

Scarlet Quill Jr.

February 2021

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Legacy of MLK

By Angelya Baffo and Adhara Blanc, Lincoln School

Happy post- MLK day! On Monday, January 18, we celebrated the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr., a revolutionary for the rights of colored people. He held speeches, peaceful protests, and even had sit-ins at non black restaurants. His famous "I Have a Dream" speech highlighted that he wanted all people to be treated equally, no matter their skin color, race, or nationality. He was so dedicated to this goal, that he was even willing to get arrested 29 times. Sadly, though, he died at age 39, cutting his dream short. Many people still carry on his endeavor, though.

Yolanda Renee King- She is Martin Luther King Jr's granddaughter, and civil rights activist just like Martin Luther King Jr. She was named after her aunt, who died because of a heart condition. She wanted to continue her grandfather's dream and stop police brutality and discrimination. On top of that, she also fights for rules about gun violence. Yet she is only very young, but still owns her Grandfather's mindset. She was born May 25th 2008, and had her speech at the March on Washington. "I have a dream that enough is enough...", she said in one of her speeches. "That this should be a gun free world. Period."

Amanda Gorman- Amanda Gorman spoke at the Inauguration of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris. She wrote a poem called *The Hill we Climb*, about equality and unfairness, with her words so powerful and sensible. It went viral on the internet, and she also did the same thing for the Super Bowl. She was born on March 7, 1998. Amanda is only 22. She wrote many books, like *The Hill We Climb*, and others. As a teen, she won many awards for her writing. "For there is always light, if only we are brave enough to see it, if we're only brave enough to be it.", Amanda said at the Inauguration.

John Lewis- John Lewis was a United States Representative. As a kid, he was deeply inspired by Dr. King, and helped to end discrimination and inequality. He was one of the six leaders that helped organize the March on Washington. He was first elected a Rep. in 1986, and spent 17 years there. In 1988, John presented a bill to build an African American museum. He spent 15 years trying, but it finally happened. John Lewis continued to fight for many things, like boycotting the 2001 election and having a sit in against gun violence at capitol hill. "Too many still believe our differences define us.", he said.

Discrimination has been going on for over 100 years. But that does not mean nothing is being done about it. People like Yolanda King, Amanda Gorman, and many others care about our country, and want it to be united. Dr. King worked very hard to get us where we are today. Let's make sure we remember him and the people who carry on his dream.

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The Hill We Climb

By Andrew Alonso and Jenny Lin, Lincoln School

This year on January 20, the 22 year old Harvard graduate, Amanda Gorman, made her mark in history when she recited a 110 line poem titled “The Hill We Climb” at the United States Presidential Inauguration.

In her creation, Gorman composed about her future goals, her ancestry, and being descended from slaves.

The lines, “We, the successors of a country and a time, where a skinny Black girl descended from slaves and raised by, a single mother, can dream of becoming a president, only to find herself reciting for one.” talked about her background, her dreams to become a future president, and the fact that she’s reciting for the president.

Gorman also said, “We should lay down our arms, so we can reach out our arms,”. What she meant by that was we should first, put down our weapons, and extend our arms for unity.

In the last couple of lines, “For there is always light, if only we’re brave enough to see it, if only we’re brave enough to be it.” the poet spoke regarding how there’s always something positive waiting for us at the end of a challenging setback.

Sixth grader Andrew Alonso says that after his virtual Zoom meeting, he thought about Amanda Gorman’s poem. He felt inspired by this young poet’s words and spent time thinking about what it meant. Another sixth grader, Tyler Disciascio, felt that Amanda Gorman had been on the right track with her poem and that her words would strike hope in people because of the fitting topic of black importance.

This shows that Amanda Gorman brought the 33.8 million witnesses of her poem hope and belief, not only for people now but for people in the future. In her poem she talks about wanting to become a president and how because America has changed for the better. People like her, now have a chance and hope.

Ms. Know-it-all/Advice

Scarlet Quill Jr.

February 2021

Ms. Know-it-all

An Anonymous Roosevelt Student Whom Knows It All



Dear Miss Know It All,

I want to know what your favorite game is.

