



Walking a Fine Line: China's COVID Crisis

By Hope Yang

On November 23, COVID-19 cases in China hit a record high of 31,444, following the loosening of its zero-COVID policy (Yu; Feng). This exceeds the previous record of 29,317 set in April, prompting stricter restrictions in cities such as Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, and more (Sun). Almost half the cases originate in Guangzhou and Chongqing, overwhelming quarantine centers (Feng). China now wavers between COVID policies to combat the highly contagious Omicron variant and the toll of continuing lockdowns (Wang and Gan).

In mid-November, China began loosening its zero-COVID policy, easing protocols for mass testing, lockdowns, quarantine time, and other policies (Feng). This is largely from social and economic repercussions of the zero-COVID policy—the same that are reflected as regulations tighten once more in favor of greater “localized lockdowns” among other measures (Orr and Pollard; Yu).

Continual lockdowns and enforcement of strict COVID policies have created public dissatisfaction largely due to the economic and psychological toll created (Orr and Pollard, Wang and Gan). In some cases regulations and not the virus have led to deaths, further fueling frustration (Cheng). In Guangzhou, citizens protested following lockdown, “tearing down barriers” and “marching down streets”

(Wang and Gan). In Zhengzhou, workers of the biggest iPhone factory in the world clashed with police over payment issues and “chaotic COVID rules”, prompting a lockdown for around 6 million residents (Wang and Gan; Orr and Pollard). In Chongqing, a citizen spoke against the lockdown, declaring to a crowd, “Without freedom, I would rather die.” (Wang and Gan). Residents further voiced their discontent on the internet, especially following the World Cup in Qatar, which many fans were unable to attend (Wang and Gan).

China's strict COVID policies have also hit the economy, having put 9.5% of its gross domestic product, or GDP, “under lockdown” prior to the November spike in COVID cases (Sun). However, as cases have hit a record high, “more than a fifth” of China's GDP is now under lockdown, with the percentage predicted to increase (Sun).

One of the reasons that China cannot relax its COVID policy is due to factors of “low vaccination rates among the elderly” paired with “healthcare vulnerabilities” (White et al.). Only two-thirds of the elders over 60 have received three doses of the vaccine, and China's medical facilities are at high risk of being overwhelmed by the onslaught of cases if China seeks herd immunity (White et al.).

Officials have received contradictory objectives in tackling the situation as China seeks

to decrease cases while navigating public sentiment and economic issues (Feng).

Widespread lockdowns as a result of high COVID cases has also created international impact since China is the world's second largest economy (Sun). The International Monetary Fund, or IMF, has urged China to adjust its COVID policy so as to prevent a “global economic slowdown” (Suratman). The IMF is particularly concerned with China's property sector and broader implications of the current situation (Suratman). Moreover, in China, “domestic demand in particular” has decreased, affecting exporting countries like Japan, South Korea, and Australia (Orr and Pollard).

China must approach this COVID crisis carefully. On one side it faces economic pressure and public dissatisfaction, and on the other inadequate facilities and low vaccination rates (Feng). Ultimately, China's walking on a fine line—how it will proceed remains to be seen.

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Haiti vs. Cholera and More

By: Jasper Lai

When most countries in the world began to relax their covid restrictions, Haiti faced an attack from another deadly disease. On October 2, the Haitian government recorded two confirmed cases of *Vibrio cholerae* O1, also known as cholera, in the greater Port-au-Prince area (WHO). Haiti is located on the island of Hispaniola in the Caribbean Sea and shares a border with the Dominican Republic. It is approximately 800 miles southeast from Florida, with Port-au-Prince being its capital and largest city. Haiti has suffered from political instability, natural disasters, and cholera epidemics in the past few decades, and it has become one of the poorest countries in the world.

In October 2010, a cholera outbreak was confirmed in Haiti just ten months after a magnitude 7.0 earthquake struck the country (CDC). According to UN figures, more than 820,000 Haitians have since been infected by the disease and nearly 10,000 have died (CDC). The disease started in a UN peacekeeping camp when infected UN peacekeepers deployed from Nepal contaminated the water source. The UN acknowledged some responsibility years later in 2016, but never accepted any legal culpability (BBC). Cholera is an infection caused by bacteria spread through contaminated water. Its symptoms include severe diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, and dehydration. If left untreated, it could kill a healthy person within hours. Cholera does not exist in modern industrialized cities thanks to advanced sewage and water treatments (Mayo Clinic). Although cholera could be easily treated with methods such as hydration, it remains a problem in places like Haiti due to infrastructural damage from natural disasters and limited access to safe drinking water (WHO).

