

What to do without school?

What a scary and strange time we are living through right now. If you're feeling overwhelmed, uncertain, bored, or confused, you are not alone! Exploring College is right there with you. We're very sad that we can't meet in person for programming for the remainder of the semester, but don't worry—we're still here!



As you probably know, Vassar is also doing remote schooling. For many of us, it's been a very abrupt transition into an entirely new style of learning. Like many of you might be experiencing, some of us are finding it hard to focus and accomplish school work. At the same time, some of us are also

feeling like we are cooped up with nothing to do! To try to fill in our the time we're missing with you, we are going to start sending out newsletters. Hopefully these newsletters can help us stay in touch and keep busy!

Suggestions!

Music:

Album: ~how i'm feeling~ (Lauv)
Artist: Emotional Oranges

TV Shows/Movies:

The Good Place (Netflix)
Jane the Virgin (Netflix)

What's in the newsletter?

For our first newsletter, we figured we should probably describe what will be in it! Below is our table of contents with short descriptions on each section!

Suggestions!

Are you bingewatching a lot of TV or listening to a lot more music than usual? Same here. This section will have some suggestions based on what we've been into these days. Maybe you'll be into it, too!

College Prep!

We're still Exploring College, so we're still gonna share college info with you. Each newsletter will have a different focus, just like our workshops!

Mentor Spotlight!

Our mentors miss you and you might miss them, too! Each newsletter will feature a different mentor, including some fun facts about them and what they've been up to during quarantine.

Book Club!

Remember book club on Monday afternoons? It's still here! Each newsletter will include different texts for you to read. If you're into it, we can even start up a google hangout to talk about the pieces!

Creative Prompts!

Each newsletter will have a few different prompts to inspire you. You can create a piece of writing, art, music, whatever floats your boat! If you're into it, we can start up an EC blog to share our work with each other!

Wellness Activities!

This section will be different activities you can do at home with minimal materials. We plan to include a wide variety of suggestions from

College Prep: Creating a List

There are so many different kinds of schools out there—how are you supposed to figure out what you like?

It can be very overwhelming to begin the college search process. People might be throwing around words like “liberal arts,” “in-state,” “public university”, and asking you what you prefer. You might have no idea what you want or even what those different categories really mean. That’s ok! There are some good resources out there to help you narrow it down and

start to figure out what you want. And, if you’re like me, and you love taking quizzes (looking at you, BuzzFeed), then this might even be kind of fun for you!

There are a ton of different quizzes through college search engines that will ask you questions and help indicate schools that might be a good fit for you. The box to the right has two different good ones that are easy to use!

Once you get your results, you can google the schools and start looking at their website to get a better idea of what that school is like. Take a look

and see if anything grabs your attention! Some places to start might be the academics tab, where you can check and see if they have a major that interests you. You might also look at the student life tab to see what residential life is like or what kind of clubs

students participate in. The admissions tab might have fast facts about the school and some have virtual tours, especially because COVID-19 cancelled many in-person visits. At the very least, do a google image search of the school and see if you like what you see!

1. BigFuture.com

This is from CollegeBoard! Here is the link to the quiz, but BigFuture has tons of other articles and tools to help you start your college search.
<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/find-colleges/how-to-find-your-college-fit/college-search-step-by-step>

2. College Niche

This website has a cool grading system to evaluate different aspects of college. The quiz can help you find out what is most important to you and then compare it with the niche scores that different colleges received!
<https://www.niche.com/about/college-quiz/>



Mentor Spotlight!

Featuring: Kelly!

For our first spotlight, we’re featuring our director, Kelly! Kelly graduated from Vassar last spring and was an Anthropology major. She also minored in Education and (sort of randomly) in Greek & Roman Studies. A fun fact about her is that during the summer after her first year at Vassar, she did archaeology in Italy for a month.

During the quarantine she has been trying to entertain herself by painting (which she hasn’t done since high school) and playing Sims on her computer. Her favorite color is grey and she also loves to dance! Here is a picture of her trying to do ballet in her house following a class on Instagram Live!

Book Club!

At the end of the newsletter, you will find the short story, The Story of an Hour, by Kate Chopin. It has similar vibes to The Yellow Wallpaper, which I know some of you have read in school and/or read with us in book club. It's only a few pages, so give this a read and see what you think! Below is a bit more information about Kate Chopin and the story's origins.



The image above is of Kate Chopin in 1894. Her piece, The Story of an Hour is one of her most well-known and has been described as “one of feminism’s sacred texts” (Susan Cahill in Women and Fiction: Short Stories by and about Women, 1975). Once you read it, you may be surprised to hear that it was written in the same year that this photo of her was taken: 1894!

