of the Iliad and The Odyssey because I don't think people realise that that is exactly what it is. It is very literally a fan of greek classic literature writing non-canon complaint fiction about two of its characters. People are so quick to judge and hate Madeline Miller for writing Achilles in a romanticised manner, because canonically he is a petty, self righteous, and merciless man - what people are choosing to ignore is that the book is written from the perspective of the person he has the most close, intimate relationship with even in the Iliad (it's not just Madeline Miller)!

[Read On](#)

INTERVIEWS!



My time with Mr Breckenridge



What inspired you to write?

I was inspired by a poet named Theodore Roethke and his use of multiple poems as inspiration to write. I also take over 400 poems off Twitter and read them from time to time but I often think near the end of the day “I probably missed 1000 poems today”

When did you discover your love for poetry?

I started properly writing poetry about four years ago, and then I bought a book named 52. The premise of the book is that there are 52 weeks in a year and if you write one poem a week then by the end of a year you have a respectable 52 poems under your belt. I also subsequently joined a poetry zoom class as a way to incentivise myself.

How does it feel to be a published author?

I found it to be very satisfying and I am still incredibly proud of myself. But I think the best part of my pamphlet ‘Liquid Air’ was that it was illustrated by Chris Riddell. Another amazing thing is that the publisher ‘Flight of the Dragonflies’ is invitation only so I was chosen to have my book published.

What poems do you have the closest attachment to?

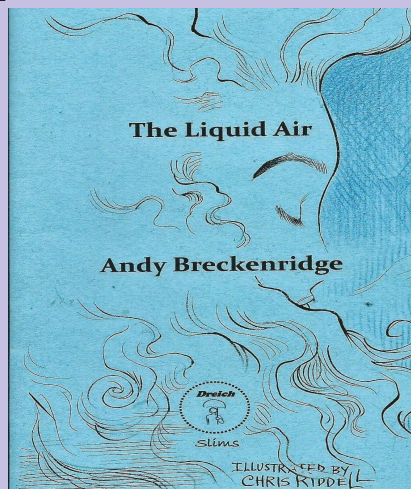
I have a really emotional attachment to "The night you were born" and "Accidental Tattoo". This is because they are dedicated to my children, "The night you were born" was dedicated to my daughter and how I felt at her birth. "Accidental Tattoo" is dedicated to my son and when he had a piece of grit stuck in his leg.

Style of poetry?

My style of poetry is often informal or a 3 verse poem but sometimes I enjoy writing regular rhythm poems, I have also written a few shape poems before.

What authors influenced your style in particular?

Lots of different authors have inspired my style, I have often written poems inspired by other poems. For example, I wrote a poem called "Love is a black ground beetle" that was inspired by "Grief is a Giant Purple Gorilla" by Matthew Dickman.





Pierogi (filled dumplings)

For the dough:

- Ingredients:
- 300g wheat flour
 - Pinch of salt
 - 125ml boiling water
 - 1 Egg
 - 20g butter

Preparation:

- Pour the flour into a bowl, add salt. Put the butter into the boiling water and melt it, then gradually pour it onto the flour, stirring everything with a spoon.
- Meanwhile add the beaten egg and combine all the ingredients, then knead a smooth dough.
- Place on a floured countertop and knead for around 7-8 mins. Then wrap up in foil and put aside for 30 mins.
- Divide the dough into four identical pieces and roll out into a thin slice (around 2-3mm thick), sprinkling the table with flour if necessary.
- Cut out circles with a small glass cup, stretch them with your fingers a bit, subsequently place one heaping teaspoon of filling in the center of each circle.
- Fold in half and pinch the edges carefully, then place on the pastry board.
- Boil salted water in a large pot and when it will boil hard, put in the first batch of pierogi (around 15 pieces).
- After re-boiling, reduce the heat to medium and cook the pierogi for another 2 mins, counting from the time they floated to the surface of the water (until the dough is soft by checking with your finger, carefully picking up one pierogi).
- Cooking time depends on the thickness of the dough. After that, remove with a slotted spoon to a plate.



Filling: There are many different fillings you could be using for pierogi. My grandmother told me that each person adds something 'theirs' to them, that's why each recipe tastes a bit different. Some people prefer sweet pierogi, others like to eat salty dumplings. For the filling you could add some fruits, meat, vegetables, cheese, mushrooms or sauce. Each will taste good, and you can obviously add more of these than one. You can use your creativity when adding the filling, because that's my favourite part of doing pierogi. In Poland, the most popular pierogi-filling are potatoes and my grandma mashes them to add a smooth taste to the pierogi when biting into it. So add what you like and have fun! Enjoy!

Ideas for healthy, refreshing snacks:

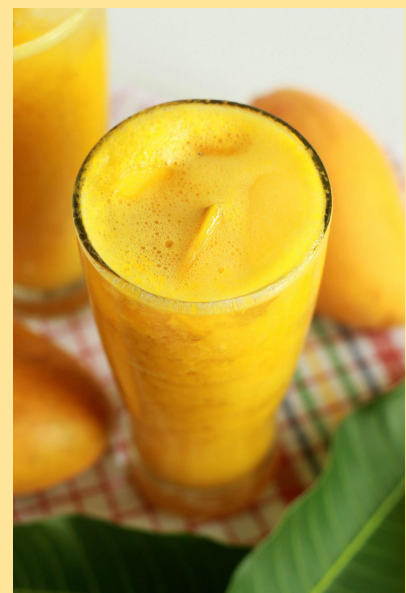
1. Smoothie bowl is a great solution for a tasty, healthy breakfast. Such a meal is extremely yummy and nutritious, giving energy to start the day.

Ingredients (1 portion):

- 70g raspberries
- 70g strawberries
- 70g blueberries
- 100g beetroot
- 20g dried dates (4 piece)
- 120g banana (1 piece)
- 5g flaxseed (whole)

Preparation:

- Leave two pieces of raspberries, strawberries and a few blueberries.
- Cut half of the banana and then cut it into slices.
- Put the rest of the fruit, peeled and cut into pieces beetroot and dates, in the blender jar.
- Blend thoroughly until smooth.
- Transfer to a bowl. Arrange remaining raspberries, strawberries, blueberries and banana slices on top. Sprinkle the whole thing with flaxseed.
- Eat right away. Enjoy!



2. Smoothies are a great idea for a delicious and quick snack for everyone. It's really filling due to the addition of natural yoghurt. It's a great fit meal!

Ingredients (1 portion):

- 140g mango (half piece)
- 60g banana (half piece)
- 60ml 0% fat greek yogurt (3 spoons)
- 120g orange (half piece)
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon of cinnamon

(approximately)

Preparation:

- Peel the fruit and cut it into smaller pieces. Then add to a blender cup.
- Add natural yogurt to the fruit and pour half a glass water of water.
- Blend everything until smooth and add a little cinnamon in the end.



Strawberry Muffin Recipe

Serves 12

Ingredients:

150g plain flour/all purpose flour

125g white sugar

1 ½ tsp baking powder

1 egg

½ tsp vanilla extract

½ cup milk

25g butter (softened)

8 strawberries chopped into small pieces

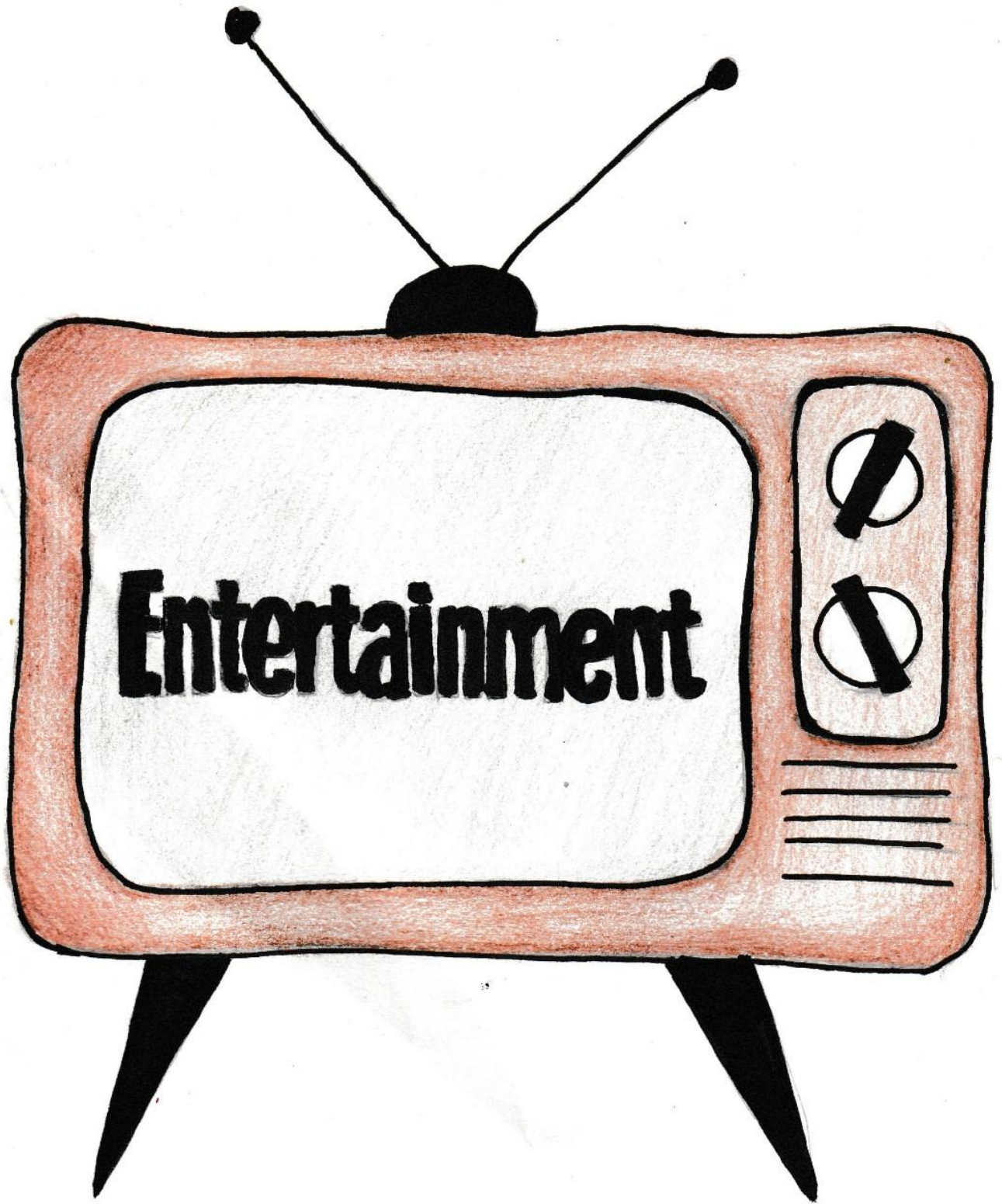


[Link to Image](#)

Instructions:

1. Preheat the oven to 180° C (360° F)
2. Put your flour, white sugar and baking powder into a mixing bowl. Give it a quick stir and leave a hole in the middle.
3. Crack the egg in the centre and add the vanilla extract. Mix it through a little. Pour in half the milk and mix again, then add the remaining milk and mix one more time. Then add the softened butter and combine, stirring thoroughly for a minute or two (or on low to medium speed for a mixer).
4. Now it's time to add the strawberries!! Fold them through gently with a wooden spoon so they stay nice and chunky.
5. Carefully spoon your muffin mixture into your baking tray, filling each hole 3/4 to the top for nice tall muffins. Pop them in the oven to bake for around 25 minutes or until gorgeously golden brown.

