



## What is the "Shelling" in Ukraine?

Michael Piper, Junior

When it comes to the war in Ukraine, one term you may hear often is "shelling." Most civilian casualties have been reported to result from this method of assault. But what is it? In media reports, "shelling" is used as a catch-all for any weapon system that delivers an explosive charge across a long distance.

Weapon systems used for shelling can be divided into three classes: cannons, MLRS, and ballistic missiles. Cannons are the most traditional weapon for shelling, as well as its namesake: projectiles fired from cannons often resemble a "shell" around some kind of explosive filler. Cannons in use with the Russians include a number of guns, mortars, and howitzers, many of which are self-propelled, mounted atop a tracked, armored chassis. Having the cannon mounted to a vehicle allows for rapid repositioning, important when on the offensive. Cannon-based artillery relies on a large volume of fire (a lot of shells being fired at one target) to make up for inherent inaccuracy.

MLRS, or Multiple Launch Rocket Systems, became popular as artillery during World War II, when the first were fielded. Rocket warheads can be larger than cannon shells on a similarly sized launcher because the energy of the rocket propellant is put solely into

the projectile, unlike a cannon which must absorb energy from its exploding propellant. Early MLRS rockets were unguided and less accurate than cannon shells, but modern systems can have some guidance capabilities.

Ballistic missiles take this guidance further, being launched from much farther distances than cannons or MLRS launchers can manage. In principle, a ballistic missile lofts a warhead into the upper atmosphere and often into space on a suborbital trajectory towards a target. Most warheads are guided all the way down using various terrain-mapping and inertial guidance systems, yielding much greater accuracy than cannons or MLRS, so a low volume of fire is needed for significant effect. Russia's Iskander-M missile, for example, can accelerate a 700 kg warhead to around 2000 meters per second – a quarter of orbital velocity – and hit a target up to 500 kilometers away within a 10 meter radius accuracy.

Tragically, these weapon systems are being used very often against civilian residential areas in Ukraine. While the technology behind some aspects of cannons, MLRS, and missiles is impressive, use against noncombatants is unacceptable.

## Meet Ms. Roberge!

Ila Bumagin and Mona Gelfgatt, Sophomores  
ASSISTANT EDITORS

Yes, we're halfway through the year, but you still may not know who Ms. Roberge really is. Well, we're here to tell you.

Ms. Roberge grew up in Connecticut. From a young age she knew what she wanted to do when she grew up. "Personal relationships are what make people happy. The people I saw as most happy were teachers. With English, I have this window open to human connection. It's a class where you can foster those connections and talk about people's experiences. I want students to connect to one another." After graduating from the University of Delaware, Ms. Roberge was determined to create a safe, loving space for all of her students. As her students, this rings true. We wanted to ask her how she stays so mellow and calm. She says, "I really care about you guys, and I can't genuinely get mad at you. I want you to be successful. Whether it's behavior, or not doing the best, it's not frustrating. I just want you to do the best you can. I care about every student the same, yet differently." Sounds like quite the therapist, doesn't she?

Well, we asked Ms. Roberge, if you had to give up teaching, what would you do instead? Social worker or psychologist was her answer. "I think that so much of being a teacher is being a social worker and being a pair of listening ears. That's what I like about my job, it's that I can talk to you about things in the real world. If I were to change, I'd still want to be a helper." We're always told to go

to an adult in difficult situations, and Ms. Roberge's door is always open.

Students always wonder what got teachers into teaching. Why would you choose to deal with a bunch of chaotic teens? "With high school kids you have the ability to have lasting connections that can be maintained even later in life." Ms. Roberge doesn't see us as some chaotic teens, but as the future. However, with her being one of the youngest teachers at the school, we asked, is teaching what you expected it to be? "The obvious answer is no. There are curriculum parts of it that I anticipated, the content is exactly the same. What I didn't expect is that there is never a moment where I'm not doing anything. I'm working with kids and you need things on demand, and other times it's emotions, and it really is pressing. At times I have to drop everything and be there for you. It's like a rat race, but in a magical, magical way."

She speaks her words so wisely, so we wonder who inspired her. Her first thought was her mother, "My mom is the hardest working person I've ever met. I've never met someone more workhardy. She inspires me to put in everything I've got every single day." Next, she said that her students are what keep her going, "Your silliness and love of learning inspires me and keeps me growing." But now, some fun facts and stories

## Death on the Nile Movie Review

Benji Boyd. Freshman

If you've been anywhere near a movie theater in the past few months, you've probably seen the trailers for the new adaptation of Agatha Christie's classic mystery novel, *Death on the Nile*, and, if you're like me, thought to yourself as images of glinting knives and ridiculous mustaches flashed across the screen, "This looks like total crap. I can't wait to see it."

