There are a lot of things that I would like to say about the events of Ferguson, MO. But before I do, I don’t think many of you actually know what Ferguson is.

On August 9th, 2014, the following events happened in Ferguson, Missouri: Michael Brown, along with his friend Dorian Johnson, shoplifted cigars from a store. Officer Darren Wilson happened to be driving by. He noticed that Brown and Johnson matched the exact descriptions of a report he had received earlier of stolen cigars from a dispatcher and commanded them to get on the sidewalk. Brown and Johnson disagreed and after a tussle, it ended up in Brown punching Wilson. Two shots were fired from Wilson’s gun, which caused Brown and Johnson to begin to run away. It was unclear as to whether Wilson shot or not while Brown ran away. Wilson said that Brown reached for a gun and began to charge while other witnesses say differently. Brown then began to move towards Wilson, which caused Wilson to begin to shoot again. Alas, Brown finally died from Wilson’s bullets.

On November 9th, 2014, the grand jury of Ferguson, Missouri announced on national television that they would not indict Officer Darren Wilson. Indictment, is, according to dictionary.com, “a formal accusation initiating a criminal case, presented by a grand jury and usually required for felonies and other serious crimes”. This means that Wilson was not charged with a federal crime. People exploded at this. They want to feel protected by the justice system. Somebody kills you. You want them to be indicted, right?. You want them to be thrown into jail. You want them to be taught a lesson (sidenote, Darren Wilson said that he did nothing wrong and would do it again). How is one supposed to feel when their murderer is not indicted?

We are supposed to be protected by police. They fight against crime. “Hands up, don’t shoot!” They’re not supposed to be the crime themselves. “I can’t breathe.” According to Google itself, police are the: (n) 1. the civil force of a national or local government, responsible for the prevention and detection of crime and the maintenance of public order. The maintenance of public order. The maintenance of public order. The maintenance of public order.
As you are gazing at this wonderfully intriguing newspaper, you are probably curious about what goes on in the meetings that created the ink-and-paper treasure that you are scanning at this very moment. A behind the scenes look at the stories in these black, printed words will help you understand how we put this creation together.

It all began with a single sign-up sheet. People gradually trickled in and wrote their name, grade, and homeroom in the designated boxes. Soon after that, the sheet was taken away and the date of the first meeting was announced over the loudspeaker. On the specified Wednesday, the new and old Clarke Barks members entered room 355 and sat down at desks. Ms. Kelly, a Clarke librarian, got us organized and began the meeting.

In that first meeting, we introduced ourselves and decided who would do what. This is the same pattern we follow in the first meeting of an issue. When do we actually write the articles? That normally happens in the second meeting of the issue. That meeting is composed mainly of writing and researching. The third and last meeting is when we review the first draft of the newspaper and point out anything that needs to be fixed. The editors and Ms. Kelly then send it to the print shop and make it available for anyone who wants it!

The meetings aren’t all serious. We joke around with our friends a little, and there is always the exhilaration of “when the paper is finally published and I see people reading it,” as says.

Why join? Well, there is always the advantage of the newspaper being “extracurricular”. Maybe your friends are doing it (or maybe your parents made you!). You might just be a natural-born writer! Kacey said, “I joined because I love to write, and journalism has always interested me.” Whatever way you join, you will always love the club!

Tell your friends, acquaintances, and/or enemies to read Clarke Barks! Keep in mind: you can join too and be a part of this incredible magazine!

Would you like to write an article for the Clarke Barker? Email your work to clarkebarks@gmail.com All submission are welcome!

Mrs. Kelly, teacher advisor for the Clarke Barker

How We Remember the Patriots of Lexington

In April 19, 1775, the Battle of Lexington took place in our very own town. The British soldiers gathered on the common green field facing the American patriots. On this very day the “shot heard around the world” was fired and eight American soldiers fell dead after a short battle. This was the start of the American Revolution, the war of independence for America.

Today, we have quite a few memorials that serve the purpose of remembering the battle, such as the statue of Captain John Parker in the middle of Lexington. Besides the statues and places where major events of the battle took place, there are little details and names that will outlast any physical structure. Many buildings owe their names to people who played important roles for the independence of our country such as the schools of Lexington.

