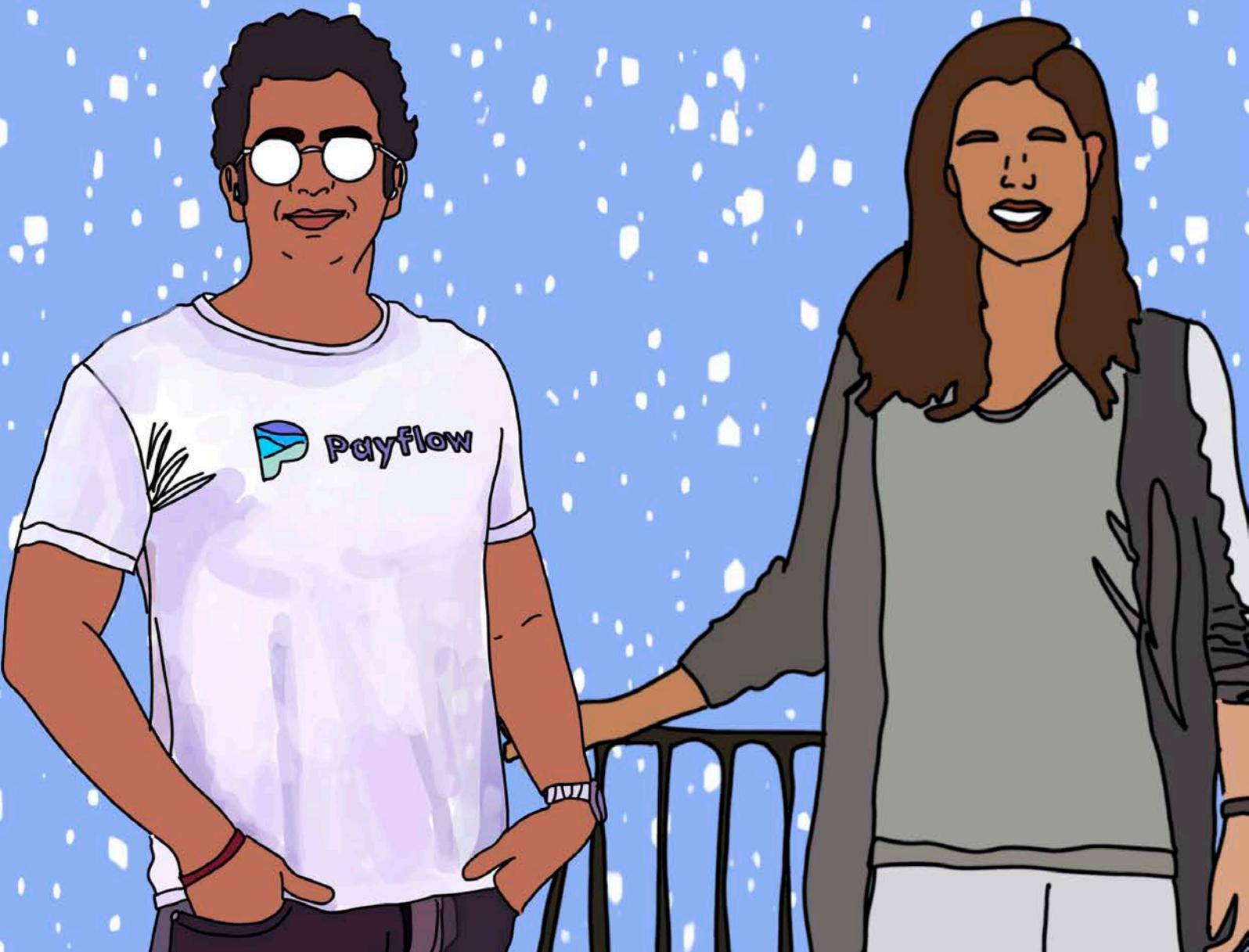


RUNNYMEDE TIMES

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Contents

School Life

- Team Runnymede by Margot L, 7I 3
- Monica Eisen: from Runnymede to Manager of the Four Seasons by Angélica O, 13K 3 - 5
- Start-Ups with Old Runnymedian Avinash Sukhwani by Federica D, 13OD 6