Starring Kenneth Branagh, Armie Hammer, and Gal Gadot, *Death on the Nile* is your typical 1930s-rich-people-getting-murdered story that Agatha Christie is so famous for. I entered the movie theater expecting to be thoroughly entertained by a quick-paced story and flashy sets and costumes, but held no more than average expectations for the overall quality of the directing and writing. I was expecting an action packed thriller, not a cinematic masterpiece. My friend and I were lucky enough to be the only ones in the theater during our showing, so we had the luxury of yelling at the screen when the plot turned in unexpected directions and openly mocking the characters for kissing when they should be worrying about not getting stabbed. I think it's safe to say my viewing experience was excellent.

The movie starts out with the backstory of one of Agatha Christie's most famous characters, Detective Hercule Poirot, and quickly introduces the rest of the cast, including, but not limited to, a glamorous socialite, a pair of enamored lovebirds, a famous performer and her niece, a work-shy heir, a communist aristocrat, a loyal family lawyer, and a doctor with a secret. The plot begins when this unlikely party sets sail for a boat-tour of the Nile, and death follows them onboard. Trapped together in close quarters, Hercule Poirot must find the killer among them and detangle the web of lies surrounding the characters that seems to point to every one of them as a suspect before time runs out.

While I did leave the theater with my expectation of an entertaining afternoon fulfilled, I was also impressed by the quality and directing in a way that I hadn't expected to be. While it's rare to find a mystery

movie without an abundance of dramatic shots and suspenseful music, there's still a certain satisfaction that comes with seeing it done well. You can tell just by watching the trailer that no expenses were spared during the production of *Death on the Nile*; and if the production studio is half as rich as the main characters, I wouldn't expect anything less. From visually stunning views of the scenery to elegant costumes and props, the viewing experience of *Death on the Nile* is top notch. Some movies are just fun to watch, and this is one of them.

As for directing, I expected to be spitting my popcorn at the sheer melodrama of the shot-compositions and dialogue, but it wasn't nearly as bad as I thought. Maybe I'm just critical of big Hollywood productions in general, especially ones with premises that practically list over-the-topness as a requirement (like vintage murder mysteries), but I was pleasantly surprised. Do not get me wrong: *Death on the Nile* has its fair share of smoldering expressions and grand reveals. But it's just enough spice to give it the flavor viewers are hoping for without ruining the whole story. Sure, you'll cringe a few times. Maybe you'll even have to cover your eyes. But TikTok and *The Office* have taught us that despite what the internet says, the common population actually does like to cringe at their chosen form of entertainment. So if you're a film-snob who likes to complain about how unnecessary drama ruins movies, just don't watch it. Also, don't talk to me. You're annoying.

To conclude, yes I am a hypocrite for expecting to make fun of a movie for its cheesiness and then turning around and calling out film-snobs in this review. *Death on the Nile* was genuinely enjoyable and well-made, and I would definitely recommend it for those looking to escape to a world of backstabbing, intrigue, and suspense for two hours and seven minutes. Just make sure you bring your popcorn, and enough champagne to fill the Nile!

about Ms. Roberge. Starting off, she had a pet hedgehog named Zelda, after F. Scott Fitzgerald's wife. This hedgehog went everywhere with her. "I don't know why, because I'm not really a hedgehog person, but I had her from when I graduated from high school to last year." What a shocker, an English teacher with a hedgehog named after an author! Speaking of authors and books, Ms. Roberge's favorite book growing up was *The Old Man in the Sea*. It really stuck with her and she often speaks of it now. And one more thing. We asked her what her greatest accomplishment was, which is often a hard question to answer. This is what she said: "I have both a tangible and personal one. My tangible one would be graduating from the University of Delaware. I was the student teacher of the year. Connections with students are so important to me and the people who evaluated me paid attention to that. I'm glad that people saw that quality in me." Since the day we met Ms. Roberge, we knew that she wasn't like other teachers, she was special,

and it was that longing connection that she yearns for that makes her stand out. Now, her personal goal has been "teaching through a pandemic. My first year as a teacher was 2019-2020. I was still building my brand as a teacher, teaching to survive. Looking back at that crazy time, I do feel decent about how it went. No one was perfect, but I can say that I felt good enough about it that I could sleep every night." We don't even know how teachers were able to get through those crazy years, but they did it, and it really proved their resilience.

To close out we asked Ms. Roberge what she would tell her 10th grade self. "Even though you're young, you're really strong. You don't have all the responsibilities and you haven't graduated and you're not technically an adult. You're no less than anyone else." I feel those are words that every high schooler should hear. And this is why Ms. Roberge is such a great teacher. She has that "special sauce:" she is all together a wonderful person to be around.

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