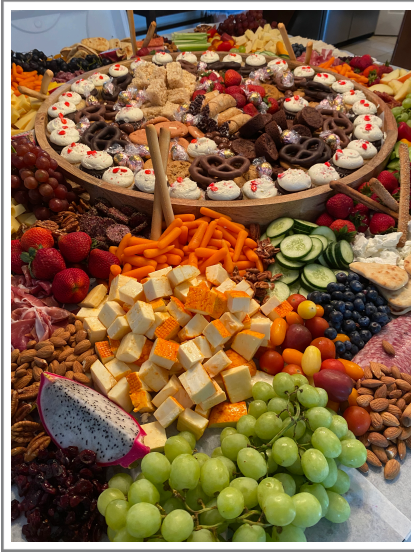


# The Chariot

Edition 3

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## How to Make the Best Grazing Table

by Stella Koch

Recently, grazing tables and charcuterie boards have been making a name for themselves. Here's a quick guide on how to find the best grazing table to please yourself and other people.

First, find a table or tray where you would like to place your food. Size and shape do not matter, but I think the cooler the shape of the table or tray, the more interesting your final product will look. Make sure you sanitize your table or tray.



Next, start randomly placing your cut meat, such as salami and peppered salami, into little piles throughout the table. Then, start placing prosciutto in small piles around the table. Prosciutto can be rolled in many ways, and if you are creative, you can make various shapes.

After placing all of your meats, then start placing cut cheese in small groups. I like to put small piles of cheese in between the small meat piles so every other pile will be either meat or cheese. [continued on page 2]

## GMOs: Something to be Thankful for This Year

by Emily Shirk

With Thanksgiving approaching, people are eager to share meals with their friends and family. However, what many do not realize is that a substantial portion of the items on the table—corn, cranberry sauce, stuffing, pumpkin pie, etc.—likely contain genetically-modified organisms (GMOs) or ingredients derived from GMOs. These products, which are created when scientists alter the DNA of food for desired effects, are found in over 75% of processed foods on grocery stores shelves. Over 90% of corn and soybean grown in the United States have been genetically modified, and more than half of table sugar comes from genetically-modified sugar beets. GMOs are a major part of agriculture in the US and have found their way into most people's diets, but many Americans are not happy about it: [continued on page 3]

Interested in comics? Read Owen's article on page 4, or head to page 8 to read Ananya's original comic strip.

Turn to page 2 to read Tyler Nolt's article on Facebook's switch to Meta.

Go to page 6 to read a fun story from Kathryn Masano's childhood.

Need a mental break? Turn to page 11 for the fun section.

[continued from page 1] Many cheeses can be used when making a grazing table:

Parmesan, Colby Jack, Manchego, Aged Cheddar, Blue Cheese, Goat Cheese, and Brie.

Once you're done placing the meat and cheese piles, you can start to place your fruits and vegetables. These bring color and liveliness to your entrée. If you choose to use grapes, place them right after you are done placing the meat and cheese. Make sure the grapes are still on a vine, as it makes your table look very professional. If you place them on the edge of the table or tray, it will provide structure and shape.

Next, start to place your vegetables. Some vegetables that could be incorporated include carrots, cucumbers, small peppers, heirloom tomatoes, and celery. Fruits not only bring a sweet flavor to the table but provide a contrast with the food mentioned above. There are so many types of fruits you can use including strawberries, apples, and blueberries. You can also use dragon fruit, persimmons, kiwi berries, cantaloupe, and pineapple.

After placing all of your fruits and veggies, you can start to fill in the gaps on your table. You can use almonds, pecans, cranberries, and walnuts to fill in

the empty spaces. Once you are done, you can finally add sauces and breads. Make sure you place these last, for the bread may break and create a mess on your table or tray. Fancy sauces and breads bring a quality of charm to your final product. Any foods or sauces that are out of the ordinary always make your board look more unique and impressive!

Once you have finished placing all of your food; sit down, relax, and enjoy!

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## The Metaverse is Coming

by Tyler Nolt



On October 28th, it was announced that Facebook changed their company name to Meta. I originally thought they were just rebranding, but then I learned why they decided to do so. They are working on something huge called “The Metaverse,” which to put it simply, is your world through virtual reality. It is a virtual universe that you share with other people—one where you can control your location, appearance, and so much more. It is your life put into what I consider to be the new social media, resulting in increased productivity levels but also a major negative impact on your world.

