

# The Chariot

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## Coral Bleaching and Why it is Important

by Stella Koch

Coral Bleaching is one of the biggest problems the world is facing but no one knows or cares. What is coral bleaching? As the Earth warms, by the trapping of CO<sub>2</sub>, the oceans begin to warm with it. Climate change is the leading cause of this tragedy. As the ocean warms, the coral starts to turn white and die off. The coral will turn the algae, which is called zooxanthellae, living in its tissue white. However, the coral is not dead. It can survive the bleaching, but it is under more stress. Without coral, different types of fish will not be able to survive. Certain

fish, such as clown fish, depend on coral for shelter or food. Now, one might ask “How does this affect me?” Without the coral, fish will not be able to survive and reproduce. This will leave many nations in despair. Since we live in the U.S., we do not have the issue of finding food. We eat food from the water and the land. However, countries that are surrounded by water and are less-developed do not have the resources we do. A lot of poor families from less-developed countries do not have the money to get expensive food such as steak. That is why fish is a very important food resource to lots of countries. (Continued on page 2)

## Escaping the Labyrinth

by Tyler Nolt

“How will we ever get out of this labyrinth of suffering?” For anyone who has ever read the book or watched the Hulu original *Looking for Alaska*, you will easily be able to recognize this question. It is the guiding force behind the show and sets up a huge plot twist. I have determined that there are three things in life that will help one escape the labyrinth of suffering: love, success, and peace.

The definition of love is an intense feeling of deep affection. You should feel love for the things you choose to do. There are obviously some things that everyone has to do like brush your teeth, but when it comes to how you spend your free time, you should do the things you love. If you do the things you love with the people you love, how could you be suffering? (Continued on page 3)

Turn to the last page for some fun winter coloring!

Read a fun childhood story from Kathryn Masano on page 3.

Learn more on white privilege from Katie Schadler on page 4.

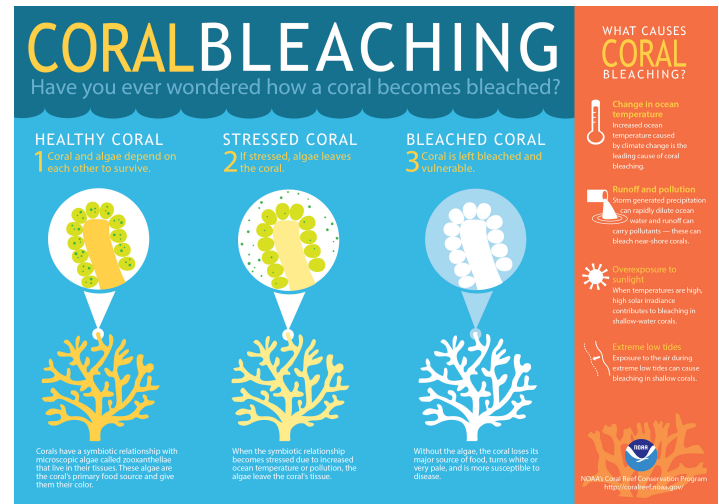
Read a relatable poem by Paul Monsour on page 5.

(Continued from page 1) So without coral reefs, fish will die off and leave many people starving. Since the Earth has reached extreme temperatures over the past couple of years, the Great Barrier Reef has been heavily affected. During 2016 and 2017, the reef suffered a mass coral bleaching. From data in 2020, the reef experienced 2,300 kilometers of coral bleaching. This world-wide problem needs to be stopped so the planet can be saved.

One way to help stop coral bleaching would be to donate to some foundations such as The Great Barrier Reef Foundation. There are many

organizations out there that could use your support to stop coral bleaching. Another way to help is to try to stop polluting the air with heat. Instead of driving to school, maybe you could carpool or walk. Try to recycle more and check when your recycle truck comes by. Start reusing materials such as yogurt containers or Chinese takeout boxes. Right now, our Earth is dying. There is no one out there that is going to stop these deaths except us. We

caused all of these problems, and now we need to fix our mistakes. Every single living organism on the planet is looking to us for help.



My Name

by Yuanyu Chen

Throughout my life, I have found that my name is not the easiest to pronounce. I have been called Yuan, Juan, or simply “you” with a finger point.

