

The O'Rourke Observer  
*Winter Wonderland Edition*  
~2024-2025~  
~A Literary Journal~

# A **WICKED** Craze

At the end of November, a new movie based on a Broadway musical came out in theatres called "Wicked". The movie has already grossed \$525 million worldwide. The movie follows the backstory of the Wicked Witch of the West. Cynthia Erivo plays Elphaba and Ariana Grande steals the show with her role of Glinda. Popular songs from the musical include "What is This Feeling", "Popular", "Dancing Through Life", and "Defying Gravity". Overall, the movie has a 4 star rating.

By Gwen



# ~ Gifted Child ~

By Aramina B.

And wants to cry

If she gets one answer  
wrong

She holds onto  
fluttering

That maybe her  
struggles will end soon

She remains neutral

Through the stress and  
anxiety

And that gifted child

Is actually me

Oh, she is such

A gifted child

She puts up with  
trouble

And never whines

She smiles at  
everyone

And is always right

But this is her

Clever disguise

Oh, she is such

A gifted child

She puts up with  
trouble

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Clever disguise

# Winter Writing Prompts

A photograph of a city street in winter. The street is covered in snow, and cars are parked on both sides, also covered in snow. Trees are bare and covered in snow. Buildings are visible in the background.

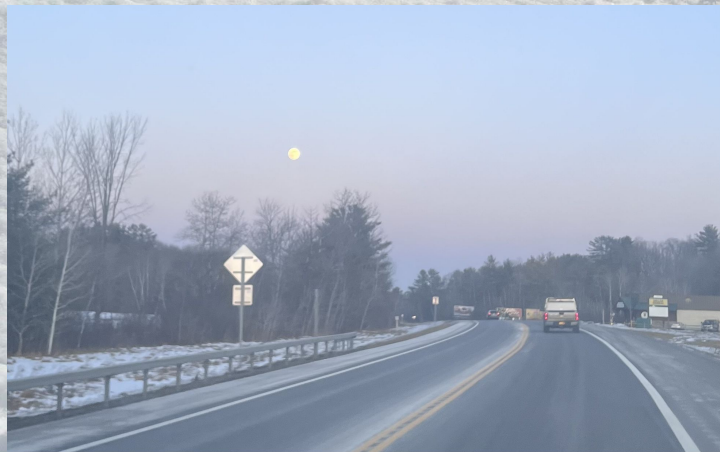
- Write about someone who gets stuck in their workplace and explores rooms they usually aren't allowed in.
- Write about a back-up dancer who is on tour and just wants some peace and quiet for the holidays.
- Write about your life as a snowman.

*"A picture is worth  
a thousand words."*

# *Winter Photography*

*Taken this winter by Emily T.*

*"Photography is  
the beauty of life  
captured."*



*Sunset with  
moon visible,  
Speculator*



*Near Pillsbury Mnt,  
Speculator NY*



*Saratoga Lake*

# Winter Photography P.2



Jessup River from the view of a bridge, Hamilton County



The Adirondack Trust company & its wreath, Saratoga Springs



Lake Pleasant

5pm sunset, Speculator





I bounce off fluffy cold clouds  
And slide into the oozy crumbly ground  
I feel tingling  
Suddenly

I feel warm melty hands touching my face  
I roll around in buttery snow  
Then I stop.

I feel tall.  
I feel heavy.

As I look down

I see a long orange stick by my eyes  
And slushy muddy dots by my fingertips.

I saw so many colors  
I saw so many Lights.  
Green.

Blue.

Red.

White.

I am a snowman.



By:Quinn

# We all have our favorite book. But which one is superior?

By Emily and Quinn

Dedicated reader or not, most of us have a favorite book. However, with all the genres and types of books out there; it is a major coincidence if you share the same favorite book with even *one* person. So, we asked a few students and teachers about their favorite book. **The overall favorite was *The Hunger Games*,** but here are some more people said they loved.

- *The Fault in Our Stars*
- *To Kill a Mockingbird*
- *Under the Whispering Door*
- *Crime and Punishment*
- *We Were Liars*
- *Warriors*
- ***\*The Hunger Games\****
- *The Book Thief*
- *Code Talker*
- *The Inheritance Games*
- *Boys in the Boat*
- *Percy Jackson Books*
- *Kite Runner*
- *The Celestine Prophecy*
- *Charlotte's Web*
- *The Road*
- *The Stand*
- *The Silent Patient*
- And thrillers in general.

