

ELLESMIERE

EXCLUSIVE



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Shatter Me Book Review:

The Shatter Me series by Tahereh Mafi are award-winning novels, victorious with its multiple praises and compliments from various huge newspapers. Tahereh Mafi is an author from California who began writing after school sparked her interest in “human nature and our ability to overcome great obstacles.” Honourable reviews from The Children’s Book Awards state that she, “combines a psychological opener with an action-adventure denouement in her YA debut” and that, “it’s a gripping read from an author not afraid to take risks.” With a unique perspective on how we face challenges, mixed with a storyline what will keep you hooked for days, the Shatter Me series is an unmissable story that will capture everyone’s attention.

This series spans over 8 years, with the first one being released in 2011. It rapidly gained in readers around 5 years ago as it is a popular book on TikTok. It has got 10 books in this series, including titles like “Shatter Me”, “Destroy Me”, and “Restore Me” just to name a few. This book varies perspectives so you can see the story from multiple different angles, helping the reader truly place themselves into the story. This book is not only an enjoyable read, but also an extremely important one that expresses the importance of friendship and how everyone should be treated equally and with justice.

This novel is set in a futuristic world where a reestablishment has the entire world wrapped around its finger. There is a mission to capture the girl with the deadly touch, however there’s an asylum that is holding her hostage and people who would quite literally take a bullet for her. 264 days pass in the asylum for Juliette Ferras, 264 days of slowly going crazy, days of being gaslighted into believing humanity has disappeared. Until one day, a boy named Adam



|Coming up...

WRITER’S NAME: MAE BAXTER

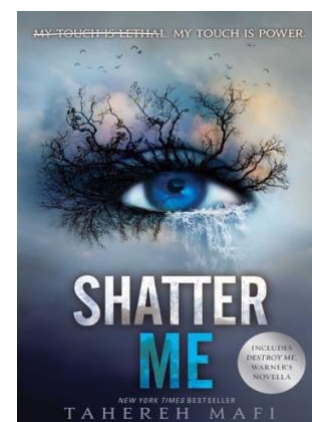
Kent is thrown into her cell. As she learns more and more about the society she left behind, it becomes clear that there are people deadly set on capturing her, who will stop at nothing to get her into the reestablishment but there are also people threatened by her murderous power, who won’t stop until she’s dead. Through moments of manipulation and deception, traitors and fakes, we slowly begin to realise who will truly stand by her side when the moment arrives. We watch as Juliette transforms from being naïve and desperate for belonging, to a girl who knows the strength of her deadly power and is not afraid of its significance.

At the start of the book, there are many intentional strikethroughs, and the writing is often erratic in order to serve a visual representation of the chaos in Juliette’s mind. Mafi captures the strong emotions the characters feel: anger, hatred, belonging and love through the words she uses, taking you on a journey yourself. The themes vary from family and friendship and contrasts with ideas of isolation and alienation.

I would personally recommend this series to anyone who has a liking of mystery, as the plot twists are never ending. Aimed at 12–16-year-olds, the Shatter Me series is guaranteed you an unforgettable read, which will have you gripped until the very end.

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Mae Baxter- Writer/ Designer
Abigail Ma- Writer/ Editor
Zoe Finnegan- Writer



Shatter Me by
Tahereh Mafi

FESTIVE ARTICLE

Christmas movies: EPHS's official rating

WRITER'S NAMES: ABIGAIL MA AND MAE BAXTER

Christmas movies have been a Christmas staple in all households since the 1940's. Classic Christmas movies being shown on Tv mark the start of the holiday season and bring family and friends together to embrace the Christmas spirit. In this list we compiled what we believe are the top 10 Christmas movies, spanning from cult classics to newly released favourites and gave a short description of each.

1. Home Alone

An eight-year-old troublemaker, mistakenly left home alone, must defend his home against a pair of burglars on Christmas Eve.

2. Home Alone 2, Lost in New York

Following the events of the previous Christmas, Kevin accidentally finds himself stranded in New York - and the same criminals are not far behind.