-Johan

Dear Johan,

While I'm positive that this is a randomized question, i'm inclined to say that Monopoly is my favorite game!

-Miss Know It All

Dear Miss Know It All,

I love spending time with my Tia, or aunt. I always used to go to her house and have fun sleepovers with her. It was like a bright light that I could always see, so close. I could spend time with her virtually whenever. But, now it's all gone. She is moving on Monday as I'm writing this, and she'll already be in California by the time this comes out. California! That's on the other side of the country. No more sleepovers, just random visits, while eating so much popcorn that our mouths turn dry. Nothing. I'm really upset at her for doing this to me. I know that she's moving because her husband is there, but it doesn't make it hurt any less. How can I "move on" from this?

-Moving Madness

Dear Moving Madness,

I'm pretty sure we all love spending time with our relatives, but sometimes they might have to move away. I'm positive that you will get to visit her sometime. Maybe once or twice during the summer, head down there for a couple weeks. You can have sleepovers and whatnot! I understand how things like this are very upsetting, and you might get angry with them. Who knows... she could have been longing to be back with her husband, even though it means moving away from some of her spectacular family. You know she will love you no matter where she is, from across the continent, to right at your front door. Make sure you understand that this is not the end! You will see her and get to hang out with her again. Try and stay positive.

-Miss Know It All

Dear Miss Know It All,

What are some tips to losing anger issues?

-Courtney

Dear Courtney,

Well, *always remember to think before you speak*. If all you can think of are snarky or rude comments or statements, try not to say them. *You can also go and exercise outside!* The fresh air and the different surroundings, might just help take those things of your mind! *Also, reading (or drawing, whatever you prefer)* can help draw some of the tension away. *Sometimes, you can talk to friends, teachers, or your parents about things on your mind.* (You can also go to your guidance counselor, Mr. Kenny!) *Once you're calm, express your anger.* As soon as you're thinking clearly, express your frustration in an assertive but non-confrontational way. State your concerns and needs clearly and directly, without hurting others or trying to control them. *Take a timeout!* Timeouts aren't just for kids. Give yourself short breaks during times of the day that tend to be stressful. A few moments of quiet time might help you feel better prepared to handle what's ahead without getting irritated or angry. And lastly, to avoid criticizing or placing blame, (which might only increase tension) *use "I" statements to describe the problem.* Be respectful and specific. Here is an example: A father wants his young child to stop calling him rude names during playtime. "If you call me a rude name one more time, I'm going to send you straight to bed!". But an "I" statement response: "I feel very sad when I hear rude words because they hurt my feelings."

-Miss Know It All

Dear Miss Know It All,

What's a good way to deal with the anxieties that are triggered from this whole pandemic?

- K

Dear K,

This pandemic surly is hard, I have some ways to relieve stress and deal with anxiety. *Try taking a time out!* Practice yoga, listen to music, meditate, or learn relaxation techniques. Stepping back from the problem helps clear your head. *Try eating well balanced meals!* Try not to skip any meals. Also keep healthy, energy-boosting snacks on hand. *Make sure to get a nice amount of rest!* Most people are up late on their devices, and that does not help their sleeping schedule! Try not to use your devices after 8 or 9 PM. When you're stressed, your body needs extra sleep. Also, *exercise daily!* Most people normally will go to the gym, but those are closed due to this awful pandemic. So, try and get outside! Put your mask on and go out for a jog with your parents (or brother/sister)! *Welcome humor.* A good laugh always goes a long way. *Maintain a positive attitude!* Make an effort to replace negative thoughts with positive ones. *Talk to someone.* Tell friends and family you're feeling overwhelmed, and let them know how they can help you.

-Miss Know It All

Dear Miss Know It All,

Will there ever be another "Ms. Know it all" or not? And isn't "Know it all" something bullies say to smart people?

-Matthew

Dear Matthew,

I'm positive there will in fact be another Miss Know It All! But at the moment, I'm the only one doing it. Yes, "Know it all" is something bullies call smart people. But little do you know, they only say that because they are jealous of how smart you are. The people who bully, normally are jealous of something (a trait you have, or something you own), and want to make you feel bad about whatever it is. To everyone who has been called a "know it all", don't be ashamed of it! You're all amazing! Be proud of who you are. Don't let people bring you down with little words.