[Back to Contents](#)



A Look Into The Stereotyping Of Neurodiversity In Film And Television

By Edie Oakman

By now, I think we've all seen the 2D portrayals of neurodiversity in film and television. You know the kind. The incredibly smart autistic character, the constantly hyper character with ADHD, the character with OCD who you'll never see without hand sanitizer.

I'm fed up.

As a neurodivergent person myself, I'm tired of these stereotypical tropes that only show one side of a disorder. There are so many other routes that directors and producers could take, but instead they opt for the same tired tropes over and over again.

Some films also showcase harmful things that can put neurodivergent people's lives at risk. An example of this is *Music* - a 2021 film produced by Sia, that was widely regarded as humiliating and dangerous throughout the autistic community. The film showcases one of the characters restraining the autistic main character Music whilst she is having a meltdown by using the prone restraint, a lethal restraint that has caused the deaths of many disabled and autistic people.

[Read On](#)

Top ten reasons comics should be more appreciated - Lov K

10. More active

Comic books and graphic novels are a much more active medium than films and shows, only being bested by books and games. Comic books rely on the reader to bring them to life. The reader imagines the panels moving. The reader chooses the pace the story moves at. The reader is who decided how the characters sound. Reading is also a healthy activity. It can improve reading speed, your vocabulary and make your brain more active.

9. Quick reads

Comic books, more so than other forms of textual media, can be read very quickly. Books require time investment and if you aren't paying attention, you might even zone out. That is much harder to do with a comic book. The panels take up space and there is significantly less writing than in a book. Also the approximate length for a comic is about 25 pages which is quite short considering how you pretty much speed run it. Comic books are ideal for short periods of time when you simply want to distract yourself from the situation you are in.

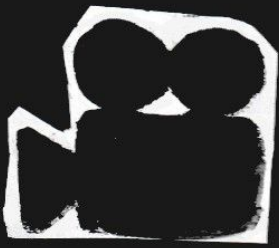
8. Immersion

There is nothing like getting lost in the world of a comic. The bright colours, bold stories, relatable characters and more just suck you in. The feeling is almost addictive. You feel like you are in their world, observing events like a higher being. If you actually read something you enjoy, you will certainly be forgetting about reality. Sometimes that is good, everyone needs a break.

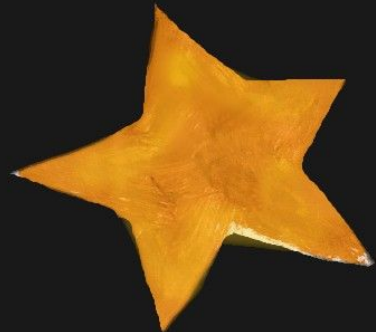
7. The originals

In the 2000s but more so in the 2010s there has been a surge of comic book movies and shows. Audiences couldn't get enough of their favourite films. The MCU (Marvel Cinematic Universe) in particular is responsible for their popularity rising. You may often hear these films being referred to as comic book films, this is because they are adaptations of comic book characters and stories. If you are the type of person to be intrigued by these movies it definitely won't hurt to check out the original source. Reading the original stories might get you to appreciate your favourite films even more or even think that the original creators were ahead of their time. Opposedly, you may compare the adaptation to the original and evaluate which you like more.

[Read On](#)

A large hand-painted yellow five-pointed star with a textured surface, serving as a background for the title text.

Re**V**I**e**w**S**

The word "Reviews" is written across the center of the large star using various colored letters: 'R' is red, 'e' is light blue, 'V' is black, 'I' is blue, 'e' is yellow, 'W' is grey, and 'S' is purple.

Film Reviews

Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3



The high evolutionary is a formidable threat for the guardians of the galaxy. His aim is to make a perfect world, and plans to do this through animal exploitation. We also see rocket raccoon's sad backstory while they try to save him in the present.

This movie was surprisingly good! I had given up on marvel movies after the not so great recent run of poorly written, poorly-made movies but I went in blind because we had free tickets and it was great! I really enjoyed the villain and rocket raccoon's backstory made my dad cry. Worth a watch!

★★★★☆
(12)

Spiderman: Across the Spider-verse



Miles Morales gets drawn into an interdimensional battle after a vengeful scientist gets the ability to travel between universes, and the alternate spidermen aren't too happy about Miles.

First up, the two new main spidermen in this movie are absolutely brilliant characters. Spider-Punk and Pavitr Prabhakar are absolutely wonderful characters who you instantly fall in love with. The visuals were just as good as the first and the movie felt like it just flew by! My only problem was that it didn't really feel like a full movie, with the cliffhanger ending sort of coming out of nowhere.

★★★★☆
(PG)

The Hunger Games
Franchise

THE HUNGER GAMES

The Hunger Games is a well known film series based on the novel series written by Suzanne Collins.

★★★★☆
(12)

It follows the story of an anti-hero Katniss Everdeen who gets entered into a survival competition of 24 people and only one will survive. I watched this quite recently and It's quite honestly one of my favorite franchises. It can show the struggles of life when up against danger.

Though the franchise is well known, I think that it deserves more love and attention because it is a wonderful and gripping franchise and deserves you take a look.

Links to Last 2 Images:

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:SPIDER-MAN_ACROSS_THE_SPIDER-VERSEBUS_STOP_ADVERTISEMENT_IN_CHINA_\(cropped\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:SPIDER-MAN_ACROSS_THE_SPIDER-VERSEBUS_STOP_ADVERTISEMENT_IN_CHINA_(cropped).jpg)

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?search=hunger+games&title=Special:MediaSearch&go=Go&type=image>

Becoming Jo

A book report by Edie Oakman

Becoming Jo by Sophie Mckenzie is a modern retelling of Little Women. It features the classic sisters Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy. At the start of the book, they have just moved into a new house in Ringstone, a gloomy coastal town.

Their father is away, working as a humanitarian in a warzone, a nod to the original sister's father who serves in the American Civil War. The book is narrated by Jo and follows her friendship with Lateef, their rich neighbour.

The reason I like this book so much is because it shows such normalcy whilst managing to make every chapter feel alive and important. The way that emotions are portrayed in this book is magical and you feel like you are almost in the room with the March sisters. Every page leaves you yearning to read on. I would recommend this book to almost everyone.

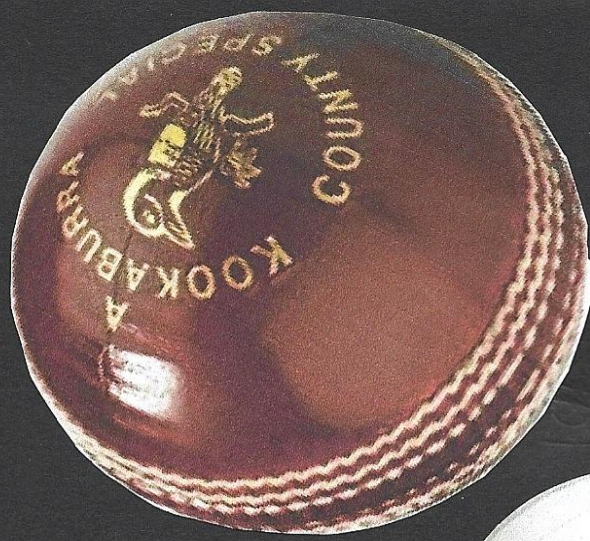
It follows the original storyline of the book whilst putting a modern twist on it that keeps you hooked.

I would like to add some disclaimers to this book as towards the end of the book cancer is mentioned and is involved in the storyline. I know that this will trigger and upset people and if that applies to you, the original book is just as good as this version.

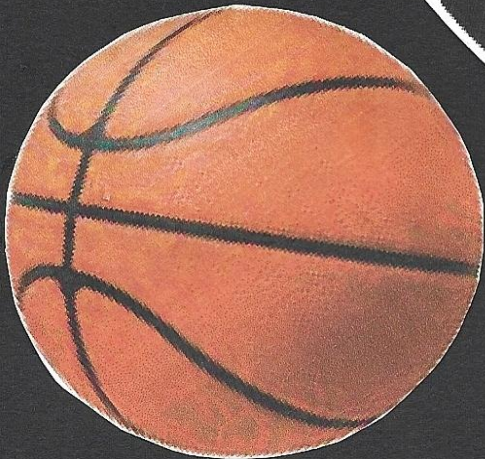
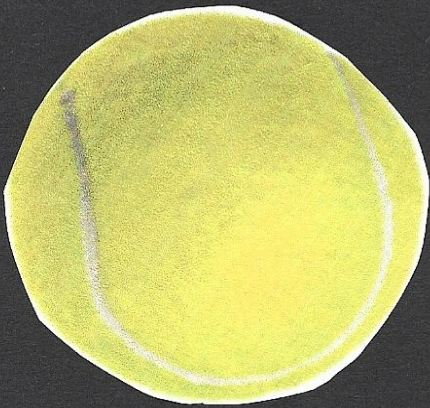
In total, I would give this book 5 stars.

Thank you for reading, and I hope you enjoy this book!

[Back to Contents](#)



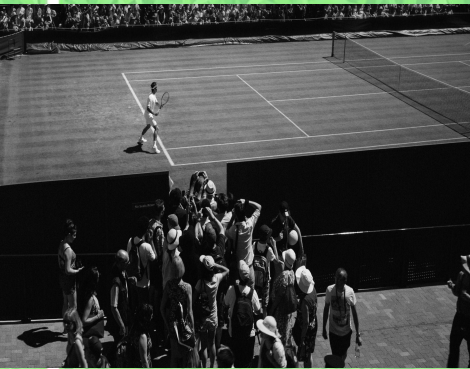
S P O R T



Wimbledon

What is it: Wimbledon is one of the four major tennis tournaments (Grand Slams) that take place every year. The other three Grand Slams are known as US Open, Australian Open and French Open. Wimbledon is the oldest tennis tournament in the world, and is widely regarded as one of the best! The tennis tournament is held there for two weeks and the best tennis players are coming to England from all over the world to take part in this competition.

Why is it so special: It's where tennis began. The first tennis tournament was held at Wimbledon in 1877. Also, unlike other major sporting events, Wimbledon is noted for the absence of advertising and sponsors around the courts. In 2009, a retractable roof was attached to Wimbledon's Centre Court to avoid time loss due to the rain. In 1884, Ladies' Singles and Gentlemen's Doubles were introduced.



History: The first Wimbledon Championship was held on one of the croquet lawns of the All England Croquet and Lawn Tennis Club. Since the 1992 tournament it has been at the current ground. It gets its name from the place where it was first played which is located in the suburbs of London, in a place called Wimbledon. It has been played in the same place ever since. It's referred to as the oldest tournament, and it's also thought that people began to refer to the sport as tennis rather than Sphairistikè, which is ancient Greek for "the art of playing ball" since its invention.



Rules: There is a dress code that only applies to the players attending in the Wimbledon Championship which orders them to wear strictly white clothes if they want to take part in this tournament. It says competitors must be dressed in suitable tennis attire that is almost entirely white and this applies from the point at which the player enters the court surround. White does not include off white or cream and there should be no solid mass or panel of colouring. The white wardrobe was thought to visually mitigate the effects of sweating, and tournament officials have been uncompromising in their enforcement of the dress code over the years. Till recently each player had to wear white underwear too, but as several female tennis players, including Serena Williams, complained about the underwear and the fear of showing off during menstruation, Wimbledon released an updated dress code in 2014, allowing female players dark-coloured undershorts beneath their skirts or shorts.

