

TWO ZERO ONE

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 2

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Editors' Notes



At the start of the year, and on Holocaust Memorial Day (January 27th), too, we are encouraged to remember the past, evaluate the current, and look towards the future. What could be a more fitting theme for this issue, therefore, than 'Time'?

This issue – our tenth, to date – is full of brilliant writing: from Milli's essay in response to the prompt, 'What will 2050 look like?' From Jess and Mulan's ruminations on Time to Vivianne's roundup of 2017.

We have also included a variety of book and film reviews, a poem, Humans of Bromsgrove, and a new series called 'Overhears in Bromsgrove', amongst many other pieces. Enjoy!

Finally, I wanted to leave you with this quote from Anne Frank about the power of writing. I'll admit, it's not about Time, but since it's only just been Holocaust Memorial Day, I thought it was relevant:

*"When I write I can shake off all my cares.
My sorrow disappears, my spirits are
revived!"*

Alia Derriey

This edition's theme is time. Time is an enigma. It exists because we can measure it and yet the measurement of it gives no indication of how we each experience time. Its relativity is physical - I might travel through space to Saturn and back in my single human life time and find, on my return, that on Earth six life times have passed. However, the relativity is emotional too - three hours of Physics might seem a lifetime whilst the Christmas holidays just fly by. It is a contradiction too in that time is fluid, constantly passing us by, and yet its irreversibility imprisons us - the individual seconds carry us all along but we can never regain them:

*"The moving finger writes, and having writ
Moves on, nor all thy piety nor wit
Shall lure it back to cancel half a line
Nor all thy tears wash out half a word of it"*

Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam

And so we are fools to judge ourselves by the measurement of time. It is what we do in the space that time creates for us that matters - ask Alexander the Great, Byron, Mozart or Anne Frank. Time is precious and, in every second we waste, an opportunity or a great future might be lost. It is not time that makes the future, it is only the stage on which each of us make both our own futures and the collective future of us all. Seize the day - make it count and never look back!

And start as you mean to go on...by reading this 201.

Aled Luckman

What will 2050 look like?

To: uk2763986@amagoo.com

From: [uk94271\(Imm\)@lichung.com](mailto:uk94271(Imm)@lichung.com)

Gr8 u asked me to help with ur academy project on how things have changed since I was your age in 2012. Sorry it's by email - I cannot get to grips with the new technology that seems to come out every week these days! Hope I have used your correct unique identifier address.

Well, I guess the first thing to say is that when I was your age, I did not think I could live at the age of 30 forever. You have all this ahead of you but it is a big thing to choose what age you'd like to live at forever. As a child, I grew up thinking I would get old and die so it was an exciting time when I joined the Immortal Programme. In those days, having children was not regulated and death was not optional. People actually got ill - we sometimes used it as an excuse for not going to school. And we actually physically went to school as opposed to the hosted academies you have now! I have been 30 for the last twenty years and I have been thinking that I might stop being a doctor now and retrain as a nuclear physicist - it will take 20 years or so but that is nothing in an eternity and I have the money from my doctor's work. Again, in those days, people retired from work but obviously that cannot happen now. The only downsides are the new substitution rules. To think that those in your generation cannot have a child until one of us agrees to terminate ourselves is difficult - let's hope that they continue the building programme in the desert or on Mars now the Earth Senate have addressed the legal issues of ownership so that we have the space to live.

In those days too, food consisted of animals and plants - you must remember our trip two years ago to the Archaeology Museum when you asked what that black and white animal with horns was. Well, that was a cow. We did not have 3-D food strings then and vast amounts of land (called fields) that could be built on were covered with plants for eating and grass for animals to eat before being turned into food. It was quite barbaric - they had to be killed and cut up. We could not chemically produce the food strings we do now and people called farmers looked after the land to produce animals and plants for eating - some of them are still alive now but they are now retraining. There is not much farming land left now, especially after the Great Desiccation and the Provincial Food Wars of 2028. There were more (and more variety) of wild animals about too in those days.

It seems incredible now but in those days if we wanted to move about we actually had to control our own cars and, even worse, they spewed out horrible chemicals that caused the global warming that caused the Great Desiccation. It was the same for trains, planes and space shuttles too. None of the convenience of automated travel or the cleanliness of electric or hydrogen powered vehicles. In those days too, space travel was affordable only to individual national governments with no private space travel at all. We had not even landed on Mars, let alone established the most rudimentary colony there - I must say I fancy a spell on the planet in 200-300 years' time. Kettle's new theory of advanced relativity which seems to prove that space wormhole travel is possible will open up all kinds of new universes and time dimensions to which we could travel - what an exciting future we might enjoy together when you are a bit older.

What will 2050 look like?

The big worry when I was a child was energy usage - both the demand for it and the harmful by-products caused by the ways we converted it for use. There were no tokamak fusion reactors in those days though we were starting to use wind and waves to produce renewable energy. Our climate has settled down considerably now and the desert reclamation projects have added new places for us to live. The air we breathe is much cleaner now than it was when I was younger and I suspect global warming is a topic you study in History now, rather than Geography! Given half a chance, it is wonderful to see how the Earth has been able to heal itself.

You would never believe it but, as recently as thirty years ago, many people still believed in gods of various sorts - and even fought wars against non-believers. As science solved more and more problems, over the years religions have waned and now very few people are religious. We still have moral codes of behaviour, of course, and we still disagree over how they ought to be applied but it is a long time since I have heard anyone say that the correct answer is provided by some godly teaching, though the teachings of Ed Sheeran, a philosopher musician of my age who has thankfully opted for mortality, still carry great weight. We had no Earth Senate then either - until the East-West War of 2022, the major countries had significant different world views and individual powerful governments. Earth Province (China) had not yet challenged the world order and asserted its dominance but Earth Province (US)'s attack on its southern borders changed all that and the crushing of the Capitalist Rebellion in 2024 created a unified world order for the first time.

Well, I'd better sign off now as my favourite programme is about to start, though that reminds me we did not have IV when I was a child. We watched something called TV (television) which was a flat screen with moving pictures displayed on it and sound coming from it. It has been quite a leap to the immersive 3-D Experiential Immersive Visuals we have nowadays, though there was less risk of damaging the furniture then in fight scenes! However, some things just do not change as Charlie is still holding it altogether in 'Casualty' so I must ask my IV to start to see what crisis he's facing this week.

Aled Luckman



A Question of House

5 contestants per house
1 per year group

Heats 26th February 2018

Final 10th March 2018

“A university challenge based quiz”

The world in 2050

Benjamin Payne

The world in twenty fifty;
Sounds funny don't you think?

I often stop and wonder;
What will it all be like?