-Miss Know It All

Dear Miss Know It All,

When's the school reopening?

-Gianna

Dear Gianna,

I cannot say for sure when the school will be opening. But, I will say it will open when it is safe to go back to school. All I know is that it will open one day. Nothing can last forever.

-Miss Know It All

Make the Earth Better!

By Hannah Cho, Grant School

Imagine this, you are in your mom's car and when you open the window, you can feel the wind breezing through your hair. You breathe in and you smell gasoline from the cars passing by you. You look out the window and see a pond overflowing with plastic. Your mom asks a question but you can't hear over the sound of the cars honking. The Earth can be beautiful, but humans have to take responsibility for making the Earth better.

There are three types of pollution: land/water, air, and noise. People litter too much. Littering affects the ecosystem. When people throw trash onto the ground or into the ocean, animals try to eat it. Unlike us, animals don't realize that it's bad for their health and it eventually kills them. Animals can choke on plastic, get caught or tangled, or can harm their stomachs. Some ways we can solve this problem are picking up trash, recycling, or making more trash cans out of recycled plastic.

Air pollution always happens when unnatural things go into the air. For example, when people smoke cigarettes they exhale pollution into the air. Factories also produce lots of air pollution. Trees play a big role in our environment by filtering the bad air into the leaves. When people make too much air pollution the trees won't be able to filter the dirty air. There are solutions to prevent air pollution. For example, have stricter rules of cutting down plants, encourage people to plant trees, and have fines for smoking or for factories that produce too much air pollution.

Noise pollution happens when there's too much noise in an area. Highways, cities, and airports are all examples of places with noise pollution. Noise pollution may not seem like a big problem for us but for animals, it is. If there is too much noise pollution the noise can scare the animals away from their homes. This can ruin the ecosystem. Some solutions include: setting aside land for animals, starting quiet hours, or building walls to lessen the noise.

In conclusion, people are responsible for taking care of Earth. Water/land, air, and noise pollutants are all big problems but can be solved if people listen. The ecosystem works like a chain and if one part is broken, you can't fix it. Let's make good decisions now or else it would be too late.

Diving Deep Into the World of Social Media

By Khadeejah Ahmed and Gabriela Alvarez, Lincoln School

Have you ever thought about how social media impacts the world? Social media can impact many people's lives in several ways. There are many factors in social media that are good and bad. These positives and negatives include apps, popularity, and communication.

First off, social media is dangerous because of all the widely used apps. Some of the apps that are very dangerous are Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and Whatsapp. The most dangerous app is Facebook. Other apps like Instagram and Whatsapp are dangerous because they are all from the same company as Facebook. In addition, not just adults use social media, children use them too! Some of the common social media apps that children use are Snapchat and the most popular one TikTok. For example these apps are risky because if you use TikTok you might accidentally film a video that shows a car. This video could show a car's license plate and end badly. Someone can find that car, track them down, and do terrible things. Also there can be inappropriate videos or pictures that people post on all social media that could ruin someone's life.

To add on, these apps can be very addicting and are not good for your eyes and for your health. These apps can be addicting because they track your online activity and then hook you by keeping you entertained. This will lead to being on the app for a long time. Additionally, something else that can be very dangerous while using social media is people can track or get some private information from you and you could end up in a very bad situation. If you think about it, now people don't just track private information but can hack accounts, and take even more important and private things from you. Not just that but they can take money or even ask for money through your account which is very much unsafe.

Social media is so popular because it has many helpful and useful purposes. Social media doesn't always have contents that are unsafe and dangerous, sometimes they can be good. For example, Pinterest has some great ideas that make you think out of the box, and be creative. Not just that but using social media can also help with communicating with family and friends around the world, and people you don't see too often. Social media can also be a way to interact, and share numerous different kinds of stuff like photos, ideas, future interests, and more. Social media can be useful when it comes to long distance relationships because it can help to communicate with your loved ones and keep you informed of everything that is going on.