Science

- Nobel Prizes in Science by Laura L, 13C 7

Environment

- Spain's Water Crisis by Elena R, 13OD 8 - 9

Current Affairs

- Sporting and Cultural Events During the Pandemic by Mikayil, 9W 9
- Black History Month by Marta D, 8N 10 - 11

Book Reviews

- Warrior Cats: Where Cats Rule the Wild by Dora C, 8N 11
- Fouché, Stefan Zweig by Jerónimo O, 13OD 11 - 12

Poems

- Nature by Mia G, 7F 13
- Sonnet by Jerónimo O, 13OD



Team Runnymede by Margot L, 71

Team Runnymede is a sports programme organised by the school to give pupils an opportunity to take part in sports a few times a week. The main activities that are included in the Team Runnymede structure are: Athletics, Volleyball, Rugby and Football. The school also added Judo a few years ago, as well as the Ski Team and a mini Surf section.

The activities in Team Runnymede are available for Years 4 and over. Years 1-3 who want to do some extra sports have an extra sports activity called Academy which includes Volleyball, Athletics, Rugby, and Football, all in one.

The trainings for each of these sports are during school days, except for the Ski Team which gets together every few weekends. Some of these sports trainings do not take place on the school grounds, and to benefit from the best sport features the school buses bring the athletes to their training location and back to school for pickup. Every level from beginners to competition level athletes are welcome to participate.

All the information on the Team Runnymede trainings are on the school website, under the [TEAM RUNNYMEDE](#)

section. If you require any information that is not on the school website, you can talk to the head of the sports department, Mr Rodriguez, the technical director, Mr Petregal, or Mr Manuel Powell.

Hopefully, this article has convinced you that you want to take part in Team Runnymede trainings. Be part of the team, ask your parents to go on the school website and click the TEAM RUNNYMEDE section, you will find a form to join the programme. Due to Coronavirus, the school has added protocols which can also be found on the school website, in a lot of detail.



Monica Eisen: from Runnymede to Manager of the Four Seasons by Angélica O, 13K

Monica Eisen's love story with Runnymede started even before she was born. Daughter of an Old Runnymedian herself, she still remembers the move to the current school grounds and the close-knit and supportive environment which marked her schooling.

Although she has travelled the world and pursued an extremely successful career in luxury hospitality, when asked she stresses that her closest friendships are those which started at Runnymede "the values of Runnymede and the education we received have brought us together."

Now, some years after leaving the school she is Manager of the new Four Seasons in Madrid and looks back on her discovery of the hospitality business. Like most children, Ms Eisen was unsure of what she wanted to study in higher education and what awaited her in the professional world: “I didn’t know exactly what I wanted to do, but I was lucky enough to know what I liked”.

Travelling, being able to interact with people from international backgrounds and experience different cultures was what she hoped she would be able to do after finishing her studies, but the path to achieving this was not clear to her. Before being introduced to hospitality by her father when she entered VIth Form, Monica admits she didn’t even know it existed.

Her A-Level choices, (English Literature, French and History) were a perfect fit for her: “they allowed me to study and understand how and why decisions were made, how cultures have evolved and the human influences which altered the course of history”. This knowledge has altered the way in which she approaches clients, rendering her more aware of her actions and perceptive to the behaviour and decisions of those who surround her.

When the time came for Ms Eisen to leave Runnymede and enter university, it was clear to her that hospitality was the right choice. Her experience at the Les Roches Marbella School of International Hotel Management was invaluable, the structure of the course allowed her to spend 6 months per year in internships and allowed her to “start feeling, start understanding” and acquire first-hand experience in the running of luxury hotels.



When she started her work at the Four Seasons group fourteen years ago as an intern, she had already fallen in love with the philosophy of the company. “I read the fantastic book written by our founder, Isadore Sharpe, on how the Four Seasons came to existence, the values and the culture behind the extraordinary atmosphere and care of the company. Then I thought ‘I want to work for this company’.”