As of November 20, the Haitian Ministry of Health (MSSP) reported a total of 11,039 suspected cholera cases, along with 938 confirmed cases and 202 registered deaths, though experts estimate the actual numbers to be greater. This is

the first time the MSSP has reported cases of cholera after more than three years. According to the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO), around 43% of confirmed cases are among children aged 19 years or younger, with children between one to four years old being the most affected group (Figure 1). Haitian and UN officials have had plenty of experience dealing with cholera since the outbreak back in 2010, but other immediate crises in Haiti have hindered the easy treatment of the epidemic outbreak.

"Haiti is facing a humanitarian catastrophe," according to a top UN official (BBC). Aside from the recent cholera outbreak, Haiti is also facing long-term political instability that further paralyzes the country. In July 2021, then-Haitian president Jovenel Moïse was assassinated in his private residence and left the country without a leader. Ariel Henry, who was appointed Prime Minister two days before the assassination, stepped up as both acting Prime Minister and President of the nation. He remains the country's leader today despite having little public support, and his mandate expired months ago (NPR). Gangs have taken over crucial roads and cities in the nation. They control the nation's largest port and block fuel delivery to the rest of the country (BBC). Rival gangs also fight for more territory, often causing violent

conflicts, killing hundreds and raping women (NYT). "There are areas of the country where nobody would set foot in," said Dr. Jean Pape, a local doctor that operates two cholera treatment centers in Port-au-Prince. "They are afraid to get kidnapped, they are afraid to get killed" (NYT). Along with other crises, Henry and other cabinet members sought international assistance to deal with the gang violence. However, this act angered the Haitian public as they saw this as a call for "foreign occupation" and demanded Henry resign immediately (Aljazeera). The UN security council has yet to decide on Haiti, as most countries are reluctant to send troops and want nearby Caribbean nations to support Haiti instead (NPR).

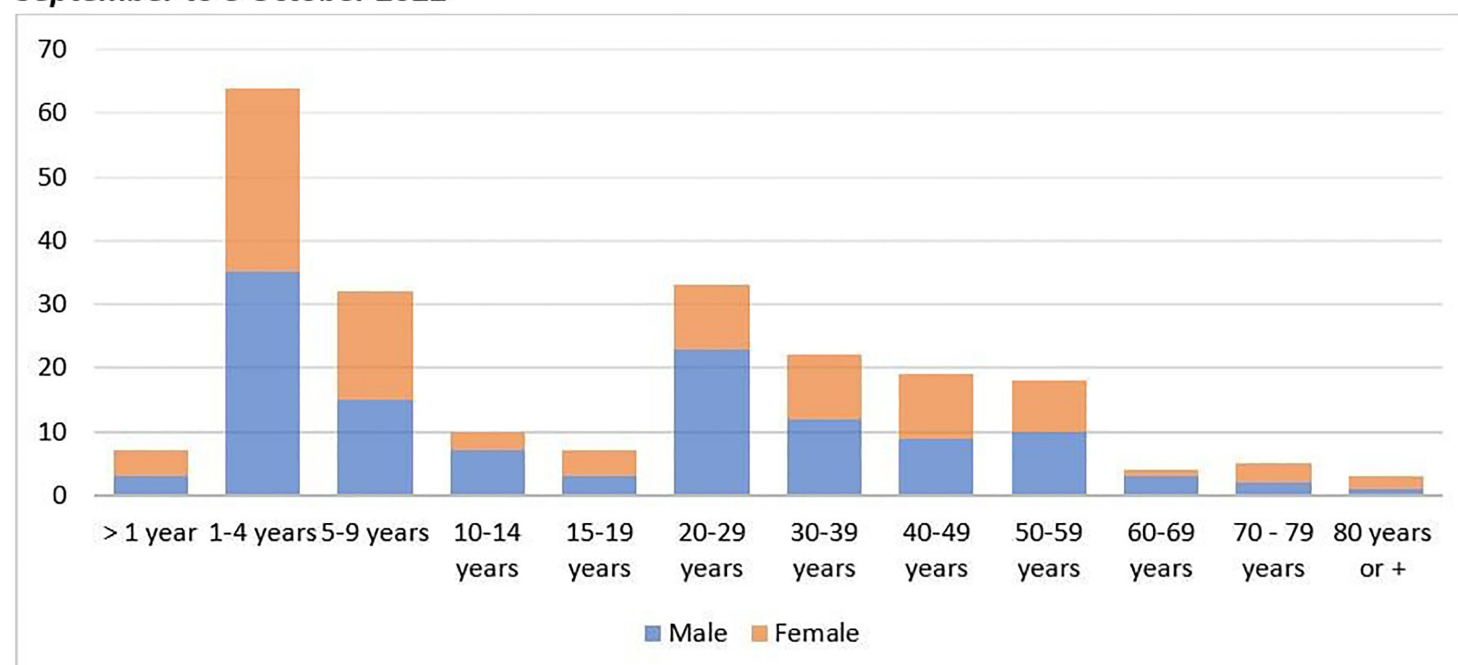
Humanitarian groups such as UNICEF and Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) support the MSSP in dealing with the Cholera outbreak. They provide emergency centers across the country and treatments to those diagnosed with the disease (Doctors Without Borders). Response to the outbreak is not optimistic. "We were already in a system on its knees," said Moha Zemrag, the deputy head of mission for Doctors Without Borders in Haiti. "Now, cholera, unfortunately, will spread quicker than the health system will be able to answer to it" (NYT). UNICEF is also working to provide clean

