

THE LEXINGTON CONCORE

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The History of Thanksgiving By Connor B.



The history of Thanksgiving is older than the United States. Early settlers would observe periods of fasting and periods of thanksgiving. The most famous thanksgiving tradition however is the traditional story of the Puritans. Everyone knows the story of Squanto and how the settlers and Native Americans came together to survive and they are the reason the settlers survived. The Pilgrims or settlers, held a true Thanksgiving celebration in 1623 following a fast and a refreshing 14 day rain, which resulted in a larger harvest. Historians think this thanksgiving was held on Wednesday, July 30, 1623, a day before the arrival of a supply ship with more colonists

The first holiday ever created by the American Government was Thanksgiving. In fact, it is so old that it was actually drafted by the Continental Congress in 1777. George Washington actually personally proclaimed that Thanksgiving should be held in December.

On Thursday, September 24, 1789, the first House of Representatives voted to recommend the First Amendment of the newly drafted Constitution to the states for ratification. The next day, Congressman Elias Boudinot, of New Jersey, proposed that the House and Senate jointly request President Washington to proclaim a day of thanksgiving for "the many signal favors of Almighty God". Boudinot described that he "could not think of letting the session pass over without offering an opportunity to all the citizens of the United States of joining, with one voice, in returning to Almighty God their sincere thanks for the many blessings he had poured down upon them."

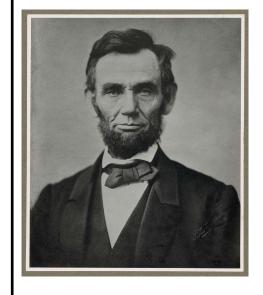
It wasn't until the American Civil War that Thanksgiving would get its modern day date. In the middle of the American Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln, influenced by editorials written by Sarah Josepha Hale, proclaimed a national Thanksgiving Day, to be celebrated on the final Thursday of November.



Note from the IT editor

Federal law says that schools can only use first names when referring to minors on the internet. So you will see the authors and anyone else mentioned by first name only, sorry for any confusion this might cause.

Please note that Lexington does not endorse any religious affiliation





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All is Merry and Bright: Holiday Activities in Lex

By Natalie H.

With the holidays fast approaching, the little village of Lexington is gearing up for the big wave of excitement and cheer. On Monday, November 27th at 7 p.m., the village will host their annual Light up Lex celebration; this activity includes music from school choir Una Voce, a visit from Santa, hot cocoa and treats from various vendors, and the illumination of the square. Craft shows will also be popping up around the surrounding areas- these include vendors that sell



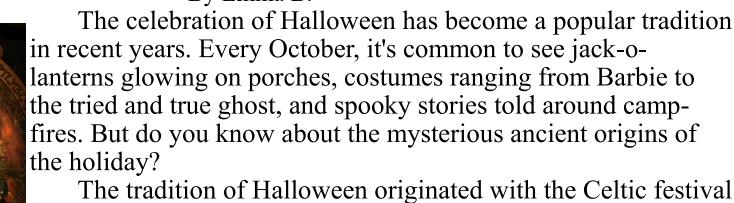
homemade items like baked goods, crochet pieces, home decor, and tiny trinkets. The



Lexington High School will be having their Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, December 2nd; breakfast items will be provided as well as a chance to talk with Santa and enjoy music from Una Voce and the Lexington High School Orchestra members. Also taking place at the high school, there will be band, choir, and orchestra concerts featuring Christmas classics throughout the month of December. Get into the holiday spirit and come celebrate with the community!

Uncovering Halloween's Mysterious Celtic Origins

By Emma B.



Samhain (a Gaelic word pronounced "Sow-win"). The ancient Celts, a collection of tribes spread predominantly throughout the area that is now Ireland and the United Kingdom roughly 2,000 years ago, celebrated the start of their new year on November 1st.

This day marked the end of the summer with the harvest and the beginning of the winter, which was usually associated with death. The Celts believed that during the night before the new year, the boundary between the worlds of the living and dead blurred. Samhain was celebrated on October 31st when they believed that the spirits of the dead returned to the earth.

After the harvest work had been completed, celebrants joined Druid priests in building enormous bonfires where cattle were sacrificed to Celtic deities. During this celebration, the Celts usually wore costumes consisting of animal heads and skins to ward off ghosts.