3. Elf

Raised as an oversized elf, Buddy travels from the North Pole to New York City to meet his biological father, who doesn't know he exists and is in desperate need of some Christmas spirit.

4. How the Grinch stole Christmas

On the outskirts of Whoville lives a green, revenge-seeking Grinch who plans to ruin Christmas for all the citizens of the town.

5. Love Actually

The movie follows the lives of eight very different couples in dealing with their love lives in various loosely interrelated tales all set during the frantic month before Christmas in London.

6. The Muppets Christmas Carol

In this movie, the muppets present their own touching and hilarious rendition of Charles Dickens' classic Christmas tale.

7. The Holiday

Two women troubled with relationship problems swap homes in each other's countries, where they each meet a local and fall in love.

8. The Christmas Chronicles

This is the story of sister and brother, Kate and Teddy Pierce, whose Christmas Eve plan to catch Santa Claus on camera turns into an unexpected journey that most kids could only dream about.

9. Deck the Halls

A man dreams of having Christmas lights so bright they can be seen from space; however, the mission sparks a rivalry between him and his neighbour.

10. The Polar Express

On Christmas Eve, a young boy embarks on a magical adventure to the North Pole on the Polar express, while learning about friendship, bravery and the spirit of Christmas.



WORLD-WIDE NEWS

Concerts: The advantages and disadvantages

WRITER'S NAME: MAE BAXTER

Concerts are a live production of songs and albums, performed by the musician themselves. It offers many opportunities for everyone involved to express themselves through the power of music, making it beneficial towards both the artist and the audience. However, what are the disadvantages? What goes on behind the scenes? Is it all beneficial?

Even dating back thousands of years, people have worshipped and idolized God's and Goddesses and it is no different now. In modern times, we look up to actors and singers, athletes and politicians, and this our own version of Gods. It is a subconscious urge of human nature to idolize anything that seems better or greater, and this is how celebrities and fame is created. By having those idols and role models in life, we build connections not just with the actual person but with society as we find belonging with people of similar interests.

“[concerts] provide an opportunity to display the passion and dedication that goes into making music”.

“Electric”, “exhilarating,” and “absorbing” are common words often used to describe the atmosphere at concerts. The crowd is captivated by the reality of seeing their icon in real life, not just through a screen or on the media. A core memory is created as soon as the lights go down and you hear the first few notes of their song; a wave of euphoria released upon the crowd fills the room with anticipation and excitement. Bonds are created through concerts, not just throughout the audience but also with the artist. A shared memory is instantly made, and one neither side will forget. Playing live provides an opportunity to display the hard work, dedication and passion that goes into creating music, and to connect with the audience on a deeper level through a shared appreciation for the art form. When the COVID-19 pandemic locked many people inside, we began to greatly appreciate social events more and we're beginning to realise the true importance and significance of concerts.

Furthermore, on an economic perspective, concerts boost the money coming into that city on a significant scale. Especially during the cost-of-living crisis and after the COVID-19 pandemic, countries are in more need of money than ever before. This could be through buying



What are the advantages and disadvantages of concerts?

tickets or merch or booking accommodation for the night. A recent event that has directly seen millions into the country is Taylor Swift's: The Eras Tour. It's starkly reflected in the numbers; a projected profit of \$2.2 billion in North American tickets alone. This demonstrates the sheer impact concerts have on the country's economy. This goes to how concerts positively affect society in both social and economic ways.

However, on the other hand, there are several negative impacts of concerts. For example, how does the artist or band feel before going on stage? Is it excitement? Is it anxiety? It differs between the person, but it is important to ask or think these things. Lines to remember, stage directions to follow, people to please. A musician or band face all of these things in the milli seconds before they go on stage. The pressure of living up to hundreds of your fan's expectations can get extremely heavy. Shocking statistics shows us that over 70% of musicians suffer from some sort of anxiety. This could vary from worrying about money problems and stage fright as well as the harsh competitive industry. Especially in this day and age, musicians also face more and more pressure and higher expectations from people on social media.