water and water purifying tablets to neighborhoods in the country, seeking \$27.5 million in funding to provide humanitarian assistance to more than 1.4 million people (UN News).

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Figure 3. Distribution of suspected cases (n=224) of cholera by age group and gender in Haiti, 30 September to 8 October 2022



Data source: Haiti Ministry of Public Health and Population

The Shortest-Serving UK Prime Minister Ever

By: Abby Janssen

As of October 25th, 2022, Rishi Sunak became the UK's Prime Minister. A long string of events led to Sunak entering office. The past two Prime Ministers of the UK were Boris Johnson and Liz Truss, who each ended their terms due to the heavy pressure they faced from the public.

Boris Johnson was Prime Minister of the UK from July 23rd, 2019 until July 7th, 2022. During his time as Prime Minister, he was accused of multiple scandals and missteps. As prices on items such as food and gas rose, his popularity continued to decline. As he continued to lose public support, fifty people in his government quit in just two days (July 5-7, 2022). As a result, aided by his lack of support, Boris Johnson stepped down from his role of Prime Minister on July 7th, 2022. This was also due to the fact that the Parliamentary Conservative Party wanted to appoint a new leader (South China Morning Post).

A new leader, Liz Truss, was soon chosen. She ran against Rishi Sunak and won for the Conservative Party. However, her time as Prime Minister was cut short due to multiple miscalculations and unpopular decisions. Liz Truss ended up becoming the shortest-serving Prime Minister that the UK ever had. She only served for six weeks before resigning from her position. She took office on September 6, 2022 and quit on October 20, 2022.

There was a lot that happened right after she took office. For example, the mourning period for

Queen Elizabeth II started when she took office (The Washington Post). This was the start of Truss' downfall since she had to put her plans on hold. One of the main reasons why Truss beat Sunak was because she had a plan to cut taxes. She promised forty-five billion pounds worth of tax cuts. However, once given the chance, Truss' finance minister cut large amounts of taxes without a plan to pay for them, resulting in soaring rates of inflation and costs of living (The Washington Post). It also led to the crash of the British pound.

Truss quickly lost support from the Members of Parliament and the general public due to the economic downfall that she caused. Her approval rating dropped significantly from 5% to -61% in the span of 44 days in office, a new low for any past UK Prime Minister (TLDR News). It was inevitable that Liz Truss was forced to step down as Prime Minister. In her final speech, Truss explains, "given the situation, I can not deliver the mandate on which I was elected..." (BBC News).

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Germany Legalizes Cannabis

By: Hayden Brandt

Germany has taken a step compared to other European countries by setting out plans to make cannabis legal. The country is allowing licensed shops and pharmacies to sell up to 30 grams of the drug for personal use, and are even going as far as to allow three cannabis plants per adult to be grown at home (BBC). The government is going out of their way to control and regulate the cannabis market in the country. While there is no definite timeline, if this plan is to be passed and cannabis is to be legalized in the near future, that would set a precedent for all other European countries and could possibly lead to huge ramifications for years to come.

This push for a drug that was once forbidden did not come out of the blue, however. It's not as if cannabis was entirely banned to start; medicinal use has been allowed in Germany for quite some time (CNBC). They originally banned it due to drug addictions that could be prevented through the legal system. The ban was first and foremost created for the citizens' safety. Germany has studied the trends of cannabis consumption and addiction and noticed that both factors have been on the rise despite the ban. Changes had to be made or the problem would not go away. As German Health Minister Karl Lauterbach said regarding the issue, "We don't want to expand cannabis consumption but to improve the protection of youth and health," (The Guardian).