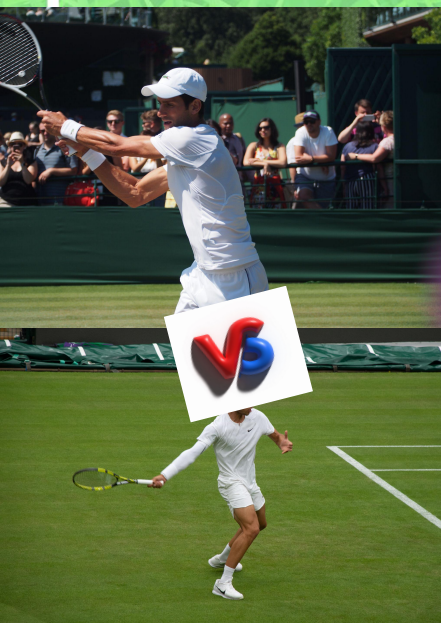
When is it: Wimbledon is held in late June and early July once a year, after the Australian Open in mid January, the French Open (also known as Roland Garros) from around late May to early June, and before the US Open which takes place during August and September. Each tournament is played over a two-week period and Wimbledon is the only one still played on natural grass.



Cost: Sources say - "Wimbledon is the most royal tournament of the year, it doesn't get bigger than this. Considering the fact that the centre court is always full even with such exorbitant prices, the organisers would never think of reducing the costs for the entries. Wimbledon tickets are very expensive, especially now that the ticket prices raised. The price depends on the round of the tournament and the court that the match is held on. The semifinal and final rounds are more expensive than the first rounds, and Centre Court tickets cost more than Court One tickets."



Prize: The Ladies' and Gentlemen's Singles Champions are going to receive £2,350,000 each, with that 2,000 ranking points and The Cup, which is made of silver gilt, stands 18 inches high and has a diameter of 7.5 inches. Around the bowl are engraved the dates and names of the Champions.



Current Top-Champion: With a total of 94 titles as a professional, Djokovic has won 10 Australian Open, three French Open, three US Open and seven Wimbledon trophies. He is currently ranked world No.2 in singles by the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP). Djokovic has been ranked No.1 for a record total 389 weeks in a record 12 different years, and finished as the year-end No.1 a record seven times. Last year he had won Wimbledon, and he has to win this year to protect his championship title. However, another strong opponent threatens his victory, that could affect Djokovic's position, and this other strong player is currently World No.1, known as Carlos Alcaraz, from Spain. If Djokovic will not be able to protect his Wimbledon title, he will lose the ranking points that he collected at Wimbledon in the last previous years and is going to fall in the ranking. However, when he wins Wimbledon this year, he's going to claim another title and will keep the 2,000 points that he won over the last few years. So it's all up to him and Alcaraz; who is going to be the Wimbledon champion this year?



Female Champion Of 2022: Elena Rybakina, who's currently World No.3, won the previous year's Wimbledon with very surprising results. She has to win this year's Wimbledon to protect her Championship title. Is she going to win this time?

London Hockey match 2023

21 of June 2023 ...

The match started shortly after a little while with the GB VS Spain (men) match ...

GB Men's went down 2-3 against Spain in their last match of the FIH Pro League 2022/23 season. Still in contention for the title, they finished the season with 32 points in 16 matches.

GB started the all-important game well as they earned back-to-back penalty corners inside the first two minutes of the match but missed out on capitalising on it. GB enjoyed ball possession in the initial minutes, but Spain came up with a quick counter to open the scoring in the 9th minute. GB kept up the same intent, but the Spanish managed to end the opening quarter with a 1-0 lead. The home side rode on the momentum as they went on to take the lead with a well-constructed team goal from the right flank. Roper chipped the ball into the net off a pass from James Oates from the baseline putting GB 2-1 ahead at the end of the second quarter.

Meanwhile, GB Women edged past the USA 2-1 in their last match of the FIH Pro League 2022/23 season. They ended their campaign with 21 points in 16 matches.

It was a quiet start to the first quarter, with GB dominating the ball possession and exchanging passes inside the USA's half. They earned their first penalty corner in the 8th minute but missed out on converting it. GB continued with the same intent and finally regained the lead as Owsley slotted the ball home during a penalty corner routine in the 58th minute. USA came up with a final attack, but GB earned a hard-fought 2-1 win !!!

[Back to Contents](#)



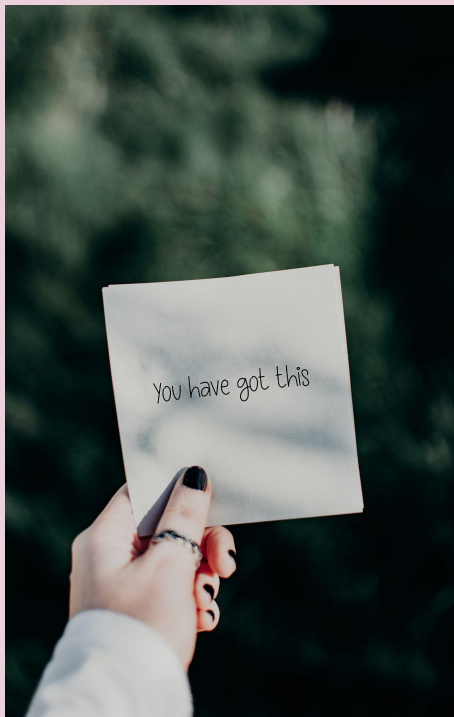
Wellbeing.

Little Steps To Wellbeing

There are many ways to make ourselves feel better.

Here are some examples:

1) Remember you're amazing! I know that many people have difficulties to think about themselves as good or special. Still, try to think about the things in which you're good, things you like to do. Each person has something to be proud of, if it's singing on a stage or being good in Science. Even if it's a small thing like being able to make breakfast for the whole family or being good in communicating with others, it's still something to be proud of. You are someone amazing and it's up to you if you believe it or not. Everyone can be an amazing human and each person has the right to feel good about themselves. Be proud of yourself whenever you feel you did the right thing, tell yourself you deserve being proud of. And if it's difficult for you to do so, try to compliment yourself, tell yourself nice things, because it isn't stupid to feel good about yourself, it's even something beautiful. It's a talent everyone can own.



2) Whenever you feel like giving up, try to convince yourself that you've got this! Try to believe in yourself, don't think you can't do it. For example, if you're learning a piece of music that is quite difficult for you to play on a guitar, don't think you'll never be able to play it smoothly, don't let yourself down! To play a melody perfectly, you need to practise day in and day out to be able to get it quite fast. If you're practising, let's say, fifteen minutes every other day it's obvious it will take you longer to play the melody smoothly. But whichever option you take, one day you'll be able to play it. You see what I mean? Don't give up right away, give yourself time to learn something. And if it's an exam we're talking about, don't stress yourself if you don't know the answer for a question. Even if it's the whole test you don't get, it's still OK - no one can be good in everything; not even the most talented person in the world is good in every single thing. And if you completely fail one exam, no one will judge you. Everyone makes mistakes! So whenever you feel you can't do something, don't put yourself down 'cause of it! You've got this!

3) This can be slightly tricky for the majority of us, but say your feelings aloud. If you're feeling sad, don't keep all the sadness to yourself but let some of it out. Trust me, you will feel much better after you'd tell someone about how you feel. If it's your best friend, sister, parent, career or a therapist, I'm sure you'll find a trusted person to talk to. If not, you can find some help on specific websites, or you could talk to an adult at school (a teacher, social worker). If you're very excited about something, talk about it with others! Talk, talk and talk until you feel comfortable. Don't blame yourself for talking, it's something helpful to do! Trust me, the more you speak to people, the better you feel inside. If you tell people about what makes you angry or sad, they will have it easier to understand you. If a person upsets you, tell them that you don't like how they treat you and probably they will try to improve. Tell people what you like and dislike about them, state your opinion, be confident. And the most important thing is to tell those that you love how important they are for you. Tell them you love them, express your feelings so they can feel good about themselves. Just saying "I Love You" every now and then is enough!



4) Treat others as you would like to be treated by them! If you're kind to people, there is a big chance that they will be kind to YOU too! It's likely you'll receive negativity when you are treating others badly, but when you spread kindness around, kindness will find a way back to you! There is no reason for you to blame yourself when others are treating you badly and you always have shown kindness to them. Tell others about the hate you receive from some people, and no blame will touch you! However, when you aren't kind to others, there appears a reason for people not being kind to you. That's why being kind gives you more happiness than reacting with hate and aggression. Usually the kind person is treated with kindness and understatement, whereas the 'bully' isn't seen as someone to be befriended with. With you showing kindness you can show others that you're a trustworthy person, someone to be easily friends with. Also, when you commit little acts of kindness you can be proud of yourself and you are likely to be feeling good about it. So... #Be Kind!

5) Sometimes we feel like we're totally on our own. We think that no one can understand us, that we are outsiders and have nowhere a place to fit in. We wonder if we stand out of the crowd, if the people around us don't like us. But actually we are all the same, no matter how different we sometimes are from the others. We're all human and we all have our own problems to deal with. Often we don't understand one another, but the reality is that we're thinking in a similar way. We all have fears, people we don't like, people we love, dreams and wishes, favourite foods. Each of us is someone important, someone talented. So whenever you don't feel like being understood by others, remember we're all the same. There surely is at least one other person of the eight billion ones on Earth that shares the same interests as you. There surely is someone else who's afraid of talking about their fears. Maybe that person who's so similar to you is going to the same school as you. Maybe you already found that person and are best friends with them. With realizing that you share this planet with another eight billion people makes you see that you're not alone at all. And whenever you feel alone, remember; We Are One!



6) Do you feel like you aren't pretty enough? Do you compare yourself to those on social media, taking in all these differences between you and *them*? Well, sometimes I feel like I'm not enough and I'm sure that there are others who feel like this too. We're put under pressure by beauty standards, seeing all those slim bodies of women and muscular bodies of men. We think it's normal to look like them, feeling that our bodies are the 'ugly' ones here. However, it's not the truth! Each body is different and each person has their own needs. We shouldn't compare ourselves to some photoshopped pictures from the internet, we know better! Enough of beauty standards and comparison, we are us and no one should have the right to put pressure on us, commenting on our bodies, making us feel bad because of how we look. Everyone looks 'different', and that's completely fine! It's not healthy to try to look like someone else. Do not regulate your diet just because your favourite celebrity got thinner; do not weight yourself just to be able to compare your weight to someone else's; do not feel disgusted about yourself! Whenever you look in the mirror, instead of thinking 'Ugh, how ugly I am!', give yourself a compliment, say: "You Are Beautiful."