As Christianity continued to gain ground in Western Europe, church leaders attempted to remold Samhain into a Christian celebration. In the 9th century, Pope Gregory III declared November 1st to be All Saint's Day, a time to honor Christian martyrs. Another holiday, All Soul's Day, would follow on November 2nd. Interestingly, All Soul's Day was celebrated similarly to Samhain, with huge bonfires and costumes.



Despite the attempts to Christianize the pagan holiday, neither new celebration entirely erased the mysterious ancient traditions. The night before All-Saints Day, also called All-Hallows, was named All-Hallows Eve. All-Hallows Eve later became the holiday we know today, Halloween.

Nike Midwest Regional Meet

By: Emma C.

The 2023 Nike Midwest regional meet was held at the LaVern Gibson Championship Cross Country Course in Terre Haute, Indiana. Anyone is able to enter the meet. There are different races and the officials who run the meet decide what heats the runners are in based on their times. Senior Elyana W. ran a brilliant and incredible race. She ran the open 5000m and placed 6th out of 696 open runners. She ended up finishing the race with a time of 18:54. Junior Chance B. placed 70th out of 286 runners. The championship race is the race to qualify for nationals. He finished with a time of 15:44.4. Last but not least, sophomore Brailey S. qualified for this meet and finished with a time of 18:37.6. These individuals



showed strength throughout their races. They played it smart and were able to finish with amazing times. We wish them good luck in running and now it's time to reset and prepare for a new season.

Thanksgiving around the globe

By Peersen O.

In the United States thanksgiving is a time for spending time with family and having a good dinner, however other countries have their own versions of thanksgiving that they celebrate as well, in this article we will look at some examples



The first Canadian Thanksgiving was allegedly celebrated in 1578, 40 years before the first thanksgiving in what is now the United States. Unlike Americans, Canadians celebrate their thanksgiving in October, not November and a chunk of Canadians get the day off work on the second Monday in October meaning it's acceptable to celebrate Thanksgiving on any part on the Long Weekend. The food served at Canadian Thanksgiving is nearly identical to the American food, however Canadians don't see Thanksgiving as much as a big deal compared to Americans

Slovakia-

Slovaks do not necessarily celebrate Thanksgiving but it does have a similar holiday known as "Zabijacka". The Slovaks have something essentially the same as eating Thanksgiving turkey in the United States but instead of turkey it is a pig, communities will work together to help cut and cook the pig. Zabijacka does not have a set date but is usually celebrated in late November.

Liberia-

It may seem shocking a country in the middle of Africa celebrates thanksgiving but such is the case of Liberia, Liberia first started Thanksgiving celebrations all the way back in 1883 and it is celebrated in almost the same tradition of American Thanksgiving. Liberians usually host feasts and parties, food is usually roast chicken and traditional beans although American cuisine is also consumed.



Fall Sports Recap By Emily W.

Lexington had lots of successful fall athletes this 2023 season! Starting their tournament season off strong, Lady Lex Cross Country won their 15th consecutive Ohio Cardinal Conference Championship! Brailey S., took home first place overall and won OCC Female Runner of the Year. First Team OCC consisted of Elyana W., Jenna H., and Katya P. Second Team OCC consisted of Jacie F., Hannah G., and Abby M. The girls team then went on to be district and regional champions! The girls traveled to Fortress Obetz to run in the Division Il State Meet and they took home 3rd place! Brailey S., was 5th overall, and Elyana W., was 23rd overall. They both received All-Ohio Honors! The Boys Cross Country Team also won the Ohio Cardinal Conference. Chance B. took home first place overall and won OCC Male Runner of the Year! First Team OCC consisted of Ethan S. and Latrell H.. Second Team OCC consisted of Lincoln R., Gage D., and Drew H.. The boys went on to be District champions and moved onto regionals! From regionals they sent Chance B. onto the Dl State Meet. Chance took home 27th place at the Dl State Meet to receive All-Ohio Honors! Both the girls and boys cross country teams had very successful seasons and should be proud of what they accomplished!