Will cars finally fly then?
Will humans live on Mars?
Will robots live amongst us
As they watch and take notes?

And what about diseases
That take our lives away?
Will there be a cure for them?
For cancer and the rest?

And will we be cleverer
As a whole human race?
Or will the robots take us
To a more stupid place?

Who then will run the country
And the rest of the world?
Will they listen to people
So that they have a voice?

I guess we'll just have to wait
To see what it all brings.
I guess one can only hope
The birds in trees still sing.



What will 2050 look like?

When we think about the future, all we want is more - a better lifestyle, improved technology, higher buildings and faster cars. Countless people have made predictions about the future, including really precise ones; they speculate about what is going to happen in the next 10, 20 and 30 years. Experts can offer answers to questions like, 'What will our cities look like?', 'What will we eat?', 'Will global warming trigger catastrophic changes, or will we be able to engineer our way out of the crisis?'. The Rockefeller University made prognoses that the majority of people in the world will live in urban areas, and will have a significantly higher average age than people today. The theorist Richard Florida thinks urbanization trends will reinvent the education system, making our economy less real estate driven and erasing the divisions between home and work. There is one topic that almost all experts agree on: the internet will grow even more and will transform our lives, and new technology is going to be introduced which will change people's lifestyles.

2050 is only about 30 years from now - close enough that we can imagine it happening, but far enough away so that we cannot confidently say what the world is going to look like. If we just think about the movie *Back to the Future*, filmed in the 1980s, which made predictions about 2015, it is almost the same time span as between current day and 2050. The movie made predictions, including hover boards and flying cars, which do not even resemble how we live now.

This shows that we are not good at making predictions. It was not the first movie to take place in a future setting, suggesting that people are generally interested in what is going to happen. Why is this? Why does the future fascinate us so much and why do we spend so much time thinking about it? Of course, there are things that we plan, but still, at any moment, unpredictable events could happen that transform our lives, rendering all the time we spend thinking about future events useless.

It is not just scientists who make predictions about the future. We do it too, every day, when we imagine things that might or will happen. A study shows that thinking about the distant future can help people get past recent events that are causing stress like a bad grade or a fight with a friend. Thinking about long term perspective helps people to take the present a little less seriously and to keep stress levels low. The results of the study suggests that thinking about the future helps to give you a perspective on the negative events in your life. When something goes wrong, it is tempting to obsess over the details, but high levels of stress are not helpful for getting work done in the future.

Overall, thinking about the future can be helpful, but we should always keep in mind is that it is just an illusion and has nothing to do with the situation we live in at the moment; that we don't hold any certainty about the future, so should enjoy the time right now.

Random Facts about

TIME

Mulan Yang

1. Everything you are experiencing RIGHT NOW is actually in the past

According to David Eagleman, every human is living around 80 milliseconds in the past because of a time lag between the reality and our consciousness.

2. Between 1929 and 1940, the Soviet Union changed the length of the week THREE times

To fulfil work quotas, Stalin abolished weekends and created five & six-day weeks which he later changed back.

3. A snail can sleep for more than THREE YEARS at a time

4. In the time of the dinosaurs, a day was only 23 hours long

Tidal friction from the sun & moon slows our planet and increases the length of a day by three milliseconds per century.

5. Airplane passengers age a FEW NANoseconds more each flight

According to Einstein, gravity makes time pass by more slowly (planes fly where the Earth's pull is weaker)

6. You will die from a lack of sleep SOONER than from starvation

Ten days without sleep will lead to death whereas you can starve a few weeks before death occurs.

Why is time such a scary concept?

1 2 years completed. 3 years to go.
Time flies when you're having fun.

It's safe to say twelve years at Bromsgrove School has gone by extremely quickly. It seems as though yesterday I was the little girl who had barely learnt to talk, and now as a Year 10 student I'm using words, such as, tenaciously and poignantly. It seems as though it was yesterday when I sat cross-legged as a Year two student, feeling a sense of pride being one of the oldest students in pre-prep to then being the youngest in prep school, following on to be the oldest in Year eight, and now working my way up from being a Lower Fourth to an Upper Sixth. It seems as though it were yesterday that I was learning that you really could have halves of numbers as decimals and now I'm learning about cumulative frequency. It seems as though yesterday when spelling tests were the scariest things I had to encounter and now in less than two years, I will be sitting my GCSE's. The reason why all of this seems like yesterday is because time really has flown by quickly and that in itself is scary. The purpose of this essay is to explore why I deem time fearful and what I feel we as busy Bromsgrove students can do about it.

They say *time is non-refundable*. Am I the only one who finds that scary? We live our lives the way we want to, responsible for our own decisions, but never being able to revisit a moment terrifies me. Everyone makes mistakes; it's what makes us human. But we shouldn't make mistakes so often

that we begin to regret the way we have spent our time so far. We often take time for granted; we act as if we'll always have it, as if it's infinite. However, we willingly surrender to the fact we cannot control it. Yes, we don't know when it will end but I believe we're wasting each day as it goes by, losing the little precious time we have. I'm sure that you, like me, would like to go back in time and change something that you did, because it was silly or embarrassing but time is non-refundable – you can't ever get that moment back. Unfortunately, scientists have yet to discover how to time travel, which would let us go back to moments and mistakes we make. All we can do is adjust our future and change the aspects of ourselves that we would have liked to change in the past to prevent making any more regrettable mistakes. No one wants to look back in twenty years wishing they'd changed that aspect of themselves when they'd had the chance. It's as cliché as it sounds: let's change ourselves and start to take control of time instead of lazily letting it control us. If we live our lives well and believe we are in control, then we will never need to fear not being able to remedy the mistakes we've made.

Another day, another day older - another terrifying concept! I have recently reached the odd age of fourteen. I'm just past the age of being recognised as a child and now am considered, to quote my teachers, a 'young adult'. Soon enough I'll be sitting my GCSE's, later my IB exams and then eventually, I'll be off to university, away

Why is time such a scary concept?

from the comforts of Bromsgrove School that I have become so accustomed to. Being a Bromsgrovian since the age of three has understandably left me wondering what life will be like after sixth form. In pre-prep, I looked up to the year 8 students as I came to prep school for P.E on Fridays. Through prep school, I looked up to the sixth formers, admiring their flair as they strutted across campus, practically counting down the days until I too was one of them. However, now I'm an upper fourth, I have ceased my persistent desire to be older, and now wish I was younger, longing for the freedom and relaxation I once had. I'm sure I'll increasingly feel this way as I grow older.



I vividly remember meeting an upper sixth student when I was in Year 1. I had a conversation with her and afterwards walked away, dazed as I realised that I had another thirteen years to go until I would be in her place. It's been ten years since then and I could swear it was yesterday. If that's ten years, then three years will surely feel like nothing in comparison.