Jonas Clarke Middle School is named after Reverend Jonas Clarke. Jonas Clarke was born on December 25, 1730 and became the 3rd preacher of the local church after graduating from Harvard College in 1752. He served his role in the battle by preaching about the basic rights of all men that cannot be sacrificed and the need to defend these no matter the cost.

Clarke later on housed the patriotic leaders John Hancock and Samuel Adams when their capture was being sought out by the British. He was the voice for the commoners, who made sure that the message of independence was known to all who listened to him. After his efforts and the independence of America, he died in November 15, 1805.
PHONES ON YOUR WRIST? IT'S NOT THAT CRAZY
BY SIDHARTH ANANTHA

Since the dawn of our planet, man (and woman) have been keeping time. From sundials to watches, we always knew the time. The modern person could lift their watch and easily know the time. But is the invention of a watch meant for just telling the time, or was it intended to do more.

Smart watches have actually been around since 1982, but they were just pagers that could tell time. In 2004, we got the good stuff: Watches that could be just a bluetooth headset. In 2009, they tracked your steps, and soon they could send texts, emails, phone calls, track your health, and even have third party apps.

The modern smart watches vary depending on your budget and needs. For people looking for a budget, the Pebble watch is good. It receives notifications, sends emails, texts, and even has a few third party apps. For people looking for a little more, the Moto 360 is the thing. It can send emails, texts, calls, receive notifications, search the web, track your fitness, responds to your voice and do a majority of things your phone can do. It also allows third party apps, but only works for google phones, similar to gear watches only for galaxies, but is just plain pad, and can’t compare to the Moto. There are others but they are all the same and can’t compare to the first 3. But everything I told you is about to change next year. The Apple watch, the only Apple product that does not start with an “i” is coming out soon. The watch is basically the same thing as the moto, but the watch does not have a body that is as good as the Moto, but its software is great. It has a great interface, and looks a bit better than your phone in my opinion. But what is game changing is that developers are already making apps for the watch, so the Apple watch is kind of like your phone, that has interchangeable straps, but does not have a camera.

JIBO
BY DEREK YING

Robots are usually depicted as emotionless objects only designed to do their job. But what if the robot’s job was to have emotion-to care, to interact? That’s the most basic concept of Jibo, “the world’s first family robot” Jibo is a limbless, short (a mere 11 inches tall) moving bust with a screen for a face, but it’s personality and capabilities are bigger and more complex than that.

Jibo is a convenient little robot. It can inform its owner about deadlines and when somebody is coming home, and Jibo can order food and serve as a camera.

THE FUTURE WHERE THINGS IMPROVE
BY ZACH VINCENT

Is Class getting too hard? You probably have to go to the bathroom and get stuff from your locker for the next subject and you’re late. Well, let’s say now a kid is 100 years into the future. He doesn’t have to get in a rush for many reasons. He may have a robot get his things while you can just easily go on over or maybe you have a teleporter. Not only school wise but maybe everywhere car maybe will run on some other energy or maybe the wheels can float and cars can fly through traffic. This can be life in about some years but we have to be patient and wait for these ideas become reality and maybe time travel. You can go back in time to learn about some history. Yea time travel.
Everyone’s heard of the idea— an elevator that could take you up into space. Many doubted it would be created anytime soon. But what if someone told you a new nanotechnology breakthrough could lead to the construction of a space elevator?

John Badding and his team from Penn University were studying benzene, a liquid that when under compression, forms a solid metal. After running an experiment where they compressed benzene slower than they had done before, they found that the benzene had formed something that shocked them. The benzene had formed a diamond-core nanothread. This nanothread is lightweight, yet one of the strongest, stiffest materials known.

“One of our wildest dreams for the nanomaterials we are developing is that they could be used to make the super-strong, lightweight cables that would make possible the construction of a ‘space elevator’ which so far has existed only as a science-fiction idea,” John Badding said.

Obayashi Corporation is a Japanese construction company that already is looking into the probability of the construction of a space elevator. They imagine it as a space station fastened to the equator by an elevator 96,000 kilometer cable of carbon nanotechnology. A robotic car would be attached around the cable and got up and down it. Obayashi plans to construct the space elevator by 2050.

As the New Year comes through, we are hoping that this year will not be a bad year for flying, 2014, as you know, was a bad year for flying. There have been 11 major airplane crashes last year and a few of them are still a mystery.

