

# VOLTAGE

Science Park High School

260 Norfolk Street, Newark, NJ 07103

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## Chargers With a Spark of Love

by Claressa Lopez

Yikes! Valentine's Day is right around the corner, and instead of getting your significant other the perfect gift, you're...reading this. Well, you're in luck! Here are some ideas on how to make the most romantic day of the year a little lovelier.

### For the Crush you CAN'T show your face to:

*Anonymous love notes*—You can certainly make someone's day brighter with a sweet note. As long as you're not creepy, there's no harm. There's also no need to leave obvious hints that it's you, especially if you're not comfortable with it.

### For the Crush you CAN show your face to:

If you're in that awkward stage of a friendship/relationship, keep it funny and corny! You don't want to seem too pushy, but let them know you care.

### Traditional:

*Flowers*—It doesn't matter if your sweetheart is a guy or a girl; who doesn't love a beautiful arrangement of nature's finest? Whether it's a single rose for a friend or a tropical bouquet, nothing says "I love you" like flowers.

*Chocolate*—For your sweetheart with a sweet tooth! What's really great about chocolate is the variety available: There's dark chocolate, milk chocolate, white chocolate, almond, coconut, caramel, mint, strawberry, fudge, peanut, peanut butter, and much more!

*Stuffed Animals*—Plush toys have always been a hit, especially with the ladies. If you're searching for a plush and feel like a teddy bear won't work for a guy, try a sport, game, or movie theme approach! Soccer balls, Star Wars, Assassin's Creed, Marvel, or Pokémon. It all depends on what your guy is interested in.

*Locker Decorations*—Imagine your love's face when he or she sees his or her locker all glammed up with hearts and love notes! This is a super sweet tactic, but keep in mind, it is also very public. Just be sure you can easily remove these decorations if necessary, and make sure it's the right locker!

*Jewelry*—No, you don't need to go to Kay's either. Claire's™ and Amazon have some really nice couple-themed jewelry for great prices. Try to avoid rings (unless you know his or her finger size).

*Other gifts*—If you know your special someone is crazy about something, or you have a great idea for a gift, then get it for him or her, even if it isn't Valentine's Day themed! This day is about showing how much you care.

### Want something a bit more special and outgoing? No problem! Try these ideas.

•Are you musical? Crafty? Lyrical? Then give it a shot and sing a song, draw a picture or write a poem! Handmade gifts are sentimental and adorable.

•Send a heart shaped pizza to your sweetheart's home.

•Present any of your gifts publically (if your special someone is into that) and watch the crowd cheer!

Still looking for a challenge? Alright, you asked for it!

•FLASH MOB! It doesn't have to be big. Maybe gather a few friends to give them a really nice surprise during homeroom or lunch. You should get permission from teachers ahead of time.

•Prom proposals (I'm talking to you, seniors.)

•Get your love all dressed up and take him or her out!

### Don't really have anyone special?

•Buy a bunch of flowers, cards, or candies and give them to random strangers.

•Leave a note on someone's desk or locker telling that person they are loved.

•Give someone a hug!

•Treat yourself to a great date and love yourself.

Hope this helps! Always know that you are loved.

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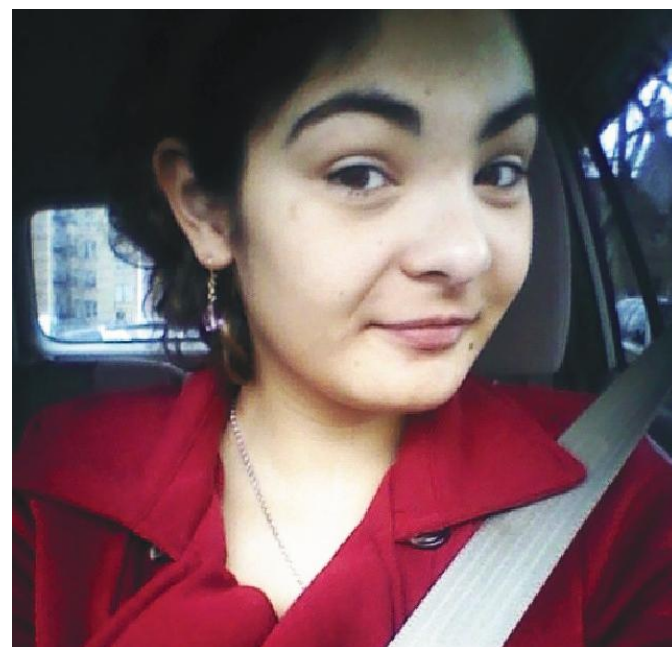
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Meet Claressa, a writer on the staff of the Voltage.