Who would have thought that something as simple as time going by would have the ability to scare me so much? Surely, I'm not the only one who thinks this. As I'm not in university or even sixth form yet, I hardly think I can offer any advice on how to cope with this harsh and profound realisation, but I can guess that embracing school life as much as possible is a good start!

Now, to refer back to the title and to draw a close to this article, we have a limited amount of time on earth, just as we have a limited amount of time in school and before we know it, that time will end and a new set of time will begin - our time in university, work and so on. In all cases of time, we must learn to live our lives well and spend our time wisely so we never look back and regret the things we have done or said, but only look back with pride and a sense of achievement.

By Jessica Rai

A roundup of 2017

2 017 might have been teeming with rain, but we all know what follows...

A rainbow, duh! I get it; we don't like looking back. I also agree that it is a total turn-off and I am equally tempted to just join in on the "New year, new me" hysteria by leaving the past behind - but sometimes we have to look back to see how far we've come.

The year of 2017 was a twisted roller coaster ride. That one ride at the theme park with unreasonable age and height limits. That one ride which makes you question your existence and all decisions you have ever made the second you get on, followed by vigorous ups and downs - and when you finally get off you sigh with relief but smile from the adrenaline. For this was the year when we saw various faces of this world, everything from the most horrid ones to the absolutely astonishing ones. In times when the ugly faces were revealed I felt an immense disgust, but the beautiful moments made me believe in the idea of humanity and benevolence again.

With the inauguration of a racist, fascist, ignorant, sexual assault-accused president in America, the year started with, and I say it in the most impartial way possible, a giant step backwards. But this we countered with millions of steps forwards in Washington D.C. and across USA over the following days - steps forwards for women's rights, LGBTQ-rights, rights for people of colour; for human rights. A joint, peaceful yet loud, roar. The Women's March was the stunning, indirect side-effect of president Trump.

Westminster Bridge, Champs Elysees, Manchester, Barcelona and too many more which may or may not have received equal media coverage. *Stockholm* - the capital city

of my home country Sweden, the shopping street which I had wandered up and down so many times and adored for its serenity. The ugly brutality of terrorism came, for me, closer than ever during this year. But it soothes to know that they will fail. The terror won't divide us, but bring us closer. If I was a terrorist, I would've loved seeing the fear, the division and the armed guards on the streets. I, however, would have hated seeing the children playing in the park, people doing their weekly grocery shopping or getting on the tube to work. I would have been filled with satisfaction if I had seen Ariana Grande cancel her tour after the bombing in Manchester, but would have been devastated by the smashing One Love Manchester benefit concert she bravely arranged instead.

In 2018, we will continue to refuse letting terror get to us.

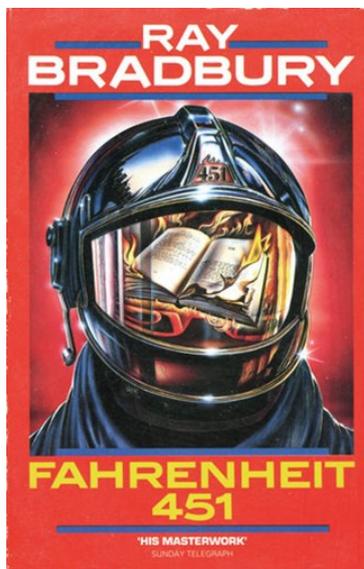
Faith was lost and restored repeatedly throughout the year, likewise were steps constantly taken backwards and forwards. EU exits. White supremacist, neo-nazi rallies. Hurricanes. Travel bans. Amazing, fierce protests against travel bans. Justin Bieber and Selena Gomez getting back together (!!!). Our own British royalty love story of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle.

The year finished with the #MeToo hashtag overwhelming media. Millions of women, men and everyone in between stepping outside the hidden statistics to speak up against sexual assault and harassment. If anything, 2017 has proven and shown how unheard voices can join together to make the most powerful roar. How tough times and challenges don't break us down but harden us. That we shouldn't be hiding from the rain but dancing in it. Let's take this life lesson with us into 2018.

Vivianne Wei

For the Love of Books

FAHRENHEIT 451



BY RAY BRADBURY

Fahrenheit 451 foresees a world in which books are outlawed and TV rules over all. In the midst of all this emerges an unlikely hero: Guy Montag. A ‘fireman’, whose job is in fact to start fires rather than put them out, Montag meets a young girl who plants a seed in his mind that changes his life; a seed of questioning. Inspired by her curiosity about everything around her, the fireman begins to question *his* life, too, until he slowly – and then quite suddenly – realises that the society he lives in is deluded and utterly ignorant. From this epiphany, he resolves to change things, with drastic results.

I’m not a huge fan of science fiction novels, and I’m always somewhat apprehensive about reading a book that’s considered a classic. But I found *451*’s storyline intriguing, and although I sometimes struggled to visualise aspects of the world that Bradbury creates, the future he portrays is convincing. The book is

perfectly readable and compelling, and its short length – only 211 pages – prevent it from being at all intimidating. The characters are vivid and credible, if not always likeable, and the narrative moves quickly. Above all, this book is thought-provoking, posing questions about authoritarianism and submission, the importance of culture, and the reliability and value of books. *451* reflects the future for our society if we continue as we do. The story is eerie because, after 50 years, it’s still relevant – we still have the same questions, the same concerns about our lifestyles and our future.

What makes this novel so special is that it reminds you why books are so great; why books are important, vital even, to society. Despite making a strong case for how books can destroy, deceive, disorient, this only makes the overall effect stronger. I love this book for providing me with an escape, without pushing it on me, and for gently reminding me why I love books. After finishing *451*, I couldn’t wait to devour another novel.

However, I was left a little unsatisfied by the end. Although the book ends powerfully, there was no mention of the girl Montag meets at the beginning, and I felt that a mention of her was important to bring the book full circle – especially as she doesn’t feature much in book, despite having huge impact on Montag.

Overall, *451* is enjoyable, thought-provoking, and well-written; I would definitely recommend it.

Alia Derriey

What will 2050 look like?

“Lost time is never found again.”

~Benjamin Franklin

Six words, creating a sentence which may sound simple, obvious or perhaps even “ordinary”.

And yet, the deeper meaning of these 25 letters is a thread to our fearful selves. It hits straight in our faces and into our hearts, and seems to govern us more than we govern it, no matter how hard we try.

Time is for us like the water fish swim in – they do not notice the weakness of their bodies and the fragility of their minds, they do not understand the power of the flow and simply drift along the everlasting luscious waves.