Social media can help children to learn useful things they will need in the future. It is also an important part in children and young adults' lives because this helps them to connect through sports, activity clubs, and classes. Continually, social media can make more people considerate, and show more empathy towards things. Children maintain long term friendships with others online, even when they can't meet each other in person. The children can also get to have an influence on their community by getting ideas from social media, and can help to bring positive changes. Social media gives introverted children a chance to open up over the internet, giving them a boost of confidence. Many young children find it easier to meet people in person after interacting with them through social media platforms.

Ultimately these apps are important and meaningful because social media can have its pros, and it can have its cons. Students in middle school need to be very careful whenever they use any type of social media. The best suggestion would be to make sure parents are aware which apps you are

using and make sure you use social media in the right way. We truly hope this article impacts the way you use social media so you can use it correctly and responsibly.



Created by Vanessa Kensak

How to:

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Example of Writing a Strong Lead

By: Amalia Belis, Grant School

Authors need to make the beginning of their story interesting so that the reader will want to read their story. Below is an example of a strong lead to get the reader hooked. Maybe this will inspire you to write your own.

My Trip to Hawaii

“I am soooo excited!” I squealed as we got on the plane.

“So am I,” my mom squealed back. We were headed to Hawaii. I was thrilled to the bone! I literally felt like I could explode with excitement! We sat down in our seats and waited for the plane to take off. It felt like an eternity when finally the plane started to move! As we started to go up, it felt like butterflies in my stomach. I gripped my mom’s hand to let her know that I was nervous. She gripped mine and gave it an extra squeeze to let me know that everything was going to be okay. I heard the plane as it whooshed into the sky. I felt my mom’s hand placed on mine and then I thought, “Everything’s going to be okay.” Hawaii, here we come!

Books or Movies?

By Aniyah Peña, Roosevelt School



Would you rather read a book or watch a movie? In my opinion, I would rather watch a movie. It all depends on what you prefer. Many fans of literature will say that books are more superior than movies and many fans of the film industry would say that movies are more superior. That's all their opinion, but hopefully now I can change your perspective on this argument, so that you can see both sides of the argument.

Books-

Books are a more personal experience for people. Books are different things to different people and books can make people feel different ways. Books will open up your imagination and allow you to picture the book in your mind to help you reach endless possibilities. Books can help you academically. They help you by improving your intelligence and vocabulary, which can be very helpful in school. So find a book you're interested in and find a comfortable spot to read.

Movies-

Movies are a more social experience that you would share with friends. Movies are appealing to us because of the special effects and sound. Movies are typically watched with friends or family. Your teachers might play movies to help you understand a lesson. Movies have a wide variety of genres just like books. Usually after watching a movie with your friends and family you discuss your favorite things about that movie such as characters and favorite scenes. So, grab some friends and go see a movie.

Conclusion-

Now that you have read the argument you should think about which one you would choose. This argument also proves that books and movies can be similar. Now maybe you will want to grab a book and read it then watch the movie that was based off the book and compare the two.

The Liars.

By: Isabella Brunson, Grant School

Chapter 1

Ruby

Hi my name is Ruby, Ruby Longmen. I live with my mom and with my dog, Pedro. I am 12 years old and I am in 6th grade, at Washington Middle School. I used to love it here. Until my dad passed away about a year ago. They never found him, but my mom said he had depression. That's all she would say. From then on, my mom and I never looked or talked to each other like we used to. I remember that we laughed when dad played dolls with me, and pretended to have a silly British accent. I missed those days. We were one happy family, and I wanted it to stay that way, but it didn't. Now mom bosses and barks commands at me when she feels sad or depressed. Truly she was the depressed one, but she never admitted it. I somehow felt like this was my fault. *Was I a bad daughter? Was I never good enough for him? Did he not want to be around me anymore?*

Today I didn't have school because it is a snow day, and I get to stay home with mom. "Breakfast is ready on the table," mom says. "I made scrambled eggs and pancakes."

"Yum!" I say with a hungry stomach. The smell of syrup attracts me to the table like a magnet. We were eating while watching the news. The mayor came on and started talking about my dad. Dad worked for the mayor. He was his bodyguard. The mayor was talking about how it has been one year since David, my dad, passed. Just when he said that mom turned off the TV. "Why did you do that?" I asked.

She responded quickly and said, "I do not like the mayor."