The Lex Boys Golf Team took 3rd place at the Ohio Cardinal Conference Championship. They then went on to advance to the District Tournament after the Dl Sectional golf tournament. They were 5th at Sectionals led by Griffin H., Jackson D., Nathan D., Jack W., and Levi D! They then closed their season at the District Meet taking home 7th place. Good job to the Lex Boys Golf Team and their hard work this season!

The Lex Girls Golf Team won the Ohio Cardinal Conference Championship this year! They scored a 373 point team score led by Makaree C., Darcie R., Lauryn N., Kyler L., and Willow R.. Coach Kathrein was the OCC Coach of the Year. Coach Kathrein has a winning percentage of over 71%, making him one of the winningest coaches in Lexington history. They then went on to win their Sectional Championship with a team score of 375 and moved onto the District Meet! They closed their season at the Dl District Meet shooting a team score of 400 and taking home 5th place. Good job to the Lex Girls Golf Team and all their hard work this season!

The Lexington Boys Soccer Team had a great season! The boys were ranked 11th in the Division II poll and they were OCC champions, Sectional Champions and District Champions! They also made it into the Sweet Sixteen for the sixth straight time! Terrance C. was named District Player of the Year and First Team All-Ohioan! First Team District Players were Brody E., Zach T., and Jaxson H.. Second Team District Players were Jack H., Dylan G., and Will P.. Honorable Mention to Nolan S. and JayByx M! On October 26, 2023 Peter T won his 158th game as a coach making him the winningest coach in Lexington Boys' Soccer History! The boys had a great season and the seniors will be missed!

The Lexington Girls Soccer Team also had a great season! First Team OCC was made of Allie P., Addy B., and Makenna A! Addy was also named OCC Defensive Player of the Year, congrats Addy! Second Team OCC was made of Zoey M., Kaylee B. and Zoe B. Honorable Mention All-OCC to Sam M. and Olyvia S. The girls then went onto tournament time and made it to Districts! All District Honors Consisted of First Team: Addy B., Allie P., and Makenna A. Second Team: Kaylee B., Zoe B., and Zoey M.; and Honorable Mention to Olyvia S. and Maddie H

The Lexington Girls Volleyball Team also had an amazing season! They had five players receive All-OCC Honors! First Team OCC was made of Ava B. and Tatum S., Second Team OCC was made of Bella T! Honorable Mention OCC players were Jenna L. and Kylie T.! The girls then went on to be Sectional Champs and District Semi-Finalists! At Districts Ava B. was named District 6 Player of the Year, First Team District 6 and Second Team All-Ohio. Bella T. was First Team District 6 and also reached 1,000 assists in the season! Tatum S. was also in the First District Team 6. Congratulations to the girls and their amazing season!

The Lexington Girls Tennis Team had a great season as well as the Lex Football Team! Congrats to all our fall athletes and their great seasons!



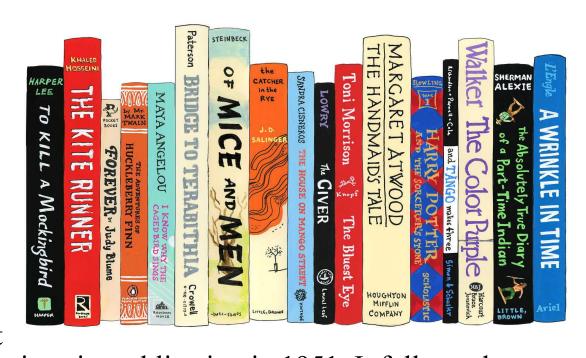
Banned Books By Lily B.



Within literature, the power of words is undeniable, often shaping our perspectives as readers and challenging societal norms. However, throughout history, certain books have sparked controversy, leading to their outright banning or restriction in various regions. The subject of banned books has long been a contentious issue—especially in education—raising questions about freedom of expression, cultural sensitivity, and the boundaries of literature itself. This article will take an impartial stance to unravel the multifaceted issues surrounding the banning of written works. What exactly does it mean to 'ban' a book? To 'ban' a book, it must initially face a challenge, an attempt to remove it from a library or educational curriculum. If this challenge proves successful the book is effectively prohibited from that specific location. It is crucial to recognize that such bans are subject to reversal if the governing authority decides to lift the restriction. According to the American Library Association, the top three reasons for challenging material is if the book is sexually explicit, uses offensive language, or is unsuited for any and all age-groups. By delving into such contexts, we can foster a deeper understanding of the complexities that arise when literature and censorship intersect.