However, my fixation with names began when family members started adopting English names. My sister goes by Lily rather than Yuanyan. One day, a family friend asked how Tina was doing and insisted that I knew her. At the time, I was baffled. Who is Tina? Everyone was talking about Tina, yet I was the only one that didn't know her. But soon, I learned that Tina was my aunt's new name.

All roads seemed to lead to one end: an English name. Almost everyone in my family has at one time, swapped his or her ethnic name with an English name. But why?

Last year, my AP Research project focused on names and their relationships to wellbeing. I focused specifically on Asian American college students as subjects. At first, I used known scales created by researchers from esteemed universities, but my low sample size made it difficult to find and establish significant differences in regards to wellbeing.

However, I did find a discrepancy between first-generation and second-generation names. For my study, I defined first-generation as immigrants to the United States or international students. As for second-generation students, I identified them as students who had at least one parent who was an immigrant. About 53.34% of participants in the first generation had English names, but the percentage increased to 85.00% in the second-generation group.

The open-ended responses gave me insight into why the discrepancy existed. The most common reason was due to mispronunciation. In fact, all of the participants who had at one time changed their names from an ethnic name to an English one responded that mispronunciation was the main issue. (Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 1) The definition of success is the accomplishment of an aim or purpose. In order to be successful, you have to have goals that you want to achieve. By setting goals and knowing how you want to achieve them, you escape the labyrinth. It is no longer a question of where you are going but instead, how you are going to get there. Accomplishing your goals also gives you a sense of pride in what you have done, knowing that your hard work has paid off.

The definition of peace is the freedom from disturbance. I have found that the best way to feel at peace is by embracing who I am. Rather than acting like everyone else, I embrace my individuality. By doing this, I am more mentally at peace because I am able to love myself.

So what is the best way to start your escape from the labyrinth of suffering? Start doing more of the things you are passionate about, and find people who share that passion. Choose to be yourself instead of focusing on who everyone else wants you to be. Then, set goals for yourself so you end up successful. As Mark Rober once said, “a successful life is one where you leave the world better than you found it.”

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### **KJ's Childhood Stories: Idiots**

by Kathryn Masano

So this story takes place when Teddy and I were around eight or nine years old. Our favorite activity to do during the summer was visit the Wyomissing Pool across from the high school. Specifically after Mr. Miller's junior basketball camps which, given my skills today, proved to be a waste of money. My mom dropped us off at the pool and gave us the house phone so we could have a means of communication. If you know where I live, you know that the pool is two blocks away from my house. We could have easily walked there, but given that we were two very dumb children with the attention span of worms, our parents agreed that it was not a smart idea. After we tanned, swam, ate, played with a rubber duck we found in the bathroom, etc., it was time for us to end our vacation. As one would do, we called my mom. No answer. But it's okay, it's alright, it's fine. She probably didn't hear the phone ring. So we call again and still no answer. Again, given that we were two naïve kids, the panic set in quick (which should have been a tell-tale sign of the anxiety that would hit us as teenagers). In desperation, we called my brother who settled us down and reassured us with two wise words: “just walk.” Oh, so what you're saying is we're adults now? I mean at that rate, we should have been paying taxes and laying down a job because if Teddy and I were allowed to travel those two blocks alone, then someone should've handed us a college degree. It was about halfway home when a man, probably eighteen to twenty years old, came up to us in a panic. “Hi I'm so sorry, but my dog is missing. Can you two help me find it? I don't know what to do!” AND WE HELPED HIM. THE OLDEST TRICK IN THE BOOK, AND WE WILLINGLY WENT WITH THIS MAN TO LOOK FOR HIS “LOST DOG.” But do you want to hear the most amazing twist to this story? There WAS a dog. He was running around the parking lot next to my house, dragging behind him a leash that he had chewed through. From this point on, we were a band of brothers: me, Teddy, and this random dude we met five minutes ago on the middle of Old Wyomissing Road, trying to catch this mid sized mutt. I tackle him, slicing my knee open, and Teddy grabbed what was left of the leash. The man came over, picked up his dog, said thank you, and left. He didn't even help us out of the road; there are two eight-year old children lying on the ground after hog-wrestling your dog FOR YOU and you reply, “thanks, bye!” Like okay? No Problem? See you around? When we finally got back to my house, dirty and tired, my mom asked what had happened to my knee. I told her I tripped on the sidewalk because even if we were stupid, we were not dumb enough to face that lecture. She was informed of the story years later and much to our surprise, she did not think it was funny that we followed a random man who claimed to have a missing dog. The moral of this story is that sometimes there really is a missing dog, and you should help the strange man you met in the parking lot.