Performing could be a trigger for their feelings of anxiety or depression. It is statistically proven that 80% of artists have suffered depression at some point in their life, which proves, even if they don't show it, how many musicians actually feel anxiety and pressure to perform for a crowd, at a concert. This consequently damages their mental wellbeing. An example of a musician who has openly spoken about their musical anxiety and depression is Selena Gomez. “I was depressed, anxious. I started to have panic attacks before getting on stage or right after” she stated in one interview but then continued to say that “I think it's a battle I'm gonna have to face for the rest of my life. But I'm okay with that because I'm starting to choose myself over anything else.” There are many ways artists can seek help if they suffer from anxiety, but it is important to remember what could trigger this and how performing could negatively affect their mental health.

There will always be debates about whether concerts are beneficial towards society, but we should continue to question and wonder about both the audiences and the artists mental health to ensure a positive and safe environment for everyone attending.



INTERVIEW

Mrs Ayre Interview

WRITER'S NAME: ABIGAIL MA

This half term, the newspaper team interviewed Ms Ayre, an Art and English teacher here at Ellesmere. We asked her questions to do with her life both inside and outside of Ellesmere, including her interests and favourite aspects of our school.

Ms Ayre teaches and motivates countless students at Ellesmere every single day, so we started by asking her why she wanted to become a teacher to begin with.

“It was Ellesmere really because I started here as a support staff, which meant spending time one-on-one time with small groups of people, and it made me realise that teaching actually was for me and I was really inspired by all the staff at the school. So, getting a job here was what got me into teaching.”

Recently, Ms Ayre has started teaching English as well as art, so we wanted to find out what compelled her to make that decision, “I wanted to start teaching English so that I could improve my skills in teaching in general, because English is a core subject, and it is well recognised everywhere. I feel like teaching English would also positively impact my ability to teach art and vice versa. I am also really interested in it as well.”

We followed up by asking her what her favourite aspect of English is, “I really enjoy poetry, but I also enjoy the sort of socio-political aspect of it and being able to cover different issues in a safe and positive environment within the classroom, and teaching pupils about real life issues as well as fiction texts.”

Whether it is *Animal Farm* or *An Inspector Calls*, for all pupils, reading is a huge part of the English curriculum, and it also aids our learning in many other subjects, this is why we wanted to ask Ms Ayre what her favourite things to read are, “I mostly like to read poetry anthologies. I used to be a book a week type of person when I was younger but full-time work makes it very difficult and I’m a bit terrible in the sense that I have probably about five books on the go. I open one and I read a third but then I think I really want to read this, so I read a third of something else. I also like a bit of non-fiction; I know that’s quite boring. However, in terms of genres, I like the classics and then I like anything to do with women in history and to do with women’s rights. In terms of poetry, my favourite poets are people like Philip Larkin, Dannie Abse, all those kinds of things, it’s all about people and what motivates them.”

Ms Ayre is a big part of our community here at Ellesmere, so we asked Ms Ayre: what is her favourite of the school that she brings so much joy to, “My favourite part of Ellesmere is you guys, the pupils.” Mr Gordon who was also present in the room chiming in with, “me” which earned the response, “And Mr Gordon obviously. But the culture that you guys provide is what makes the school so vibrant and lively and if it wasn’t for the pupils then there would be no school.”

The next thing we asked Ms Ayre was what she likes to do outside of school, “I am a practicing artist so I have a studio in Bolton that I share with Ms Mayer Payne, so I put on exhibitions and other things outside of work. I also do various things with music; I write and perform music and poetry as well.”

When asked what kind of art she likes to do she responded with, “I am a portrait painter predominantly, so I do large-scale oil paintings of people. I’m really interested in the human form and in people, what motivates them, what they’re about and the mini moments of life that can be kind of captured and stored in a painting. I also write a lot of poetry and spoken word about little slices of everyday life and they kind of influence each other. That’s also where the Art and English sort of overlap a little bit.”