# Winter Fashions

by Davian Rodriguez

As the temperatures plummet and the snow storms in, we shed our linens and sandals for thick fabrics, darker colors, and simplicity. The A/W 13 season is defined by simple, sartorial style with textures taking the stage. Quilting, leather, and luxe sportswear have been gracing designer runways and high-street retailers, along with the traditional autumn textures such as tweed, cashmere, and merino with a retro twist.

The return of popularity for 1960s-esque trends has traditionalists and modernists reaching common ground. Merino sweaters, tweed blazers, and wool trousers are a few of the textures popping up throughout stores. The reintroduction of the infamous turtleneck has been up for debate with many, whether because it is unflattering, aged, or ugly; however, the modern take on this '60s favorite has made it an essential because it is versatile and sartorially simple. The turtleneck stands on the fence between casual and formal and between the lines of neutral and bold. It can be transformed and interpreted in a variety of ways, bending to the will of your own style. If Macklemore could wear faux fur bear on his back, then you could reach into your

grandpa's closet and rock these '60s styles.

On the other side of the spectrum of vogue, tougher, industrial trends have been dominating fashion through the introduction of leather and quilted pieces. Although leather and quilting are nothing new in fashion, they have been making appearances on runways in the form of shirts, pants, skirts, sweatshirts, sweaters, and more. For most, leather seems to have the connotation of too edgy or punk, and quilting has been ascribed as an exclusive for the lumberjack; however, the pieces introduced by high-street retailers are much more commercial and practical.

The most controversial trend—well, at least for fashionistas and dapper dons—that has been slowly creeping up on the fashion world is the luxe sport sweats. No longer do you have to be ashamed for walking out of your house in a full uniform of sweats. As with all else in modern fashion, sweatpants and sweatshirts now have a slimmer cut and are being made from better fabrics. Whether you want to have an easy, comfortable look, or rock the boat in an uncanny guise, luxe sportswear is in style.

## Book Review: *I Am The Messenger*

by Romina Generali

Nineteen-year-old Ed Kennedy is very self-aware with regard to what he has going on for him in his life—which is nothing. He lives alone in a dirty apartment with his dog and spends the time he is not working playing cards with his friends. In the first few pages, we are told that our protagonist faked his age in order to obtain his job as a taxi driver. This piece of information is one of the first things the reader learns about Ed, and it makes for a rather solid overview of his character.

The opening scene of the book is a crucial factor to the appeal of the book. There is something about the manner in which the author lazily describes the bank robbery that Ed prevents that captures your attention from the start. The slow-like narration also fits in with Ed's character, a factor that brings up the next point. I found it peculiar that the introduction of this book consisted of a highly exciting event that was occurring in the life of a seemingly boring character.

I later found out that my assumptions about Ed regarding the lack of excitement in his life were correct. Until the point of the bank robbery he was able to prevent due to the incompetence of the bank robber, Ed's life truly was very dull. I also learned through the beginning half of the book that Ed's last ordinary day of his boring life was the morning of the robbery. After that fateful day, the story takes a surprising turn.

The first card, an ace of diamonds, arrives in the mail one day. This is the day that Ed becomes the messenger. The card has a listing of three local addresses. On the night his curiosity gets the best of him and he decides to head over to the first one, he truly does not know what to expect. Instantly upon his arrival to the first address, he realizes that horrible things are taking place inside of the house. At each of the addresses, he finds someone in need.

Ed learns that someone has to care for these seemingly unimportant people. Someone has to deliver their messages. This person becomes Ed Kennedy. He learns that he can do good in the world by simply helping those who need help.