Her choice of the Four Seasons property in Lisbon as her first internship came about due to her desire to learn Portuguese. “I had a Portuguese roommate at university and I thought it would be wonderful to be able to speak the language”. Her time there was an incredibly formative experience during which she got to understand all the positions within a hotel.

She worked in every division (food and beverage, room maintenance, breakfast). One of her most vivid memories is her task of “cleaning all the wheels of the room-service tables”.

Ms Eisen highlights the importance of this: “How can you lead a team of people when you don't fully understand their positions and roles within the hotel?”. She decided to stay with Four Seasons for her second internship, this time in London where she continued to hold different positions in reception, house keeping and later room service and banqueting.

There she was met with the physical effort and mental challenge posed by the task of long hours cleaning guests' rooms, identifying the role of housekeeping as the backbone of all hotels.

As she recounts her decision of her third and final internship at university she is unable to repress a smile, “I'd been brainwashed”. She had felt so extraordinarily welcome in her previous positions within the group that she feared that she was progressively narrowing her horizons, so she began considering positions in Brazil and Russia.

However, just as she was about to confirm the choice that would catapult her out of Europe and into South America, she received an e-mail from the Four Seasons Corporate Office. “The e-mail said something along the lines of ‘What are you planning on doing next year? Please stay with the Four Seasons’. That's when I realised what a caring company I'd been in, who'd been monitoring the movements of an intern and was devoting in training. That made me put aside all other ideas”.

Then she began her work at the George V in Paris. After completing her cycle at Les Roches she held a position in food and beverage in the hotel before becoming Hotel Ambassador, in charge of the top VIP guests during their stay. Her time in Paris was an opportunity to “meet incredible people and learn how to develop a truly tailor-made experience”.

The Old Runnymedian then spent 4 years as Sales Manager for Four Seasons for the United States and Latin America, developing relationships and strategies for the expansion of the group. When the opportunity came about to become Manager of the new Four Seasons in Madrid, Ms Eisen was overjoyed. However, with the coming of the pandemic, the hospitality industry has been one of the industries most severely affected and the opening date for the newly-renovated hotel had to be postponed. Monica and her team realised the challenge ahead and had to “come up with an alternative scenario that made sense.

We had selected 200 people for our staff who were the very best in their field and who we would probably never see again. Luckily, we were able to convince the wonderful owner that we could run a successful operation despite the pandemic”. The hotel now brings hope to Madrid, catering to locals and adhering to a system designed by John Hopkins Hospital in order to ensure the health and safety of the guests.

Despite the hurdle of the pandemic Monica and her team are enthusiastic, extremely happy to be able to materialise this “dream for the locals”. Luxury is generated by how people treat you, and Ms Eisen stresses the importance of individual attention. Time is the clients' most valuable asset.

This is what motivates the staff at the Four Seasons to create a magical experience. Conscious of the desire of many Runnymedians to enter hospitality, her advice to those wishing to enter the business centres around how demanding yet rewarding working in hospitality can be. “You have to understand that hospitality is a 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year business”.

She continues “While other people are on holiday, you may have to work. However, having said this, you have the support of your company and your peers to achieve a work-life balance. Although I love my job, I have something that is far more precious to me at home; my 15 month-old daughter. And we feel well, happy and taken care of.”

Avinash Sukhwani and Payflow: an Old Runnymedian in the Startup World by Federica D, 13OD

On the 18th of November, senior school pupils had the wonderful opportunity of meeting with Old Runnymedian Avinash Sukhwani, through a Zoom call.

Punctuated by impromptu questions, Avinash recounted his academic and professional story concluding with his most recent personal achievement, the founding of Payflow. Achieving superb grades in his 6 A-levels at Runnymede (physics, chemistry, biology, maths, further maths and additional further maths), he went on to study Natural Sciences at Cambridge where he completed a year abroad at MIT and even took courses (Portuguese) at Harvard.