With Ms Ayre teaching both English and Art, we asked her what her favourite subjects were when she was in school and if they differ from those that she teaches, “When I was at school, I had three favourites, the obvious two were art and English - they were my favourite going throughout all of school. I also really enjoyed RE; I took philosophy GCSE and that led into RE. It was one of my favourites because I enjoyed learning about different peoples’ cultures and also about different ethical and moral issues in the world.”

“School is the building block for your future... try and take it all in.”

Everyday, Ms Ayre inspires both students that she teaches and does not teach, whether that is through her engaging lessons or positive attitude. Since she is such a big inspiration for many, we wanted to find out who her biggest inspiration is, “I think my biggest inspiration would actually be my Mum, she has always pushed me to be ambitious and to do things that I wanted to do, that might not have naturally followed the path of my peers. I was always pushed really heavily into academia in school, whereas what I really wanted was creativity, but she always just pushed me to be who I wanted to be regardless of that. Another big one would be my master’s Dissertation Tutor who encouraged me. There are loads, I could talk to you for ages and ages about it. But my favourite artist who inspires me is a portrait artist called Jenny Saville who does these large-scale portraits of women and that’s what propelled me into pursuing that. Also, my GCSE English teacher who told me I could do anything, I think she would be really pleased that I’m teaching English now.” Finally, Ms Ayre added, “And obviously Mr Gordon for his daily words of wisdom and parables of knowledge.”

Lastly, we asked Ms Ayre what her message to the students at Ellesmere is, “Be unashamedly yourself because when you leave school you will be yourself anyway regardless so start doing it now and you’ll get used to it, so you won’t have any discomfort in who you are later on. Work hard because it does matter, school should matter. Even in different ways that you might not think, school is kind of the building block to your future - no matter what sort of angle you decide to go down, whether that is academic or more practical. Also, to just try to take it all in because it goes so fast. Try not to worry too much because at the end of the day, there is always going to be another day and try and only worry about that day that is happening now and not the day after and so on.”



GLOBAL CELEBRATIONS

The Christmas Evolution

WRITER'S NAME: ABIGAIL MA

When you think of Christmas you think of fluorescent, flashing lights, decorated Christmas trees and of course: Santa Clause. However, in recent times this holiday has become ever more secularized and commercial, with many people not actually knowing where the traditions they hold dear come from.

Although historians may disagree when the birth of Jesus Christ became associated with the 25th of December, we do know we celebrate the Christmas season (the name originating from its' creator, Jesus Christ) around this time because of the birth of God's son. The Bible starts the story with an angel coming down to Earth and telling a woman, called Mary, that she would bear God's only son. As a result of new mandatory laws, Mary and her husband Joseph had to make an arduous journey to Bethlehem. With all other lodgings being full, the couple had to take shelter in a stable where, under the light of a shining star, Mary gave birth to Jesus.

Christmas - and how we celebrate it - is constantly evolving. In Medieval England, it was a decadent festival, spanning over twelve days, consisting of plays, feasts and pageants to celebrate Jesus' birth. During this time, music, gift-giving and decorations became staples of the celebration. Although in this period most people relished the festivities, in 1644, English Puritans once banned the festival for almost twenty years in a bid to prompt riots during England's second civil war!

Many years later, in 1848, Queen Victoria and Prince Albert established another tradition for people all across the globe. The Christmas tree, nowadays decorated with baubles, tinsel and stars, blew up with popularity when a picture of the royal family gathered around one was published. Beforehand, the tree was predominantly used in Germany, evolving from the pagan tradition of decorating with tree branches.

Germany also shaped many of our other festive favourites such as: advent wreaths, nutcrackers and Christmas markets. Political forces in the country also attempted to redefine the occasion as the Nazis wanted to change Christmas into a non-Christian event.

Father Christmas (who also goes by a multitude of other names) is arguably the most famous figure of modern-day Christmas. Santa originates from a third-century Greek bishop, St. Nicholas, who is associated with gift-giving in December. In 1890, the custom of Santa frequenting shopping centres and towns, was started by a man called James Edgar when he dressed as the iconic figure and greeted children in his local shopping centre. Still, in almost all towns and cities you will be able to see a Santa spreading some holiday joy. Now, in 2023, Christmas is beautiful blend of culture from a vast array of countries and time periods. Even though some people fear that the occasion has strayed too much from its religious roots, becoming more and more commercialised, there is still something for everyone to enjoy - religious or not.