1. What: Nepal airlines 183 DHC-6 300
   Where: Nepal
   How: Unknown but the radio contact was lost
   When: February
   Deaths: 18

2. What: Malaysia airlines MH370 777-200
   Where: South East Asia
   How: Plane was shot down
   When: July
   Deaths: 298

3. What: Pakistan PK756
   Where: Pakistan
   How: Bullets shot the plane after landing
   When: June
   Deaths: 3 injured one dead

4. What: Malaysia airlines MH17 777-200
   Where: Ukraine
   How: Plane was shot down
   When: July
   Deaths: 298

5. What: TransAsia Airways GE222 ATR-72
   Where: Taiwan
   How: Plane crashed after a failed go-around in heavy rain
   When: July
   Deaths: 48

6. What: Air Algiers AH 5017 MD-83
   Where: Mali
   How: Possibly due to weather conditions
   When: July
   Deaths: 116

7. What: Sephan Airlines 217 HESHA IrAn 140
   Where: Azerbaijan
   How: Unknown
   When: August
   Deaths: 39

8. (charter) Cessna 560XLS+ Citation Excel
   Where: Brazil
   How: Unknown
   When: August
   Deaths: 6

   Where: California
   How: Hit a hillside during a Fire fight
   When: October
   Deaths: 2

10. What: Virgin Galactic spaceship 2 (plane and rocket)
    Where: California
    How: Fuel was supposedly unsafe
    When: October
    Deaths: 2 dead, one injured

11. What: AirAsia (Indonesian division (Malaysian based)) QZ8501 A320
    Where: Java sea (Indonesia)
    How: Supposedly bad weather, Plane not found
    When: December
    Deaths: 162

As you can see, 2014 is not a great year of flying. 11 crashes, 2 planes not found, 2 crashes from the same airline, 3 based in the same countries and a total death toll of 933.
Michael Kors
BY: JALESSI AVILES

Michael loved fashion since he was little and still loves it. At age five he designed his mother’s wedding dress. When he was a teen he started selling clothes out of his mom and dad’s basement. He went to the Fashion Institute Of Technology in NYC but dropped out after 9 months because he got offered a job where he could sell his designs in a small shop.

In 1981 he launched his women’s wear line in stores Bergdorf Goodman, Bloomingdale’s, Lord & Taylor, Neiman Marcus, and Saks Fifth Avenue. He is known for designing the dress of Michelle Obama for her first official portrait.

Michael Kors is a brand name company. The Michael Kors collection includes bags, watches, footwear, jewelry, eyewear, and fragrance products. Michael Kors stores are located in Paris, Tokyo, Milan, New York, and more.

Michael Kors is very good with helping the hungry and he has donated a lot to charities. He made the 100 series watch to help fight hunger. Are you a fan of project runway? Well, you may have noticed that he is one of the judges. Since 2004 he has been a loyal judge and is doing pretty well. As you can see Michael and his company are doing pretty well and his fashion designs are getting bigger and bigger as time goes on.

Images from: Speakerpedia.com and zerohungerchallenge.org

VIDEO GAME OF THE ISSUE: TEAM FORTRESS 2
BY AIDAN VERNON

Team Fortress 2 is a game developed by Valve®. It is a war type game, but with a less serious feel. It is different from other games in that it has cartoony looking models that would be seen in a 3-D animated movie. Not too long ago it was announced as Free-to-play.

The game has 9 different classes. The first is the scout. The scout is speedy and can jump higher than other classes and can double jump. He carries a scattergun, a pistol, and a baseball bat. The second class is the soldier. The soldier carries a rocket launcher, a shotgun, and a shovel. With the rocket launcher he can “rocket jump” which is using the blast force of the rocket explosion to propel himself into the air. The downside to this is he gains damage from the explosion, and also takes fall damage when gravity sets in. The third is the pyro. The pyro carries a flamethrower, a shotgun, and a fire axe, and wears a flame proof suit and a gas mask. The fourth class is the Demo-

What is Steam?

Steam is a Free online way to buy video games with a large community and lots of games. It is available for download at store.steampowered.com.