Around 4 million people have consumed cannabis in Germany in just this past year with 25% being between the ages of 18 and 24 (CNBC). If people are still consuming cannabis through illegal means, the government has decided to take it into their own hands and sell it themselves in licensed pharmacies. The plan was not created to increase the use of cannabis, but to regulate it and control the market. For example: the general ban on the advertisement of recreational cannabis is still in motion, proving that the government still has its sights on their original goal,

to protect the people, just through a less prohibitive manner (BBC).

Though not the first goal of this plan, it does have some extra bonuses for both the government and the citizens. For instance, if this plan goes through, the government would make more in annual taxes and also through cost savings. A rough number of 4.7 billion euros are thought to be made through this change alone. Not only that, around 27,000 jobs could be created (CNBC). Finally, this would please some of the German populace, mainly those protesting for this change.

It's not all sunshine and rainbows, however. Some worry of the health risks, as not everyone should be taking cannabis, despite there being a limit on how much one citizen can have. Another issue may be economic competition between the pharmacies and individual commercial providers (CNBC). Finally, Germany could be seen as a drug tourism spot where people go to the country specifically to purchase cannabis, which is not inherently bad, but not holistically good either (BBC). The final fact of the matter is that this is a new system that Germany is trying. No other European country has this system in place, thus making this change a phenomenon for the rest of the world to watch closely and learn from.

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“Drip Too Hard” Banquet

By: Jasper Lai

On October 22nd, MAK held its much anticipated annual high school banquet with the theme “Drip Too Hard”. This year, the banquet was held in MLD Jubilee Hall’s Coral Room, a warmer indoor venue in contrast to last year’s cool outdoor venue at City Suites Sky Bar just before winter break. When StuCo announced the details for the banquet back in September, they also introduced a new points system that allowed students to earn extra class points if they filmed their banquet proposal and sent it to StuCo, who would then post it on Instagram. Students slowly began to arrive at 5 pm and each was handed a pair of sunglasses. “I like how StuCo provided sunglasses for everyone because it made the banquet experience more fun and entertaining,” said junior Celine Kung.

After Jonathan Lu, our StuCo President, announced the start of our banquet, everyone went to get food in order by their seniority. A buffet serving excellent food and drinks was provided throughout the night. Students and staff were provided the opportunity to capture precious moments with their friends and their date in front of a specially designed photo booth. “I really enjoyed taking pictures with people at the photo zone. The photo zone was nicely designed,” said Jonngi Kim, a freshman who attended his first ever banquet.

One of the highlights of the night was the performances presented by our seniors, including a dance by

Annie Chen and a rap by Matthew Chen and Jeffery Shen. “I really enjoyed seeing the seniors having a blast as they performed their song/skit. Such a good laugh!!!” said Mr. Ting, a new staff member of the Morrison family.

StuCo hosted two different games: Spictionary and Jeopardy. The MAK version of Jeopardy featured many interesting facts that surprised many students. All games encouraged more interaction and sparked competition between tables. The staff table completely dominated the Jeopardy when it came to facts about teachers and MAK history.

Finally, everyone attending the banquet was given one vote to choose the “Drip Queen” and “Drip King” for the best outfit. Junior Claire Ryan won the “Drip Queen” title with her varsity jacket paired with a black dress. The battle for the “Drip King” was intense, with seniors Caleb Cho and Jeffery Shen both tied for first place. To break the tie, StuCo let the crowd decide who should be awarded the title. The crowd crowned Caleb Cho, wearing a black coat, as the “Drip King”.

The banquet flew past in the blink of an eye but created lifelong memories in the hearts of all the high school students. A big shoutout goes to StuCo, to Mrs. Beja, and to the support from all teachers for making this night so enjoyable. We can’t wait to see what’s in store for prom in the spring and the next annual banquet!



Ian Lin (G7) and Coach Liao at the TISSA tennis tournament

The Big Event That Ends the Sports Season

By: Joongi Kim

Tournaments- a big event that ends the season where the best schools compete with each other in the spirit of sportsmanship, but also to find out who’s the best. In the last 2 months, many TISSA (Taiwan International School Sports Association) tournaments were held in many different schools. This year’s JV and Varsity teams held their tournaments on the fifth day of November.

The JV Women’s Volleyball team traveled to ICA and won first place! The Varsity Women’s volleyball team went to MAT and placed second. Last but not least, the Varsity Men’s Soccer team had their tournament at MAC and ended in fourth place.