In this world called The Metaverse, you have complete control over everything. You can do whatever you want, wherever you want to do it. You can go from surfing on the beach, to flying across mountain tops. With this kind of control, your productivity can skyrocket. You will be able to learn about anything by touching it, bringing a whole new meaning to interactive learning. [continue on page 4]



[continued from page 1] A recent survey conducted by Pew Research concluded that more than half of the people in the US are concerned about the impacts of GMOs. But are their concerns really justified? The FDA has confirmed that “GMO foods are as healthful and safe to eat as their non-GMO counterparts,” and there is no valid, scientific evidence to support the notion that consumption of GMOs causes health issues. In fact, many GMOs have been modified to be more nutritional. Golden rice, for example, is a genetically-modified version of white rice that produces more vitamin A. Another example, although not available on the market, is the purple tomato, which has modified to produce more anthocyanin, a natural anti-inflammatory with anticancer properties. Other teams of scientists are working on improving the taste of produce, such as broccoli, to encourage more consumption of nutritious food. In addition to health benefits, many GMOs are pest-resistant, eliminating the need for toxic fertilizers. GMOs also aid in helping fight world hunger: With stronger plants, more can be produced with less resources and land, yielding cheaper, longer-lasting food that is available to everyone. Less land usage is also crucial for environmental benefits: Conventional crops require more acreage which may lead to deforestation. From human health to the environment, the benefits of genetic engineering are immense.

Yet, various Americans worry that the process is unnatural. They question why they would eat something that would not occur naturally in the environment. However, in this day and age, finding something fully “natural” is virtually impossible. Scientists have been using selective breeding to control food since the 18th century, and in many cases, genetic engineering is simply a sped-up version of selective breeding. There are plenty of non-GMO crops that would not exist naturally without farmer intervention. Additionally, pesticide usage is necessary in conventionally grown crops, and this too, is not technically “natural.” Other critics argue that GMOs harm the environment by taking over other strands of similar organisms; however, research has concluded that GMOs actually improve biodiversity through less chemical usage and more land available for forestry.

With any new technology, there is always a chance that new research presents information that proves critics right nevertheless. Although current research says their efforts are misled, their hearts are certainly in the right place. Caring about food and investigating new technology is necessary to keep producers in check. Encouraging curiosity among the public and transparency in the food system will lead to much-needed answers. Meanwhile, enjoy that Thanksgiving meal, and thank the scientists who may have created it.

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## **Thinking Inside The Box**

by Vanesa Aguay

“Just think outside the box.” The repetitive nature of this phrase has been used to achieve a certain goal. However, staying away from this box does not necessarily guarantee development. Choosing a method or vision “inside a box” can help you achieve a certain goal. For example, creating boxes for yourself can be done by making deadlines in which you have no other option but desperation itself as the ultimate motivator to accomplish your goal. Essentially focusing on the box you are given, despite a deadline’s limitation, is where the best results come from, such as giving yourself an hour to work without distractions. Creating boxes of space can fuel creativity by limiting yourself to certain materials. When studying for a test, notes help the flow of your ideas through varying perspectives. Ultimately, the creation of new boxes or guidelines will help you succeed!

[continued from page 2] Efficiency increases, as you will no longer have to deal with transportation but rather teleport to wherever you need to go. Work will also be easier because you will be able to perform tasks by thinking about what you want to do.

This all sounds great, but it could have some serious negative effects on ... everything. With the futuristic lifestyle of The Metaverse, you will forget about your physical self. You will lead an unhealthier life, failing to leave your house or exercise as much. Another thing with this control is that it allows you to get rid of what you do not like. So if you do not want to hear about global warming, your Metaverse will never have you hear about it. This goes for all the world's problems, like homeless people, hunger, pollution, and much more. With these things thrown in your face, you will not care about the state of your planet or the people around you who are too poor to afford to be on the Metaverse.