I didn't say a word. Inside, I wanted to scream at her why. I responded with a simple "Okay." I did not want to get her angry.

I am wondering why I feel like mom is hiding something from me. But I decided not to think about it too much or I will go in too deep and never get out. Then my friend Lisa texted me and invited me to come over to hangout and watch a movie. I thought that would be a good idea. I asked my mom but she said "No."

I angrily responded with "Why? Why is it when I want to do something you always say no,no,no." I wanted my mom to give me a real answer for once in her life! I wish I had not said that. "You don't care about me!" I screamed so loud that I am sure the whole neighborhood heard me. I was furious, "All you care about is yourself!"

"You are just like your dad!" She screamed at me.

I ran to my room not knowing what to do or what to say. I was feeling different emotions. Mostly anger, that's when I decided it was time to escape.

To be continued...



Soul Review

By Hayley Rodriguez, Lincoln School

Do you have Disney+ and want to know if you should watch the new movie 'Soul'? You decide, but, this is basically the premise of the whole movie 'Soul'! Soul is mainly about a music teacher named Joe, and when he finally lands a gig to play in a band, he ends up being transported to a fantastical place called the 'the Great Beyond'. When trying to get out of this place, he ends up going on an adventure with the soul that he's supposed to be mentoring, soul 22, and she learns a bit about what life on Earth is like because she'd rather not live in it. In my opinion, the movie was a bit more about what the director and writers' perspective on the before and after life is. Everyone has different opinions on what it can be though. A part I liked about the movie was that it brought out that Joe needed to find his place in life, and be more reaching out in a sense. I do wish that the movie spoke more about that. Other than that, the movie was about 22 and Joe finding their purpose in life. This movie is also funny, and for all ages so you can watch with the whole family if you decide to.

Fairy Tale

Scarlet Quill Jr.

February 2021

Jack and the Beanstalk

(told from the Giant's perspective)

By: Kalliopi Petrakis, Grant School

Poor Dave, no one has ever asked him what happened.

Dave, the giant, was living happily when he had his hen that laid golden eggs and his harp that played beautiful music. One day, Dave was telling the hen to lay eggs and the harp to play. "Lay!" The hen laid a golden egg. "Play!" Soon he was sound asleep.

All of a sudden, Dave woke up to the sound of a loud thud. He looked and saw nothing. He went back to sleep. A human named Jack jumped out of the cupboard, not waking the giant. He then took the hen and the harp! The giant woke up, "Fee, fi, fo, fum!" Jack ran down the beanstalk and near his house and called for his mother to help him. His mother came out with an axe and cut down the beanstalk. Dave fell to the ground into the forest far from Jack's house.

Soon after, he woke up to a pain in his leg, but after a while he proceeded to walk farther into the forest. He gathered trees and branches to build a house. Then he went and tried to find food. He came back to his house with fruit, berries and nuts. *I can get used to this*, he thought to himself. *But I do feel homesick and lonely. Maybe I can go to town and meet some new people!*

Dave decided to leave his house and went to the town. Everyone was running away! They were scared of him. They thought he was a mean beast so he headed back home. On his way back he ran into Jack. Jack felt bad for Dave and approached him. He wasn't such an angry giant after all. Dave told him about going into the town and meeting new people. "I went to meet new friends, but no one liked me. They ran away from me," Dave explained.

"I can be your friend!" he shouted.

"Really? Thank you!" Jack apologized to the Giant and they soon became good friends.

Roblox

By Sophia Gibbs, Roosevelt School

Roblox is a world wide Game created by David Basuki played by people all over the world. Roblox is a platform with different gaming experiences! The most popular games on roblox today are "Royal High" (my personal favorite), "Animation mocap" (hangout game), "Ragdoll engine" (hangout game), and "Murder Mystery" (competitive game.) There are so many great games in Roblox! I especially like Roblox because you can find yourself in different worlds, create your character with robux, and play with friends!



Where is she now?

By: Kevin Navarro Guanumen, Grant School

Camila Navarro, Grant School Class of 2013

Camila joined the U.S. National Guard after graduating from RPHS in 2019. She is still currently serving in Iraq as a Combat Radio Operator. She serves to protect her country- no matter the cost and is proud to be a U.S. soldier.