CLUB ARTICLE

Creative Writing Club

WRITER'S NAME: ZOE FINNEGAN

Creative Writing Club is a new club, created by Mr Parsons, which intends on giving students a quiet place to create their own piece of writing, and provides an opportunity to work on their English skills. In C8 from 3:00 to 4:00, students are taught about a different style of writing every week and are then given time to create their own personalised work with full creative freedom, it can be inspired by an example, or entirely your own piece of work. Regardless of if you come to creative writing to try learning different styles, you are still given a peaceful space to write and focus, to give every student the opportunity to be creative with their writing.

Mr Parsons believes the club is important for students because lessons, GCSE's and other exams don't leave much room in English for creative writing, and that being told what to write about doesn't allow people to express themselves in the way they want, or to write about their interests. He also stated that it helps you as a person by "helping you engage with

your feelings and emotions." He says you will write about things you care about, and it produces an incredible opportunity to try and express your emotions in a different way, which gives you a "different angle to your own emotions" overall helping you develop as a person.

Creative Writing Club is an excellent club, whose aim it is to celebrate your creativity and for writers to try out new styles, to work on their own, to develop English skills and form a deeper understanding of different kinds of literature. Writing is also incredibly important for expressing your emotions cathartically, and Creative Writing Club will support you with a place to write without distractions, and with a place to learn.



INTERVIEW

Mrs. Connolly Interview

WRITER'S NAME: MAE BAXTER

Our newspaper team interviewed Mr Connolly, an English teacher here at Ellesmere Park to find out what it's like being an English teacher and how English is a vital subject to our everyday life. As crucial as maths or science, English equips you with the knowledge you need in any situation, varying from reading a book or poem, to applying for University or College. We wanted to find out how to make the most out of this subject, whilst also asking him about his life away from school and what his hobbies and interests are.

We began this interview by asking Mr Connolly how and what made him want to pursue the job he has today – an English teacher.

"I don't have one specific reason, but I think the main reason is that one of my best friends is an English teacher and became one a year before me. I had been travelling all across Asia and Australia and came back to the UK and was unsure at what to do next. I was confused about what my career path should be, and I was still working at a shop and at the time. She said to me that she'd think I'd be really good at teaching English, so I looked into it and went to an open evening type of thing for teacher training and then kind of fell into it, and here I am."

“[English] helps you understand what to trust and what not to trust.”

There are many different aspects of English, varying from learning about world-wide issues to creative writing. So, we asked Mr Connolly which part his favourite is to teach.

"There are lots of things I like teaching, but I do enjoy studying a novel or a play because I think that's one of the most interesting aspects of English. This is because of the characters and obviously I come from a drama background as well so that characterisation interests me the most. However, at the same time, I like teaching GCSE, especially English language, so all aspects really."

I then went on to ask which he preferred: poetry or novels?

His response was, "I always say I prefer novels and plays but I do also enjoy poetry, but novels and plays are where I tend to go to. With poetry, it depends on the poem. There are some poems I don't particularly enjoy and get into, whereas I think probably a lot of teachers will agree they love poetry, whereas for me it's more about plays, stories, characters and people."

There are a plethora of different ways English helps you in your day-to-day lives, but we wondered what specifically this subject helps you with.

"Whatever job you go into, whatever you do after high school, you have to be able to read and write. I think even in the changing world we're living in, with computers and AI, you've still got to understand text and read it and if you can't do that, you're going to struggle. And it's not just about reading the words and lines, for example we study things in English to do with fake news and being able to understand when you're out in the world and you're reading media, which ones can you trust, and which ones you can't trust. It is extremely important for young people in this day and age to

understand what to trust. Also, things as basic as applying for jobs and for college, you've got to be able to write."