It has a feel sort of like the app store except it is all games. If you want this game, Steam is required. I will most likely present games that are sold on it in future Video Game of the Month’s.
THE CLARKE BARKER

BOOK REVIEW:
I.Q AT CATRAZ
BY SARA OLIVARES

I love how the authors describe every scene, how they are able to capture the moment. It almost feels like you are in it. I also liked the story of Boone’s past its really interesting, it’s like a mini historical fiction story that you could write a whole book about. However I wasn’t really a fan of how it ended, it was almost like a cliff-hanger, it makes you think that there is going to be another book but leaves you hopeless when the last two words written are THE END as if to remind you that there is no sequel.

This is one of my favorite book series. I would really recommend this series to you if you like to read action, strategy, or politics. The series contains six books: The Independence Hall, The White House, Kitty Hawk, The Alamo, The Windy City and Alcatraz.

I.Q AT CATRAZ
BY SARA OLIVARES

Alcatraz published in Fall 2014, is the sixth and last book of the I.Q book series written by Roland Smith.

The I.Q book series are about two teenagers, Q (Quest) Munoz and Angela Tucker. Their parents are both famous music artists that just got married after forming a music band called “Match”. Angela’s mother, Malak Tucker was believed to be dead when Angela was little, she worked in the Secret Service. Q’s father, Peter Paulsen, aka. Speed, was a musician, he used to be married to Blaze Munoz (Q’s mother) The conflict in the books begins when the tour of their parent’s starts. The motor coach they were traveling on breaks down, and a old roadie by the name of Boone helps them repair it and offers his service as a driver since Blaze and Roger (Angela’s father) didn’t want to expose Q and Angela to the fame world, so they decided to travel in the motor coach as if it was just a normal family trip, against the suggestions of Buddy T (Blaze’s and Roger’s manager) of traveling by plane with paparazzi all over them.

Anyhow this roadie Boone is not only older than he looks but he also used to be a CIA agent, and has a team of old agents called SOS (Some Old Spooks) they work usually just getting information and giving it to the FBI, CIA, NSA, MI6 and the Mossaid at the same time since the organizations don’t exactly trust each other (with good reasons) even though it’s also the cause of them not getting nothing done, but in some ways they also work for Mr. POTUS, which stands for President Of the United States. Angela had always wanted to be a Secret Agent so she like her mother was pretty good at noticing things, she noticed that a guy had been following them since their parent’s wedding. That’s when everything starts to get more complicated.

In Alcatraz, a 253 page book written by not only Roland Smith but also by his peer Michael P. Spradlin, Q and Angela find out Boone’s secret and find out Q’s dad real identity.

You may have heard of The Giver or Number the Stars and their author, Lois Lowry.

Lowry was born in March 20, 1937, to Katherine Gordon and Robert E. Hammersberg. She was the middle child of three, with a younger brother, (Jon) and an older sister (Helen.) In 1956, when Lowry was 19, she married Donald Grey Lowry and had four children; Alix, Kristin, Grey, and Benjamin. 6 years later, Helen died at age 28 of cancer, greatly influencing the plotline of Lowry’s first book, A Summer to Die. This book, about a girl who loses her sister tragically was the start of her career as a children’s author in 1977. In her books, she explores racism, terminal illness, murder, the Holocaust, and controversial issues like questioning authority.

An award-winning book by Lowry is The Giver. Jonas is chosen by the Giver to pass along memories of happiness, love, and even pain. The memories, good and bad, bring some color back in to Jonas’ life. But when he starts to question and change the life his people live, he might be bringing in some danger too.

In Number the Stars, another award-winning book by Lois Lowry, Annemarie Johansen is...
Dear journal: I think Annie Alpert likes me. She probably thinks I’m the greatest!

Dear Diary: I can’t stand Richie Carr. I totally dislike him.

That there is the very beginning of a fantastic book called Chasing after Annie. Richie Carr will do anything to get Annie Alpert’s attention. Unfortunately, every time he tries, he brags. Except for one attempt, that, at first, seems to work well. Annie’s beloved dog Fritz goes missing. She looks all over the place for him, but still, no Fritz. Of course, Richie saw this as an opportunity. Immediately he starts to look for Fritz as well. Annie even starts to look at him in a more positive light. But then, everything shatters, and Richie finds himself in the worst dilemma he has ever been in before.

Marjorie Weinman Sharmat’s great book, Chasing After Annie, is a book filled to the brim with giggle spots and moan spots and even side picking spots. Through journal entries, you get to listen to the story of a big crush and a big fat lie.

