



The Lexington Concord

Welcome to LHS!

By: Ariel L.

Welcome to Lexington Alyson Berg and Carter Bivens

Mrs. Berg is new to the Math Department this school year. She is teaching the Geometry courses. Before moving to Lexington with her husband, Mrs. Berg taught at North Union High School. Mrs. Berg says that what makes Lexington so special are the students, staff, and the community. She enjoys coming to work each morning and the community has treated her like one of their own since she moved here. Mrs. Berg graduated from Northmor High School and Bowling Green State University. Her favorite television show is *Friends*.

Mr. Bivens was hired to teach music and direct the Band of Gold at Lexington High School. Mr. Bivens came to Lexington High School from Ada High School where he taught for the previous three years. He attended The Ohio State University, and he was a member of the OSU Marching Band. Mr. Bivens played the baritone at OSU. He has led band camps at Mt. Gilead High School and Ottawa-Glandorf High School. Mr. Bivens came to Lexington for two main reasons; to lead and teach a band program that values real band instruction, and to move closer to family. He loves how the community and the band program welcomed him.



The incomparable [Script Ohio](#)



Halloween

By McKenzie L.



That crisp feel is in the air again. The leaves are falling once more, announcing the presence of a new season. Everyone is starting to decorate, stores have been getting ready. People have been buying candy and costumes for all ages. Whether you like the pumpkin spice feel of fall, the scary feel of the holiday with scary movies, or don't like either, you have to admit; Halloween is fascinating. A spooky time of year where it's acceptable to dress in fun costumes and scare each other. Or, a time of hiding in fear until the season is over.

History of Halloween

Halloween wasn't always the holiday we know now. In fact, it wasn't always called Halloween. Halloween was believed to be developed from the Celtic festival called Samhain. The Celtic holiday was celebrated near November 1st. At this time in the year the air is colder and it gets dark sooner. The seasons are changing and the Ancient Celts believed that this was the time of the year where the barrier between the alive and dead was thinnest. They would make bonfires, dress up, and eat sweets. There was a reason for dressing up as well. They believed that dressing up as monsters and costumes would scare off evil spirits that came while the barrier was thin. This also led to Christians creating All Saints' day. They didn't like the fact that the idea of Halloween wasn't really Christian and didn't agree with their ideals. So, they tried to make it their own. November 2nd, became All Souls day, a day for remembering the saints. The Christian leaders switched it so that All Saints' day became Hallows Day. October 31st became All Hallows Eve. Which is what made it become Halloween today. Halloween is said have been brought to America by Irish and Scottish settlers...

For more information, you can watch this video!: [The History Of Halloween](#)

Creepy Events in Ohio

- For delicious fun, check out Apple Hill Orchard. They have apples that you can pick or just come in and buy! They sell amazing apple cider, doughnuts, and so many apple goodies! The link to their website: [Apple Hill Orchards](#)
- Another spooky experience is the Cincinnati Fear Fest. This one is a bit further out but from what I've seen, it looks like people agree it's worth it. There are four different haunted houses and multiple different booths and areas to hang out. General admission is \$28. It's said that there are scare actors but they are rather friendly to younger kids, but still beware! The link to the website: [Ohio Haunted Houses & Bars | Attractions at Cincinnati Fear Fest](#)
- A new event happening is the Haunted Speedway Nights! It's taking place at the raceway track at 400 Crall Road, Mansfield Ohio. The tickets get cheaper the closer they are to the event but are usually \$30 per person. It seems to be enjoyable and maybe even a surprise at the end? While it is up to the specific family, it's not recommended for kids under 12. The link to the website: [Haunted Speedway Nights](#)
- The Ohio State Reformatory is hosting their annual "Blood Prison"! For those that don't know, it is a haunted house that goes on almost every year. Starting at a general admission price of \$35, it's not for the faint of heart! It's not recommended for younger kids but if you love scares, I'd check it out. The link to the website: [Blood Prison](#)

Costumes and Music

One of the most well-known things about Halloween are the movies, creepy shows, songs, and costumes. Well, if you want some ideas for costumes and music for this year's Halloween, here are some! Some classic costumes you can go with if you're out of ideas:

- Ghosts
- Vampires
- Witches/wizards
- Zombies
- Frankenstein
- Angels or devils
- Pumpkins

The Scary Hits

- Monster Mash by Bobby "Boris" Pickett
- Thriller by Micheal Jackson
- Somebody's Watching Me by Rockwell
- Spooky Scary Skeletons by Andrew Gold
- This is Halloween from the Nightmare Before Christmas and their cast
- Ghostbusters by Ray Parker Jr.