The middle schoolers also had their soccer tournaments recently on November 12th. The 6th Grade Girls’ team went to MAC and won first place. The 7th Grade Girls’ team stayed at MAK and won fourth place. The 8th Grade Girls’ team traveled to MAC and won third place. The 6th Grade Boys’ team went to TES (Taipei European School) and placed third. The 7th and 8th Grade Boys’ combined team went to MAC and won fourth place.

The coach of the 7th/8th Grade Boys’ combined team, Coach Owen, said that the boys put in a brilliant performance at the Grade 8 Boys’ soccer tournament in Taichung. They won their opening game against DIS comfortably despite conceding the first goal. A “5-1” scoreline

gave them a nice cushion for goal differential heading into their second group game. Taking on TES in what felt like a tournament final, the boys fell behind early after a slow start. Despite a monumental effort to claw back a positive result, a final score of 3-2 saw the Grade 8 boys miss out on an opportunity to compete in the medal round. Coach Owen compliments, “I’m very proud of the effort and improvement this team put in all season long. For a team composed of 7th and 8th graders, I’m very impressed with the positive team chemistry and overall quality every player contributed to the team. It was a pleasure to coach them this year and I hope they all continue to play and enjoy the beautiful game.” Good job, 7th and 8th Grade boys!

Also, shout-out to tennis players Ian Lin (G7) and Winnie Wang (G8)! On October 1st, they went to TES for the high school TISSA Tennis tournament. Ian won third place and Winnie placed fourth!

No matter what places the teams won, they tried their best and showed respect to others; that is all we need. Good work, Sharks, and keep up the good work!

Made possible by:
Audrey Xue (G8)
Sharon Liu (G8)
Esther Hyun (G6)
Andrew Wang (G7)
Paul Liao (Coach)
Nathan Owen (Coach)



The Ethics of Ornamental Fishing

By: Michelle Huang

I have been a lover of fish, freshwater, seawater, and brackish water and everything in between, since I was born. I keep three blood parrot cichlids in my approximately 500 liters house tank, the minimum amount of water for them to live comfortably. I constantly research fish-keeping and husbandry to ensure that I allow them to live the best life possible, given the less than optimal conditions they were in when I adopted them. One day, as I was on my way to band class, I saw a group of elementary schoolers lined up, fishing in the school ponds with a thin metal rod. Fishing, especially for ornamental fish specifically bred for aesthetic purposes, for entertainment rather than necessity should not be promoted at school, as it is unethical.

According to the Feinstein School of Social and Natural Sciences at Roger Williams University, ornamental fish refers to fishes that are kept for their appearance, usually in home aquariums and ponds. The breeding of ornamental fish began over 1000 years ago with the domestication of goldfish in China. Nowadays many fish species, such as the koi carp, are highly prized for their idiosyncratic patterns (Sneddon et.al). Our school is fishing for ornamental fish not for purposes of consumerism or learning. I asked a student who fished before in the school pond and they said that they found no value at all in this activity, save for perhaps the exercising of one's patience. However, with this peculiar exercise of patience comes the repercussions that cause needless suffering and mortality of these creatures.

Catch and release fishing is by no means ethical under circumstances of either game species or ornamental species for recreational purposes. By no means do I condone the unethical, unsustainable fishing practices demonstrated worldwide. I recognize fish as an important source of financial, food, and health security for many. The Fisheries Management Science Programme stated that 38 million people internationally are employed in the fishing industry. Fish provides significant household food security and adds to financial benefits

that in turn, make other resources, such as healthcare more accessible. Countries of the Pacific acquire about 50% to 90% of their protein from fish alone, and it is their only way to sustain a living (O'Gorman). But I would say that this is another topic altogether, as I will be addressing the practice of fishing for ornamental species, in which their responsibilities fall into the arms of their caretakers.

An investigation was conducted investigating the mortality rates and factors of fishes under the circumstances of catch and release. The study published in the *Reviews in Fish Biology and Fisheries* identified several fatal factors that increase a fish's mortality during fishing, including hook location, removing hooks from deeply hooked fish, depth of capture, warm water temperatures, and extended handling times (Bartholomew and Bohnsack). Extended handling time of fish increases their physiological stress (Wood et al.) and are particularly disastrous when combined with high temperatures (Tomasso et al., Brobbel et al.), which is a likely case considering the climate of Taiwan and the amount of sunlight the pond is exposed to during the day.