After completing his degree at Cambridge, he decided to pursue the MSc in Advanced Chemical Engineering at Imperial, from which he moved on to a professionally successful career.

He first entered corporate business as he joined BCG (Boston Consulting Group) as a strategy consultant. He joined a team that aimed to solve the company's problems and forecast good moves for the corporation.



The job entailed a lot of travelling and therefore after a few intense but enriching and fascinating years, he moved closer into the startup world by joining Rocket Internet, a company headquartered in Berlin. The company builds online startups and owns shareholdings in various models of internet retail businesses.

Thirsty to start his own entrepreneurial adventure, he joined Benoit Menardo and began working on Payflow. Backed by Rocket Internet, they released the platform in January 2020. Payflow allows employees to instantly collect the portion of their salary corresponding to how much they have worked, not having to wait until the 30 day mark.

Companies are sold this mobile service as a perk with which employees can request a part of their salaries as soon as they need it. They have generated 1.6 million euros after their first funding round, a number emerging to be even more impressive during a pandemic. Over 30 prosperous companies are already using the fintech company's innovative social benefit.

Runnymede students are excited to see what is next for the ex-Runnymedian.

Thank you, Avinash!

Nobel Prizes in Science by Laura L, 13C

Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine: Harvey J. Alter, Michael Houghton and Charles M. Rice have been jointly awarded the prize for the discovery of Hepatitis C virus. They have contributed to the fight against a virus which threatened global health - Hepatitis (derived from the Greek word for liver and inflammation) which may result in liver cancer and cirrhosis.

A group of those afflicted by the illness could not be categorised in Hepatitis A and B, leaving specialists puzzled and patients with unexplainable symptoms. This discovery has meant that new possible blood tests, medicines like targeted antiviral drugs and has led to a better understanding of the causes of Hepatitis. For the first time in medical history, Hepatitis C can be cured and possibly eradicated from the world.

Nobel Prize in Physics: awarded to Roger Penrose, Reinhard Genzel and Andrea Ghez. The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences has awarded the prize “for the discovery that black hole formation is a robust prediction of the general theory of relativity” and “for the discovery of a supermassive compact object at the centre of our galaxy”.

In short, Penrose showed that the general theory of relativity leads to the formation of black holes using complex mathematical models based on Albert Einstein’s theory. Genzel and Ghez discovered that there is an extremely heavy and invisible object at the centre of the Milky Way (the only present explanation is that it is a supermassive black hole).



There are still many postulations and questions to be solved but these scientists have marked the start of the newly developed discipline of studying these compact and supermassive objects in space.

Nobel Prize in Chemistry: awarded to the development of a method for genome editing - CRISPR/Cas9. The two Nobel Laureates are Emmanuelle Charpentier and Jennifer A. Doudna. CRISPR/Cas9 enhances the antiviral immune system of bacteria to form a tool that can edit (and rewrite) the genome with great precision.

The antiviral system in a certain type of bacteria disarms viruses by cleaving their DNA. This was originally discovered by Charpentier, who later teamed up with Jennifer Doudna, a biochemist experienced in areas involving RNA. The potential of these genetic scissors is that of creating new cancer therapies and possibly curing genetically inherited diseases.

However, it has widespread applications, not only in the field of medicine, but also in vegetal and environmental research.



Spain's Water Crisis by Elena R, 13OD

An A-Level Geography student reacts to [an article](#) on the water emergency faced by our country.

Before reading: When asked about a water crisis, or more specifically a drought as this article may refer to, I feel most people might unconsciously make an association with places like California. My younger self would be a perfect exemplification of this. But as I grow older, I find that I seldom hear Spain's water crisis brought up in engaging conversations with relatives. On the rare occasion an acquaintance brings it up in small talk about the weather (in a lift or a taxi drive) but, I feel there is a very lacklustre approach to the conversation.

It is as if it weren't an important social issue which could affect our lives dramatically. I often catch myself subject to such dichotomous ways of thinking in everyday actions - does this even affect me?