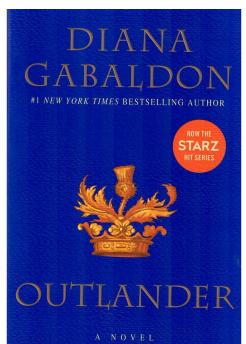
Having read a few classic novels, it's clear why some of them have ignited controversy in educational settings. "To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee offers valuable insights into the human condition, as it explores themes of racial injustice and moral growth in southern America. It explores such themes

through the eyes of a young girl, Scout Finch, whose father, Atticus Finch, defends a falsely accused black man in a racially charged trial. However, some have challenged the book's use of racial slurs and its portrayal of racism as early as its release in the 60s. Similarly, "The Catcher in the Rye" by JD Salinger also remains to be one of the most



targeted books for censorship since its publication in 1951. It follows the experience of Holden Caulfield, a disenchanted teenager, expelled from boarding school, as he navigates New York City and the challenges of adolescence. The book's frank and unfiltered portrayal of profanity, sexuality, and themes of rebellion have all sparked controversy in the classroom. Furthermore, just as popularly known, John Steinbeck's "Of Mice and Men," has quite the long list of controversies. Published in 1937, it tells the story of two displaced ranch workers during the Great Depression, George Milton and Lennie Small. The book has faced censorship for several reasons, primarily due to its depiction of violence, strong language, and themes related to racism, ableism, and euthanasia. Read more on "Banned and Challenged Classics" published by the American Library Association.

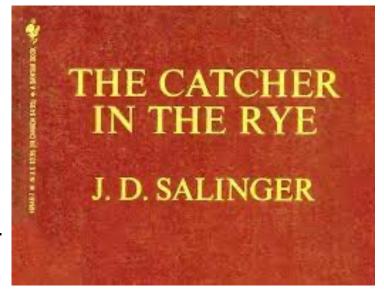
Banned Books continued...



As conversation about banned books becomes more prevalent, numerous contemporary works have drawn attention for being targeted, some of which have proved to be quite a shock. Firstly, the entire Harry Potter series by J.K. Rowling has been of recent concern for those who fear black-magic around the world. "Harry Potter" features a young boy who discovers he is a wizard and is suddenly faced with the challenges of the fictional wizarding world. According to author Matt Blake in conjunction with Penguin Publishing Groups in his article titled "A Surprising List of Recently Banned Books," few religious groups have likened the series, to "rat poison mixed with orange soda"

and "a doorway that will put untold millions of kids into hell." Blake continues to include that in 2019, a school in Nashville removed the series from its library. Secondly, "Thirteen Reasons Why," by Jay Asher was pulled from the library shelves in schools in Canada and Colorado due to the concern of parents. The young adult novel tells of a high-school student's suicide through numerous cassette tapes that she left behind for her friends to discover. Some argue that the narrative may romanticize or sensationalize suicide. Author Matt Blake mentions how such concerns were brought back to the surface after the release of the TV adaptation in 2017 of the novel, and by 2018, it had become one of the most banned books in America Thirdly, Diana Gabaldon's first book titled "Outlander," has suffered criticism from a few angry readers, namely, Walton County, Florida. Released in 1991, it wasn't until last year, 2022, that schools of Walton County no longer held copies of Gabaldon's historical fiction, which features an English nurse who was hurled bain in time to the era of the Jacobite Uprising, where she meets a young Scotsman and inevitably falls in love. The book features explicitly scenes of violence and sex, which is cause for concern in some. Gabaldon is one of few authors to speak out against her book ban, Author Matt Blake quotes, "A lot of what you see in terms of banned books, well, the people don't actually read the book. They're going on the reputation of what they assume the book to be." Ultimately, the banning of books has left a long mark on history, reflecting the perpetual tension between freedom of expression and societal norms.

At the heart of the controversy lies the tension between the desire to protect certain values or ideologies and the fundamental principles of free speech and intellectual freedom. Advocates for book banning argue that certain materials need to be restricted to protect societal norms or shield certain groups, particularly younger audiences. On the contrary, opponents argue that banning books infringes upon the principles of free expression and limits the diversity of perspec-



tives available to readers. The debate surrounding book bans underscores the ongoing struggle between the preservation of societal values and protection of the democratic ideals that underpin a free and informed society.