From this statement, we now know why English is so vital for our education, so we now wondered how students get the most out of their English lessons here at Ellesmere:

"Whenever students fully engage with the text we're reading, that is when they would learn the most. There are obviously going to be times where we study or read something in English which isn't your cup of tea or something you'd normally choose to read, but if you are able to engage with it anyway, I think that's how they get the most out of English. However, if they don't or if they switch off from something they dislike, that's probably when they'd find it more difficult. This is the same in all subjects, but in English in particular because you've got to really engage with any text that is put in front of you."

We then asked him more about his personal life outside of Ellesmere Park High School. The first question we asked was what his favourite author or novel is.

"I've got a couple of things. So, my favourite genre I like to read is actually a crime thriller. I like reading something you'd see as a drama on TV, that's what I like to do in my own time because it doesn't take much thinking and it's an easy read. However, I also like The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald, that's one of my favourite books. A Monster Calls is one of my favourites also because it really resonates with me and the things I've been through. I guess I really emphasise with the characters in that book, and that's why I enjoy it so much."

Afterwards, we asked Mr Connolly what he liked to do when he's not in school.

"Outside of school, I like to go to the gym and to the theatre and reading obviously. I also enjoy going for hikes and just overall socialising. I'm recently doing my house up so that takes a lot of time and involves lots of DIY."

Finally, we asked him for an overall message to the pupils here at our school.

"Work hard in school so that you have choices later in life such as travelling the world and deciding your own career."

To conclude this interview, we learned how English shapes both our lives and our future in a plethora of ways and why it is crucial to get the most out of it during our time at high school. Mr Connolly will continue to educate and inspire many students, and will spread his passion of plays, novels and English overall through his teaching.



WORLD-WIDE NEWS*Social Media***WRITER'S NAME: ABIGAIL MA**

Pretty much everyone has a phone and most of those people have at least one form of social media on that phone. Since the first blogging site in the late 1990's it's rapid increase in popularity in the 2010's social media has cultivated all our lives and most of the time, we didn't even know it.

Do you remember when Jenifer Aniston got that haircut in Friends, and everyone followed suit? Well, this is now happening everyday but on a much bigger scale because of social media. Trends spread like a virus: once it hits one person, it can spread to a whole nation. Some of these can be harmless such as dances or showing off your adorable pets and can put a smile on your face. However, these 'fun' actions can also have much more detrimental consequences...

Seeing an array of people doing a certain thing or having a certain thing make us feel like that needs to be us, like without it you are somehow inferior. If you then try those trends and it doesn't look like the perfect thing you saw on the video - which most of the time is impossible because it is fake - you start to believe you're the reason it isn't working. These trends can also alienate those who are not participating in them and make them think they are peculiar. Now imagine that this is happening to even just 50% of the people who saw a video with 5 million views, that is 2.5million people feeling like they aren't good enough.

Even though companies do care about moderation since the content put on their site - good or bad - becomes associated with their accounts or their brand, not everything is taken down and acted on quick enough to prevent its detrimental repercussions.



Trends aren't just shaping the way we dress or what we buy, they are also determining our actions and their sometimes life-changing consequences. Many social media trends have been proven to be deadly and has influenced and manipulated so many young children - who have yet to learn what's good or bad - into doing them. Gaining mainstream popularity in 2021 on TikTok, "The Blackout Challenge" made headlines as so many children were found dead after attempting it. In November of 2022, an unbelievable 15 deaths in children aged 12 and under and 5 more in children aged 13 and 14 had been linked to the trend in the past 18 months. However, what makes "the blackout challenge" so deadly? Well, the challenge encourages users to hold their breath until they pass out due to the lack of oxygen; low oxygen to the brain for over three minutes can cause brain damage and low oxygen to the brain for over five minutes can result in death. TikTok has recently been facing lots of lawsuits and backlash over the challenge, but it is important to remember all social media apps have had many dangerous trends and this is just one example, on one app.