Marjorie Weinman Sharmat’s great book, Chasing After Annie, is a book filled to the brim with giggle spots and moan spots and even side picking spots. Through journal entries, you get to listen to the story of a big crush and a big fat lie.

Hogwart Quiz!
By Athena Li
Which house would the sorting hat place you in?
Answer these 5 questions to see which house you belong in.

1. If you could have any superpower, what would it be?
   a. To be the ruler of the world.
   b. To read people’s minds. Not that I need it.
   c. Why, I’m too awesome already. That would only mute my powers.
   d. To be able to fly like a bird.
   e. To eat and never get full!

2. Harry, Ron, or Hermione? Quick!
   a. Harry! Obviously, because he is the hero!
   b. Ron is the best, unlike overrated Harry.
   c. Hermione is my man, uh, girl.
   d. Who needs them when you have Voldemort?
   e. Ron’s mom.

3. What is your favorite class here at Hogwarts?
   a. Defense against the Dark Arts! And Quidditch!
   b. Transfiguration
   c. Charms
   d. Potions
   e. Lunch....

4. When you look into the Mirror of the Erised, what do you see?
   a. Family comes first.
   b. Me! I love me!
   c. Achieving a goal I’ve always wanted to fulfill.
   d. Figuring out the digits of pi.
   e. A big pie.

5. What is your Patronus?
   a. A cat
   b. A lamb
   c. A raven
   d. A dog
   e. A what?

Gryffindor answers: 1.c, 2.a, 3.a, 4.b, 5.d
Hufflepuff answers: 1.d, 2.b, 3.c, 4.a, 5.b
Ravenclaw answers: 1.b, 2.c, 3.b, 4.d, 5.c
Slytherin answers: 1.a, 2.d, 3.d, 4.c, 5.a
A hungry Muggle answers: 1.e, 2.e, 3.e, 4.e, 5.e

Gryffindor: Brave, chivalrous, slightly arrogant but genuinely selfless
Hufflepuff: Strong, caring, patient, kind, and hardworking; not to be underestimated
Ravenclaw: Intelligent, clever, original, analytical, creative and studious
Slytherin: Ambitious, cunning, determined, manipulative, controlling
Hungry Muggle: Hungry, clueless

But in the end, the Sorting Hat chooses which group you want to be in.

Wait, so this quiz was all a big waste?

Kind of.
ARE KRAKEN’S REAL?
BY HENRY KIM

Over many centuries, many myths of sea monsters have survived. And one of the most famous are the Kraken: a creature that plucks you from the deck of your ship, and pulls you under the waves.

Until several years before it was thought to be just a fake. But when the Danish naturalist Japetus Steenstrup examined a huge squid beak, that had been about 8cm across, which had washed up on a shore years earlier, he decided that the creature was real, that it was a species of a monstrously huge squid. It was named Architeuthis Dux, which had meant "ruling squid" in Latin. The creature was classified as a cephalopod, a member of the molluscan class Cephalopoda, which dates back to the Ordovician period. But more interestingly, its tentacles were only part of the problem, because whenever it went underwater, it was so massive it would create a whirlpool.

They are described as many different creatures, such as Scylla, a six headed goddess that plucked people off decks when they go too close, or Charybdis, the monster that swallows up tons of water, creating a whirlpool. Sperm Whales sometimes eat the squids, and when the giants squids don’t get enough food, it is proved that they resort to cannibalism though it is unclear how often.

But if you are thinking that this is a creature that is a creature that is carnivorous, like sleeper sharks, that idea had already been proved to be false, because in 2004, Japan decided to observe and snap a photo of a live giant squid near the Ogasawara islands in the North Pacific. But it was soon proved that it attacked by stretching out its tentacles in front of it, and didn’t exactly go around hunting for food. But in 2012, the team decided to take a video instead of a photo. Based on this video, Edith Widder of the Ocean Research & Conservation Association in Fort Pierce, Florida, decided to build a contraption called Medusa, that attracted other creatures.

The first time they tried to find a squid with it, they found absolutely nothing, but when they tried it a second time, they saw the enormous arms of a giant squid flash up on the screen. It had been a success! After a few more tries, they dropped down a piece of bait, which the squid nibbled on. Through this, it was proved that they are more gentle than big and monstrous and terrifying. Though the squid could be dangerous when you drop into the water with it, they certainly could not drag people down from boats, as described in the tales.