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Historical Highlight

By Connor B.

In this section we will be detailing a historical event that shaped the modern world as we know it.

On November 11th, the first World War would officially end. The war started due to brewing conflict and the assassination of an Archduke and ended with more than 100 countries participating. Over 16 million lives would be lost and the world was changed forever.

Many don't think about just how influential the first world war was, many think of it as the war that started WWII. The Great War gave us the League of Nations and many new diplomatic and wartime practices, such as the use of tanks, chemicals, and ended trench warfare.

WW1 gave us zippers, wrist watches, daylight savings time (better or worse), paper tissues, the sun lamp, and tea bags. and various others and created what we think of the American sphere of influence.





Why Winter is the Best Holiday

By. Darcie R.





The four seasons all have their special characteristics, but winter is by far the best season. First of all, the clothing for winter is the best. In summertime outfits consist of shorts and shirts. However in the winter time one can wear turtlenecks, sweaters, pants, jeans, and more. There is much more variation and it allows for one to truly express themselves. Furthermore, snow brings an incredible amount of joy. Some of the best feelings come from waking up, looking at one's

phone, seeing there is a snow day, and sleeping for three more hours. Without the season of winter, we would not have that. Additionally, some of my best memories from my childhood include the snow. I would spend hours outside making snow angels, igloos (at least I tried), and having snow-ball fights with my brothers. I would come inside with slightly frostbitten extremities, but with a full heart. In terms of school, in the winter season we actually get into the interesting course materials. At the beginning of the school year, everyone is trying to get their routine down. By the winter, everyone is in their groove. This allows for a nice and informative time in class. For these reasons, this is why winter is superior to everything else.



Weird Natural Phenomena By: Owen G.



There are many strange natural occurrences that happen around the globe. Some seem to be a feat of magic while others look like they are from another world entirely. Though these may look like they aren't real and are just photoshop, there is a reason as to why these things exist.

Kawah Ijen Volcano is located in Java Island, Indonesia. This volcano seems to have bright, electric blue lava. This may appear to be some new type of volcano, but it

is actually caused by the high amounts of sulfuric gas that is released. The sulfuric gas emerges at high temperatures and pressures, sometimes between 360°C - 600°C. When it comes into contact with the air at the surface, it burns this blue fire. This is only visible at night though, you cannot see the blue flames during the day. At this time it'll just look like a normal volcano.



Many photographers and researchers go and try to photograph and study this volcano, but it is not easy. The gasses that are mixing in the crater can be extremely thick and colored to where you can't even see your hands. This can last up to hours. Even with the danger, this volcano is still a natural beauty.

Something that can be found in Madagascar is the Forest of Knives. This is not a forest of real knives, but tall sharp rocks. It spans about 257 square miles. 200 million years of erosion is what has created these structures. Researchers believe that the rainfall went through the limestone and created underground caves and tunnels. These underground passageways eventually collapsed, leaving us with these knife looking rocks. This maze-like forest is home to many native animals like snakes, lizards, spiders, birds, and even lemurs. All of these creatures have adapted to live in this environment. This has been said to be one of the most dangerous places in the world and it has the largest underground cave system as well.



Weird Natural Phenomena continued...

The River of Five Colors, Caño Cristales, is found in Bogotá, Columbia. It is a long stream of waterfalls and rivers that span about 100km. It can be seen to have many different colors for several months out of the year. This coloration is caused mostly by one endemic plant, the macarenia clavigera. This type of plant grows on the riverbed and is a moss-like growth. It changes into its variation of colors when water levels rise and



there's enough sunlight that reaches the river floor. Before this, it's just a dark green, but when it gets what it needs, it flourishes into the pinks, yellows, greens, purples, and fuschia that we see. This plant grows throughout all of the river, which is why people call it the "liquid rainbow".



Mt Fuji in Japan has some bizarre formation of clouds that are seen above it. These are called Lenticular clouds. These clouds are formed when the warm air that rises over the mountain cools. The water vapor then condenses into these rings. The air will later sink, causing the cloud to dissolve. The up and down motion of the air causes the rings to look stationary, even though the wind speeds up at higher altitudes. This type of cloud indicates wave-like winds cross mountains, and its ap-

pearance can foretell the coming snow within a day or two.