Who knows what time is? For a physician it is the Change, for a businessman it is the Money, for an artist it is the colours of the rainbow, and for my five-year-old cousin it is the days until Christmas.

Our world spins around it and the people seem to know all about it. They throw around with sayings like,

“Know the true value of time; snatch, seize, and enjoy every moment of it. No idleness, no laziness, no procrastination”
~Philip Stanhope

If you look at our world now, at places like Tokyo, New York or London, you will see that we have created an “efficient” way of living: Time is now about how many cars BMW can produce in a minute, how many contracts a man can sign in an hour and how many promotions one can get over a year.

Is it efficiency that is meant by the quote above? Is it really about trying to be the fastest, the most inventive and the most successful? Is speed all that counts in our days, our lives and our personalities?

Many answer no to these questions, some even confidently. But most of them don’t mean it. They say it because it is the right answer, it is the perfect and only logical answer that a normal person with morals and common sense would give.

Still, their actions are not different at all to the people who honestly answered yes to these questions. Most people just fulfil their moral duty, say no, and then go on living their stressful and hectic lifestyle.

Think about the goals you have in your life. I doubt any of them involve getting as much as possible in your life done, for the sake of ticking off all the points on your to-do-list and still not feeling satisfied because there is always someone who has done *more* than you.

Life is about experiences, and time is a gift for you. Use it wisely, but never forget it is neither a limit nor a countdown – it is the sum of possibilities it offers. Don’t hesitate to take your time if you want to and don’t let other people make you use your time for stuff *they* think is important and plans *they* want you to follow.

It is completely up to you what you want to use your time for – as long as you know its true value.

“All that really belongs to us is time; even he who has nothing else has that.” ~Baltasar Gracian

By Mulan Yang

Humans of Bromsgrove

Tatiana Morikova



What are your feelings about the Bromsgrove community?

There is definitely a strong community feel in this school. I've felt nicely welcomed by the community as a new teacher this year.

(Mr Summerfield, Physics teacher)

How to survive through the school year?

Be organized, positive and take advantage of all the opportunities!

(Mr Williams, English teacher)



What difficulties have you faced being Head of House?

One of the difficulties I've faced is listening to and taking into consideration everybody's ideas. Also, always being able to help and support any Oakley girl who needs it, and learning how to solve problems quickly.

(Dichhya Pun, Head of Oakley House)

Why athletics?

Athletics allows you to pick the sport you like: it is sport with lots of sports in it. You can choose any event you want: running, hurdles, sprint, long jump. It allows you to get fit, strong and stretched. That's why you should choose athletics.

(Mr Skipp, Athletics coach)



What is the most exciting thing about your subject?

The fact that it is all around you. Whether you want to go into business or not, everybody is surrounded by it and the information is always new.

(Mrs Holdsworth, Business teacher)

Overheard in Bromsgrove

‘I hate spider diagrams.’

‘I was like, I have three weeks, that’s plenty of time.’

‘It’s not bullying cause they did it to each other.’

‘The only reason I come to the library on a Thursday is cause the pretty sixth former is there.’

‘Does a 45-degree angle have to be 45 degrees?’

‘This fine liner is not fine.’

A: ‘I don’t know how to use this dishwasher like the buttons are rubbed off and I don’t own a dishwasher.’

B: ‘Oh, the dishwasher at my home has two buttons you press, you press start and then you choose either cotton or wool’

A: ‘...we’re talking about the dishwasher, right?’

‘The word ‘women’ has ‘men’ inside, so maybe they should find a new word. What about X and Y chromosome?’

Send us anything weird you hear around School for the chance for it to be featured

In Time Film Review

Harriet Fuchs

A world ahead in time, where a regular currency has been replaced with time to live.

The movie 'In time' was directed and written by Andrew Niccol; first shown in 2011, it is classified as dystopian science fiction movie. The movie features several Hollywood stars such as Justin Timberlake (playing the protagonist Will Salas), Amanda Seyfried and Cillian Murphy.

The movie is set in the future, when humans have been engineered to stop aging at twenty-five. After their twenty-fifth birthday, they have one more year to live. Whilst we earn money after we have worked, in this world, the money you earn is time to live. Everyone, as soon as they turn twenty-five, must work to earn time to live. The time earned is displayed on the forearm of every citizen.

Everything you want to buy - food, drink, clothes - costs some of your life time. This means that the poor die young and the rich can live forever. Will Salas belongs to the poor, who usually lives from day to day work. As a gift, he receives 100 years to live. He moves to the richer areas and is soon hunted by the timekeepers, the police of their world. Will believes that no one should have to die so young, and aims to bring down the

system together with the daughter of one of the wealthiest families, Sylvia Wise.

The actors play their characters brilliantly: Will excellently enacts thrilling scenes, such as a visit to a casino, where, again, time is the money being played. This is where he first meets Sylvia's father, Mr Wise. At a particularly tense moment, they are playing poker and Will, who has less time to play with than his opponents, seems to have run out of time, with only 32 seconds left to live. Amanda Siegfried, who most of us know as Sophie from Mamma Mia, transfers herself into her brave and bold character. As the daughter of a rich man, she starts to feel guilt and anger at the system after she has met Will. Hectic scenes provide anxiety and suspense, whilst breathless action scenes, such as gun fires and car pursuits, lead the protagonists to dangerously fight for time.

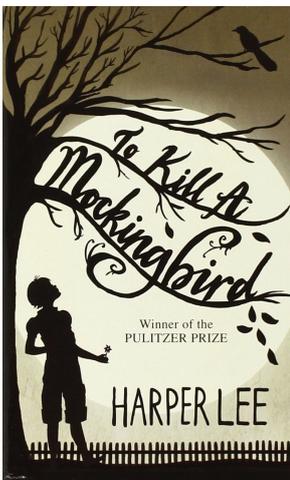
I really enjoyed this movie. Knowing, throughout the entire movie, that the time of the characters can be robbed and completely and die at any moment is thrilling for the watcher, and makes the movie dramatic and interesting. I highly recommend the film to everyone, particularly fans of action movies.

Top 5 books on Justice

Curiously, the idea of justice has, over the centuries, become a typical ingredient in 'happy ending' books, in which the hero achieves justice over the villain or the anti-hero, consequently saving the day. That concept is over-simplified to say the least. It often becomes very difficult to understand whether achieving justice is the right thing to do, whether it is right to seek revenge, as once it's achieved, it often makes things more erroneous than they were to begin with.

The top five books mentioned below do not have a happy ending. With stories that are twisted and flawed but at the same time beautifully real, they show that a story is never black and white and the distinction between good and bad is often blurry.