[Back to Contents](#)

♥ Thank you! ♥

Contributing Staff and Students

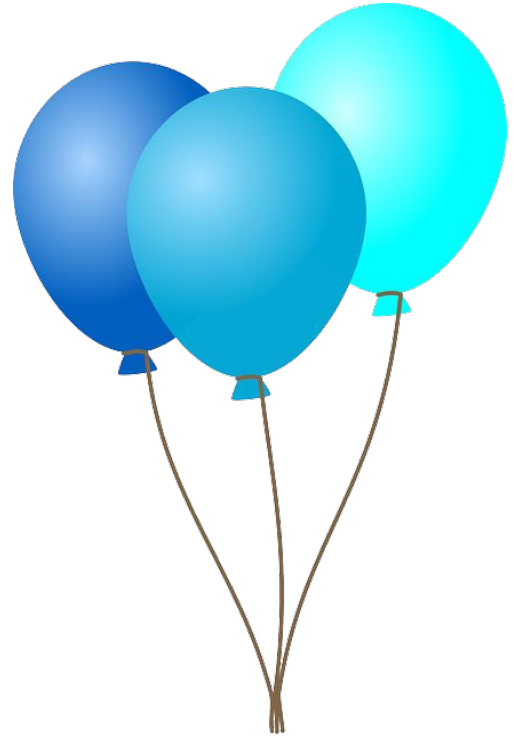
Mr Sladden

Mr Breckenridge

Mr. Beckwith

Ms. Claydon

Ms. McCullagh



Writers, Editors and Designers

Max F

Eleanor G

Logan B

Edie O

Arun W

Shiro S.

Lov K

Remy T.

Pratha G.

Iris D

**Carmen
M.L**

Emi K

Methodology:

Even before I started the HPQ and had only heard about the project, I had planned to do something based on animals. More specifically pugs. However, my original question was too precise and there wasn't much room for an argument so I had to broaden my topic.

When I began my research, I focused primarily on brachycephalic breeds like pugs or French bulldogs. They were the most prominent example of unethical breeding for the sake of appearances and having a campaign against them by the RSPCA which pushed me in that direction. I knew this would be a definite against my question from experience when I see pugs that sound as if they can't breathe. Furthermore, I had heard that pugs' eyes could fall out if they got stressed which intrigued me further.

As I furthered my research, I realised that I needed some other examples to back up the fact that it's unethical and delved into cat breeds. However when I had to start finding sources in favour of my question, things got difficult. My original plan was to have one example of a dog and one of a cat on both sides of the argument, however I had to change it. Any potential examples I could think of turned out to be unhelpful or even helped the contrasting point of view. I needed to find positive examples to construct a balanced argument and to fully understand my topic so I had to think outside the box to find any examples. This slightly delayed my progress. Most of my research came from organisations who collect data about animal breeds and track them like the Kennel Club and the Governing Council of the Cats Fancy (or GCCF). I have one study which I will reference later in this essay too.

Section A: Examples of unethical animal breeds

During my research I discovered that brachycephalic dogs suffer from a plethora of health issues due to their head shape. Brachycephalic pet breeds include (but aren't limited to) : pugs, french bulldogs, boxers, persian cats, cavalier king charles spaniels and various breeds of rabbit. UFAW (2016) states that "Brachycephalic airway obstruction syndrome (BAOS) or Brachycephalic Obstructive Airway Syndrome (BOAS) occurs in all breeds with significant brachycephaly". This means that all animals with a significantly flat head shape suffer from this condition. BOAS refers to a "group of conditions caused by their compacted skeleton and excess soft tissue" according to The Ralph Veterinary Referral Centre (2022). Because "the soft tissues inside the skull remain unchanged in size" unlike the facial bones, there is "increased resistance to airflow in the nose and upper airways", according to UFAW (2016).

This causes difficulty in breathing and The Kennel club (no date) reports that the "

additional breathing effort can lead to a "collapse of the larynx" (voice box). What I found from my research is that the brachycephalic head shape causes a plethora of health issues as the dogs can't even take moderate amounts of exercise because of this difficulty breathing and are even more susceptible to heat stroke because the restricted airflow through their nostrils doesn't allow them to cool down normally. The Kennel club also states that brachycephaly can cause gastrointestinal issues in animals too, with the signs being "progressive and worsening over time". Brachycephalic breeds suffer from so many health issues that in 2022, Norway banned the breeding of them along with there being an RSPCA campaign against them due to how unethical the breed is.

Though there are countless other sources I could reference, I have selected one cat breed that I've discovered to be unethical to breed. It has been denied recognition as a breed by the GCCF and that breed is the Scottish Fold. The Scottish fold is a breed loved for its cute floppy ears, but they come at a price. The cause for their floppy ears is a lack of collagen which unfortunately affects more than just their ears. Ufaw (2011) states that it especially affects their limb joints causing "severe distortion of the limb shapes and severe arthritis". Furthermore, a study was conducted in 2008 using 6 Scottish fold cats (4 castrated male, two spayed females) between the ages 5 months and 6 years that discovered that "All Scottish folds in the experiment suffered from some form of osteochondrodysplasia". This shows that every single Scottish fold suffers from the condition. Osteochondrodysplasia is a genetic condition that affects the development of cartilage and bones. And according to International Cat Care, (2018) the bone and cartilage abnormalities lead to "painful arthritis". According to UFAW (2011), homozygous Scottish cats have "abnormally thick tails that are inflexible at the base" due to the tail bones being abnormally wide and short along with being fused together. This also affects their feet, making them abnormally short. Though this may look cute, it causes the cats to develop osteoarthritis and may lead to joint fusion. Having cute, floppy ears isn't worth the lifetime of pain and immobility that the Scottish fold cats face.

Section B: Examples of ethical animal breeds

During my research I couldn't find any dog breed that didn't have some kind of health issues caused by a factor of their appearance. The most common issue I discovered affected dogs was hip dysplasia. On the contrary, I discovered that the vast majority of cat breeds did not have any health issues caused by their appearance.

One amazing example I found was Bengal cats. According to the GCCF, the main founder of the breed Jean S Mill says the original objective of the breed was to "produce a sweet natured pet cat resembling a miniature leopard so that people would be less inclined to keep spotted wild cats as pets or wear their fur." Nowadays, many people are drawn to getting bengal cats because of their beautiful leopard-like coats. The GCCF states that "The Bengal is a generally healthy cat. There are no diseases specific to the breed and they have no health problems related to their conformation." This means that there are no health issues caused by their appearance, unlike the Scottish fold. They are in fact very "active athletic cats" according to the GCCF which proves their unique, exotic appearance doesn't affect their quality of life.

Another example of an ethical breed sought after for their looks is the British Shorthair. International Cat Care (2018) describes the british shorthair as "A very popular breed with a short, thick coat." In the same article it is said that they are a "generally robust breed without too many problems." and Kuschmider (n.d.) states that "They are generally hardy cats with few health concerns."

However, both sources do highlight two health issues that may cause concerns with this breed. The first one mentioned is polycystic kidney disease and was caused by british shorthairs being bred with persian cats in the past, stated in both articles. However according to International Cat Care (2018), there is a gene test available for this condition and a responsible breeder would ensure to minimise the risk of a litter inheriting those genes.

The other disease is Feline Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy (HCM). Although more common in maine coons and ragdolls according to International Cat Care (2018), british shorthairs are "strongly suspected" to inherit it. However, in an article published by the same organisation it states that when it comes to breeding, cats with homozygous genes for the condition can't be used for breeding whilst cats who aren't affected but still carry the condition should be used with caution as they can still pass it on to their offspring. As long as a British shorthair is responsibly bred with proper and frequent health testing, the risk of getting a cat who develops either of these conditions is low.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, most of my findings tell me that breeding animals for the sake of aesthetics is not ethical. We have animals who are born to suffer, not being able to breathe if they're severely brachycephalic or having joint issues if they're a scottish fold. It is inhumane to keep breeding animals who suffer for their entire lives just because we find these traits endearing because they are living things too. I wasn't surprised by my findings that it was unethical, I already knew to an extent how unhealthy pugs were and my small amount of understanding of the topic was proven right during my research. A In contrast, I was surprised to the extent that the lack of collagen affected Scottish Folds. Before I did the research I had no idea osteochondrodysplasia was present in all Scottish fold cats from 7 weeks old, along with the fact that it disfigured their bones too. Learning the extent of how appalling the conditions some animals face because of the traits people demand for was extremely interesting to me, making me wonder if people do their research before getting a specific breed of pet. Overall, I found this topic engaging and interesting but also rather upsetting which made me struggle with motivation to research at points. I think it has properly educated me on this topic and has deepened my understanding of it. However, I did encounter troubles with giving myself enough time to research. There are a lot of other things I would've liked to research related to this topic like backyard breeding or puppy farms but I didn't give myself enough time to do so. If I were to do this project again, I would expand my research more, going into outside factors like backyard breeders and puppy mills along with 'rare' variations of animals like blue merle patterning. I would avoid my issues with running out of time by setting myself a stricter schedule and making sure I would stick to it along with keeping on top with the rest of the project too.

Word count:

1,851

[Back to Contents](#)

[Reference list](#)

References

- Godfrey, R. et al (2010). *Pug - Brachycephalic Airway Obstruction Syndrome (BAOS) - UFAW*. [online] Ufaw.org.uk. Available at: <https://www.ufaw.org.uk/dogs/pug-brachycephalic-airway-obstruction-syndrome> [Accessed Dec. 2022].
- The Kennel Club (n.d.). *Brachycephalic Breathing Problems | Kennel Club*. [online] www.thekennelclub.org.uk. Available at: <https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/health-and-dog-care/health/health-and-care/a-z-of-health-and-care-issues/breathing-problems-brachycephalic-dogs/>.
- The Ralph Veterinary Referral Centre (2021). *Brachycephalic Obstructive Airway Syndrome (BOAS) - Animation*. YouTube. Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kKiktGo4zUA> [Accessed 11 May 2023].
- Cat Breeds not recognised by GCCF but with some recognition by WCC members*. [online] p.2. Available at: <https://www.gccfcats.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Unrecognised-breeds.pdf> [Accessed 18 Dec. 2022].
- Malik, R., Allan, G.S., Howlett, C.R., Thompson, D.E., James, G., McWhirter, C. and Kendall, K. (2008) 'Osteochondrodysplasia in Scottish fold cats.' *Australian veterinary journal*, 77(2), pp.85-92.
- Godfrey, R. et al (2011). *Scottish Fold - Osteochondrodysplasia*. [online] www.ufaw.org.uk. Available at: <https://www.ufaw.org.uk/cats/scottish-fold-osteochondrodysplasia#list> [Accessed 7 Jun. 2023].
- International Cat Care (2018). *Scottish Fold disease – osteochondrodysplasia | International Cat Care*. [online] icatcare.org. Available at: <https://icatcare.org/advice/scottish-fold-disease-osteochondrodysplasia/>.
- Son, K. (2021). *What Dog Breeds Are Prone to Hip Dysplasia? Your Question Answered*. [online] Veterinarians.org. Available at: <https://www.veterinarians.org/what-dog-breeds-are-prone-to-hip-dysplasia/> [Accessed 6 Jun. 2023].
- The Governing Council of the Cat Fancy. (2022). *Bengal - The Governing Council of the Cat Fancy*. [online] Available at: <https://www.gccfcats.org/getting-a-cat/choosing/cat-breeds/bengal> [Accessed 4 Dec. 2022].
- Kuschmider, R. (n.d.). *What to Know About a British Shorthair*. [online] WebMD. Available at: <https://pets.webmd.com/cats/what-to-know-about-british-shorthair> [Accessed 6 May 2023].
- International Cat Care (2018a). *British Shorthair | International Cat Care*. [online] icatcare.org. Available at: <https://icatcare.org/advice/british-shorthair/#:~:text=British%20Shorthairs%20are%20generally%20a> [Accessed 10 Apr. 2023].
- International Cat Care (2018b). *Hypertrophic CardioMyopathy (HCM) & Testing | International Cat Care*. [online] icatcare.org. Available at: <https://icatcare.org/advice/hypertrophic-cardiomyopathy-hcm-and-testing/>.