A student told me that the metal hooks pierced through the lips of the fish, causing physiological stress. Handling out of the water stresses fish, depriving them of oxygen immediately after heavy exertion (Booth et al.) and can lead to longer recovery times, increasing mortality rates as some never recuperate. This study found a mean mortality rate of 18% with the catch and release methodology from the overall data which consists of several species and fishing equipment. Mortality distributions within freshwater, seawater, and brackish waters remained mostly constant, demonstrating that the same results can be applicable to our school's freshwater pond.

Moreover, many fish have swim bladders, organs filled with gas that maintain their buoyancy and make swimming less vigorous. Because of this, they are especially

sensitive to changes in pressure. The relevance of this can be seen as these fish are pulled out of their acclimated water density and into a newly pressurized environment (Schwingle). This abrupt change in pressure from water to air can cause their swim bladders to rupture and their gills to collapse. As stated before, injuries sustained during fishing cause about 18 percent of these fish to die after they are released back into the water (Bartholomew). Among the fish who don't die, 22 percent have their vision permanently impaired. Still, many others will have trouble eating after being released as the hooks rip through their mouths and throats (Schwingle).

It is commonly presumed that fish are incapable of feeling pain or anything at all. Fish were the ancestors to all other vertebrates; their brains were the template for the evolution of our own minds. Lynne Sneddon, the director of bioveterinary science at Liverpool University, was credited to be the first scientist to discover that fish possess nerves known to convey pain. In 2002, she identified in fish the same nerve types that detect painful stimuli in humans. Such nerves are referred to as "pain receptors".

"My research has shown that fish have a strikingly similar neuronal system to mammals," said Sneddon. Mammals and fish share many identical neurotransmitters, which in humans involve pain (Safina). To further investigate, Sneddon's team gave trout an injection of acetic acid or bee venom, both of which cause pain in humans. After injection, the fish began breathing faster and rubbed the injection site on gravel.

"Stimuli that would cause pain to us also affect fish," said Sneddon. "When humans are in pain, we do other tasks less well. Fish consumed by pain do not respond to fear-causing situations and do not show normal anti-predator behaviour." Then, Sneddon's team administered drugs such as aspirin, lidocaine and morphine. The drugs made the pain symptoms disappear. "If fish did not experience pain," Sneddon indicated,

"then analgesic drugs would have no effect."

Knowing that fishing can cause the mortality of fishes even after release, and that fish can inflict pain, the unnecessary torment of fish should be ceased. It is of importance to acknowledge that humans are a part of the food chains, just like other animals. When an animal consumes another animal, it likely inflicts pain on the prey. Our consumption of other animals is just a part of the food chain, given that we consume and capture moderately and set aside unsustainable practices. On the other hand, fishing for entertainment imposes needless pain to the fish and can cause them lifelong damage. While this is certainly an intriguing activity and training for one's patience, the infliction of suffering upon fish is not ethical and should not be encouraged. We should not motivate students to bring upon pain to their pets, whose livelihood depends solely on the caretakers, which in this case are the students. This seeming trivial act of entertainment opposes the school's core visions of being a "moral and ethical citizen".

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A Meeting at Midnight

By: Shannon Lee

Midnights, released on October 21st, 2022, is unlike any of Taylor Swift's previous albums. They have been reflective of her life at the time, fantastical stories of dreamed-up characters, or rebellious anthems proving her strength. However, none have been as soul-baring or as autobiographical as *Midnights*, co-written by Jack Antonoff, one of Swift's main collaborators. It guides listeners on a grand tour of the tapestry of Swift's very publicly documented life in a whirling sparkle of poetry.

Swift has long been known for writing emotionally poignant ballads that listeners can easily relate to, and *Midnights* is no exception. The album, in Swift's own words, "is a collection of music written in the middle of the night, a journey through terrors and sweet dreams." It is a representation of numerous sleepless nights throughout her life, as well as the emotions and events surrounding them.

Midnights opens with the chromatic synth pulses of "Lavender Haze," which describes the hazy warmth of the honeymoon phase of a relationship, with occasional social commentary thrown in. Track 2, "Maroon," continues with folklorian-tinged pop about the "rust that grew between telephones," the distance Swift feels growing between her and her lover at the time.

"Anti-Hero," the lead single of the album, bares Swift's deepest, darkest thoughts to her listeners: the feeling of always being the villain in the story. She cheekily sums it up in the hook of the song, singing "It's me! Hi! I'm the problem, it's me!" It's arguably the most sonically similar to Swift's smash hit 1989 on the entire album, and it's clear that she's aware of the fact. While "Anti-Hero" contains lyrics like "I should not be left to my own devices / They come with prices and vices / I end up in crises," it's

wrapped in what fans have called a "glitter-gel-pen" atmosphere.