It was quite controversial at the time and still provides commentary about gender and relationships that resonate today, just like The Yellow Wallpaper. In fact, current authors and artists continue to draw inspiration from Chopin’s story, adapting nearly the same theme to modern circumstances. For example, the cartoonist, Gabrielle Bell, created a graphic story set in NYC lovely following Chopin’s piece.

Chopin herself was quite a controversial woman, leading a very independent and interesting life. Her other most famous piece, The Awakening, focuses on a woman’s marital affair. In real life, though she was not married at the time, Chopin engaged in a relationship with a married man. She also only began officially writing fiction in 1889, just five years before The Story of an Hour was published in Vogue! Check out the story and see if you still feel its relevance!

Wellness Activities!

Exercise:

Check out the youtube channel blogidates! She does a lot of yoga, pilates and quick 5–10 minute workouts that you can do from home!

Crossword Puzzle:

At the very end of this newsletter (after the short story) is a crossword puzzle! See if you can figure out the clues, the answer key will be attached to the next newsletter!

Writing prompts

1. Creative Writing:

Use these 5 words in a short story or poem:

- orange
- vanity
- scarf
- misguided
- hide

2. Opinion:

Does homework help students learn?

3. Personal:

What songs matter to you right now?

The Story of an Hour

Kate Chopin

Knowing that Mrs. Mallard was afflicted with a heart trouble, great care was taken to break to her as gently as possible the news of her husband's death.

It was her sister Josephine who told her, in broken sentences; veiled hints that revealed in half concealing. Her husband's friend Richards was there, too, near her. It was he who had been in the newspaper office when intelligence of the railroad disaster was received, with Brently Mallard's name leading the list of "killed." He had only taken the time to assure himself of its truth by a second telegram, and had hastened to forestall any less careful, less tender friend in bearing the sad message.

She did not hear the story as many women have heard the same, with a paralyzed inability to accept its significance. She wept at once, with sudden, wild abandonment, in her sister's arms. When the storm of grief had spent itself she went away to her room alone. She would have no one follow her.

There stood, facing the open window, a comfortable, roomy armchair. Into this she sank, pressed down by a physical exhaustion that haunted her body and seemed to reach into her soul.

She could see in the open square before her house the tops of trees that were all aquiver with the new spring life. The delicious breath of rain was in the air. In the street below a peddler was crying his wares. The notes of a distant song which some one was singing reached her faintly, and countless sparrows were twittering in the eaves.

There were patches of blue sky showing here and there through the clouds that had met and piled one above the other in the west facing her window.

She sat with her head thrown back upon the cushion of the chair, quite motionless, except when a sob came up into her throat and shook her, as a child who has cried itself to sleep continues to sob in its dreams.

She was young, with a fair, calm face, whose lines bespoke repression and even a certain strength. But now there was a dull stare in her eyes, whose gaze was fixed away off yonder on one of those patches of blue sky. It was not a glance of reflection, but rather indicated a suspension of intelligent thought.

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Kate Chopin's "The Story of an Hour" originally published 1894.

There was something coming to her and she was waiting for it, fearfully. What was it? She did not know; it was too subtle and elusive to name. But she felt it, creeping out of the sky, reaching toward her through the sounds, the scents, the color that filled the air.

Now her bosom rose and fell tumultuously. She was beginning to recognize this thing that was approaching to possess her, and she was striving to beat it back with her will—as powerless as her two white slender hands would have been.

When she abandoned herself a little whispered word escaped her slightly parted lips. She said it over and over under her breath: "free, free, free!" The vacant stare and the look of terror that had followed it went from her eyes. They stayed keen and bright. Her pulses beat fast, and the coursing blood warmed and relaxed every inch of her body.

She did not stop to ask if it were or were not a monstrous joy that held her. A clear and exalted perception enabled her to dismiss the suggestion as trivial.

She knew that she would weep again when she saw the kind, tender hands folded in death; the face that had never looked save with love upon her, fixed and gray and dead. But she saw beyond that bitter moment a long procession of years to come that would belong to her absolutely. And she opened and spread her arms out to them in welcome.

There would be no one to live for her during those coming years; she would live for herself. There would be no powerful will bending hers in that blind persistence with which men and women believe they have a right to impose a private will upon a fellow-creature. A kind intention or a cruel intention made the act seem no less a crime as she looked upon it in that brief moment of illumination.

And yet she had loved him—sometimes. Often she had not. What did it matter! What could love, the unsolved mystery, count for in the face of this possession of self-assertion which she suddenly recognized as the strongest impulse of her being!