Social media is a complex place that does hold a lot of good: you can meet new friends, find new interests and share your story. But with the ever-constant threat of a harmful trend going viral, adults are calling for more regulations on these apps in order to protect their children. Our generation and the next generation are the first ones to grow up surrounded by social media throughout their whole life and parents are fighting to keep their children safe from the dangers this new technological world proposes. Whether it is imposing stricter guidelines, monitors or punishments, the next move for the internet to be a safer place is simply now in the hands of the government and the social media companies themselves.

**SCHOOL EVENTS***Circus Trip***WRITER'S NAME: ABIGAIL MA AND ZOE FINNEGAN**

A group of 70 students from years 8 and 9 went on a trip to Gandy's circus at Spook Fest in the Trafford Centre. The circus was transformed into a Halloween themed spectacular for the season, and the acts put on an outstanding show, with acts such as: the motorbike 'Dome of Death', trapeze, dances, clowns and many more. As soon as we set foot in the grand tent, both students and teachers knew the night would be one to remember. With every student laughing, dancing, and screaming, the evening filled everybody with elation. One attendee exclaimed, "I would recommend this to all of my friends, all the performers were amazing and really kind!"



The show dazzled us with death-defying stunts that left the crowd - us included - awe-struck and wondering how they pulled such feats off. "The circus was amazing, and it was lovely to see all the students smiling because that's why I do it", was Mr McNamee's comment on the outing. Overall, everyone who went on the trip left with a massive smile on their - face painted - face!

WORLD-WIDE NEWS

Bonfire night

WRITER'S NAME: ABIGAIL MA

Should we swap tradition for the new? Well, since 1606 Bonfire Night has been a staple in our calendars; marking the day Guy Fawkes attempted to blow up the Houses of Parliament with gunpowder, each year we release fluorescent fireworks into the sky. With masses gathering in local parks and fields or in our own homes, it is apparent that the whole population will know the distinctive sound that erupts on the 5th of the November. However, many councils and charities are lobbying for the spectacular to switch to quieter fireworks in order to make them more animal friendly.

The loud noises caused by the fireworks often make animals agitated or anxious, meaning the night has become a burden for many animal owners and for those with noise sensitivities. Recently, people have been calling for the occasion to switch to fireworks that don't make as loud of a noise, they argue that this will make the event more inclusive and mindful to those who it affects. For them, the welfare of our animals should be put in front of our need to witness these loud noises. In Beckenham, Bromley, the bonfire night hosted two displays, one, a tamer event for small children and then a louder show later on. However, some people are stating that this simply isn't enough. As companies are starting to realise that this motion is gaining in popularity, they have been creating alternative pyrotechnics to sell alongside the classic ones. In major retails like Tesco and Asda you will now be able to see "low noise" fireworks being stocked on their shelves. Firework suppliers of places such as Warwick Castle have stated on their website: "These fireworks are just as breath-taking as other types of fireworks; they just come at a much lower volume. This can be a huge benefit for those with noise-related issues, families with children and, of course, pets."

Although, these new silent fireworks to seem to propose many benefits, it has not swayed the vote



of everyone. The Dog's Trust, an animal charity, said there was "not enough evidence" that quieter fireworks would make a difference to pets. With fireworks, being set off daily all around the country some people argue that if we made Bonfire Night go silent, then we should swap out all fireworks but that would simply not be able to happen. We must also consider that "silent fireworks" are not actually silent. This is because the reaction needed to achieve those large flourishes of colour, we all know and love, is what creates the bangs we hear. Therefore, if we wanted to switch the bangs for silence, laser displays, or other light shows would need to be used. This has led many members of the public, including one citizen of Salford to say, "It would simply ruin the tradition and meaning behind the occasion."

This discussion has only left many people wondering: How far should we go? Even though we should be valuing our animal's welfare, many animal charities and pyrotechnics experts are advising that we don't have enough research to make the switch to silent displays. So, as we go forwards it is expected that it may be a long time before any laws are put in place regarding quieter fireworks, but it is likely that we will see an increase in individuals and areas removing the bangs from their events.

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