Fun Facts About Halloween

Now, if you would ever want to show your friends that you know quite a bit about Halloween, this is the section for you! These are eight facts about Halloween!

1. Children didn't always go around saying "Trick or Treat," and not even always for candy. Rather they would ask for a baked good called Soul cakes (picture to the right). This was called "Souling." The kids would go up to the house and offer prayers for the dead in exchange for the cakes.



2. To honor and respect lost loved ones, people would have something called "Dumb Suppers." During this time, people would eat their dinner in complete silence. There would also be an extra spot at the table to invite spirits to sit with them.

3. There is a phobia of Halloween, however uncommon. It's called Samhainophobia and less than 20% of individuals experience it. Experts believe the fear grows out from childhood.

4. There have been rumors about a haunting at the White House. Particularly, it has been said that the ghost of Abraham Lincoln could be spotted.

5. Surprisingly enough, Silly String was banned from California on Halloween. People must have taken it too far.

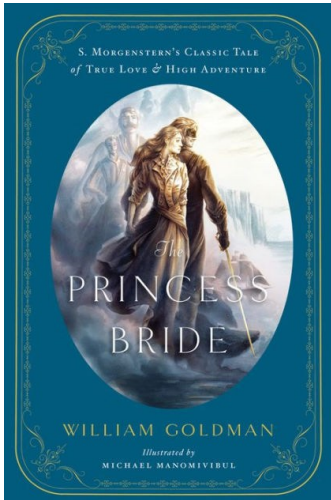
6. A Hallow means a religious person and 'een' is used for Eve. This makes Hallow's Eve or 'Saint's Eve'.

7. Illinois produced over one billion pounds of pumpkin annually.

8. It was said that if you heard three knocks on your door on Halloween and no one was there, it foretold the passing of you or a loved one was approaching.

The Phoenix

By Emily N.

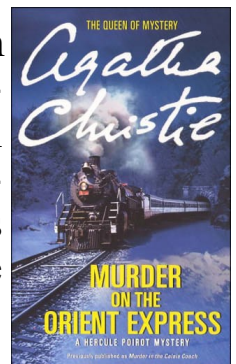


The Phoenix Book Club is continuing its quest to resurrect the classics. The club meets every two weeks on Mondays during the Advisory periods. The discussions allow the members to think outside the box and explore events within their own lives. The club has completed *The Princess Bride*, by William Goldman, and *Murder on The Orient Express*, by Agatha Christie. The club is currently engaged in the American classic *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, by Mark Twain.

Ellie H.-- *The Princess Bride* is not your average love story. Written in 1973, it adds a new layer of irony and sense of humor to the classic damsel in distress trope. Every single character has such an intriguing backstory that you can't help but root for them, even the supposed "villains." Inigo and Fezzik, the comedic relief duo, are my personal favorites. I would highly recommend this novel to anyone interested in crazy fight scenes, plot twists, or straight up hilarious reads.

Libby N.-- William Goldman's *The Princess Bride*, is a brilliant mix of adventure, romance, and humor, that feels like a fairy tale and a parody all in one. The story follows Buttercup, a beautiful young woman, and her true love, Westley, as they face sword fights, kidnappings, and the unforgettable villain, Prince Humperdinck. What makes the book stand out is Goldman's witty narration—he blends action and comedy so smoothly that readers are laughing one minute and holding their breath the next. Unlike most fairy tales, *The Princess Bride* doesn't take itself too seriously. The author often breaks the fourth wall to comment on his "abridgment" of the story, adding a clever and playful twist. With unforgettable characters like Inigo Montoya and Fezzik, it's no surprise this novel has become a timeless favorite. Whether you love romance, fantasy, or sarcasm, *The Princess Bride* is a story worth reading, and re-reading, for its charm, heart, and humor.

Murder On The Orient Express, by Agatha Christie, takes place on a train where detective Hercule Poirot boards it to figure out the mysterious murdering of Samuel Edward Ratchett. He was murdered in the middle of the night, which caused suspicion since his compartment doors were locked from the inside. Everyone is stuck on this train, which becomes a stressful race to figure out who is behind the murder?