Found in western Australia is Lake Hillier. The lake isn't very large, spanning 600 feet across, but it's the color that is the phenomena. The lake is a light pink throughout all of it. Scientists don't fully understand how the color is made, but they have a few theories. Something found within the lake is the Dunaliella salina microalgae. This algae produces carotin, which is found in carrots, and that could produce the



pink color. Another idea is the halophilic bacteria that is found in the salt. A reaction between the salt and the sodium bicarbonate which is also present in the water is another plausible explanation as to the color of the water. The water is completely harmless to human skin so it is possible to swim in it, but tourists are not allowed to visit it.

The world is filled with various weird natural phenomena. The world is truly an oyster. One can only hope to experience a few of these incredible places. It serves as a reminder that on must live each day to the fullest and seek out adventure.

A Journey to Salvation

By Scott B.

Self-Reflection Two, Two personalities

Two personas

Two persons clashing

Double sided,

Two people fighting with none surpassing
Two lives, two stories being told
But this is the life I live
Could I stop it? Could I be so bold?
Could I be the same around the two people
I, Holy with one, not, with the other,
Could these worlds ever truly mingle

While in the true house to those
Whom i reveal
I appear as I am, my true appeal
Freely I act, without weight,
Yet when not in the house ever so safe
I seem different, ever so strafe
Two influences, named He and She on my sides
They tell me what to do
I listen, although one I should not abide
He fills me with pride, lust and dander
He must stop, for I am in anger
He persuades me, but it is I who makes the
decisions
I blame him but I am clearly the one who causes

But among this dark there is still the light
While in sin She's the one who persuades me
He brings me down, while She, to my height
Holy, O Holy I am with her in my day
Why can't I listen to She I fray, I Fray!
Atone for my sins, I must one day
Go into the room, confess, where do I even begin
I can barely walk for the weight of my sin

Restored

10

I walk out, forgiven, my heart feels most free
I'm ready to start a new chapter
built on him, one in three I want to find a new path
For in my old, I was strolling towards his wrath.
I yearn to listen to she not him
For if not, my future truly looks grim.
These are all what I reflect with my new, forgiven heart

Dut how do I begin this new path? Where do I

But how do I begin this new path? Where do I start?

Do I sell my possessions? Give to the poor?

Do I sell my possessions? Give to the poor?
Do I feed the hungry? Clothe the naked?
Do I comfort the lost? Give the thirsty drink?
What do I do, for I can't even think!

Fallen

It's been not but a week later Only a short while and I've started listening to him,

A few days and I'm already engulfed in sin. But is not a big deal

I'm a Christian, he's God, it's his job to heal She says I shouldn't, "That's not what he taught" "Who are you to tell me, that is not what I interpret"

I thought.

"I will continue to live this life
It's worked so far, I have little strife"
I go to rest with this new path set out,
I've decided to enjoy my time here
I've chosen the comfortable route.
But I still do believe I still have some faith
"I've found way to live comfortable yet still get to heaven"

"No doubt"



A Journey to Salvation continued...

The Vision

I am awoken

I see a great, white light

No, I see two paths,

One of calm and one of fright.

I go towards the serine, tranquil trail

But I'm pulled

I'm being dragged towards darkness and despair "No", "No! Help me" this is not what I want, I blare

In an instant I am consumed in chaos

I'm stuck, wading in the whining, wailing, souls of the lost.

As I travel down the river of leethe

I can't help but witness the torment, the gnashing of teeth.

I see people serving their eternal punishments, but at least they had a good time on Earth At least they had their earthly accomplishments. I travel through Hades as people endure pain I could not imagine,

I see body's burning alive in the lake of sulfur

Fiery, evil, unimaginable demons I see

The gore! Oh the Gore!

How can this happen?

Humans being torn limb from limb,

flesh being melted in this eternal furnace,

How can this happen!

Instantly I am moved

I don't know where I am

I'm scared, although my condition has improved.

I can finally make out four figures,

One of dark and one of light, with he and she at their sides.