Silent Night

by: Starli Tam, Grant School

The sky
is absent
of all
light,
On this
dark and
silent
night,
Where
the sun
once
shone
bright
Now lays
a tall
mountain's
sight

On this
dark and
silent
night
The moon
was full
The cool
and dull
Mountain
gray
Had not
more
Left to say

Old was
the
mountain

In this
world of
mighty
moons
Those who
cry still
hold those
wounds
Nobody is
safe and
sound
Not when
there's
still
sorrow
around

Creatures
that run
Creatures
in horror
Creatures
that don't
know the
joy
They once
did

Those who
ran
Those who
flew
Those that
laughing
never
knew

cold and
tall
Large
were the
birds
But there
they
seemed
small

Oh dear
mountain
wise and
tall
Why're
you so
quiet after
all
You have
so many
wonderful
creatures
So why
can't noise
be one of
your
features?

On this
cold and
silent
night
All slept
well
All despite
The
horrible
shadows
That still
dwell
Doesn't
that word

There they
hide
There they
sprint
There they
leave those
deep paw
prints

On these
dark and
silent
nights
The moon
is pale
The stars
shine
bright
On these
cold and
eerie
nights

Spirits
roam
Ghosts
they cry
All the
entities in
the sky
There they
stay on
this dark
night
Waiting to
free
themselves
from this
world

ring a
bell?

The
spirits
that run

The
spirits
that hide

The ghosts
and
creatures
that

prosper at
night

Those that
couldn't
leave the
Earth

Those who
stay with
all their
trauma

Those who
stay
despite
this
drama

Strange
forests,
far and
wide
There they
go
There they
hide

On this
dark and
silent
night
Where the
moon is
pale
And the
stars are
bright

By Calvin Jang, Roosevelt School

We see a land that can flourish or fall
The treacheries of this world we recall

As we think of a way to make the world better
A peaceful utopia that would last forever

But we know that reality is much more cruel
A place where people are used as a tool

A land where persecution is much too real
Hatred and Sadness is all we feel

But we can strive and push ahead
We can leave the place where we all bled

We dream of a world where all people from all races live together
Will we reach that place, will we ever?

This war and bloodshed we've seen too much
A world that is hurtful and full of disgust

The words that come out of our mouths
Words that are negative and full of doubt

So let us search for this place, full of peace
Will we find this place, let's find out

Pure Snow

By Angela Lin, Lincoln School

Beautiful pure snow
Time to go sledding down fast
Cold but very fun

By: Jazlynn Montilla, Grant School

My name is Rose, Rose Valentine and I am not an ordinary girl. My siblings and I were born with special powers. It's all part of an old prophecy. My twin Autumn and I are what our coven likes to call the "chosen ones." We were twin witches. This made us the most powerful witches in history because no other coven has the sun and moon. This made us the rulers of all covens. We were considered coven royalty. We lived in a magical place called Astoria. My mom is the queen and it is either Autumn or myself who would be next in line. We also have a younger brother named Jacob. My dad? Someone poisoned him, but we don't believe it.

Being a princess comes with a lot of responsibilities, but it's more difficult when you have a twin. Autumn and I did everything together, we were best friends, practically inseparable. We were like your ideal movie twins. We had fun, and never really fought. However, our personalities were very different. I'm more light and nice and Autumn on the other hand was mean and kinda dark. People used to say it's good because opposites attract!

I remember the story clearly. It happened the day before the Astorian Ball. The day started when my friend Zach came over to visit.

"Hey stranger," I said.

"Sup, little one," he said.

I pouted, I hated when he called me that. "Well, what are you waiting for to come in?" I mumbled.

"Ok gosh," he said, then plopped on the couch. I chuckled. We talked for hours about the Astorian Ball. I remembered I had training with Autumn with our trainer, Ella. If I didn't hurry I would be late. I got dressed in my black leather suit, put my hair in a ponytail and left. I got there before Autumn. I remember thinking that she was late. She's never late, I thought. Suddenly, she came through the door out of breath. I noticed she was not herself.

We both approached Ella and bowed in a respectful way as did she too. "Sit," she said. "Breathe in and out, close your eyes."