Good Reads

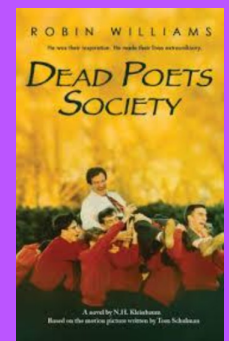
Sophie P.

Autumn is here, which means it is time to start reading some more seasonal stories. Whether you are looking for a book to set the mood for the season or you're looking for something a little bit more scary, there is sure to be something here that piques your interest. Are you looking for a book to make you feel warm inside? Or perhaps a book to enjoy while curled up in bed with a nice drink? If so, some of these stories may be appealing to you. All low-stakes and slice-of-life, these novels feel like a cozy autumn day.

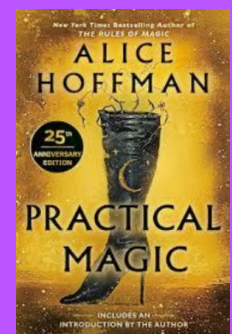
***A Psalm For The Wild-Built* - Becky Chambers:** Centuries before, robots of Panga gained self-awareness, laid down their tools, wandered, en masse into the wilderness, never to be seen again. They faded into myth and urban legend. Now the life of the tea monk who tells this story is upended by the arrival of a robot, there to honor the old promise of checking in. The robot cannot go back until the question of "what do people need?" is answered. But the answer to that question depends on who you ask, and how. They will need to ask it a lot. Chambers' series asks: "in a world where people have what they want, does having more matter?"



***Dead Poets Society* - N.H. Kleinbaum:** "Todd Anderson and his friends at Welton Academy can hardly believe how different life is since their new English professor, the flamboyant John Keating, has challenged them to "make your lives extraordinary! " Inspired by Keating, the boys resurrect the Dead Poets Society--a secret club where, free from the constraints and expectations of school and parents, they let their passions run wild. As Keating turns the boys on to the great words of Byron, Shelley, and Keats, they discover not only the beauty of language, but the importance of making each moment count. But the Dead Poets pledges soon realize that their newfound freedom can have tragic consequences. Can the club and the individuality it inspires survive the pressure from authorities determined to destroy their dreams?"



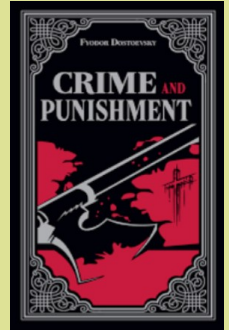
***Practical Magic* - Alice Hoffman** "For more than two hundred years, the Owens women have been blamed for everything that has gone wrong in their Massachusetts town. Gillian and Sally have endured that fate as well: as children, the sisters were forever outsiders, taunted, talked about, pointed at. Their elderly aunts almost seemed to encourage the whispers of witchery, with their musty house and their exotic concoctions and their crowd of black cats. But all Gillian and Sally wanted was to escape. One will do so by marrying, the other by running away. But the bonds they share will bring them back—almost as if by magic..."



Maybe cozy books aren't your thing and instead you are looking for a story that feeds into the colder aspects of the season. And a good place to find those is in some classical literature.

Good Reads, cont....

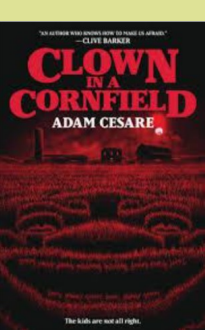
***Crime and Punishment* - Fyodor Dostoevsky:** "Raskolnikov, a destitute and desperate former student, wanders through the slums of St Petersburg and commits a random murder without remorse or regret. He imagines himself to be a great man, a Napoleon: acting for a higher purpose beyond conventional moral law. But as he embarks on a dangerous game of cat and mouse with a suspicious police investigator, Raskolnikov is pursued by the growing voice of his conscience and finds the noose of his own guilt tightening around his neck. Only Sonya, a downtrodden sex worker, can offer the chance of redemption."



***Wuthering Heights* - Emily Bronte:** "Lockwood, the new tenant of Thrushcross Grange, situated on the bleak Yorkshire moors, is forced to seek shelter one night at Wuthering Heights, the home of his landlord. There he discovers the history of the tempestuous events that took place years before; of the intense relationship between the gypsy foundling Heathcliff and Catherine Earnshaw; and how Catherine, forced to choose between passionate, tortured Heathcliff and gentle, well-bred Edgar Linton, surrendered to the expectations of her class. As Heathcliff's bitterness and vengeance at his betrayal is visited upon the next generation, their innocent heirs must struggle to escape the legacy of the past."



