



The Sun by Robert, Grade 8



Rose Power by Deshon, Grade 8



JUNIOR HIGH ESSAYS

Coordinated by Maxine McCormick
This June, we present Junior High Essays from St. Francis-St. James United. We have included artwork from RiverEast School. More artwork will appear in July. Thanks to all of the students and their teachers.



Overflowing Heart by Andrea, Grade 8



Depressing Sea by Taylor, Grade 8



Afternoon by Andrea, Grade 8

ST. FRANCIS-ST. JAMES UNITED ♥ BRENDA BRUSEGARD, GRADE 7-8

FISHING • by Brad, Grade 8

Fishing is a very enjoyable sport for almost everyone, young or old, male or female. It can be done in all seasons, on rivers in the spring and fall, and mostly lakes in the summer and winter. Lakes can be fished in the spring and fall, but only when there is no ice on the surface. Rivers can be fished for more of the spring and fall because river ice melts faster than lake ice, due to the running water. You can do river fishing from a boat or a strong motored boat. Lake fishing can also be done from the shore or a boat, but unlike most rivers, it can be done off of a dock.

During river fishing on the Mississippi, you can catch carp, sheepshead, catfish, walleye, striped bass, suckers, saugers, crappies and a lot more, all off of a dock. On smaller lakes, you can catch crappies, sunfish, large and small mouth bass, northern pike, walleye, dogfish, bullhead, muskies, rock bass and others.

River fishing usually requires many weights because the water is running, and you want your bait to be somewhat close to the bottom. The size of the weight depends on how fast the water is running. Lake fishing can use many different methods, like bobber fishing or casting and reeling. There are many lures and other tackle to use, too. Ice fishing is usually done on a frozen lake, but some people do it on frozen rivers. Either way, it usually uses short poles that fit in the ice shack, and also to be able to sit over the ice hole to watch the bobber, which is used most of the time along with a jig-head or a plain hook with a sinker.

For bait, people use wax worms, euro larvae, crappie minnows, sucker minnows, and even sometimes red worms. For river fishing, people use night crawlers, chicken livers, store-bought catfish bait, sucker minnows, bullhead minnows and others. Open lake fishing bait includes all ice fishing bait, plus soft and hard plastic lures, such as Yum and Rapala brands.

EGYPTIAN ARTIFACTS • by Sarah A., Grade 7

On Thursday, the middle school students at SFSJU went to see the King Tut exhibit at the Science Museum of Minnesota. We saw an extensive collection of artifacts found in his tomb. Many of the pieces were over 3,000 years old. Also, some of the pieces on display were not belongings of King Tut. There were many statues, some belonging to King Tut and other pharaohs, too. The statues were said to turn into servants for the pharaoh in the afterlife.

There were jars shown that had previously held the pharaoh's body parts. It was all part of the mummification process. The body parts that would have been placed in the jars were important organs from the pharaoh that he would need in the afterlife. The jars would also be buried with the body.

One of the items on display was the gold mask that was taken from the mummy of Pharaoh Psusennes I. It was fully enclosed in a glass case.

We saw many items made of gold. There were gold sandals. There were also gold finger and toe protectors. I was both grossed out and surprised by those. They were said to be molds of King Tut's extremities. It takes the expression "fits like

a glove" to a whole new level. They showed jewelry that would be worn by women, even though they depicted war scenes.

We went through a model of the chambers in which King Tut was found. The passageway led to the antechamber, which then led to the annex, then into the treasury, and lastly into the burial chamber. Inside the burial chamber there was a replica of King Tut's mummy, which looks almost identical to the pictures of the actual mummy.

We saw a model of a boat that was in King Tut's tomb. They put boats in the tombs of pharaohs so that they would have a ride into the afterlife.

THE AMERICAN DRINK • by Joe, Grade 8

One of my favorite things in the world to have on a hot day is an ice cold bottle of pop. It doesn't really matter what flavor it is, as long as it has caffeine in it, I'll have it.

Almost everyone likes and drinks pop, but few people know how soda came to be one of the most popular cold drinks in the world. In the early 1800s, pharmacists started creating formulas for customers. It took years to finally solve the not-so-healthy ingredient: high fructose corn syrup. Now this ingredient isn't very healthy, but it makes the drink taste delicious.