I condemn my thoughts every once in a while when I drive past the 'Embalse de Valmayor' where the poll indicating the water level is more and more exposed, even to the point where an old underwater road reappears in stifling summer seasons.

It's paradoxical perhaps, that this isn't a major political topic or that we, as Spaniards (one of the most stereotypically cheerful, passionate and defensive societies) don't bat an

eyelash when filling jugs of clean water from our taps.

Taps that gush, a resource so essential yet so increasingly scarce in our land. Perhaps paradoxical is the most radical of understatements to this affliction.

After reading: Being candid, I am surprised at the political actions/ mitigation presented in 2008, but I am more so in a state of consternation, perhaps embedded with wrath about two key elements in the piece. Firstly, it is absurd (for lack of a better word) to think that this crisis happened in 2008 (I moved back to Spain in 2009).

Over a decade later, it is as if this matter has been swept under the rug when convenient and brought to light when politicians can see the topic as availing for profit, turning a societal issue into a systemic issue.

No, water scarcity is not a 'social or environmental problem', it is a 'political' problem (perhaps such anger is born out of my naivety). It is political. It is to be politicised. Because politicisation is the 'sine qua non' of power.

Secondly, perhaps dependent on my first observation, the protests. 'The pipeline was met with fierce opposition from farmers and other northern residents, who feared it would cause environmental damages and upset livelihoods' according to the article. This fuels my vexation because the protests are not solely about this. They are about the 'unfair' distribution of resources. In other words, this proposition did not fit in with reciprocal altruism. In fact it went against such a principle. The government helped another area, thus retrogressing protestors' livelihood. At first this may seem logical, perhaps (if turning a blind eye) even fair; but this only highlights the impacts of illusory superiority that remains engraved in society's code of honour.

To be blunt 'If I am not going to benefit, I'd rather no one benefit'. This inherent way of being gives way to politicisation. It gives way to social dissolution. Thus, entering a discord-debate continuum that does not solve the problem of water scarcity. The paramount problem being the lack of water, not the feeling of impunity or the acquisition of a seal of approval.

Current Affairs

Sporting and Cultural Events During the Pandemic by Mikayil, 9W

There is no doubt that COVID-19 has turned our lives upside down. Sadly, lots of events have been cancelled but there are also some events for which extra measures have been taken for them to continue. Some of them are worthy of discussion.

Junior Eurovision 2020:

Junior Eurovision is a song contest where around 20 countries with singers between 8-13 years old compete to win the title. While everyone is used to the usual Junior Eurovision, where thousands of people gather at one arena and enjoy the show, this year, due to the circumstances several changes are being made.

- It will be held on Sunday November 29 in Warsaw, the capital of Poland, after the country's victory in 2019.
- Only 13 countries are participating compared to last year. Here are the following countries which are participating.
- It will be staged remotely in studios where countries will perform.
- They will use similar stage lay out and technical set up.
- It is the lowest number of competing acts since 2013.

While it will be remote we will still have a show. I am looking forward to it although it is sad that the adult Eurovision got cancelled, hopefully we will be able to see that next year.

Roland Garros:

Roland Garros is a major tennis tournament which is held in Paris in the beginning of May. However, it was postponed to 27 September - Oct 11 with some note-worthy changes:

- Obligatory masks for personnel.
- The competition was not open to the public but was shown on live TV.

Personally, I think tennis is not a big problem, as the players are relatively distanced. However, as much as everyone tried to follow the measures there were still some cases at the tournament.

Results: Rafael Nadal defeated Novak Djokovic in the Final with a Score of 0-6,2,6-5,7



Black History Month by Marta D, 8N

Black History Month has been celebrated since 1976. It consists of celebrating and respecting the lives of black people living throughout the world and in history. This unfortunately hasn't always been the case due to racism and discrimination. Racial discrimination has happened again and again throughout history.



It was in the 16th century when slavery became more and more frequent.

Slavery had always happened, but slowly people were being moved from farms to households being forced to work 24/7.