Bibliography

Godfrey, R. et, al (2010). *Pug - Brachycephalic Airway Obstruction Syndrome (BAOS) - UFAW*. [online] Ufaw.org.uk. Available at: <https://www.ufaw.org.uk/dogs/pug-brachycephalic-airway-obstruction-syndrome> [Accessed Dec. 2022].

The Kennel Club (n.d.). *Brachycephalic Breathing Problems | Kennel Club*. [online] www.thekennelclub.org.uk. Available at: <https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/health-and-dog-care/health/health-and-care/a-z-of-health-and-care-issues/breathing-problems-brachycephalic-dogs/>.

The Ralph Veterinary Referral Centre (2021). *Brachycephalic Obstructive Airway Syndrome (BOAS) - Animation*. YouTube. Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kKiktGo4zUA> [Accessed 11 May 2023].

Cat Breeds not recognised by GCCF but with some recognition by WCC members. [online] p.2. Available at: <https://www.gccfcats.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Unrecognised-breeds.pdf> [Accessed 18 Dec. 2022].

Malik, R., Allan, G.S., Howlett, C.R., Thompson, D.E., James, G., McWhirter, C. and Kendall, K. (2008) 'Osteochondrodysplasia in Scottish fold cats.' *Australian veterinary journal*, 77(2), pp.85-92.

Godfrey, R. et al (2011). *Scottish Fold - Osteochondrodysplasia*. [online] www.ufaw.org.uk. Available at: <https://www.ufaw.org.uk/cats/scottish-fold-osteochondrodysplasia#list> [Accessed 7 Jun. 2023].

International Cat Care (2018). *Scottish Fold disease – osteochondrodysplasia | International Cat Care*. [online] icatcare.org. Available at: <https://icatcare.org/advice/scottish-fold-disease-osteochondrodysplasia/>.

Son, K. (2021). *What Dog Breeds Are Prone to Hip Dysplasia? Your Question Answered*. [online] Veterinarians.org. Available at: <https://www.veterinarians.org/what-dog-breeds-are-prone-to-hip-dysplasia/> [Accessed 6 Jun. 2023].

The Governing Council of the Cat Fancy. (2022). *Bengal - The Governing Council of the Cat Fancy*. [online] Available at: <https://www.gccfcats.org/getting-a-cat/choosing/cat-breeds/bengal> [Accessed 4 Dec. 2022].

Kuschmider, R. (n.d.). *What to Know About a British Shorthair*. [online] WebMD. Available at: <https://pets.webmd.com/cats/what-to-know-about-british-shorthair> [Accessed 6 May 2023].

International Cat Care (2018a). *British Shorthair | International Cat Care*. [online] icatcare.org. Available at: <https://icatcare.org/advice/british-shorthair/#:~:text=British%20Shorthairs%20are%20generally%20a> [Accessed 10 Apr. 2023].

International Cat Care (2018b). *Hypertrophic CardioMyopathy (HCM) & Testing | International Cat Care*. [online] icatcare.org. Available at: <https://icatcare.org/advice/hypertrophic-cardiomyopathy-hcm-and-testing/>.

Godfrey, R., et al (2011a). *Munchkin - Limb Deformity*. [online] www.ufaw.org.uk. Available at: <https://www.ufaw.org.uk/cats/munchkin-limb-deformity#clinical> [Accessed 7 Dec. 2022].

[Back to Contents](#)

Findings and Discussion

The Start of Each Dictatorship

Stalin's leadership as General Secretary became what could be described as a dictatorship in November 1927, when Leon Trotsky (Stalin's rival in the race to succeed Vladimir Lenin) was expelled from the CPSU, greatly diminishing Trotsky's influence. According to historian Moshe Lewin, Stalin had the most powerful role in government as General Secretary, and this combined with the expulsion of opposition effectively made Stalin the 'sole ruler' of the USSR (Lewin, 2005. p.38).

Putin's leadership could be said to have become dictatorial on the 7th of May 2000, when he was inaugurated as President of Russia. He was appointed Acting President in 1999, but becoming President meant that he now held the highest power in Russia and therefore possessed a greater ability to yield it. This can be evidenced by a decree passed only 6 days later to 'strengthen vertical power' (Gessen, 2012. p. 181). Journalist Masha Gessen describes this as the 'dismantling of . . . democratic structures' (Gessen, 2012. p. 181). Political analyst Tony Wood, who argues that Putin's presidency is a 'maturation' of the Yeltsin era (Wood, 2018. p.21), claims that Russia's system was already undemocratic. This supports my argument that the inauguration of Putin gave him dictatorial power over Russia

The Early Lives of Both Figures

Joseph Stalin (born Iosif Djugashvili, Georgia, 1878) was son to a poor, abusive and alcoholic father. He became a full-time revolutionary in 1899, committing crimes in order to accumulate funds for the Socialist movement, such as the Tiflis bank robbery of 1907. Stalin may have wanted to gain the power which he lacked in his childhood due to the poverty and abuse he experienced, and possibly wanted to defy men in authority positions because they 'reminded him of his father' (Iremashvili, 1932). This could explain Stalin's disagreements with Trotsky and Lenin, who were generally highly regarded because of perceived successes in the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917. Stalin's 'brutal' personality (Applebaum, 2014) could be partially attributed to this, and could suggest that he was already planning something resembling the Great Purge of 1936-8 to exact his revenge on those who he viewed as enemies.

Putin was born in 1952, Leningrad. This was eight years after it was sieged in World War Two; over a million citizens lost their lives. During the siege, his father was injured and his mother almost died of starvation. Putin spent much of his childhood in the courtyard by his flat, described by Gessen as populated by 'thugs, cursing and fistfights' (Gessen, 2012). The President often perpetuates the image of being a 'thug' in his youth, which could possibly have stemmed from experiences of post-war Leningrad. According to journalist Katie Strick, trauma 'from his parents' could have led to 'impulsiveness' and 'aggression' (Strick, 2022). This could mean that Putin was inclined towards violence when considering his political ambitions, seen by Russia's recent war crimes in Ukraine (Human Rights Watch, 2022).

Putin joined the KGB in 1975 and was officially part of the service until 1990, when the Soviet Union began to crumble; a 'catastrophe' (Putin, 2005) in Putin's eyes. The President was presented with Soviet propaganda throughout his early life, which portrayed the USSR in a positive light. It is no surprise that Putin would share this view, especially because he was loyal to one of its key institutions. This differs from Stalin, as before becoming a Soviet he actively rebelled against the Romanov rule (Lewin, 2005). Therefore, it could be argued that Stalin wanted to radically change Russia whilst Putin was undetachable from Communist era tradition (Wood, 2018).

Public Image

Putin chose to portray the image of an 'iron-fisted ruler' (Gessen, 2012), whilst 'Stalin' translates to 'man of steel'. This suggests that both conjured a similar image, indicating that they wanted to be strong political figures whose rule would be received with submission.

The reason these leaders may have felt the need to rule in this way could be because Russia (in their view) may not have been as 'great' as it was in their earlier lives. Russia's GDP throughout the 1990's was low and had experienced a further decline from 1997-1999 (World Bank, 2021). Somewhat similarly, in 1927 Russia had a high rural population, lagging behind industrialised countries. Putin has described the fall of the USSR a 'catastrophe' and Stalin stated that 'the people need a Tsar', contrasting with his revolutionary past (D. L. Brandenberger and A. M. Dubrovsky, 1998. pp.1). This could suggest that Putin wanted to reclaim the superpower status of the USSR and Stalin the prestige of the Russian Empire.

The Sociopolitical Climates of 1927 and 2000

In comparing Stalin and Putin's ambitions, it is important to mention how the formation of NATO has limited Russian military power. In addition, the development of the Internet allows Russian citizens to access information from the global community. As NATO and the Internet did not exist in 1927, Stalin was able to act immorally without fear of widespread knowledge of the international community and the consequences this could bring. Putin's ambitions may have been limited by these factors, meaning that he could have created alternatives in order to maintain his position.

The Soviet war scare in the summer of 1927 put the Communist Party on edge. Whether this was fabricated or not is debated among historians, however it had a significant impact on the sociopolitical climate. According to historian Shekarloo, Stalin exploited this and 'derived the greatest benefit from it': the expulsion of Trotsky from the Politburo and the increase of Stalin's personal power (Shekarloo, 2009. p.1).

Similar to the Soviet war scare, tensions were growing between Russia and Chechnya in 2000. Multiple apartment bombings in Russia, 1999, which resulted in the death of hundreds (Gessen, 2014) were initially attributed to Chechen terrorists. According to Gessen, Russians were in a constant state of fear. In late 1999 and early 2000, Putin sent troops (illegally) into Chechnya's capital, killing tens of thousands of civilians (Wood, 2018. pp.19). According to historian Tony Wood (2018), this response made Putin's popularity ratings soar within months.

The aforementioned examples could demonstrate that both leaders utilised and possibly fuelled conflict to their advantage, suggesting that they planned to subjugate 'their' populations to a degree of terror in order to maintain control.

A Radical Plan?

When Stalin's first five-year plan to essentially modernise the USSR was implemented in the late 1920's, it caused a famine which killed an estimated seven million people, the vast majority being Ukrainian (Applebaum, 2022). It is doubtful that this was a perfect execution of Stalin's plan, historian Abraham Ascher describes the 'consensus among historians' being that it was a 'catastrophic failure' (Ascher, 2017. p.87). Vlodymyr Zelenskyy described this famine as a 'genocide' (Zelenskyy, 2020), suggesting an intention to eradicate the Ukrainian identity, however historian Anne Applebaum argues that we lack conclusive evidence to label it a genocide. Even so, we can use the numerous documents signed by Stalin permitting mass executions during 1936-8 (Ascher, 2016) to suggest that he didn't value the lives of his citizens, therefore could have intended for a significant number of Ukrainians to die.

This would eliminate non-Russian nationalism (which could lead to Ukrainian independence from the USSR) and create a docile, homogenous state which could be more easily controlled. However, it is still important to note that modernising Russia was one of Stalin's priorities. This supports my previous suggestion that Stalin wanted to replicate the power of the Russian Empire.

Whilst Stalin possessed a radical plan to change Russia, according to Wood Putin is a 'continuation of Yeltsin's [rule]' (Wood, 2018. n.p). Putin did not show that he had plans to change the way Russia operated from the post-Soviet era and appears to be more interested in 'empirical conquest' (Johnson, 2022). Putin's desire to rebuild Russia's superpower status can be seen in annexations of post-soviet regions, especially Crimea.

Here we could see the ambitions of the two as contrasting: Stalin wanted to radically modernise Russia whilst Putin wanted to revert to Russia's past. Ultimately, both ambitions had the same reasoning; to restore national pride. In Stalin's case by creating a modern and powerful country and in Putin's by recreating Russia's image as a Cold War superpower.

'Insatiable Greed'

Gessen states that Putin suffers from 'the insatiable desire to have what rightfully belongs to others' (Gessen, 2012. p.227), as evidenced by witness accounts dating back to his university years. Much of Putin's estimated net worth of \$200 billion is highly likely to have been gained by exploiting his powerful role (The Federal, 2022), shown by the 'meat scandal' of the 1990's in which activist Marina Salye claimed that Putin embezzled at least \$92 million (Harding, 2012). This could suggest that Putin planned to continue enriching himself by exploiting his position, which according to Gessen he 'failed to distinguish [from] the state' (Gessen, 2012. p.260), therefore entwining his political and personal ambitions. This could link to the multiple annexations which took place under Putin's rule, as the 'greed' described by Gessen could extend to a desire to claim more territory.