"Free! Body and soul free!" she kept whispering.

Josephine was kneeling before the closed door with her lips to the keyhole, imploring for admission. "Louise, open the door! I beg; open the door—you will make yourself ill. What are you doing, Louise? For heaven's sake open the door."

"Go away. I am not making myself ill." No; she was drinking in a very elixir of life through that open window.

Her fancy was running riot along those days ahead of her. Spring days, and summer days, and all sorts of days that would be her own. She breathed a quick prayer that life might be long. It was only yesterday she had thought with a shudder that life might be long.

She arose at length and opened the door to her sister's importunities. There was a feverish triumph in her eyes, and she carried herself unwittingly like a goddess of Victory. She clasped her sister's waist, and together they descended the stairs. Richards stood waiting for them at the bottom.

Some one was opening the front door with a latchkey. It was Brently Mallard who entered, a little travel-stained, composedly carrying his grip-sack and umbrella. He had been far from the scene of the accident, and did not even know there had been one. He stood amazed at Josephine's piercing cry; at Richards' quick motion to screen him from the view of his wife.

But Richards was too late.

When the doctors came they said she had died of heart disease—of joy that kills.

FAIRY TALES

by Frank Longo | © 2014, The New York Times



The Learning Network

Teaching & Learning With The New York Times

ACROSS

- 1 "The Three Little ___" (29-Down tale)
- 5 Classic Ford car model: Hyph.
- 10 Norway's capital
- 14 Operatic solo
- 15 "___ in the court!"
- 16 Chew like a rat
- 17 29-Down character who lost her glass slipper at the ball
- 19 ___-Red (29-Down character)
- 20 Suffix with 33-Down
- 21 "Don't move, doggy!"
- 22 What Jack's beanstalk did
- 24 Moo ___ pork (Chinese restaurant dish)
- 25 Pea container
- 26 What Hansel was
- 27 Shake, as a tail
- 30 Prefix meaning "one"
- 31 Clearasil may clear it up
- 32 "Ben-___" (1959 film that won 11 Oscars)
- 33 Spaces, as between teeth
- 36 Storage place for tools
- 38 Best Picture of 1958
- 39 "Would ___ to you?": 2 wds.
- 40 Made less severe
- 42 Bit of news
- 43 High cards
- 44 Cheeselike health food

- 45 Disease-producing microorganism
- 46 Say "yes" without speaking
- 47 Part of a procedure
- 49 "2 Broke Girls" network
- 51 Faucet
- 52 Word after lily or mouse
- 53 Slide down a slope
- 54 Atlas feature
- 57 Persia, today
- 59 It rings at the end of class
- 60 Metal-bearing rock
- 61 Dummy
- 63 29-Down character who wandered into the home of three bears

- 66 Chamber into which Gretel pushed the witch
- 67 Whale's home
- 68 Cincinnati's locale
- 69 See 5-Down
- 70 Bitten by a bee
- 71 ___ Christian Andersen (Danish author of fairy tales)

DOWN

- 1 Walks back and forth nervously
- 2 St. Patrick's Day marchers
- 3 Knife advertised on TV
- 4 Unhappy

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69						70					71			

- 5 Winner of a race against a 69-Across in a 31-Down fable
- 6 See 23-Down
- 7 In an inactive way
- 8 Christianity or Buddhism: Abbr.
- 9 Fire-breathing fairy tale beast
- 10 Mean monster of fairy tales
- 11 29-Down character who befriended dwarfs: 2 wds.
- 12 ___ Vegas
- 13 Have outstanding debts
- 18 "X-Games" cable station
- 23 With 6-Down, what some sandwiches are made on
- 25 Winner of a race against a 69-Across in a 31-Down fable
- 26 Letters after A
- 28 Carpenter's boring tool
- 29 Brothers ___ (German siblings Jakob and Wilhelm who collected fairy tales)
- 30 Avails oneself of
- 31 Greek author of fables
- 33 Creature that chased Jack down the beanstalk
- 34 Big producer of aluminum
- 35 He rid Hamelin of rats by playing his flute: 2 wds.
- 37 Despised
- 38 Jobs for jazz bands
- 41 "The Ugly ___" (71-Across tale)
- 47 Health club
- 48 Ballroom dances
- 50 Gates of Microsoft
- 53 Roomy car
- 54 Chocolate-and-coffee combination
- 55 "Chicago Hope" star Alan
- 56 Mexican coins
- 58 Actress Russo
- 59 Chicken cordon ___
- 61 Homer Simpson's exclamation
- 62 Eggs, to biologists
- 64 Month before Nov.
- 65 ___ and aah