The beginning of the book made me question its ability to capture a reader's interest. I wondered how interesting the book could possibly be with such an apparently uninteresting protagonist. By reading this book, I learned that Ed Kennedy is anything but ordinary, and I thoroughly enjoyed accompanying him on his journey.

## Spot the Differences

by Claressa Lopez

SAME LOVE: FIND THE DIFFERENCE



Solutions: rose with stem is gone; one heart is missing; largest rose is missing; largest rose is turned over; empty water glass; box of chocolates is covered; necklace is longer



# The Trouble With Screenplays

by Edith White

While some of the books-turned-movies are incredibly successful, such as the *Harry Potter* series, *Twilight*, and *The Hunger Games*, there are many others that can be so bad that they do the books no justice at all. Movies like *The Scarlet Letter*, *Ender's Game*, and *The Golden Compass* are the most prominent examples of amazing books that were ruined when made into movies. While each movie had great actors to star in them, the movie itself skipped over major key points in the plot and made a rushed job of connecting scenes together to try and make sense.

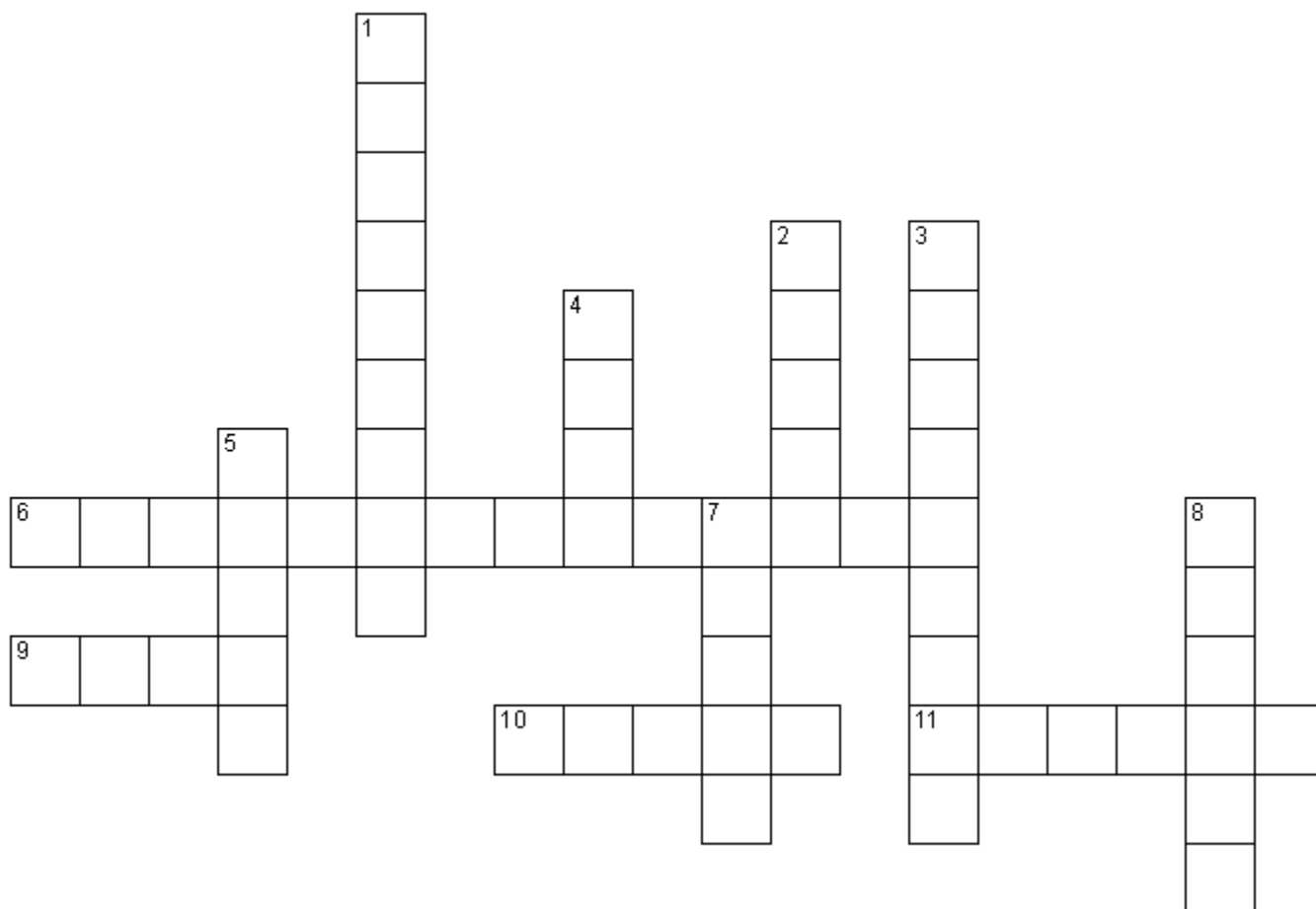
The hardest part about taking a bestseller and converting it into a movie is having to condense it into a select amount of time while also keeping it understandable. To do this, parts must be removed from the script or changed in a way that allows for more excitement. This becomes a major problem to people who have read the book versus people who are just interested based on the trailer. Any person with no prior knowledge about the book will take the movie at face value, meaning that if the acting is top notch, the effects are realistic, and the