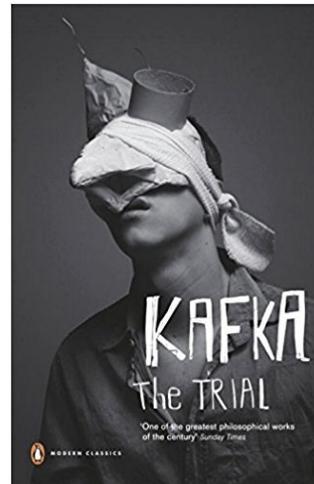
1. To Kill a Mockingbird – Harper Lee



To Kill A Mockingbird is a story that stretches over three years. Although initially focusing on the life of a young tomboy Scout, what is really striking about the book is the way the little girl describes the court case that convicts a black man

in the rape and beating of a white woman, a man her father, Atticus Finch, attempts to defend in court. The bluntness of the young girl's language, especially her racial remarks about the man, reflect the views of society at the time. Despite the innocent uncensored style used by Harper Lee, she manages to convey a powerful striking message and raises awareness on social injustice.

2. The Trial – Franz Kafka

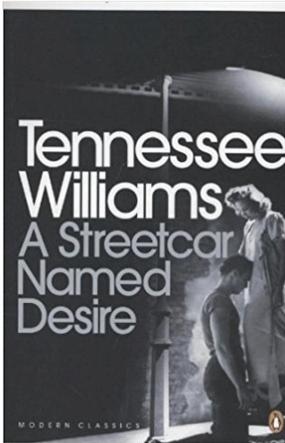


In the novel *The Trial*, Franz Kafka distorts our perception of reality by setting the story in a non-specific country or place, stripping it from any identity. This allows us to focus on the powerful 'what if' idea set on the theme of the injustice of the

law, and the flawed social systems meant to trap middle class workers in a form of a metaphorical jail, the threat of which is present throughout the novel until the very tragic finale. In terms of the protagonist, Joseph K's inactive approach to the problem mixed with his prolonged periods of procrastination certainly don't make him a typical 'rebel' or 'outlaw' type of character, yet his rather plain personality certainly helps to convey the slightly utopian style the novel is written in.

Top 5 books on Justice

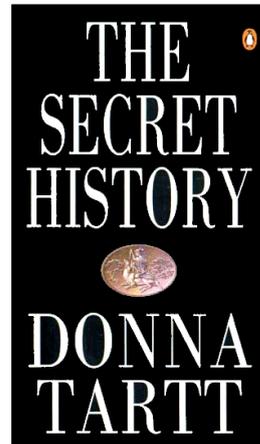
3. *A Streetcar Named Desire* - Tennessee Williams



Despite the fact that Tennessee Williams has produced many classic English literary works with powerful social messages and an engaging style, in my opinion *A Street Car Named Desire*

eclipses them all. The play focuses on a young working class family in Brooklyn living in a lustful relationship and the conflict that arises within their inner circle. It portrays the theme of justice, or rather injustice, through the brutal masculinity of Stanley Kowalski and his abusive behaviour, yet it also focuses on inequality between classes and a complete disequilibrium of rational and passionate love. The characters constantly cross the lines between abuse and love or walk on the razor blade of sanity and complete madness.

4. *The Secret History* – Donna Tartt



This novel tells the story of an exclusive group of young students, fiercely intelligent and affluent people who start out by simply taking a class in Ancient Greek History in the prestigious

Hampden College. The twisted desires and characteristics of each member of the society slowly distances them from typical college life, drawing them into strange events closely linked to dark magic and insanity. The constant tension and general instability of the group makes it extremely hard to predict an outcome of the confusing yet engaging storyline. It also makes it increasingly difficult to draw a line between justice and criminal acts. The book grants the reader a strange sense of immoral satisfaction and frustration at the seemingly wasted lives of ambitious young people.

5. *Fahrenheit 451* – Ray Bradbury

RAY BRADBURY'S

Fahrenheit 451



THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY

There is no argument that *Fahrenheit 451* is an all-time classic. This is a dystopian novel about a country or world not only without books but absent of individual thinking or personal development. The concept of justice is explored through the hero, the rebel of the novella, Guy Montag, who, just as is often the case in such captivating satires of reality, is the only person 'awake' though the entire story. The novel is full of contrasts and never fails to portray the true shallowness of the majority while subtly highlighting the scale of the dictatorship regime. *Fahrenheit 451* is a criticism on humanity's suppression and forbiddance of

everything we don't understand, warning us of the only possible outcome of a society that lives in a vegetable-like state.

Anna B

What's up Madagascar?

After describing the geographical and historical characteristics of Madagascar in my last article back in November, I now turn my focus to the country's economic standpoint.

Madagascar's economy is a market economy supported by a well-established agricultural industry and emerging tourism, textile and mining industries.



Whilst the economy is mostly unregulated and has many untapped natural resources, it has no capital markets, a weak judicial system, poorly enforced contracts, and rampant government corruption. The country faces challenges to improve education, healthcare, and the environment to boost long-term economic growth.

Agriculture, including fishing and forestry, is a mainstay of the economy, accounting for more than one-fourth of its GDP and employing roughly 80% of the population. Deforestation and erosion, aggravated by bushfires, slash-

and-burn clearing techniques, and the use of firewood as the primary source of fuel, are serious concerns to the agriculture-dependent economy.

After discarding socialist economic policies in the mid-1990s, Madagascar followed a World Bank- and IMF-led policy of privatization and liberalization until the onset of a political crisis, which lasted from 2009 to 2013. The strategy had placed the country on a slow and steady path of growth from an extremely low starting point. Exports of apparel boomed after gaining duty-free access to the US in 2000. However, Madagascar's failure to comply with the requirements of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) led to the termination of the country's duty-free access in January 2010. Consequences included a sharp fall in textile production, and a loss of more than 100,000 jobs. Madagascar regained AGOA access in January 2015 following the democratic election of a new president the previous year.

Madagascar's financial sector remains weak, limiting the use of monetary policy to control inflation, but an ongoing IMF program aims to strengthen financial and investment management capacity. In 2016, Madagascar was one of the world's fastest-growing economies although it is still one of the world's poorest countries.

Vanilla

Madagascar produces around 80% of the world's vanilla supply despite the supply being constrained by hurricane-related

What's up Madagascar?

damages in 2017, when international demand drove prices to record highs, increasing export earnings for Malagasy vanilla.

Sapphire

Madagascar has long been known as a source of precious and semi-precious gemstones. However, the current sapphire boom is a relatively recent development. International traders took notice of Ankarana only in the 1990s, setting off a rush. Not long after, much larger, international headline-grabbing sapphire rushes enveloped several regions in the south of the island, and, by the turn of the millennium, Madagascar had earned the reputation as one of the world's most important sources of sapphires. If you or someone you know has ever bought a piece of sapphire jewelry in recent years, there is a good chance that the sapphire in it comes from Madagascar.