While you may be reading this thinking that this is just a thing of the far future, it most definitely is not. The Metaverse is coming soon, and it is not getting the kind of attention it needs. People should be aware of the pros and cons that Meta is bringing to your future. This article does not do justice to all that the Metaverse truly is and will be. I strongly encourage everyone to learn more about it, as it will affect yours and everyone's lives. The information in this article is majorly based off of the YouTube video “The Metaverse could be a problem” by “Mrwhosetheboss,” as he has been my reliable source for technology updates for over a year. There are also numerous other videos and articles about the Metaverse that can help you form an educated opinion.

## **Ultimate Spider-Man: With Great Power (2000)**

by Owen Asztalos

*Ultimate Spider-Man*, written by Brian Michael Bendis and drawn by Mark Bagley (mostly), was first issued in October, 2000. The turn of the century and constant back and forth direction of the *Amazing Spider-Man* series warranted the creation of a new Spider-Man book to draw readers back into the character. Since Spider-Man’s creation, he’s been a fan favorite among most Marvel fans, but his comic history is long and convoluted—leaving new readers struggling to weed out the good from the bad. Writer Howard Mackie filled the role as writer for the continuation of *Amazing Spider-Man* in 1999, and man, did he have some big shoes to fill following Todd Mcfarlane’s extremely sophisticated and innovative take on the wall crawler. Todd left Marvel after Spider-Man related sales were through the roof, but unfortunately, he had creative differences with the Marvel Chief Editor. Marvel needed a big time comeback, especially since they went bankrupt after Mcfarlane left. At the start of a new century, Marvel decided to head in another direction rather than trying to fix the already upsetting *Amazing Spider-Man* storyline. Investing everything they had into the long-lasting run, Marvel launched a new Spider-Man story with a fresh set of writers and illustrators. [continued on page 5]

[continued from page 4] The new story was set to be written by up-and-coming and widely appreciated indie-writer, Brian Michael Bendis. Bendis, new to writing Marvel comics, proved very quickly to be a perfect fit for the birth of the new Spider-Man series. Something every Spider-Man comic desperately needs—especially at this point in the ongoing series—is a grounded and human relatability that connects you with Peter Parker. Stan Lee (Original writer of *Amazing Fantasy #15* and *Amazing Spider-Man 1963-1973*) pioneered the most crucial element of Peter Parker’s character, the concept that Peter Parker is one of us: He’s the everyman’s man. Bendis took this idea and ran with it—not that he’s the everyman but more so that he could have been any one of the kids in your high school classroom. This offered a back-to-basics approach for Peter Parker and highlighted the main point that made his character appealing in the first place, not to mention Bendis’ ability to create extremely sensible and relatable characters, with very realistic dialogue. These writing concepts, paired with Mark Bagley’s extremely stylized version of the web-slinger who uses a cartoony approach with a hint of semi-realism, allowed for one of the best and most successful runs on the wall-crawler or any other Marvel character in Marvel’s comic history.

The first volume of *Ultimate Spider-Man* is centered, as one may expect, around Spider-Man’s origin. Of course, it goes without saying at this point, that Peter Parker was a kid in high school who got bitten by a genetically-modified spider (in contrast to a radiation infused spider in *Amazing Fantasy #15*) and quickly learned of his new powers proportionate to a spider. He eventually is led on a path of self-discovery when he acts irresponsible and uses his powers to benefit him financially. A young and selfish Peter Parker has an opportunity to stop an armed robber but chooses to look the other way out of self-interest, but coincidentally, that same robber is the man who killed his Uncle Ben in his own

house later that night. Peter became deeply troubled by this, like anyone would, but unique in the way that he had a clear chance to potentially change the course of action for the rest of his life. Peter vowed that “with great power comes great responsibility,” and he would fight crime in the loving memory of his uncle Ben to prevent anyone else from the same loss that he, himself, faced. Of course, the show must go on and Peter comes to terms with his grief and moves forward, continuing to lead the legacy of Spider-Man for more complex reasons. In the series, we are very quickly introduced to villains such as Green Goblin, Kingpin, and Doctor Octopus—three fan favorite villains of Spider-Man (or at least my favorites). The series maintains a core focus on the characters and how they interact with each other to create greater overarching plots that stay consistent throughout the entirety of the run. This gives the comic an almost half-hour sitcom-type feel, which is a great way to engage new readers. This is the exact same style that Stan Lee incorporated in his 100 issues of Spider-Man but just in a more modern context. I think that if you’re looking for a great jumping on point for Spider-Man comics, start with *Ultimate Spider-Man*. The series is widely loved by every Spider-Man fan because it tells a universal story about a young-man, going through a bit of self-discovery. He comes to the realization that if he applies himself, he may actually be able to do some good while maintaining social connections with his friends and family—yeah, that’s not relatable at all.