The first soda drink that was made was called Ginger Ale. Ginger Ale had a sweet-like taste, which later led to Sprite and 7UP. This was a very popular drink.

Everyone thinks Coca Cola was the first major soda drink that was invented, but actually, it was Root Beer. Root beer was one of the most popular cold drinks of its time. Many companies have created their own versions of root beer such as A&W, Barq's, Mug and others. Companies are still inventing more natural brands. Root beer is not very original, but it still is near the top on my taste list when it comes to cold drinks.

Next up was Dr. Pepper, the world's oldest major soft drink. It was made in 1885, just one year before Coca Cola. The mastermind behind this drink was Charles Alderton, a pharmacist in the small town of Waco, Texas. He gave a sample to his boss, who owned Morrison's Pharmacy. Morrison told Charles that it had amazing taste to it, and that it would be sold at their pharmacy. Morrison got credit for the name Dr. Pepper, but unfortunately, the origin of the name is unknown. Today, you can go to the Dr. Pepper museum at its birthplace in Waco, Texas.

One day in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1886, John Pemberton walked to work at the local pharmacy. Like anyone who has drastically changed the world, he was inspired by curiosity. John stirred up a caramel-brown fragrant mixture, added carbonated water, and gave free samples to local customers. Everyone was amazed by the taste and told John it would be a huge hit to the public. Thus, Coca Cola was born.

Coca Cola is probably the most popular soda in the world. The Coca Cola Company has come up with all different kinds of pop, and has inspired other companies as well. In 1898, Pepsi-Cola was invented. In 1927, the first fruit flavored pop was created, Nesbitt's Orange. After all these veteran pops, came some of the recent ones like Mountain Dew and Sprite. Still, to me, nothing is better than having an ice cold can of Coke on a hot day.

Although pop is probably the best tasting cold drink

out there (in my opinion) it has many health violations. Drinking too much pop can cause dehydration, cavities, stomach ulcers and high blood sugar. Pop can also get very addicting.

I know it's tough, but it's important to limit yourself. I know a person with fake teeth and a stomach ulcer due to the fact that he drinks a six-pack of Mountain Dew every day, and if he stops, he gets sick with headaches because his body is so use to the caffeine and sugar. I believe if you have a limit, pop is the best cold drink in the world.

HAMSTERS • by Sarah R., Grade 7

I love hamsters. They are cute little fluffy creatures made from God. I have had four: Princess, Penelope, Ritzen and Steve. Princess was my first hamster. Soon after I got her, my parents let me buy another one, which was Penelope.

Just some advice: Never buy two hamsters at the same time, whether they are the same gender or not, and leave them in the same cage with each other. They will beat each other up, and it's not that pretty of a sight. I know this from experience. They will start by nibbling on each others' ears and holes will appear. For some reason they never do this while they are babies. That is why people who work at pet stores can cage baby hamsters together.

Hamsters usually live from two to four years. Two of my hamsters lived up to three years. After Princess and Penelope died, I got another hamster, Ritzen. They are pretty easy to take care of. Well, not as easy as a goldfish, but who just wants a goldfish? All they do is swim back and forth and suck on pebbles. Hamsters do much more, and are really cute. Hamsters love to explore, especially if they somehow escape from their cage. If you put them in a hamster ball, they will roam around your house. They love to find new things!

Keep in mind your responsibilities if you buy one. Once a week you have to clean their cage. You do not have to feed them every day as if they were a dog. Just fill the food dish all the way up and they will eat it all as the week passes.

There are many types of hamsters. The type I have right now is a Winter White Dwarf hamster. Something unique about them is they change colors, dark grey to white. They are grey in the winter and white in the summer. Something else about them is they are not that speedy. If you pick them up, they might not be that comfortable at first, but they can't just jump and run.

Another cool type of hamster is an albino hamster. They are white with bloodshot red eyes. They have pale pink skin under their white furry coat, unlike any other type of hamsters. Normally hamsters have tan or yellow patches of skin. But the pale pink skin is what makes albino hamsters albino and unique.

When you first get a hamster you don't want to handle it too much. In the pet store, you may want to ask if you can hold it before you buy that exact hamster. If you don't, there's a chance that you will never be able to hold it because it will bite you, although most don't bite. If you get a nice one, then as days go on it'll probably let you hold it more and more as it gets used to you.

In general, all hamsters are awesome! They are not too much trouble to take care of, and they are fun to have around!