They're talking, I try to listen to the one of pure white

He speaks calm, lovingly, yet still with mite.

I hear them, they're talking about me.

"Let me have him" the dark one shrieks

"He lies, he cheats, he steals"

"You're right in front of him every week, and he mindlessly kneels"

"Stop!" the one of light interjects

"He then nods him correct"

'Yes he sins but he is still my son,

I will not let you have him

This is a soul you have not yet won"

"When I was on the cross, I thought of him,

I so want him to come home,

in all the riches of heaven I wish he will swim,

Hell is a place he can only get to on his own

I can try to help him but these are seeds he must

sew"

Redemption

I have no chance to react to what I've just heard I'm instantly transported, my mind and body, blurred

I realize God gave me a gift

He has shown me my future if I continue on this downward drift

I realize it's not his job to forgive

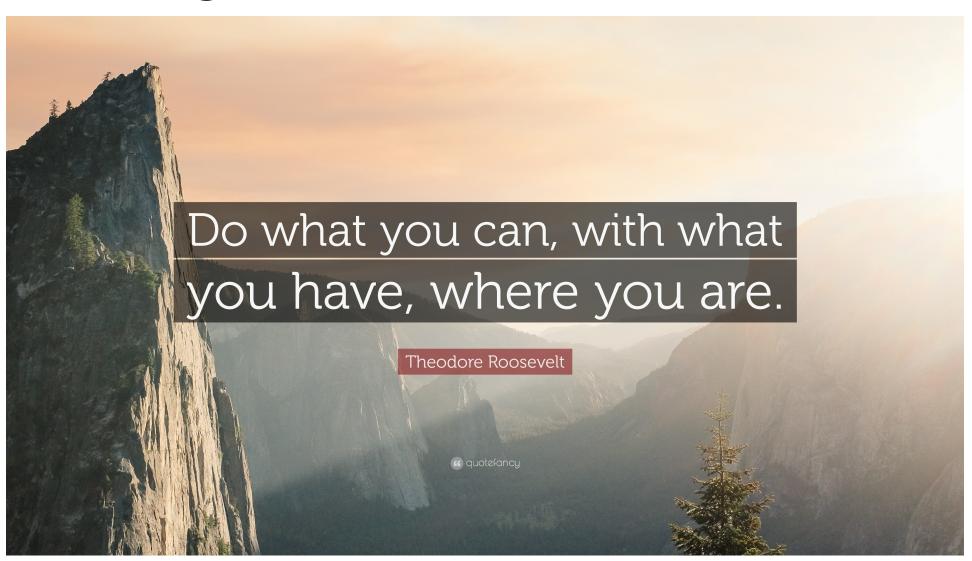
I can't just believe I must live the life he lived I'll dedicate my life to him and his people I must try to achieve heaven, achieve the unachievable

For I must not let my hellish vision come into fruition

Serving him, serving people. Yes, yes this is my mission.



Lexington Concord Quote of the Month

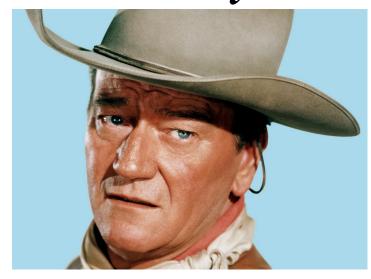


Purple Pride



The Purple Pride Awards go to those students who have been nominated by their teachers for Student of the Month.

The Cowboy Award



The Hollywood vision of the cowboy is one of selflessness. The cowboy helps others at a great personal sacrifice. The Journalism Club is constantly on the lookout for those students who display the Cowboy spirit.



The Lexington Delegation of Youth and Government recently participated in a lecture at Ashland University along with other area schools. The Lex group demonstrated an outstanding knowledge of Founding principles and they were commended for their performance.

Kaden P. Ivan P.

Gabrielle L Sammy H.

Chase T. Alanta H.

Nora B. Makayla M.

Brynn B. Graisen L.

Ellie H. Kennedy L.

Sophia L. JayByx M.

Spencer B. Carter S.

Blake M. Dylan N.

Peersen O. Emma C.

Allison B. Camden B.

Mia D. Emily W.

Lee W. Aeden N.

Cooper W. Addison V.

Julia W. Brailey S.

Cole E. Rory G.