by Sutton Dareneau

As a foreword, this is far less of an article for the chariot for me. As before—so again, that is to say similar to a previous edition’s monologue—this one will also be written unlike most articles. Consider this more of a love letter, an explanation, to and of that every day unconventional, that of which would be fantastical and odd and oh so wondrously strange made mundane by the sheer repetition of it. This is, if I may, an encomium to that commonplace strangeness.

To begin, we must first ask ourselves a simple question: what the heck am I talking about? Allow me to explain: it's the simple things that should, by all means, be absolute insanity that simply isn't. Allow me to further explain by providing an example: milk. Out of the blue, I am quite aware, but regardless, milk. More specifically, our ancestors were allergic to it; they were lactose intolerant. That means that over and over again, our people had to try to drink milk. Not only that, but it had to have caught on. In order for a mass of people, enough to completely change a gene pool? Consider how many people would have had to force themselves to drink it, only to get ill, only to do it again. [continued on page 7]

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### KJ’s Childhood Stories: Burning Down the House

by Kathryn Masano

This story doesn’t necessarily take place in my childhood but rather in the summer. This summer. About eight weeks ago, if you will. I’d like to think I’m growing into a mature adult but situations like these have humbled me. It’s about five o’clock at night, and I’m cooking soup. This isn’t any ordinary soup though. This is homemade butternut squash soup. And I’m so proud of myself: I’ve added carrots into this dish, spinach, cauliflower, and you wouldn’t even know it! It was like I had successfully snuck a weeks worth of vegetables into my imaginary toddler’s dinner, and the amazing taste masked all of the gross fibers. But I’m a busy girl. I have places to be and things to do. I go upstairs to work on some commission work and leave the soup simmering on the stove (I think we know where this is going). It would be a crime for me to eat anything that is not giving my mouth a third degree burn; however, I’m only wasting daylight by standing there and watching my squash boil. Anyway, I’m cleaning away at my room, thinking about how responsible I am when I hear my banana bread timer go off (I was also baking banana bread. Text me if you want any—\$2 per slice). But this triggers a memory of mine: the soup. I arrive in my kitchen to the stove COMPLETELY in flames. This is a gas stove, so any liquid that poured over and out of the pot was just further igniting the flame. My mom and sister are right upstairs and they know nothing of it, but they’re about to if I let it go any

longer. So here I am: running around my kitchen, laying towels down, soaking pots and trying desperately to get these flames out. But this soup took a few good hours to make. I’m not just going to waste that. I’m scrubbing this pot, covered in nothing but ash, as though my life depended on it (which it did) and wouldn’t you know that in the process, I forgot the banana bread in the oven. After a frantic half hour of being a firefighter, all of the food turned out fine, and I got the kitchen cleaned seconds before anyone had the chance to come downstairs. Was the bread a little burned? Sure. And did the soup have an added “kick” to it as my brother put it. Yes it did. To this day, no one in the household knew anything of the situation. As far as they’re concerned, the kitchen had a mysterious burning smell for a few days and the source was never uncovered. The moral of the story is to solve your own problems in order to avoid embarrassment.



[continued from page 6] I would like to now direct your attention to cheese. In case you are unaware, cheese is made up of milk. Crazy, I know. To be more specific, it is made up of rotten milk. Rot and mold, things that traditionally made us ill when on beef, when on bread, when on literally anything else. Someone looked at that and thought that maybe this time will be different. How insane is that? Following the fulfilling flavorful food examples, we come across mushrooms. Exhibit A: a rotting corpse. Be that of a tree or an animal, mushrooms quite literally grow on dead things. Exhibit B: the fact that so many of them are poisonous. How many people died to find the right mushrooms to put in their soups and salads and pizzas? How many people got violently ill or had an absolutely terrible trip before they found that delicious savory treat?