plot has enough substance, he or she will give it high reviews, whereas if a person has already read the book and is seeing the movie because he or she is a fan, that person will be going into the theater with a critical eye, preparing themselves for the worst. Any little detail that is forgotten will automatically drop the film's standings in this viewer's eyes, and no amount of special effects nor action scenes can make up for that.

To turn a book into a memorable movie, time must be put in to ensure that all details are kept. If you have ever read *The Lord of the Rings* or *Harry Potter*, you would know how similar the movies are to the books. Countless time and money was spent to guarantee the success of both series. Without the effort, these great blockbusters would have fallen to ruins and tainted these remarkable books, but movies such as these are so rare that it becomes questionable whether it is worth the risk of sacrificing a book in the hopes that the movie becomes a hit.

# Valentine's Day Crossword

by Subrina Searwar



## ACROSS

- 6 Ashton Kutcher, Jessica Alba, and Taylor Lautner all star in this movie.
- 9 The word "love" in Spanish
- 10 In this country, Valentine's Day is called Lovers' Festival.
- 11 Cupid shoots these.

## DOWN

- 1 A sweet gift to give someone
- 2 The roman god of love
- 3 This stuffed animal is usually given as a gift.
- 4 The most popular flower sold on this day
- 5 This organ represents love.
- 7 This holiday is named after \_\_\_\_\_ Valentine.
- 8 In this country, men give gifts to women on Valentine's Day, and women return them on White Day.