These people were brought from captured tribes in Southern Africa and were then trafficked around the world, mostly to arrive in North America.

This wasn't banned worldwide until 1885, but discrimination did not end there.

Police brutality is an example of racism seen in our society today. George Floyd, an innocent man choked

to death by former policeman, Derek Chauvin (who will only be serving 25 years for 3rd degree murder), is only one of the many persecuted for the colour of their skin. Some people think that Chauvin thought Floyd had stolen something. The one thing we know for certain is that Floyd lost his life needlessly due to the prejudice of the police officer.

The death of Breonna Taylor, a medical worker who was shot and killed by Louisville police officers in March during a botched raid on her home is yet another terrible example of discrimination. But how it happened isn't the worst part, the worst part is that later on neither one of the police men were charged for murder. The murder of an innocent woman whose life has been thrown away because of a racist act.

There is also a trend on social platforms spreading awareness about her death, that the US government has tried to keep hidden. There are hundreds if not thousands of similar cases, all resulting in deaths and people not getting their deserved punishment.

Black Lives Matter Protests have been happening ever since May and have spread awareness about the racism and police brutality, most participants are people from ages 15-25 (and younger or older), these are the people who have social media platforms and can encourage others join in! Most protests are always peaceful, yet it is not uncommon for the police still to come to the protests, often causing people to have very serious injuries.

There are lots of people who are supporting BLM. At least 55% of adults support it at least a bit, but the other 45% percent support ALM which stands for All Lives Matter. I will not be getting too much into it but people who support ALM are saying that every life matters, which is true, yet even though every person matters right now we need to concentrate on stopping the racism that goes towards black/hispanic/asian people and those from ethnic minorities.

Some famous people have taken action raising awareness to the matter. Some examples may include Ariana Grande, Billie Eilish, Halsey, Timothee Chalamet and more. They have been marching in the BLM protests and have informed their fandom about it. Some other influencers have also been doing smaller things like spreading awareness of it on their social media feed. I hope that their efforts will help solve this extremely important issue.

Book Reviews

Warrior Cats: Where Cats Rule the Wild by Dora C, 8N

Do you like cats? If so, this is the book for you!

Warrior Cats is a novel series for children, full of fun adventures and stories. With six whole series and six books in each series, they will make you love reading. And, if you haven't had enough, there are still amazing super editions and novellas. Prefer comic books? There are also some mangas that you can enjoy for a while. Its amazing author, Erin Hunter, will not disappoint you.

The series is about cats that live in a forest, divided into four clans, near a river. An innocent pet cat named Rusty loves going around the border of the forest, but has never dared to go in.

One evening, Rusty plays with his friend Smudge, and decides to go into the forest. The truth is, Rusty had been having weird dreams all the time of him in the forest, so he believes there must be something inside it.

He walks into the forest he sees a mouse, but as he is about to pounce on it, a grey cat suddenly jumps on him. Rusty screams in terror, but discovers that the cat is friendly. Two more cats come out, and Rusty finds out that they are from ThunderClan, one of the four clans.

A blue she-cat, which turns out to be their leader invites Rusty to join ThunderClan. Rusty agrees and receives the name Firepaw.

But will he really be able to survive in the wild, and leave his comfortable life as a pet? Or will he become the best warrior that has ever existed?



Fouché, Stefan Zweig by Jerónimo O, 13OD

In a time of romantic legends, where names like Danton, Mirabeau, Lafayette and Napoleon stand on the shoulders of Universal History, a single man in the shadows overcomes them all.

Joseph Fouché is an overlooked yet fundamental figure in every government from the Revolution to Louis XVIII as the scheming, two-faced advisor.

A man whose beginnings as a clergy man are all the more ironic, for his truly amoral personality and inner love of treachery constitute his very being.

A man who was bound to die kneeling at the guillotine for conspiring against Robespierre, and who, against all odds, turned every member of the Convention against his executioner.