To continue, let us look to the more recent past. Our scientists found an extraplanar space, seemingly uninterrupted by most anything. Some infinite plane that pierces through inanimate and animate alike with next to no difference to be seen. More than that, it was found being used by the military. What's the first thing the public used it for? Music. That's right ladies, gentlemen and raccoons in oh-so clever human disguises, may I introduce to you the radio. We don't need to talk about it all in such a wide spread picture, however. We don't need to look at genealogy and corpses and radio waves. Instead,

allow me to direct your attention to the infinite counterbalance of science and psychology. That of neurons and instinct and consciousness. For all purposes and intents, we only really needed to survive. To look at a broader picture, there is no real reason for us to have a conscious mind the way that we do. More than that nobody really knows why we do. There's some missing link connecting everything. Our eyes piece together every image we see and takes it from something that really should be closer to a slideshow into something that we can see. Writing itself, as a series of abstract symbols that miraculously have the capabilities to convey abstract ideas. Abstract ideas that, should I remind you, technically have no such reason to exist. I mean, really. Look even to sleep and dreams, another two things that we can't yet fully understand nor explain away or at least not to the degree that we'd like.

To finish, there is so much that in all actuality should be so wonderfully bizarre that simply isn't, due to the repetition of it. How much have we missed because we didn't take the time to inspect it a little closer? It really is a shame that there is so much more that we really haven't had the time to look at and think about. Then again, perhaps it's better that we don't. I'm sure you have more important things to do.

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## Hiding

by Katie Schadler

It was Gatsby's beloved.  
She brought it out of me.  
First came the tears.

Welling not from your assumptions  
But a deep-seated hatred of myself.

Shameful when I wanted you to notice me,  
Filthy for letting you get close to me.  
Growing my hair to convince an unknown someone  
Of a social ideal that never existed in the first place.

Cause the adolescent noise,  
The parental bewilderment,  
The reproving inner monologue  
I judged you only because I couldn't be you.

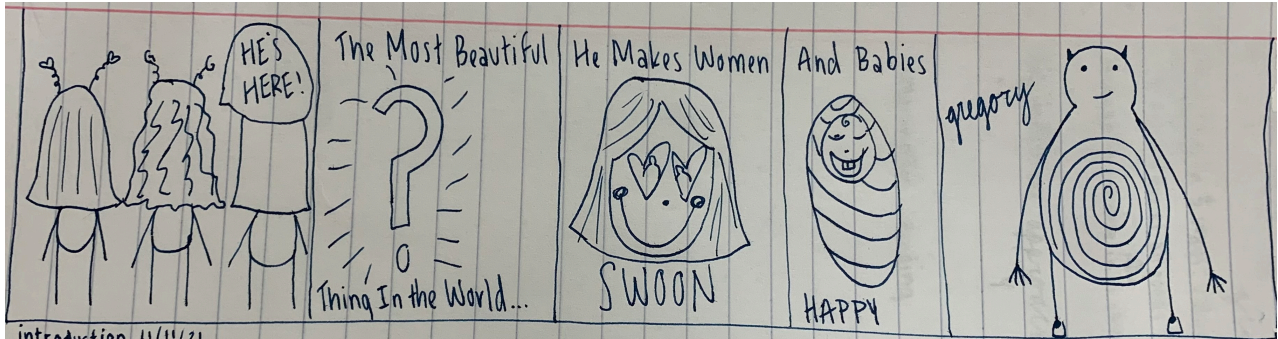
So when the night left a backdrop for the stars  
And Hozier filled the silence between us,  
I so terribly wanted to bridge the space,  
Wanted to prolong your forbidden gaze,  
If only for a moment I could reach out and find your hand.  
But I hated myself for even thinking it.  
Hated you for making me want to.

For when I got home and couldn't stop thinking about  
The gay kid from *Dawson's Creek*,  
Nothing, the friend of the Wallflower,  
And the ominous brunette who wore a ring  
For every insecurity, I thought of you.  
And there was nothing filthy about it.