Like Putin, Stalin is considered as one of the richest people of his time during his leadership, mainly because the entire Russian economy was under his command (Editors of Forbes, 2023). According to the newspaper Pravda, in 1932 Stalin owned (among other properties) a 1000 square metre dacha (Gamov, 2003. np)- a stark contrast to the average 4.4 square metres of living space per capita in 1936 European Russia (Lewin, 2005. p.64). This could suggest that socialism was no longer Stalin's main goal by 1932 at the latest; he enjoyed the benefits of his powerful position and likely wanted to continue doing so, similarly to Putin.

Eradication of Opposition

The Great Purge of 1936-8 caused 'rampant terror throughout the Soviet Union' (Editors of History.com, 2022), eradicating much of Stalin's opposition by death or fear, and is considered to have begun with the assassination of Sergei Kirov in 1934 (Editors of History.com, 2022), only six years prior to 1928. This means that Stalin would have likely been planning the Purge at this time, especially considering his 'brutal' personality.

Whilst still attempting to eradicate opposition, Putin's approach is different. According to Applebaum, he does not use 'mass violence' as Stalin did, but 'targeted violence' (Applebaum, 2013. p.6). Critics of Putin who become too powerful are somehow punished and used as a public example to incite fear (which could be compared to Stalin's show trials). An example of this could be Alexander Litvinenko, who fled Russia and became 'Putin's most needling critic' (Harding, 2016). He was poisoned in 2006, and stated that Vladimir Putin had ordered for this to happen. This view is shared by others such as Gessen. There are a multitude of cases resembling this, starting from very early on and even before Putin's rule, strongly suggesting that he had planned to use this strategy in 2000. This also shows that Putin, in a similar way to Stalin, may not have valued people's lives, suggesting that he was prepared to sacrifice them in order to maintain his rule.

Conclusion

Stalin and Putin had ambitions of creating what they viewed as a greater Russia through subjecting their populations to terror and attempting to reclaim aspects of the regimes before them. Both had troubled childhoods which could have changed their perception of the value of human life, allowing them to make arguably immoral decisions. Possibly because of societal change between 1927 and 2000, the ways in which they endeavoured this differed: Putin was committed to restoring tradition whilst Stalin was a revolutionary who believed in modernising Russia. Further study on this topic may include additional research into Stalin's Purges and the true limitations of Putin's power on a global scale.

[Back to Contents](#)

Bibliography Next Slide

Bibliography

Ascher, A., 2016. *Stalin: A Beginner's Guide*. Simon and Schuster.

Rex, J., 2013. *The Man Without a Face: The Unlikely Rise of Vladimir Putin*. Trans-pasando Fronteras.

Lewin, M., 2005. *The soviet century*. Verso.

Dymmond, J. (2021) *Putin*, BBC Sounds. BBC. Available at: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/brand/m0015nfd> (Accessed: April 25, 2023).

Applebaum, A. (2013) 'Putinism: The Ideology', LSE Ideas[Preprint].

Putin, V.V. (2021) Article by Vladimir Putin "on the historical unity of Russians and Ukrainians", President of Russia. Kremlin.ru. Available at: <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/66181> (Accessed: April 25, 2023).

Wood, T. (2020) *Russia without Putin: Money, power and the myths of the new Cold War*. London: Verso.

Editors of the Encyclopedia of Ukraine (ed.) (2021) Famine Genocide of 1932, Encyclopedia of Ukraine. Available at: <http://www.encyclopediaofukraine.com/display.asp?linkpath=pages%5CF%5CA%5CFamine6Genocideof1932hD73.htm> (Accessed: April 25, 2023).

Service, R., 2009. *The Russian Revolution*. 4th Edition. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

Shekarloo, M.A.P. (2010) *The war scare 1926-27*, GRIN. Available at: <https://www.grin.com/document/144890> (Accessed: April 25, 2023).

Editors of Encyclopædia Britannica (2023) Joseph Stalin, Encyclopædia Britannica. Encyclopædia Britannica, inc. Available at: <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Joseph-Stalin> (Accessed: April 25, 2023).

Editor of the Guardian 1927 (1927) From the archive: The expulsion of Trotsky from the Soviet Party, The Guardian. Guardian News and Media. Available at: <https://www.theguardian.com/news/1927/nov/16/mainsection.fromthearchive> (Accessed: April 25, 2023).

Daniels. Encyclopædia Britannica. (2023). Leon Trotsky. Available from: <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Leon-Trotsky>. (Accessed: 28/03/23)

Brandenberger, D.L. and Dubrovsky, A.M. (1998) 'the people need a tsar': The emergence of national bolshevism, JSTOR. JSTOR. Available at: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/153897> (Accessed: April 25, 2023).

Suny, R.G. (2022) *Fortune's Knave*, Princeton University. The Trustees of Princeton University. Available at: <https://press.princeton.edu/ideas/fortunes-knave> (Accessed: April 25, 2023).

Fitzpatrick, S. (2017) Red famine by Anne Applebaum Review – did Stalin deliberately let Ukraine starve?, The Guardian. Guardian News and Media. Available at: <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2017/aug/25/red-famine-stalins-war-on-ukraine-anne-applebaum-review> (Accessed: April 25, 2023).

Etkind, A. (2018) "Stalin's Intention and Lemkin's Silence," *Contemporary European History*. Cambridge University Press, 27(3), p. 456–459. doi: 10.1017/S0960777318000334

Editors of National Museum of the Holodomor (2020) Volodymyr Zelensky: The holodomor is not a social or economic tragedy, it is a genocide," National Museum of the Holodomor. National Museum of the Holodomor-Genocide. Available at: <https://holodomormuseum.org.ua/en/news/thevolodymyr-zelensky-the-holodomor-is-not-a-social-or-economic-tragedy-it-is-a-genocide/> (Accessed: April 25, 2023).

Bibliography cont.

- Amount of Economic Activity Gross Domestic Production Nominal Per Capita Russia (no date) Timelines explorer - data commons. Data Commons. Available at:*
https://datacommons.org/tools/timeline#place=country%2FRUS&statsVar=Amount_EconomicActivity_GrossDomesticProduction_Nominal_PerCapita&chart=%7B%22amount%22%3A%7B%22delta%22%3Afalse%2C%22pc%22%3Afalse%7D%7D (Accessed: April 25, 2023).
- Gregory, P.R. (2015) Deconstructing Putin's approval ratings: One thousand casualties for every point, Forbes. Forbes Magazine. Available at:*
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/paulroderickgregory/2015/06/08/deconstructing-putins-approval-ratings-one-thousand-casualties-for-every-point/?sh=5f1d1a4e4c3f> (Accessed: April 25, 2023).
- Milton, G. (2021) When Stalin robbed a bank, Aspects of History. Aspects of History. Available at:*
<https://aspectsofhistory.com/when-stalin-robbed-a-bank/> (Accessed: April 25, 2023).
- Applebaum, A. (2014) Understanding Stalin, The Atlantic. Atlantic Media Company. Available at:*
<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2014/11/understanding-stalin/380786/> (Accessed: April 25, 2023).
- Strick, K. (2022) Putin at 70 - from a childhood being chased by rats to a pandemic of paranoia, Evening Standard. Evening Standard. Available at:*
<https://www.standard.co.uk/insider/vladimir-putin-70-russia-ukraine-war-background-president-life-covid-pandemic-b988399.html> (Accessed: April 25, 2023).
- Fel'shtinskii IUṛii and Stanchev, M.G. (2022) Blowing up Ukraine: The return of russian terror and the threat of World War III. London, Britain: Gibson Square.*
- Editors of History.com (no date) Great terror: 1937, Stalin & Russia - History, History.com. A&E Television Networks. Available at:*
<https://www.history.com/topics/european-history/great-purge> (Accessed: April 25, 2023).
- Harding, L. (2016) Alexander Litvinenko: The man who solved his own murder , The Guardian. Guardian News and Media. Available at:*
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/jan/19/alexander-litvinenko-the-man-who-solved-his-own-murder> (Accessed: April 25, 2023).
- Editors of Forbes (2023) Real time billionaires, Forbes. Forbes Magazine. Available at:*
<https://www.forbes.com/real-time-billionaires/#39e987fa3d78> (Accessed: April 25, 2023).
- Harding, L. (2012) Marina Salye, The Guardian. Guardian News and Media. Available at:*
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2012/mar/28/marina-salye> (Accessed: April 25, 2023).
- ГАМОВ, А. (2022) Дух Сталина бродит по трем его любимым дачам, kp.ru. Pravda. Available at:*
<https://www.kp.ru/daily/23179/25426/> (Accessed: April 25, 2023).
- Unidentified BBC Correspondent (2007) Scars remain amid Chechen revival, BBC News. BBC. Available at:*
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/from_our_own_correspondent/6414603.stm (Accessed: April 30, 2023).
- Applebaum, A. (2022) Holodomor, Encyclopædia Britannica. Encyclopædia Britannica, inc. Available at:*
<https://www.britannica.com/event/Holodomor> (Accessed: April 30, 2023).
- Schlögel, K. (2022) Ukraine: A nation on the Borderland. London: Reaktion Books.*
- Unknown Author (2022) Ukraine: Apparent war crimes in Russia-controlled areas, Human Rights Watch. Available at:*
<https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/04/03/ukraine-apparent-war-crimes-russia-controlled-areas> (Accessed: 26 May 2023).
- The Federal (2022) Vladimir Putin's wealth: \$1.4bn mansion, 700 cars, 58 aircraft, and more, The Federal. Available at:*
<https://thefederal.com/international/vladimir-putins-wealth-1-4bn-mansion-700-cars-58-aircraft-mega-yacht-and-more/> (Accessed: 26 May 2023).
- World Bank (2021) GDP growth (annual %) - russian federation, World Bank Open Data. Available at:*
<https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.MKTP.KD.ZG?locations=RU> (Accessed: 26 May 2023).

The first thing to address is always the cost. I have yet to see a monarchy debate that does not somehow include the words ‘taxpayers’, ‘tourism’ or ‘sovereign grant’: even I mentioned it in just the second paragraph. From side to side, millions to billions are bandied about, fact-checked then denounced, and so the cycle repeats again. Just the coronation is said to bring [£350 million](#) in the hospitality sector alone, and [£1.2 billion](#) in related celebrations, far outweighing even the highest predicted cost. Not to mention yet more royal events; Harry and Meghan’s wedding brought a reported [£500 million](#), while one source estimated a whole [£1.77 billion](#) in 2017 alone. But as the vicious cycle turns, these statistics too are brought under scrutiny; Republic, a leading anti-monarchy organisation, could find [no actual evidence](#) to support the £500 million figure, while estimating the family’s true ‘hidden cost’ at [£345 million](#) a year. In addition, that £1.2 billion figure covers the potential benefits of any overnight stay over the bank holiday weekend, even if it has absolutely nothing to do with the monarchy; essentially, you could record a similar figure for May Day, and call it a sign of the continuing inherent worth of paganism to the British economy. And after all, surely the election of a president too calls for celebration?