Ecotourism

Madagascar's popularity as an ecotourism destination has developed alongside increasing international

awareness due to the island's status of 'biodiversity hotspot'. Its popularity is also the product of a great deal of planning and effort by representatives of the Malagasy state, national, and international conservation organizations, and international lenders and donors. Promoters argue that ecotourism offers a means for protecting the island's unique ecosystems by allowing people to live in huge communities around National Parks and other protected areas with additional opportunities to work.

Our Madagascar expedition is approaching with giant steps - the first draft itinerary was already sent out and we are realizing just how exciting our adventure is going to be. We are all aware that it will be an incredible life time experience. As promised, we will keep you informed on Madagascar and our incredible expedition.

Veloma

(goodbye in Malagasy)



Katharina Knopp

Pink: the ultimate symbol for boys who grow up to be men?

It's 2018, and the colour symbolising femininity for us as millennials and for those individuals born in the past century is unquestionably pink. Whether it be deep tones of magenta or barely tinted carnation, colours in this range are usually associated, by subconscious instinct, with women and girls.

But why did this colour gain such a strong association? And why is blue the stereotypical counterpart for boys?

According to Gavin Evans, colour expert and lecturer at Birkbeck University, from toward the end of the 19th century, up until the end of World War II, a widely dispensed piece of advice for raising children was to dress girls in blue, as the Virgin Mary had supposedly dressed in that shade. Blue was also dainty, delicate and passive - all desirable aspects in feminine women at the time. It also represented the innocence of the Virgin Mary.

Shockingly, the colour boys were made to wear during this period was pink. It was derived from red, the colour of masculinity at the time. Hence, boys growing to be men were represented by their rosy fashion. Pink implied a boyish charm.

Jennifer Wright, author of *It Ended Badly*, corroborates Mr Evans' ideas. She also sheds some light on the drastic transformation of colours and their assignment to the sexes.

According to her, Dwight Eisenhower's presidential inauguration in 1953 was a defining

moment for the symbolism of pink.

Mamie Eisenhower, the first lady, wore an enormous, stunning pink dress, the likes of which had

never been seen before, to the event. It was her favourite colour: she felt like it brought out her complexion.

First ladies in America have often set the trend for women's fashion during their husband's term. Hence, soon after Mrs Eisenhower's inauguration, a huge advertising campaign took place in the United States, making use of slogans such as "Pink is for girls!". There's a great song in the 1957 fashion culture film *Funny Face* which marks the transition of colours associated with ladylike women from navy blue or black (an important clarification in this regard would be that, during the war years, women usually wore these dark colours) to pink. Repeated lyrics in this hit song were "Vanish the black. Burn the blue. Think pink!".

Considering this from an emotional perspective, navy blue or black can be regarded as rather drab, testament to the misery experienced by many during WWII, especially by women, many of whom were terrified for the well-being of their husbands and sons gone to war. In that case, the emergence of pink symbolises the end of the war and the initiation of a happier chapter in people's lives, filled with hope and relief.

Today, there are many different opinions as to which culture is associated with a particular colour, as well as the rise of a movement encouraging us to break free from these primitive stereotypes, and not label individuals because of the colour or style they choose to dress in.

I support this movement, but I can't help but wonder: aren't humans a naturally primitive creature, desperate to latch on to any tribe that comes their way, for the sake of self-identity?

Mayaz Shabab

Film review: The Great Gatsby

A modern depiction of the classic 'Jazz Age'

The Great Gatsby is a drama film, encompassing the rage of the roaring twenties supported by modern music, flamboyant settings and exquisite costumes. The combination of great directing by none other than Baz Luhrmann himself and a captivating cast including stars Leonardo DiCaprio and Carey Mulligan, adapts the story for the modern audience without losing that touch of the golden age.

The movie follows the story of Nick Carraway, played by Toby Maguire, a young man who moved to New York in the beginning of the '20s in the hope of making it on Wall Street. At West Egg Village he meets Jay Gatsby (Leonardo DiCaprio), a mysterious businessman who hosts extravagant parties. As Nick develops a closer relationship with him, he learns of the role his cousin Daisy (Carey Mulligan) plays in Gatsby's fate. He also catches a glimpse of her life behind the curtain of her 'perfect marriage' to Tom (Joel Edgerton), the dark side of glitz and glamour, and the incredible gift of hope that Gatsby has.

Baz Luhrmann's directing makes the movie a quintessential depiction of the Roaring Age. The fast pace of the movie captivates the viewer, keeping the tension and interest at peak throughout. Costumes deserve a special mention for being both historically accurate, intricate and carrying the air of that era with each character. The music flawlessly reflects the 'roar' and the craziness of the 20s while including a range of styles for the modern audience, from Lana del Ray to Kanye West.

Baz Luhrmann yet again proves himself his esteem as a director with this work. He keeps the movie interesting, but most importantly, doesn't deviate from the book,

keeping the most important theme of Dream as a priority. He uses the symbolism of the green light to provide the audience with an understanding for the theme, an aspect directly inspired by Fitzgerald himself.

These facets work in harmony to make *Gatsby* not only an interesting movie with an intriguing plot, but also aesthetically pleasing for anyone, regardless of their interest in the period or the story, with all the glamour and glitz. One criticism I would make, however, is that the relationship between Jordan baker (Elizabeth Debicki) and Nick is undeveloped, despite them being a rather important pair in the book.

I found the movie exceptionally enjoyable and compelling. It follows the book closely and focuses on important themes, such as hope and the American dream, whilst entertaining. The perfect amalgamation of good casting, skilful directing, and enjoyable music renders the movie the archetypal representation of the 'Roaring Twenties' - a must-watch for anyone.

Nadya Durova

Our world beyond 2018

The Rock
runs for
president?



2024

SpaceX
launches
cargo to
mars



2026

Catalan
Cathedral
completed



2020



Jeddah
Tower, tallest
in the world
due to be
complete

2023



Mickey
Mouse
Cartoon's
Copy rights
expire

2025



UK
compl
etely
phase
s out
coal

2027



First
human on
mars?

2030



First Space craft to reach a different star system launched



2036

World's first trillionaire



World Population reaches 9 billion! White people will become a minority in the U.S



2042

Artificial intelligence surpasses human intelligence



2045

2037



First summer with no ice in the arctic

2040



All gasoline and diesel in France will be banned

2044



Lord of the Rings released into public domain

2050



Arctic comes up for review! Mining in the Arctic?