Following "Anti-Hero" is "Snow On the Beach," a widely-anticipated collaboration with fellow artist Lana Del Rey. While Del Rey was not as heavily featured on the track as fans hoped she would be, it's still a beautifully haunting ballad about the rare phenomenon of falling in love at the same time.

Swift's Track Fives are commonly considered her most emotionally impactful, and "You're On Your Own, Kid" is no exception. It calls back to her speech when she accepted her honorary doctorate from New York University: "Scary news is: You're on your own now. Cool news is: You're on your own now." The song reassures the listener that while they only have themselves to rely on, that is more than enough.

"Midnight Rain" is quintessential Swift: she looks back at a failed relationship and muses about what went wrong—which is, as she admits openly, herself. She wanted the fame and the name and she paid for it in the form of yet another lost love. "Question...?" questions (pun intended) a former lover if he ever found something like their relationship in a fast-paced barrage that expects no response. reputation continues its legacy in the form of "Vigilante Sh*t," a scathing, burned-earth outlet of Swift's anger. Intriguingly, the events depicted in the song can apply to both of the men that Swift has publicly feuded with in the past.

"Bejeweled," the second single from *Midnights*, is yet another example of Swift's ability to write deep meanings and implications into a fun pop song. The narrator of the song, frustrated with her inattentive lover, reminds him that she shimmers everywhere she goes. There's even

an easter egg hidden in the music video—Swift's next re-recording will most likely be her third album, *Speak Now*.

In "Labyrinth," Swift sings about finding new love soon after a devastating heartbreak. "Karma," a cheeky reminder that Swift always comes out on top in the best way, is the last member of the pop trio in *Midnights*. "Sweet Nothing" was co-written with William Bowery, also known as Joe Alwyn, Swift's partner of six years. It's an enchanting reminder to appreciate the small things in relationships.

The last song on the album (also track 13, which is Swift's lucky number), "Mastermind" has Swift laying out her grand plan to make her crush fall in love with her. "No one wanted to play with me as a little kid / So I've been scheming like a criminal ever since / To make them love me and make it seem effortless" offers a glimpse into Swift's past and how it shaped her psyche.

Of course, the ultimate mastermind couldn't resist adding a cherry to the top of the *Midnights* sundae: three hours after the album dropped, Swift announced an additional seven tracks called the "3am Edition." They complete the album and bring the

entire story to a satisfying close. Notable mentions: "The Great War," "Would've, Could've, Should've," and "Dear Reader."

Midnights has broken numerous records and earned countless accolades, such as an "Instant Classic" rating from Rolling Stone. Swift has also made history as the first person to ever occupy all of the Top 10 spots on the Billboard Hot 100. A gorgeous album both lyrically and musically, *Midnights* is yet another triumph for returning champion Taylor Swift.

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Meet Mr. and Mrs. Ting!

By: Faith Hsu and Shannon Lee

Mr. Ting teaches HS Math and Science as well as MS Science, while Mrs. Ting teaches MS and HS Math. They joined the Shark family this year. While they are new faces in MAK's halls, we hope that this article will help you get to know them better!

What's your favorite part of Taiwan?

Mr. Ting: My favorite part about Taiwan is the hotpot and Taiwanese fried chicken. Probably in that order.
Mrs. Ting: My favorite part of Taiwan is a close call between Xiao Liu Qiu and Hualien. I love the ocean and the mountains—the air in Hualien is so clear and the river gorges are really beautiful, but swimming with the turtles was one of the most unique things I've ever done.

What's the most memorable experience you've had so far in Taiwan?

Mr. Ting: Probably when Mr. Chan surprised my wife and I and took us out for hot pot. Or Xiao Liu Qiu, there were just dozens of turtles. We went for 2 days. It was awesome.
Mrs. Ting: Apart from swimming with the turtles at Xiao Liu Qiu, one of my most memorable experiences in Taiwan was the first time we stumbled upon a night market. I was so excited to see one for the first time.

What's your favorite sport?

Mr. Ting: Volleyball. I played volleyball for college sports, and also state volleyball.
Mrs. Ting: My favorite sport is soccer. A close second is a sport they don't play in many other places in the world: Touch Football.

What did you do before coming to MAK?

Mr. Ting: {Before coming to MAK} I was a teacher in Brisbane, Australia, and I taught physics.
Mrs. Ting: I was teaching math at a public school in Australia for 6 months, but I was also playing sports and spending time studying the Bible with people.