But what about the brand? After all, when Chinese consumers of British luxury goods, a [£48 billion](#) industry worldwide, were asked the reason why they bought the goods they did, an association with the Royal Family came top of the list. One major factor is the Royal Warrant, which states whether a company supplies Buckingham Palace; according to [David Haigh](#), chairman of Brand Finance, [‘Royal Warrants drive increased consideration and are a real economic benefit to British brands and therefore the British economy’](#).

Hard to get a more ringing endorsement than that.

Therefore, it seems the Royal Family is a key and inherent part of our national image, and has a major impact on soft power and the selling power of British goods worldwide. No matter how much they cost, it seems they always bring back more in return, at least financially, and so have a tangible positive impact on the fortunes of the country as a whole. In fact, to a certain kind of royalist at least, the real question is why we need to pay them at all. Charles is worth [£1.8 billion](#) in total assets, 545 times the amount needed to be a member of the top 1% in the UK. Income from the Duchies of Lancaster and Cornwall goes straight to the monarch, reportedly bringing in the equivalent of £1.2 billion in the last 70 years, or around £17 million each year. In essence, they have no need of cash, and to Charles the [£86.3 million](#) sovereign grant is a [4.79%](#) drop in the ocean, hardly needed at all.

With all the status, the respect, the protection, in addition to being able to sell their very brand for [shedloads of cash](#) (even if it all goes to charity), it seems they are paid enough already. Forget republic, why not all the benefits with none of the cost?

But to many republicans this is not far enough, with at least one very good reason. It's quite simple: the monarchy is not democratic. Never really has been and, in its current state at least, is unlikely to ever will be. Numerous examples are given for this. One is the archaic system of [King's Consent](#), where any bill affecting royal interests must gain royal approval; while today this is the decision of the government, the monarchy can still wield power through it, and there is extensive evidence that, especially in Scotland, [‘some bills were changed before introduction to address concerns about crown consent \(the name by which King's consent is known in Scotland\)’](#). These bills range from Coronavirus legislation to fire safety, many of which are likely to have a tangible impact on the lives of citizens, changed due to an unelected head of state, ruling by ‘God-given’ birth.

But there is a final issue. Monarchy is not fair. It is an institution that represents an ever changing country while they remain stoically still; [less than 3%](#) of the population regularly attend a church service at the church they are sworn to defend, the CofE; [14% of the country](#) belongs to a BAME background, while they remain almost entirely white; [15% of the country](#) is estimated to be neurodivergent, while they remain, in the open at least, entirely neurotypical. With an elected head of state, although it may take years of democratic process, this could one day end. Just as we have had ethnic minority Prime Ministers, neurodivergent cabinet ministers and Muslim Mayors of London, we may one day have a head of state who truly represents the ‘British values’ of equality, justice and fairness our monarchs are said to hold so dear. Until then, millions may go unseen.

And yet, with all this, so much remains to be explored. How would a future presidency look, how political would it be, the unifying and stabilising impacts of monarchical systems, what the monarchy actually represents in the UK, and to its citizens, in addition to so much more. With a debate as multi-faceted and potentially divisive as this, there will always be another angle, and, if you are interested, I would encourage you to find it. Republic, the organisation mentioned earlier, has many articles on topics like these; for counterbalance, everywhere from the Royal Family website to far smaller local sites has article with counterpoints, extolling the family's worth. Enjoy!

[Back to Contents](#)



Autistic advocates told Sia that this should not be included in her film, as an uneducated person may see it and think it a good idea to restrain someone having a meltdown like that.

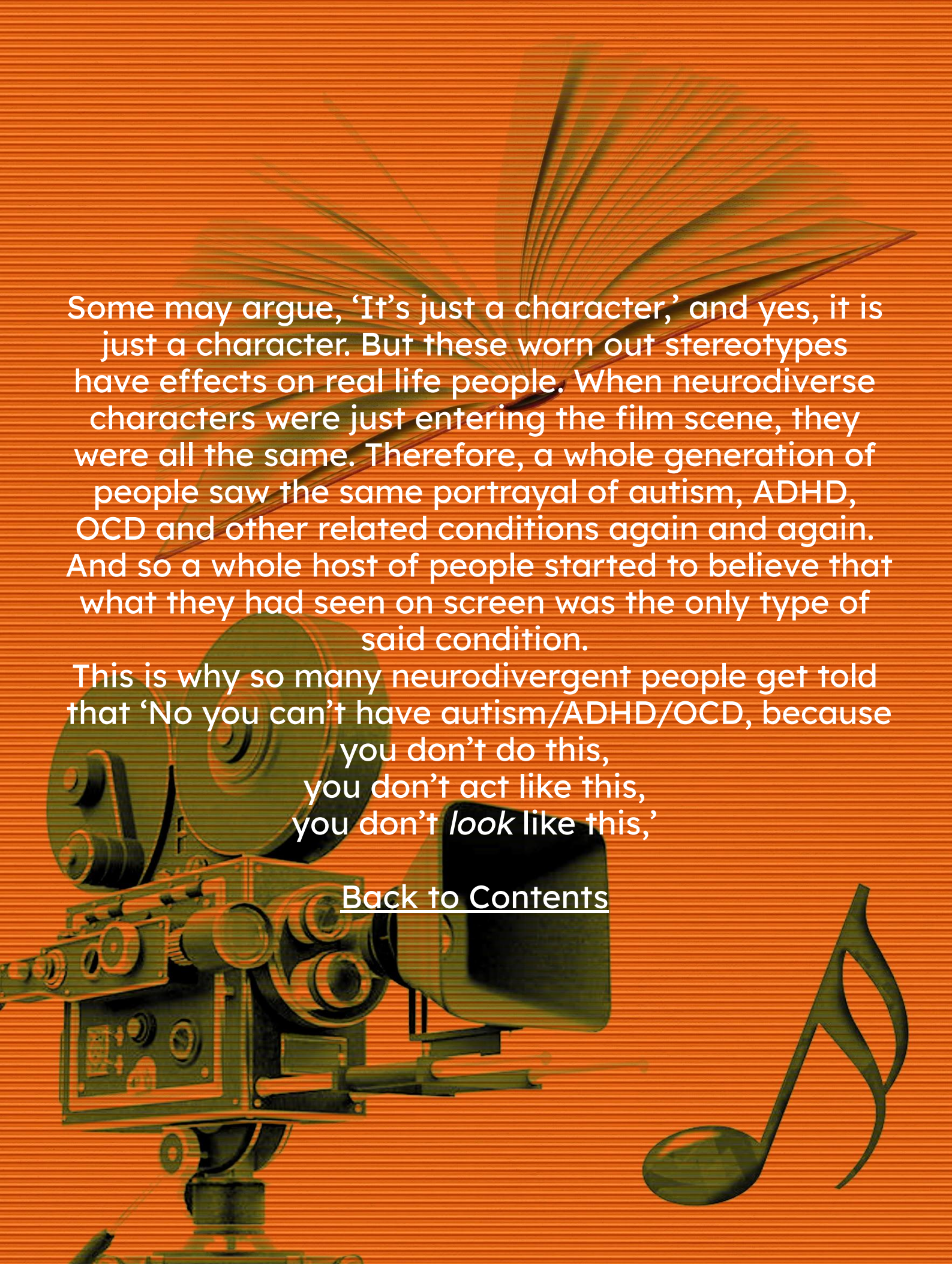
In mainstream films about neurodivergent characters, how many times have you seen a character with OCD break down in tears because they can't deal with their thoughts and compulsions? How many times have you seen a character with ADHD take hours to get something done because they are constantly distracted? How many times have you seen an autistic character that has high support needs?

I'm going to guess once or twice at most.

These are the other sides to neurodiverse conditions/disorders and I for one would like to see different portrayals of these conditions/disorders. I want to relate with a character with OCD, not just watch them wash their hands.

As the world becomes more open minded, it's time to show more sides of neurodivergent people's stories in film and TV.

Please research neurodiversity and mental illness so you can educate yourself and support your loved ones.



Some may argue, 'It's just a character,' and yes, it is just a character. But these worn out stereotypes have effects on real life people. When neurodiverse characters were just entering the film scene, they were all the same. Therefore, a whole generation of people saw the same portrayal of autism, ADHD, OCD and other related conditions again and again. And so a whole host of people started to believe that what they had seen on screen was the only type of said condition.

This is why so many neurodivergent people get told that 'No you can't have autism/ADHD/OCD, because you don't do this, you don't act like this, you don't *look* like this,'

[Back to Contents](#)

6. Diversity of characters

The comic industry is home to a variety of characters. They all come from different backgrounds, ethnicities, genders, sexualities and races. Besides their exterior differences, they also behave in their own ways and have distinct personalities. Each of them has their own past and story to tell. Comic books have the most diverse characters in general. With so many options, there is certainly something out there for everyone. Any reader can find a character they relate to, aspire to be like or simply find interesting.

5. Best of both worlds

There are people who enjoy textual media eg books and those who like visual media eg films. Well comics have the best of both worlds. Graphic novels are able to incorporate visual panels as well as text bubbles and often text boxes which read like book paragraphs. This allows for fans of both mediums to enjoy stories equally.

4. More depth

Movies are often singular, with some luck they could get a few sequels, shows are usually cancelled after a few seasons, (most) books encapsulate the writer's vision whether that be one book or multiple sagas. Successful comic runs on the other hand may last for multiple decades. Even if they don't, they will have dozens of issues. This amount of stories can not be rivalled by anything else. There is just so much development of the characters, their world and the story that cannot be condensed into a film or show in a satisfying way.

3. Not afraid to stray from reality

Most films and shows try to stay realistic and grounded so the viewer can still imagine themselves in the protagonist's position. Comics, on the other hand, can get much more absurd. Comics can get really weird at times. However, do not let that make you think that you will not get invested. Even though the stakes can get unrealistic and the story all over the place, it all makes sense in universe. Let's say you read Secret Wars where heroes and villains are transported off Earth and are forced to fight by the Beyonder. It may sound like nonsense to a regular man but when you actually start, you will be worried for the characters and be eager to find out what happens next.

2. A medium, not a genre

When people think of comics, the first thought that comes to most of their minds is superheroes. There is nothing wrong with that, however comics go beyond just superheroes. Graphic novels are a medium and not a genre. Simply because superheroes overshadow the rest, it doesn't make others disappear. There are numerous genres in comics including romance, horror, satire, comedy, drama, historic piece, sci fi, etc which aren't part of superhero stories.

Nevertheless, the superhero genre itself contains subgenres. I like to think of superhero comics as a large collection of a wide range of stories. You can pick up a detective Batman story, a romance and drama Spider-Man comic, a gladiator Hulk comic, a patriotic captain america comic, and so on.

1. Pop Culture Icons

The comic book industry has crafted countless iconic characters. Debatably many characters are more iconic than live action characters or their actors. Once you start thinking about it, you will realise how many characters are actually rooted in comics. To name a few there's: Spider-Man, Batman, Superman, the Hulk, Wonder Woman, the Fantastic Four, X-Men, Spawn. The list goes on and on. Considering how many household names came from comics, it is shocking to see how the medium is disregarded.