There have been many figures in history whose lives have shone more brightly, but few have achieved immersing themselves amongst the darkness of plotting, and the game of power to this extent.



Joseph Fouché was the sort of man to conspire with the British Government behind Napoleon's back. On the grounds of an almost confirmed suspicion, Napoleon, in a typical bout of anger, stated that Fouché was "a traitor and should be hanged," to which which Fouché merely replied "I do not share the opinion of your Majesty".

He was capable of being the most radical Jacobin, ordering the murder of hundreds in Lyon, tying and killing at 10 feet's distance by cannons filled with shrapnel, yet promptly turning to the Girondins, the moderates, when the tide swayed in their favour. Stefan Zweig's Fouché is full of vital prose and excitement as the life of the politician is recounted.

At no point does the biography become a tedious description of the facts— Zweig's talent as a novelist makes every event gripping with vision and imagination.

Even more strikingly, we feel Zweig's vicarious enthusiasm as he narrates, and the reader's vision of the events blends with the author's. This makes Zweig's Fouché a very fruitful piece of literature, though not a scholarly one. Zweig has the rare ability to capture essence, condensing and summarising entire periods like The Revolution and the Napoleonic reign, giving a broad impression of Fouché's era. The historical element however, remains always a backdrop, giving depth to the scene without being the object of our attention; this is of course, Fouché's pleasure and strife for power.

Zweig's critical examination of the mind and its cravings for power makes Fouché fascinating, particularly when desires collide: Talleyrand, his arch-rival, wasteful, a libertine and a brilliant improviser, against Fouché, the austere and scheming civil servant. Zweig describes their mutual espionage, for the profit of Napoleon, as the rivals avoiding every mistake in their role.

At the very end, when Fouché is finally cast from the monarchy of Louis XVIII for his role in the king's brother's death 20 years prior, we too, like him, feel the power abandon us. Like an exiled and wrinkled Fouché we turn the last pages with the hope that he will be called to court once again so we may feel his machinations with elation— a little complicity comes a long way. Our thirst for power remains when the cover closes.



Nature by Mia G, 7F

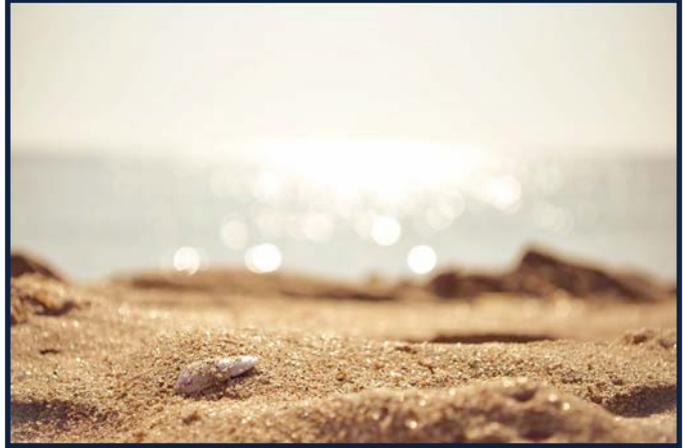
*Horses, galloping wildly through the welcoming pasture,
Birds, soaring through the limitless sky,
Gazelles, dancing through the savanna with an
elegant touch.*

*Nature is as beautiful as a shining diamond,
Sitting on the soft sand that almost absorbs you,
Gazing at the glittering sunset on an abandoned
beach,
But soon it will be gone.*

Factories.

Smoke.

Is this how it's going to end?



Sonnet by Jerónimo O, 13OD

Inspired by the collection "Rapture", written by the English Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy:

*You walk, yes, not towards me but away;
Not walk step by step but rather
Steadfast onto this morning's plane,
Which I missed, lying next to you in our bed
Too sweetly asleep*

*But I'm sure I nonetheless felt
The faintness of your caress,
Brushing against my hair or my breast
'Until next time' they say,
And I do find comfort in words*

*But only those penned by you or myself.
You stare through the plastic window,
Airborne, and while on the ground I stay,
I bridge our distances with my pen.*



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