***Dracula* - Bram Stoker:** "When Jonathan Harker visits Transylvania to help Count Dracula with the purchase of a London house, he makes a series of horrific discoveries about his client. Soon afterwards, various bizarre incidents unfold in England: an apparently unmanned ship is wrecked off the coast of Whitby; a young woman discovers strange puncture marks on her neck; and the inmate of a lunatic asylum raves about the 'Master' and his imminent arrival."



***Clown in a Cornfield* - Adam Cesare:** "Quinn Maybrook just wants to make it to graduation. She might not make it to morning. When Quinn and her father move to a tiny town with a weird clown for a mascot, they're looking for a fresh start. But ever since the town's only factory shut down, Kettle Springs has been cracked in half. Most of the town believes that the kids are to blame. After all, the juniors and seniors at Kettle Springs High are the ones who threw the party where Arthur Hill's daughter died. They're the ones who set the abandoned factory on fire and who spend all their time posting pranks on YouTube. They have no respect and no idea what it means to work hard. For the kids, it's the other way around. And now Kettle Springs is caught in a constant battle between old and new, tradition and progress. It's a fight that looks like it will destroy the town. Until one homicidal clown with a porkpie hat and a red nose decides to end it for good. Because if your opponents all die, you win the debate by default."

More Good Reads

***She is a Haunting* - Trang Thanh Tran:** "When Jade Nguyen arrives in Vietnam for a visit with her estranged father, she has one goal: survive five weeks pretending to be a happy family in the French colonial house Ba is restoring. She's always lied to fit in, so if she's straight enough, Vietnamese enough, American enough, she can get out with the college money he promised. But the house has other plans. Night after night, Jade wakes up paralyzed. The walls exude a thrumming sound, while bugs leave their legs and feelers in places they don't belong. She finds curious traces of her ancestors in the gardens they once tended. And at night Jade can't ignore the ghost of the beautiful bride who leaves her cryptic warnings: Don't eat. Neither Ba nor her sweet sister Lily believe that there is anything strange happening. With help from a delinquent girl, Jade will prove this house—the home her family has always wanted—will not rest until it destroys them. Maybe, this time, she can keep her family together. As she roots out the house's rot, she must also face the truth of who she is and who she must become to save them all."



***Don't Let The Forest In* - C.G. Drews:** "High school senior Andrew Perrault finds refuge in the twisted fairytales that he writes for the only person who can ground him to reality—Thomas Rye, the boy with perpetually ink-stained hands and hair like autumn leaves. And with his twin sister, Dove, inexplicably keeping him at a cold distance upon their return to Wickwood Academy, Andrew finds himself leaning on his friend even more. But something strange is going on with Thomas. His abusive parents have mysteriously vanished, and he arrives at school with blood on his sleeve. Thomas won't say a word about it, and shuts down whenever Andrew tries to ask him questions. Stranger still, Thomas is haunted by something, and he seems to have lost interest in his art-work—whimsically macabre sketches of the monsters from Andrew's wicked stories. Desperate to figure out what's wrong with his friend, Andrew follows Thomas into the off-limits forest one night and catches him fighting a nightmarish monster—Thomas's drawings have come to life and are killing anyone close to him. To make sure no one else dies, the boys battle the monsters every night. But as their obsession with each other grows stronger, so do the monsters, and Andrew begins to fear that the only way to stop the creatures might be to destroy their creator..."



***Long Live The Pumpkin Queen* - Shea Ernshaw:** "Sally Skellington is the official, newly-minted Pumpkin Queen after a whirlwind courtship with her true love, Jack, who Sally adores with every inch of her fabric seams -- if only she could say the same for her new role as Queen of Halloween Town. Cast into the spotlight and tasked with all sorts of queenly duties, Sally can't help but wonder if all she's done is trade her captivity under Dr. Finkelstein for a different -- albeit gilded -- cage. But when Sally and Zero accidentally uncover a long-hidden doorway to an ancient realm called Dream Town in the forest Hinterlands, she'll unknowingly set into motion a chain of sinister events that put her future as Pumpkin Queen, and the future of Halloween Town itself, into jeopardy. Can Sally discover what it means to be true to herself and save the town she's learned to call home, or will her future turn into her worst... well, *nightmare*."