[Back to Contents](#)

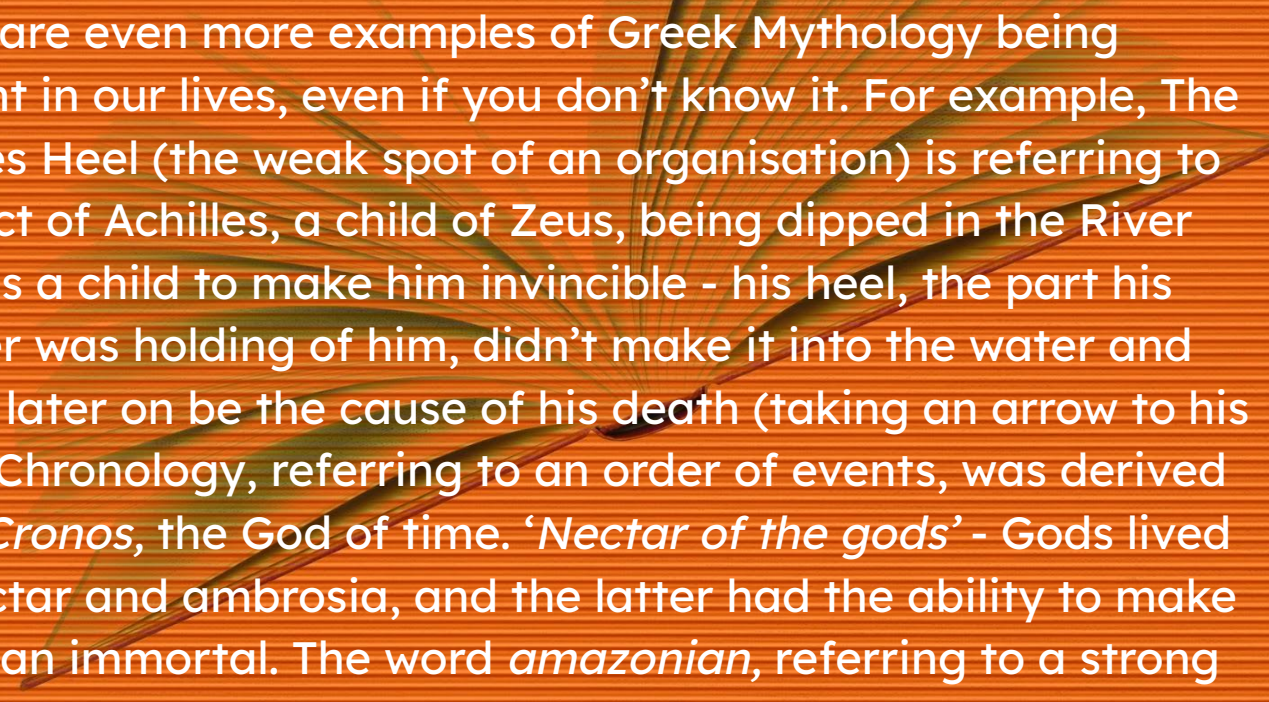
It generally just makes me laugh seeing people just talk about Achilles, Patroclus, Briseis, and Thetis etc. so casually on TikTok. I wonder what the Ancient Greeks would think of that.

Another reference to Greek mythology in modern/western culture, that I love, is in Hamilton's "Burn". In this song, Eliza Hamilton is singing about her husband, Alexander Hamilton's affair, one she just found out about. The lyric is,

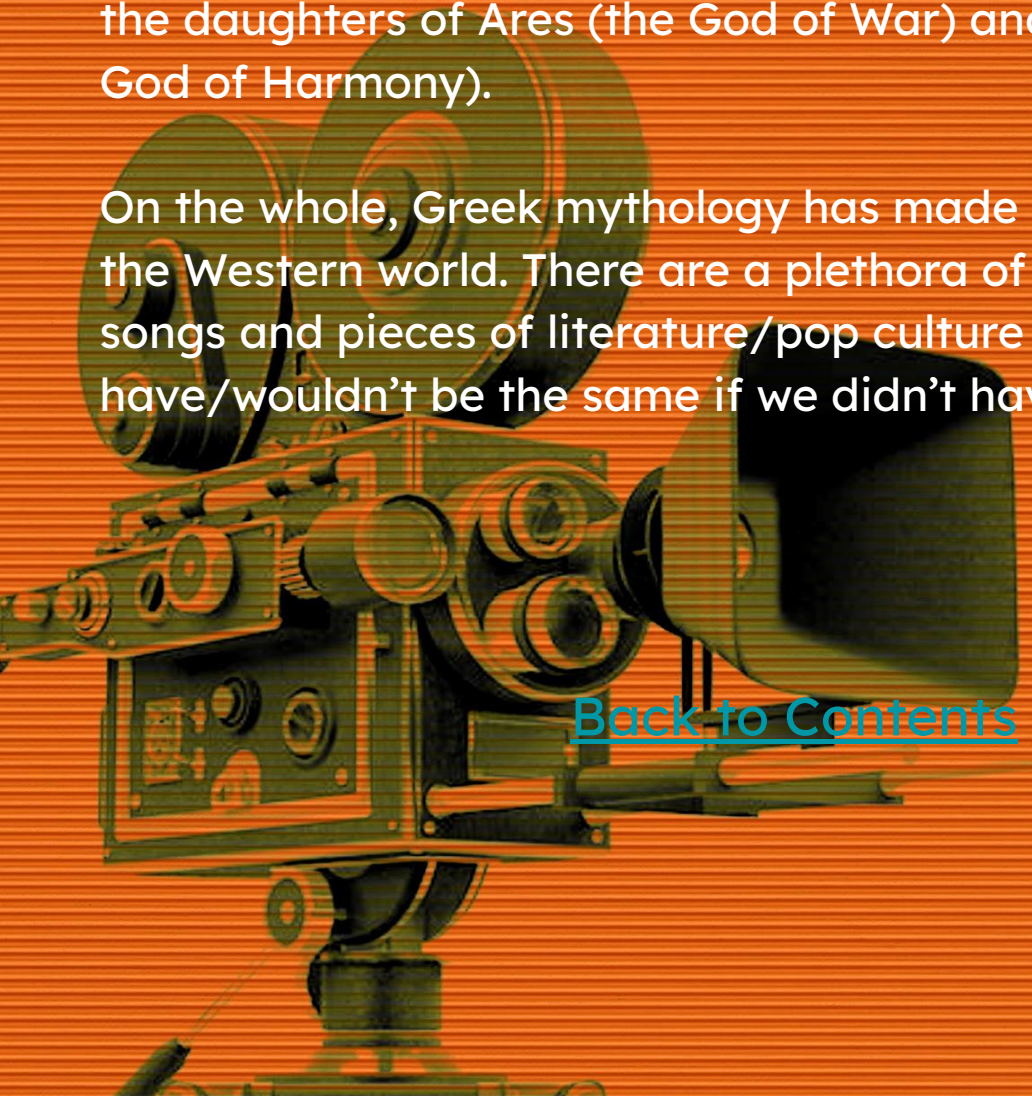
*"Do you know what Angelica said,
When she'd read what you'd done?
'You have married an **Icarus**,
He has flown too close to the sun"*

Flying too close to the sun is obviously a very well known phrase, but not often used in lyrical context or writing. However, in either case, they mean the same thing.

In Greek mythology, Icarus, the son of Daedalus (a mythical inventor) ignored his father's warnings about flying too close to the sun with the wings he made out of wax and feathers and, in consequence, falls into the sea and drowns. This was Icarus' fatal flaw - his excessive pride and confidence - and the song is reflecting that in saying that Hamilton's fatal flaw is his overconfidence and cockiness. In fact, whenever the phrase "*don't fly too close to the sun*" is used again, now you know the context and the moral tale - don't let your overconfidence take over, or you will come to a negative conclusion as a result.



There are even more examples of Greek Mythology being present in our lives, even if you don't know it. For example, The Achilles Heel (the weak spot of an organisation) is referring to the fact of Achilles, a child of Zeus, being dipped in the River Styx as a child to make him invincible - his heel, the part his mother was holding of him, didn't make it into the water and would later on be the cause of his death (taking an arrow to his heel). Chronology, referring to an order of events, was derived from *Cronos*, the God of time. '*Nectar of the gods*' - Gods lived on nectar and ambrosia, and the latter had the ability to make a human immortal. The word *amazonian*, referring to a strong woman, comes from the Amazons, a tribe of Warrior women, the daughters of Ares (the God of War) and Harmonia (the God of Harmony).



On the whole, Greek mythology has made a huge impact on the Western world. There are a plethora of phrases, words, songs and pieces of literature/pop culture that we wouldn't have/wouldn't be the same if we didn't have Greek mythology.

[Back to Contents](#)



However, Switzerland is also full of good memories. I was living there eleven years, which is equivalent to most of my life, and I found there my first friend who stayed my friend for eight years, still being my best friend today. Again, I had to leave her when I was eight, moving from Schaffhausen to Zurich which is a whole hour away with the car. We couldn't see them often, but we didn't break our contact either.

In Uster, which is a small town near Zurich, it was much prettier than in Schaffhausen. There was much forest around, and lakes in which I loved to swim. Schaffhausen was also a pretty town, especially near the Rheinfall which I often explored on a boat, but Uster was something totally different. Also the culture was different from what I had experienced in Schaffhausen, but in a slightly worse way.

However, my flat was beautiful and I loved the view when I looked out of the windows. The windows were big, but the flat was also very expensive (Switzerland is a very expensive country) so we had it hard to deal with those prices. Still, the streets were very clean there (pretty clean compared to Poland or UK) and I loved to walk around the town just to feel this nice atmosphere around me. I liked Switzerland, especially because it is so small and we were near the mountains which are scattered all around the country. I liked it there, also because of the clear snow we received in Winter and the sun we received in Summer. It was all I ever wanted.

When I was twelve my father found a job in England and we had to move to the UK. I was shocked by how big England is and how long it takes just to drive from London to Brighton. Also the noise around me was unbelievable, I hadn't experienced such noise for ages! Moving from such a small country like Switzerland to such a great country like England was a big change for me. I am now further from my Grandmother than I am from Switzerland which also made me sad to think about half a year ago.

When I started school it was pretty difficult to me to get used to the new language. I wasn't hearing a word of German at school which made me feel afraid at first. The education was also much more advanced than in Switzerland which made me realise how strange it is here. Back there I had just four subjects and one teacher, now I have twice as much subjects and many different teachers. The school I was going to in Switzerland consisted of just 300 students, Blatchington has about 1600 students in it. Everything was new to me, including lunch break which I have to spend at school now rather than at home as in Switzerland, and holidays which are here much shorter than in Switzerland, except the summer holidays which are here longer about a week or so.

Healthcare here isn't as helpful as it was in Switzerland or Poland. Certain medication isn't available in England which it is in other countries. Also, if you want to get specific help in England, you need to wait for quite long to receive it, whereas in Switzerland you get it right away and in Poland you can get private help meanwhile. In England there's lack of mental therapy, and to receive help from a professional you have to be very patient.

The weather in the UK is also totally different from what I was used to in Switzerland. Here the weather changes rapidly, one day it's sunny and the next day very rainy, but in Switzerland the weather is more regulated. Also, Switzerland is much cleaner than UK (no offence!), and the streets are there more easily to drive on, not so 'curvy' like here in England. However, England has also many things that Switzerland hasn't. For example these many festivals that take place throughout the year, or the high support of LGBTQ+ members which I never noticed in Switzerland or Poland before. And also the beautiful sea in Brighton, and the beaches in Dorset; it's beautiful! The culture here is also very friendly, supporting every type of person. That's why I think the UK is special. I love it here, as much as I loved it in Switzerland and Poland. Each country is different, each country is special.

[Back to Contents](#)