We took a seat on the floor, closed our eyes and started breathing in and out. We did that for about ten more minutes and then she said to get up and stand on the stool. We did as she said. Ella, continued. "Now pick one foot up slowly. You must always be ready. You must know every move of the other one. Use all your senses, your nose, your smell, your touch, and most importantly your eyes. Close your eyes." she said.

Suddenly, Ella roared, "HYAH," while trying to hit the one foot that was on the beam. I jumped up and landed on my other foot.

It was late by the time we got home, and we were beat. We were excited for the Coven Ball the next day. This would determine who gets to be queen, my sister or I.

I woke up the next day not ready for what the day would bring. Autumn and I decided to go to different salons so we could surprise each other. I had my hair and makeup done. I put on my beautiful emerald green dress with a gold crown with emeralds on it. I looked stunning. I thanked all of them and went to see if Zach would like to go together. I went to his house but he wasn't there. I went to my other friend Lia's house, and she wasn't there either. That's weird, Oh well, I thought trying not to make it a big deal. I really didn't want to go to the ball alone, so I went to Alyssa's house, and she was not home either.

I figured they were probably at the ball, waiting for Autumn and I to arrive, so I shook it off. I walked in. There were no signs of my friends. I was a little worried at this point but decided to wait it out.

Then I heard the trumpets go off and the announcer say, "Now for the Queen of Astoria." My mom smiled at me before appearing at the staircase and walked down, oh so gracefully. The kingdom clapped.

Then the announcer said, "Here she is, Princess of Astoria her majesty Rose." I walked down the staircase that had a red carpet over it and took in the view of the ball. I was wowed by everything and everyone looked amazing! It was a sight to remember. Since I wore emerald green, my sister was supposed to wear a maroon dress however, that is not what she wore. The announcer continued, "Give it up once last time for the Princess of Astoria Her Majesty, Autumn." Autumn came down looking a mess. I looked over to my mom and she looked furious. Autumn looked as if she knew exactly what she was doing. I had never seen that look on her face. I went up to her and wanted to say something, but before I could she blasted me into the wall.

"AUTUMN!" screamed mom.

"Aww, are you gonna cry? Dad would've been proud to see you be all goody, goody too bad he isn't here to see you!"

"HOW DARE YOU!" I shouted. "HE DID NOTHING BUT LOVE YOU, LOVE US."

"Ha! You almost got me there. I think I shed a tear," cackled Autumn. "Where are your friends now?" I opened my eyes, and saw my dad. He was reaching out to me. "Hurry, let's go, it's too late just reach for the light."

"No!" I said calmly. "She doesn't get to win. I'm sorry." I am not really sure what happened next. I was in a dungeon with my mom.

"M-mom?" I said. She was sleeping, and I realized we were locked in. There was a lock but it needed a key. I remembered Ella taught us how to open any kinds of locks. I reached for a bobby pin in my hair. BINGO! I said to myself, and unlocked it to see all my friends. I ran up to Zach and hugged him.

"What happened?" I trembled as I said the words.

"Your sister." They all said at the same time. "We have to get her."

"How? I'm powerful, but alone I am weak."

I had a plan. We would wait until Autumn fell asleep, and put her on a sunflower. That did sound weird, but it's a prison for powerful witches. It would put them in a yellow room with nothing and that's the point. It's a very hard spell but it was possible. We gathered the herbs we needed. I knew the password by heart to the room. We needed everglass, limestone and a mercury rock. Quickly, I grabbed a blanket and a candle. We went up to Autumn's room. I laid the blanket down on the cold floor. I sat down and started mixing the herbs as quietly as possible.

"Lumnos," I whispered, which made us invisible. Autumn jumped up and looked around and went back to sleep. I then finished the spell. All that was left was to say her name three times. We joined hands and formed a circle around her bed. "Autumn," we said. Then we said it again. Before we had a chance to say her name the third time, I was blasted into the wall!

"Well,well well," Autumn whispered.

Quickly, we all yelled, "AUTUMN!"

A blue light came and she disappeared. We all cheered! We had done it, we had won. I was the Queen of Astoria, forever. Unless...