(Continued from page 2) The second most common reason for the discrepancy was parental concern. Many participants expressed that their parents felt that their children would struggle fitting in or finding jobs if they had an ethnic name.

From my project, I learned that a wide range of experiences exist for why people change their names and the complexity within the subject. Identity and names are strongly connected. To mock or express frustration towards not being able to pronounce a name can hurt. Many participants reflected that they felt growing insecurity towards their names as a result of the frustrations or lack of effort peers and adults made to remembering how to pronounce their names.

What can we do as a community? Mispronunciations will always exist, but how we address these mispronunciations is important. Peers and adults alike should address their inability to pronounce a certain name as a limitation rather than a barrier, continue their efforts to better pronounce the name, and ask for help if needed.

### **A Lesson on White Privilege: What It Is and What It Isn't**

by Katie Schadler

Before reading the first sentence, I know I already lost some of you with the title. You are probably thinking “Great. Another person here to tell me, as a white person, what I am doing wrong.” It is not you specifically. It is the game. You just happen to be a player in it. But to those of you who grudgingly continue, I ask that you read until the end.

For the last few years, we have increasingly been talking about race, generating conversations about “white privilege.” Automatically, this word appears to hold a negative connotation, evoking that defensive, repulsive urge we get when we are called out for being racist, as if the stunning possibility that we have said or done something racist equates to dancing with the devil himself. The “white” half of the word automatically tips us off, being that it bluntly addresses skin color—a concept that would much rather be approached behind color-blind glasses and careless neglect. And of course, “privilege,” a term that falsely insinuates that we are “rich” or “spoiled” and attaining success without lifting a finger. But the concept of white privilege is not about being rich or poor. It does not mean we have not experienced hardship, and it certainly does not mean that every accomplishment was not hard earned. White privilege means that as a white person, we possess unnoticed, inherent societal advantages simply due to the color of our skin. It is not our choice as to whether we have white privilege or not, but it is our choice as to what we do with it.

As white people, our white privilege follows us from the moment we walk outside of our houses to the moment we are not held at gun-point for a broken taillight or a “suspicious look.” It can be as mundane as easily finding beauty products that match our hair texture to consistently learning about our European ancestors within the core curriculum in history class. Growing up, the dolls that we play with have our complexion, and the characters that we read about are smart and civilized and look like us. In school, we are recognized for our intelligence and are never falsely accused of cheating or lying without evidence. When we walk home, we do not have to worry about making people feel uncomfortable or getting stopped by the police without unsubstantiated reason. And when we get home safely, we turn on the television to hear about the murder of another unarmed black man who is being portrayed on the screen as a gang-banger and a drug dealer rather than a student, a brother, and a son.

But for us, it is just another day. Because we have the privilege to watch it happen on the television while our black peers are fighting against centuries of injustice that have been remolded into different names. Jim Crow has been outlawed. The Civil Rights Act has existed since 1964. (Continued on page 5)

(continued from page 4). So why do we relentlessly demand to use “the race card?” Because we are still suffering the repercussions. Due to systemic racism; racism that overtime, has been ingrained and carried on through policy and social constructions like healthcare, housing, employment, education, politics, crime, and culture; we have maintained a system where black households hold one-tenth the wealth of white households, a criminal justice system that militarizes the solution and incarcerates nearly 40% of a population that only makes up 15% of the United States, and a society that predetermines the fates of African Americans before birth. Often, uncomfortably recognizing the racist foundations of this country infuriates us, as we pridefully and patriotically process these observations as disservices to a country that has provided some of us with bountiful amounts of freedom. However, we are not outlining America’s faults for the purpose of mere ridicule. We are uncovering ways to dismantle its racist roots and subdue its metastasizing wounds because of our burning desire to witness this country at its best. Recognizing our white privilege is not to say we are personally racist. It is not even to say that there is something inherently wrong with us. It is about wanting more for all of us. Through the challenging but rewarding acknowledgment of how we have contributed to these problem comes an equal amount of unlearning the toxic habits that have acted as stagnant reflections of our former selves. We now have the opportunity to not just become more bystanders watching the world through a screen but rather use our privilege to fuel education, challenge broken systems, and seek more equitable solutions. Because ultimately, it is our choice to get past the first sentence and continue reading until the end.