Timeless Fashion

Smart suit



Introduced to the modern fashion world by Coco Chanel, power suits remain a classic

White button down shirt



Arguably the most versatile piece of clothing



Little Black Dress

You just can't go wrong with a black dress, no matter the time or occasion



What is time? Think about it for a minute. It's hard to come up with an answer, isn't it? Well you're not alone. Physicists have debated the nature of time for centuries, and yet we still don't have a definitive answer.

Let's start by answering a simpler question: Can we feel time? Humans have evolved five senses, and unlike space, time does not have a single one assigned to it. Our main biophysical sensory mechanism, sight, creates the 3D world in our brains so we can interpret it. If we can't see, hearing can still give us an impression of the space. Lastly, we can use touch to determine the locations of objects in space. Time is completely different, as there is no built-in mechanism to feel it. But humans still think that we have a sense of time. Why so? Our sense of time is created by life expectancy. A 50-minute lesson, a quick break in café or several hours of reading a book have sense in terms of time because we know that we will die one day, and our time will finish, so we feel time as a fraction of our life. If we were immortal,

would time even exist as a concept? If we were immortal, we could not interpret an action as a fraction of our life, so we could not give it such a property as time – it would have taken nothing compared to our life time.

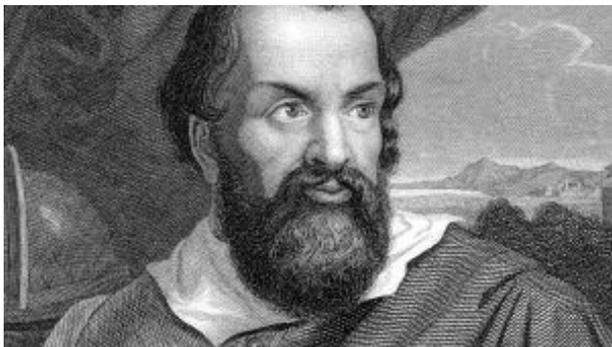
Perhaps we can look at a harder question: Does time have an existence independent of our minds? In nowadays physics, time is an essential ingredient, but there were attempts to interpret physics with no explicit time, which showed that time is not always essential, it just makes everything simpler. There are two different concepts of time in physics:

Galilean time, also known as absolute time, due to which the physical existence of an absolute and global time is assumed. Isaac Newton defined it as follows: "Absolute, true and mathematical time, in itself, and from its own nature, flows equally, without relation to anything external; All motions may be accelerated and retarded, but the flowing of absolute time is liable to no change.";

The Nature of Time



Minkowski Space-Time, which is completely different. In this understanding, absolute time has no meaning. This notion of time is based on Einstein's theory of Relativity, in which he postulated one key principle: The speed of light is constant in all reference frames, which in its essence redefines time. It implies that simultaneity is not an absolute quantity, rather, it depends on the motion of an observer. In terms of math, it mixed space and time.



Source: Bio.com

of a global absolute time, hence we lose our ability to say whether two events take place at the same time. In other words, we lose the fundamental qualities of our sense of time. So, if we are willing to sacrifice these qualities, should we think of time as of just a mathematical construct, an instrument which may not even be required for our understanding of the universe?

If time is unreal, then why do we feel it? Maybe it's because we accept it before we learn to question it. Just think about the speed of time: it passes at one second per second, and that's all there is to it. Then again, maybe time is real. Much progress has been made to understand the nature of time, but the main question "What is time?" is still left unanswered.

So, which interpretation is the true one? Physicists claim that Minkowski's picture is a generalization of the Galilean notion of space-time, and this is true in mathematical sense. But, we lose the sense

By Andrii Iermolaiev

Could *The Handmaid's Tale* become our gruesome reality?

To give some background, *The Handmaid's Tale* depicts life in the dystopia of Gilead, a modern-day totalitarian society in what was formerly part of the United States. Facing environmental disasters and a plunging birth-rate, Gilead is run by a twisted fundamentalist regime that treats women as property of the state. As one of the few remaining fertile women, Offred is a Handmaid in the Commander's household, one of the many women forced into sexual servitude as a last desperate attempt to repopulate a devastated world. In this terrifying society where one wrong word could end her life, Offred navigates between Commanders, their cruel Wives, domestic Marthas, and her fellow Handmaids—where anyone could be a spy for Gilead—all with one goal: to survive.

The Handmaid's Tale was written by Margaret Atwood in 1985 and whilst the exact year is ambiguous, we can infer that it is roughly set around the late 90's-early 2000's. This strikingly resonant novel has recently shot to fame three decades after its publish due to the new television series being released this April.

Whilst an enticing book to read and a visceral exploration on the screen, you can't help but think, 'that could *never* happen here', because here isn't Gilead. Here is a safe place far away from a dystopian post revolution state that controls your every breath and movement. Or is it?

It's comforting to assume that horrors can only happen somewhere else, but many of the horrors of *The Handmaid's Tale* are happening right here, right now – albeit not necessarily on the same level of severity, but they are still very much current and relevant to what we see in the news every day.

Gilead, the transformed North America in which the novel takes place, is a religious state, led by the Christian fundamentalist group that goes by 'The Sons of Jacob'. All its women, no matter what their status – and no woman in Gilead holds power – must adhere to a restrictive dress code. High-ranking Wives wear blue, while the Handmaids are forced into shapeless dresses which swamp their bodies in "the colour of blood", and partially conceal their faces. The regime is preoccupied with falling birthrates, meaning that childbirth is celebrated while abortion is banned with punishment of death.

Recently, however, under the Presidency of Donald Trump, the United States has also seen a state-imposed crackdown on abortion rights. One of the new President's first moves was to cut US overseas funding to NGO's that provide abortion services. And in April 2017 he signed a legislation aimed at blocking state funding to abortion providers such as Planned Parenthood. The news was treated as a victory



Young women at university in Afghanistan before

by many evangelical anti-abortion groups.

On top of this, as previously mentioned, the handmaids in Atwood's book are subject to strictly enforced dress codes and are provided uniforms similar to a Catholic nun's habit, except bright red. Red is the symbol of their societal status as women who are kept solely to

Could *The Handmaid's Tale* become our gruesome reality?

conceive children for the wealthy. You may think this is extreme, but in 2017 when you have a president who says “[he] likes the women who work for him “to dress like women,” it may not be so far off.

“There is more than one kind of freedom,” says Aunt Lydia, one of the women in charge of teaching and training the handmaids to do their duties, “Freedom to and freedom from. In the days of anarchy, it was freedom to. Now you are being given freedom from. Don’t underrate it.” Freedom from being catcalled, from being assaulted by men. In many schools across the world, they don’t want boys to be distracted by the girls’ shoulders, so they require girls to cover up instead of telling the boys not to objectify us. Covering up is freedom from the comments of our male classmates. Freedom to, would have been teaching boys that girls do not exist for their viewing.