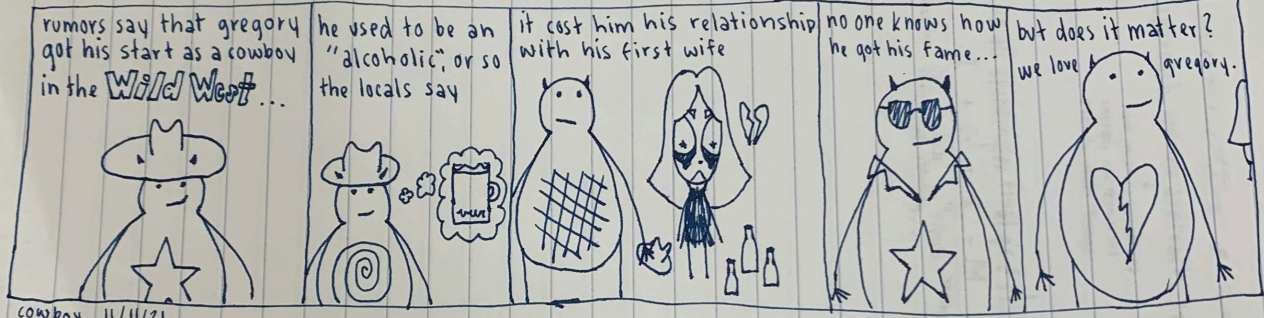
Feeling cold in your absence,  
I hung my jacket in the closet anyway,  
Washed myself clean of my mess that I made yours,  
And hid from the demons that were my own.  
And the voices that weren't.

# Gregory Comics

by Anaya Rai



introduction 11/11/21



cowboy 11/11/21



baby pictures 11/12/21



man in the mirror 11/15/21



love interests 11/15/21



## Everything

The rain has now passed,  
The sun is now clear,  
She shines on our skin, on our relief, on our victory.

She warms our chilling fear,  
and transforms our soft weeps into empathic, proud sobs.

And as my eyes finally meet her light, it hits me:  
I have everything I wanted.

We let the music blare,  
The windows stay willfully down,

And I have everything I wanted.

In this moment,  
it is impossible to do anything wrong.  
We are perfect, and we are free.

And we have everything we wanted.

We embrace, with tears in our eyes.  
and take it all in.

We have everything we wanted.

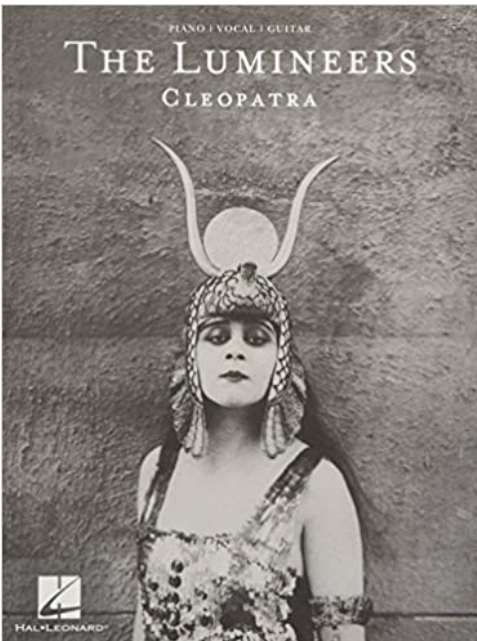
I remember my past,  
the girl who could only want  
And I mourn my future,  
for the girl who loses everything

Nevertheless, I know they are happy for me  
Because I have everything we wanted.

What do I want now?

**10 songs to be thankful for this November that aren't sweater weather:**

- big black car
- the girl
- from eden
- hold my girl
- sleep on the floor
- from the dining table
- sedona
- the night we met
- paint
- long way from home



# Fun Section:

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

- BOX
- DNA
- HUNGER
- SOUP
- PRODUCTIVITY
- GREGORY
- ABSTRACT
- CHILDHOOD
- FLAMES
- FACEBOOK
- FDA
- BURNT
- CROPS
- SPIDER-MAN
- AUTUMN
- SONGS
- MONOLOGUE
- VILLAINS
- FRUIT
- VEGETABLES
- COMICS
- GMO
- META
- CHEESE