But, according to Mark McMenamin of Mount Holyoke college in South Hadley, MA, they could have been up to a gigantic 30m long, and preying on ichthyosaurs, the marine reptiles that lived in the prehistoric dinosaur age. Recently, a colossal squid was found, completely frozen in Antarctica’s Ross sea, miles below the surface, and it had weighed 350 kilogram. Scientists thawed out the huge creature, an intact specimen, which was a huge opportunity for them to find out more about it. They hope to find out more about it, such as where it is on the food chain. But even though they had turned out to be gentle giants, we have only explored a tiny bit of the sea. We have gone pretty deep (in our scale, anyways), but if the sea is that deep, there might be monsters that are lying down in the darkness, waiting to be found.

DOCTOR OCTOPUS ARMS
BY DEREK YING

Odd ideas are sometimes the best. A robotics team from MIT decided to try to recreate something that was believed to be absurd and impossible: the wondrous arms of Doctor Octopus.

Doctor Octopus was one of those old supervillains who nobody’s heard of or neglected nowadays. He was an evil genius with about 6 to 8 functional robotic arms attached to his back. Octopus controlled these arms via mind control. Can these arms be replicated? Yes; it’s actually been done a team at MIT. However, there’s one difference: These shoulder-mounted arms don’t respond to input from the brain, but instead make a decision about how to help the wearer by mimicking what the user’s non-robot arms are doing. If you are holding up your hands, the robot arms will also hold up themselves.

The team’s research was supported by the airplane manufacturer Boeing. Unsurprisingly, airplanes are physically taxing to make, unsurprisingly. Trying to lift big hunks of equipment have effects of the physical health of employees, no doubt, but also is also bad for the insurance and medical care budgets of the employers. Decreasing the risk of injury will keep people safe and the employer’s wallets happy.
THE LEGEND OF KORRA
BY JINHEE HEO

The Legend of Korra, a kids’ cartoon show aired entirely online, might have been the most influential and powerful show of the year. It could potentially change childrens’ television as we know it. The Legend of Korra is the sequel to the smash hit animation show, “Avatar: The Last Airbender”. Though it didn’t receive as much attention as its predecessor, the Legend of Korra still was, in my opinion, one of the best shows of 2014, and its fourth and final season, “Balance” was arguably its best season.

In the “Avatar-verse” as many call it, many people can control or “bend” one of four elements: air, water, earth, and fire. This is the reason why in the Avatar-verse, the world is separated into four parts: the Air Nomads, Water Tribes, Earth Kingdom, and Fire Nation. Only the Avatar can master all four elements. The Avatar maintains peace between the four divisions. After the Avatar dies, he or she is reincarnated into a new person from someone from the next area in what is called the “Avatar Cycle”, as shown in the picture to the right. The order goes: the Air Nomads, Water Tribes, Earth Kingdom, and Fire Nation. Aang, the air nomad Avatar from the previous season, is reincarnated into Korra, shown in a fighting stance in a picture to the left.

In the beginning of the series, Korra is a bold, brash, and tough girl with a good heart. She’s fearless and confident, but usually doesn’t think things through. However, as the series progresses and she faces new enemies, she becomes extremely vulnerable and unsure of her identity. This makes her a relatable and real character. In season three, “Change,” she faced Zaheer, a new airbender and his team of powerful benders who wanted to overthrow the governments of the four nations and kill the Avatar. They leave her physically and mentally scarred and she attempts to find strength in herself. The fourth season, “Balance,” takes place three years after season three and is about how she struggles to become strong again and find balance. She tries to overcome her P.T.S.D. (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) and come to terms with her weak body. Simultaneously, a new dictator named Kuvira threatens to take over the entire Earth Kingdom and Republic City. Technical-wise, The Legend of Korra was great. The animators were able to balance the regular animation and the more realistic “mecha-tanks”, as shown in the picture to the right. Additionally, the music in The Legend of Korra was perfect. Jeremy Zucker created a phenomenal soundtrack that complemented the story and is also beautiful alone. The animation and music brought the Legend of Korra to a whole new level.