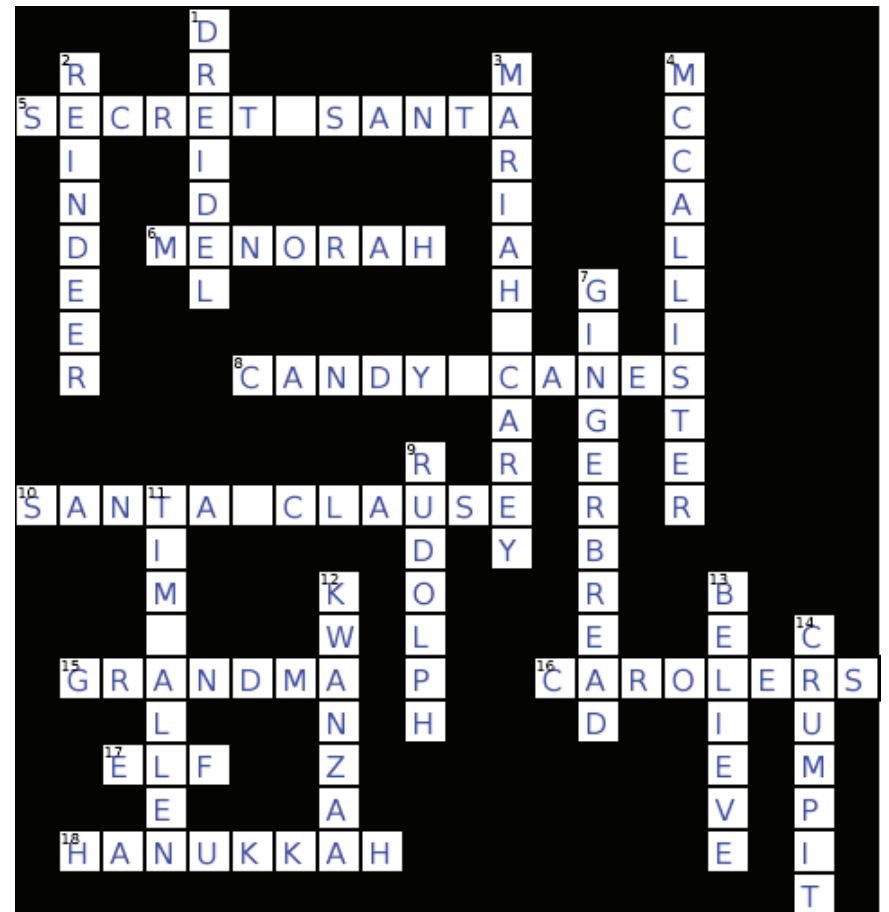
# VOLTAGE

Student Newspaper of Science Park High School

<b>Editor-in-Chief:</b>	Daniela Fonseca
<b>Co-Editor:</b>	Ashanti Hargrove
<b>Contributing Staff:</b>	
Claressa Lopez	Davian Rodriguez
Romina Generali	Edith White
Subrina Searwar	Ashanti Hargrove
<b>Advisors:</b>	Mr. Townsend
	Ms. Mimidas

# Solutions to Previous Puzzles

3	1	7	8	5	9	4	6	2
9	8	2	6	1	4	7	5	3
6	4	5	7	2	3	9	8	1
8	6	3	2	9	1	5	7	4
4	5	9	3	8	7	2	1	6
2	7	1	4	6	5	3	9	8
1	3	4	5	7	6	8	2	9
7	2	6	9	3	8	1	4	5
5	9	8	1	4	2	6	3	7



## Ad Libs by Ashanti Hargrove

What a day I had! This morning before school, my \_\_\_\_\_ broke, and I had  
Singular Noun  
 to \_\_\_\_\_ all the way to school. Then, my calculus teacher announced that we  
Present Tense Verb  
 would be having a test next week on \_\_\_\_\_ units of our textbook. I hardly understood  
Number  
 anything we were doing in class!

When I was \_\_\_\_\_ to the cafeteria, I stepped in \_\_\_\_\_  
Verb Ending with -ing Adjective  
 \_\_\_\_\_. I couldn't get the \_\_\_\_\_ off my shoes! I opened my lunch bag, and  
Plural Noun Same Plural Noun  
 then I realized that I had grabbed my leftover lunch from last week. The only things I had  
 to eat were stale \_\_\_\_\_ and a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ sandwich. Luckily, \_\_\_\_\_ had some  
Food Plural Adjective Funny Friend Name  
 extra \_\_\_\_\_, so I didn't starve!  
Plural Noun

In the afternoon, we had gym class. The gym teacher told us we would be  
 \_\_\_\_\_ today, but I'd left my \_\_\_\_\_ at home. So I had to  
Verb Ending with -ing Clothing (Plural)  
 (present tense verb) instead.

On the way home from school, I dropped my bag in a puddle of water, and all of  
 my \_\_\_\_\_ got soaked. The only good thing to happen today was that my father  
Plural Noun  
 made my favorite \_\_\_\_\_ for dinner!  
Plural Noun  
 It's been a long day. I hope tomorrow is better. I'm going to put on my good  
 luck \_\_\_\_\_ tomorrow morning, just in case!  
Noun

Interested in becoming a writer?  
 Love photography?  
 Join the *Voltage* staff!

Prefer to write short stories? Poems?  
 Showcase your work in Science Park's very  
 own literary magazine, *The Tenth Muse*!

Stop by room 218 and let us know you are  
 interested!