### Ways to stay educated about racism during Black History Month and all months:

- For YA readers: *The Hate U Give*, *All American Boys*, *Black Enough*, *Dear Martin*, *Piecing Me Together*
- For nonfiction readers: *Just Mercy*, *How to be an Anti-Racist*, *The New Jim Crow*, *White Fragility*, *Between the World and Me*
- For watching: *13th*, *Selma*, *Hidden Figures*, *42*, *When They See Us*, *Amend*
- For listening: *Code Switch*, *1619*, *The Daily*, *Vox Conversations*, *The Powerful Youth Perspective*



(If you are looking for an educational podcast, “The Powerful Youth Perspective” is a way to support ]  
County students in their attempts to advocate for racial equity and cultural competency, as social justice should remain important beyond a single month or social trend.)

### And Still I Wait

by Paul Monsour

The night ticks by slow and the work is done slower  
I loved your company but your stay is over  
Time is merely the train commuting us from dusk to dawn  
But sometimes I wish I had never gotten on  
The job is done as the day breaks  
You just left, and still I wait

My body takes me through the hours  
To the thought of you, negativity cower  
I wish I could run to you, but you must come to me  
As I toil away, keeping awake with a melody  
Laying asleep the stress deflates  
My memories of you are dim, and still I wait

Rushing to school, almost hitting a Kia  
Morning strikes harder than John Cena  
Sleep is very necessary but sadly less practical  
I failed my anatomy test because I don’t know the clavicle  
What wouldn’t we give for a fresh slate  
Can’t you diffuse across my week? I guess not, and still I wait

Down with homework, 2 A.M. still vertical  
I’m too tired to go to school and that is assertable  
I long for you to arrive  
From the struggles of life, you grant brief reprieve  
Not long until I go insane I estimate  
I need you now, but still I wait

Twenty-four hours until I see you  
You just texted “omw”  
Somehow I made it, I am appalled  
Despite making thirty-eight times a year overall  
This poem is about the weekend, but worded stronger  
The time has come, I wait no longer



HEALTHY + QUICK + EASY

# Lava Cake Baked Oats

BY VANESA AGUAY



1/2 banana

2/3 cup almond milk (or other milk)

2/3 cup oats

1 tbsp maple syrup

1 tsp of baking powder

1 tbsp unsweetened cocoa powder

pinch of salt

1 scoop of protein powder (optional)

1/2 tbsp chia seeds (optional)

\*blend together

\*pour in oven safe bowl

- \*place dark chocolate in the middle
- \*bake for 17-20 minutes in 400°

# Fun Section:

P	E	L	N	S	U	C	C	E	S	S	P	L	A
P	P	R	O	N	U	N	C	I	A	T	I	O	N
O	A	S	P	T	V	O	D	T	A	O	R	F	P
O	C	O	L	O	S	I	R	A	E	I	S	G	R
I	P	N	P	A	A	R	I	I	E	V	O	L	I
I	O	L	S	P	B	T	D	P	R	P	R	I	V
U	O	A	F	L	T	Y	S	N	E	E	A	C	I
U	L	R	L	L	L	N	R	S	E	A	O	R	L
D	N	O	P	N	E	C	R	I	R	N	C	E	E
O	A	C	A	H	C	P	T	A	N	N	O	E	G
G	R	E	I	S	S	G	O	R	P	T	R	U	E
L	V	E	R	L	S	I	R	C	N	R	H	C	I
L	I	T	P	N	R	E	F	Y	D	P	O	U	R
P	C	O	O	A	R	E	L	I	E	A	N	L	L

PRIVILEGE  
 LOVE  
 FISH  
 PRONUNCIATION  
 PEACE  
 POOL  
 LABYRINTH  
 CORAL  
 SUCCESS  
 OATS  
 DOG