Story-wise, The Legend of Korra’s “Balance” was also exceptional. Though some supporting characters were missing from the finale and the excess amount of filler and recap episodes weighed the series down a little, it was quite a phenomenal plot. Korra faces her old enemies through P.T.S.D. and self-doubt. “Balance” was about accepting your flaws and embracing the things about you that you aren’t comfortable with. She not only did this through P.T.S.D., but through Kuvira, the villain of season 4, shown in the picture to the left. I loved how the writers were making a conscious effort to make Kuvira and Korra alike. Both fierce, strong, stubborn characters with similar ideologies, Korra was facing a different, darker version of herself. Kuvira took the idea of protecting the citizens of the Earth Kingdom too far and was completely unbalanced so Korra learned to balance her vulnerabilities and strength and by going against Kuvira. The conflict between the two was well depicted as Korra versus herself.

The Legend of Korra also makes many racial, sexual, and political statements—pretty strong stuff for a kids’ TV show. The show takes place in a completely different world and has definite Eastern influences. This results in diverse racial characters. Though Korra is not East-Asian like most of the other characters, she’s definitely not your typical female character. She has dark skin and a muscular build—a stark contrast from the usual caucasian female lead. In The Legend of Korra, women of all ages, races, and body images are celebrated. They have the freedom to be good or evil, young or old. However, it’s not a “girls rule, boys drool” kind of story. Many strong male characters such as Tenzin, air-bending master and son of Aang and the two brothers Mako, a firebender and Bolin, an earthbender have their time in the spotlight, especially in the season finale, when all of them have their time in the limelight.

Cont. on Pg. 10
-man. He has an eye-patch and carries a sticky bomb launcher, a grenade launcher, and a bot- tle. The fifth is the heavy. The heavy is slow and carries a minigun (its not actually mini) a shotgun, and uses his fists as a melee. The sixth class is the Engineer. The Engineer carries a shotgun, a pistol, a wrench, a building pad, and a demolition pad. The Engineer can build a sentry, a dispenser, and entrance and exit teleporters. The seventh class is the medic. The medic has a syringe launcher, a medigun to heal teammates, and a medical saw. The eighth class is the sniper. the sniper has a sniper rifle, a smg, and a kukri, which is a type of large knife. The ninth class is the spy. The spy carries a revolver, a butterfly knife, a disguise kit, which disguises him as the other team (his team sees him as a spy wearing a mask), and the item not shown in his inventory, an invis watch, which turns him invisible for a certain amount of time until he needs to let it charge or find a ammo box. If he gets a hit on someone back with the Butterfly Knife it’s an immediate death. When the spy uses his knife or gun while in disguise, he loses his disguise.

Two things are scattered around the map, health kits and ammo boxes. Health kits and ammo boxes range in size. Team fortress two is different from other games because you can earn free items from playing for a while, and you are told you “found” them. You can customize the layout of your separate classes, including different items with pros and cons, and hats and clothing. The most popular hats are called “Unusuals”. Un-usuals are hats with effects like confetti or a bright light floating around it. They are very costly, and one of the most popular effects is an effect as if the hat is on fire/green fire.

Something you really need to know about is friendlies/TF2 memes. Friendlies are what you might guess, very friendly people, but even more, they are friendly to the other team! Usually you will find them giving out sandviches, an item that is a sandwich, but it’s called the sandvich as a joke. Another thing they may do is called spycrabbing. Spycrabbing is holding the disguise kit, crouching and looking up. This triggers a glitch in the game where the spy looks like a crab. Second off, TF2 memes are pictures or things that are popular as jokes in the TF2 community. The most popular example is something called Pootis. It’s part of something the heavy says. When you use the quick chat function, you can say things such as thanks or yes/no. You can also ask a friendly engineer to build a dispenser. Since the heavy has a deep siberian accent and was taught only a little english, he says “put dispenser here!”. Someone took that and cut “dis” off of dispenser and put it next to “put” and pootis was born. Another example of this is “Gottam” from the Engineer saying “Gotta move that gear up!”. One of the most popular picture memes is a picture of spy, who smokes a cigarette, smoking about seventeen cigarettes with his eyes facing backwards.

On the subject of how appropriate it is, some inappropriate language is used but not said very often. It also can be bloody, such as people exploding and bullets causing blood to splatter onto the walls, but compared to other war/FPS games, it’s the least violent out there. TF2 has no storyline shown in game, but if you go to the official Team fortress 2 website, www.Teamfortress.com, you can find a comic series that contains some mature content, so enter at your own risk. All and all, this game is very fun and has a funny, joke loving community who love hats, and i very much suggest this amazing game.