What are some of your favorite hobbies?

Mr. Ting: I love cooking, I love sports, and I love eating. So I'll often try to fix my nights around that, like finding something cool to eat.
Mrs. Ting: I love sports and being active, exploring different places that I haven't been to before (whether it's by driving, walking, cycling, hiking, or swimming), eating delicious food, playing piano, and spending time with people I love.



M&M Advice



By: Mikayla Tam & Margaret Tsai

What playlist should I listen to to prepare myself to study?

Lofi-beats to relax/study to - Lofi Girl



What song should I play before my basketball qualifying games?

I Ain't Worried - OneRepublic



Personality Quiz

By: Faith Hsu

1. When you have some extra free time what do you like to do?

- A. Take a nap/sleep
- B. Play games
- C. Eat some snacks
- D. Sing songs
- E. Be alone in my room

2. How would your friends describe you?

- A. Laid back and chill
- B. Fun and playful
- C. Peaceful and introverted
- D. Extroverted and talkative
- E. Quiet and lonely

3. What color describes you the best?

- A. Grey
- B. Yellow
- C. Green
- D. Pink
- E. Black

4. What genre of music do you like the most?

- A. Classical
- B. Pop

- C. Jazz
- D. K-pop
- E. No music at all

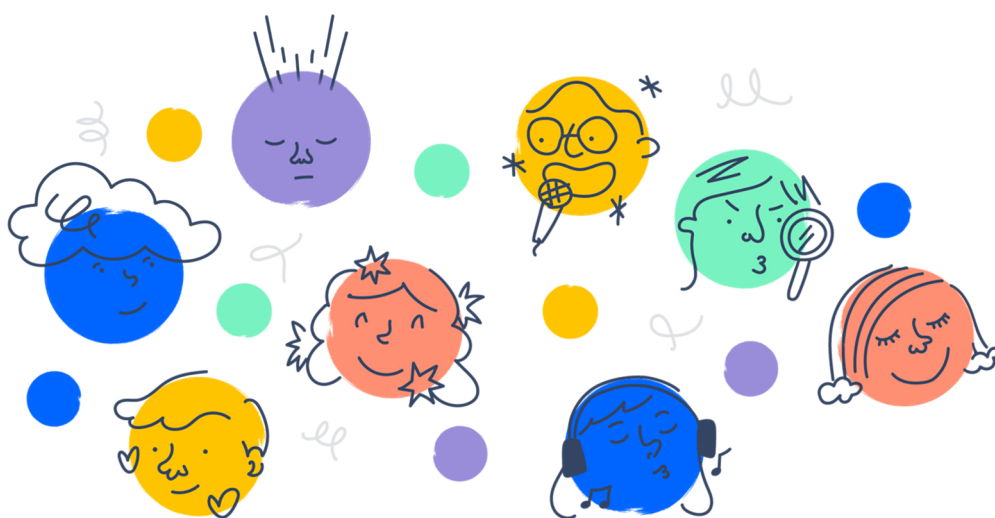
5. Which fruit do you like most?

- A. Blueberries
- B. Mango
- C. Apples
- D. Strawberry
- E. Lemon

6. What desert do you like most?

- A. Cheesecake
- B. Ice cream
- C. Egg tarts
- D. Fruit tarts
- E. Fruit salad

If you got mostly A's: You're a cat! Many people view you as a very laid back person who they can always go to if they need to calm down. Although, you might sleep a lot you always make



sure to get a full 8 hours of sleep.

If you got mostly B's: You're a dog! Many people view you as the social butterfly who is willing to strike up a conversation with just about anyone! Whenever people are around you they know for a fact that they'll have lots of fun!!

If you got mostly C's: You're a panda! Many people view you as a person who loves to eat and loves food in general. Many people like you for your peaceful and smart solutions to problems they may or may not have!!

If you got mostly D's: You're a Bird! Many people view you as a very talkative and lively person! Wherever you go, you make sure there's no awkward silences!! Many people also warm up to you quickly, causing you to have a ton of friends!

If you got mostly E's: You're a Turtle! Many people view you as a very quiet person! You prefer to stay inside a place where you feel comfortable by yourself. You also prefer to do many activities alone, rather than with people.

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Sudoku w/ Answer

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7	2	5	3	8	1	4	9	6
1	4	3	9	2	5	7	8	6
6	9	2	7	3	8	5	1	4
8	5	7	4	1	6	9	2	3
9	7	8	1	2	3	6	4	5
5	3	8	1	6	4	2	9	7
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