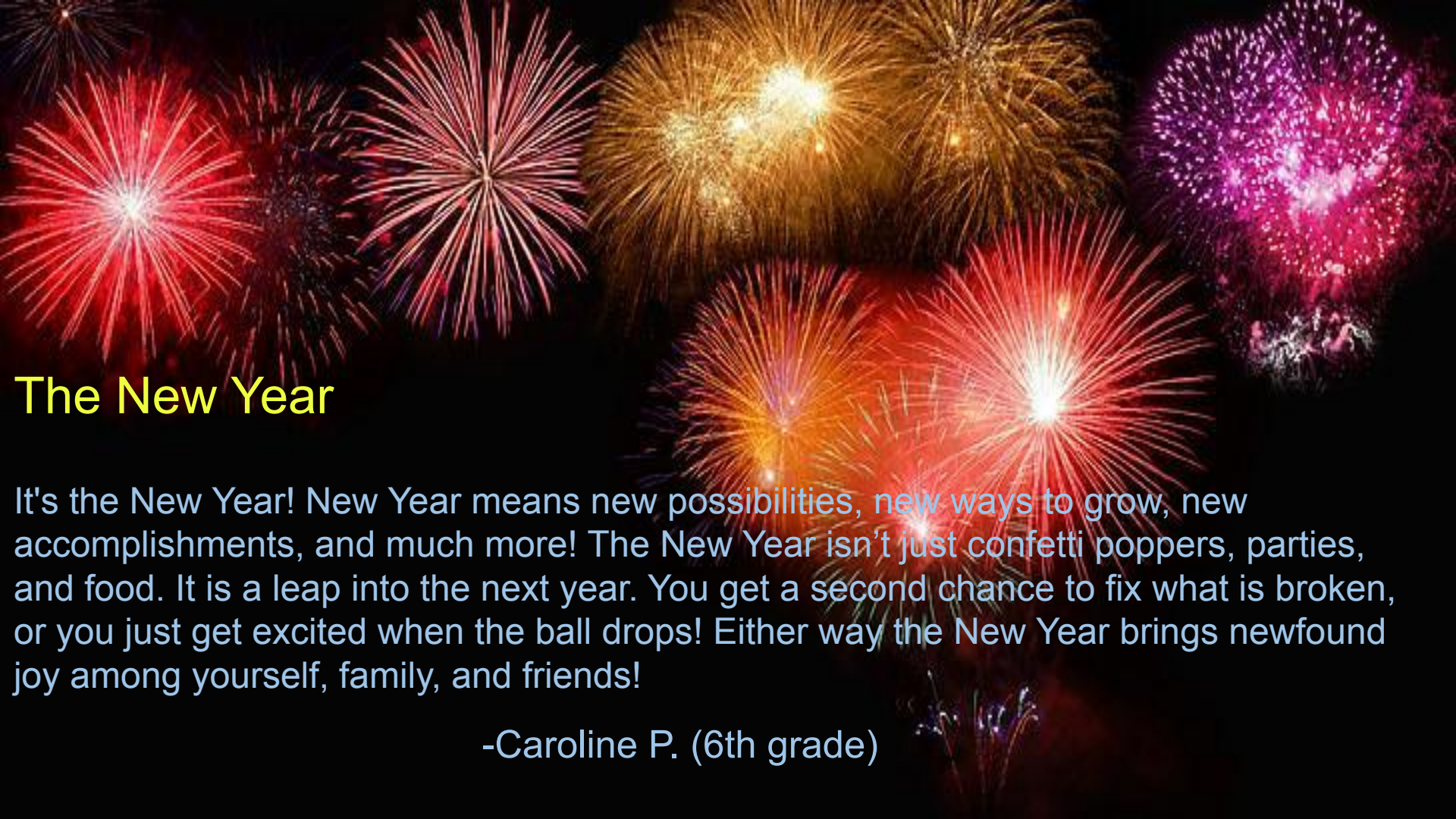


# ~Character Traits by Teachers~

I surveyed a bunch of teachers in the 6th grade hall during AP on 1/7, and I collected a huge variety of responses from the teachers! I asked them all this question, "What is one character trait that students should all be showing?"

5 teachers told me kindness- it is important to be kind to everyone and everything. These are the additional responses: grit, confidence, kindness, zesty (student suggestion), motivation, greatness (another student suggestion), determination, responsibility, respect for everyone and everything, perseverance, and persistence. Many of the teachers I asked gave two answers because they couldn't choose just one! This has been Character Traits by Teachers!

-Caroline P. (6th Grade)



## The New Year

It's the New Year! New Year means new possibilities, new ways to grow, new accomplishments, and much more! The New Year isn't just confetti poppers, parties, and food. It is a leap into the next year. You get a second chance to fix what is broken, or you just get excited when the ball drops! Either way the New Year brings newfound joy among yourself, family, and friends!

-Caroline P. (6th grade)

first taste of deep wine  
a vintage draught  
warms december  
chill october  
drink the full tonic  
invigorates this fruit acids  
be careful you  
cordial days like these iron sip

This poem by Elizabeth L. was made using Poem Renovation, a website that helps you write amazing poems like the one to the left! Check it out at <https://play.poemrenovation.com/>.





Thanks for reading!

Remember our articles come out once every two months, and we are always looking for new members! Please recommend our club to a friend and feel free to submit a piece to [vwadsworth@bhbl.org](mailto:vwadsworth@bhbl.org).

Hope you had Happy Holidays!