A resonant scene in the book, that makes me shudder just at the thought, that takes place in which the handmaids are forced to blame one of their own for the gang rape she suffered pre revolution. Atwood’s novel highlights a society that fetishises women as silent, obedient, forbidden objects, something we see in modern day all too frequently.

What sets *The Handmaid's Tale* apart from our world isn’t the sexism or the religious aspect – it’s the fertility crisis. While we might not resort to ritual rape if faced with that situation, it’s not a huge leap to assume that the government would start monitoring women’s fertility, and possibly forcing them to donate eggs. Contraception might be outlawed. Abortion would almost certainly be. And while many people still believe feminism is about man-hating and not shaving your legs, a huge part of female liberation is gaining control and ownership over our own bodies, particularly our

fertility. We’re able to work and live independent lives because we’re not popping out a baby a year, but in a situation like that in *The Handmaid's Tale*, we would almost definitely lose that control, and once women have lost that, we could lose almost every other right we’ve earned and fought for in the last century.

If you still don’t think a nation’s culture could change so rapidly that women are suddenly forced to adhere to dress codes and limited socialization, just look at the women who experienced life before and after the rule of the Taliban in Afghanistan. They were denied jobs and education; left with no other options, they were forced into prostitution, often resulting in arrests and sexually transmitted diseases. Women were stripped of their personal rights and identities, as they were forced to wear burqas, hiding their faces and stripping them of their feminism.

The Handmaid's Tale is a frightening reminder that female liberation is fairly recent. There are still plenty of people who believe that women should never have left their ‘traditional’ role, that they should simply raise the babies and obey the powerful men in society. There are still plenty of countries in which women are still in that role. There are some countries who would look at *The Handmaid's Tale* and see few differences with their own day-to-day life. No more can we lie to ourselves and pretend that we are so far away from this type of world and punishment. Under the right conditions, it could happen anywhere. We should treat *The Handmaid's Tale* as the cautionary tale that could help protect us from the world it depicts.

By Lauren Milburn

My UChicago Experience

Apart from when I was five years old and liked the idea of wearing a suit, I'd never been interested in becoming a lawyer. I was immediately put off by the wide-spanning mocking jokes about lawyers, from the New Yorker to Shakespeare himself. Who wants to work in such a hated profession?

Something I've always strived towards, though, is college. As my brother says, I will have spent more time looking at colleges than I'll actually spend at college. The summer before Year 10, I went on my first college tour and it snowballed



from there. I was hooked.

When I heard that high school students could attend summer programs at elite colleges, of course I wanted to go on one. I made obvious course choices – creative writing, publishing, etc. – but my parents eventually persuaded me to apply to one about law. To appease them, I applied to Law and Litigation at the University of Chicago without really expecting to get in (let alone attend it). To my surprise, however, I got into the program. As I'd already visited the campus the previous summer and liked it, I figured that if I didn't love my course, at least I would hopefully love the college.

Eventually, summer came around. I travelled to Chicago and my parents dropped me off at the university. Of course, it was daunting

meeting so many people and making friends, but despite my fears, people were friendly and kind. Best of all, people seemed truly passionate about the course they were studying.

That weekend, our RA took us around Hyde Park: Medici's for their famous milkshakes, Powell's bookstore (a favourite of mine), and the stunning Lake Michigan. Every day, the RA's ran activities, from bubble tea excursions to watching the sunrise over the lake. There wasn't enough time to do it all! One weekend, we visited the Bean, the Art Institute in central Chicago, and watched a White Sox game. The next week we tried deep-dish pizza (good, but New York-style is still better!) before watching improv comedy at The Revival.

On Monday, my class started. The course was centred around the fundamental constitutional Supreme Court cases and a schedule of mock trials in the final week. On the first night, we were set 172 pages of reading (yes, we counted!), all in the dense legal language of case descriptions, court opinions and dissents. As a group, we quickly learned to divide the tasks and use websites for case summaries when necessary. Together, staying up until two in the morning, we got through the cases.

It took a lot of adjustment which we didn't have time for – not only was it a far bigger workload than I was used to, but I was also jetlagged (although not as jetlagged as my roommate, who had flown from Shanghai!). It was undoubtedly a struggle, but luckily, we struggled together. What made it all worth it, though, was the discussion that followed in class the next day. The debates became impassioned at times, but it was all in good spirits and a lot of fun.

Very soon, I was finding the work, although taxing, fascinating; the cases were about people's fundamental rights set out in the

My UChicago Experience

constitution, and how that antiquated document can and should be interpreted. Perhaps this sounds ridiculous, but it came as a surprise to me that when a judge makes a decision, they have to back it up with extensive legal reasoning, not just a persuasive argument. We played judges ourselves in our professor's demanding end-of-week tests, in which we would have to scan through a 'fact pattern' (a story/dilemma) and make numerous legal decisions based on the case law (and statutory law) we'd learned about in class.

In parallel with learning about the different cases, we also learned the basics of the litigation process – essentially, what being a lawyer involves. Visiting State and Federal courts in Chicago, we got the opportunity to watch what we were learning about in action. We even got to watch a sentence hearing for a drug trafficker and his girlfriend, talk to an Assistant US Attorney, and hear from a federal judge. The experience was incredible, and gave me a newfound respect, appreciation and fascination with the justice system.



Perhaps the most rewarding part of the course was mock trials in the last week. In a stroke of luck, I was paired up with the best girl in the class, and we worked together as co-counsels defending a restaurant owner in a mock case. We wrote an opening statement, multiple direct

- and cross-examinations, and a closing argument, all from scratch, and practised performing them. We prepared for the settlement conference with the opposing lawyers and our motions *in limine* for the day of the trial. We prepped our witnesses, and played



witnesses for another case. As much as possible, we played real lawyers throughout the process.

During my time at UChicago, my head was often stuck in a book, studying in the stunning futuristic Mansueto Reading Room (pictured). I figured if I was going to spend so much time studying, I may as well choose somewhere nice to do it.

My summer at UChicago was a once in a lifetime experience; I made great friends, learned a lot, and caught a glimpse of life as a college student. I couldn't recommend it more!

However, if you're looking for a carefree, relaxed time, this is not the program for you. If you haven't already gathered, this program is intense!

Alia Derriey

Applications have recently opened for summer programmes such as UChicago Summer Session. If you're interested and would like more information, please contact

Bromsgrove Futures.

CHARITY SOFT DODGE- BALL TOURNAMENT

STAFF VS PUPILS

Friday 9th March 2018
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To watch: £2.00

All proceeds go to charity!



Edited by: William Edwards and Aled Luckman

