



## The Sophomore Slump

Lauren Bull, Sophomore  
REPORTER

*"How can you make sophomore year successful if you have spent most of it trying to get your WiFi to work right before you log onto your Zoom classes for the day?"*

The sophomore year slump. Your freshman year jitters are out of the way, but college applications are not yet on the forefront of your mind. COVID ripped away the chance of finishing your first year of high school like ripping off a Band-Aid, and now you feel stuck. How can you make sophomore year successful if you have spent most of it trying to get your WiFi to work right before you log onto your Zoom classes for the day?

First and foremost, it is not selfish to prioritize your mental health. We are living in a time of isolation; a concept that previously seemed foreign to most. The transition to school in-person and full time has been exhausting to say the least, and it is important to let yourself recharge. We went from a year predominantly filled with relaxed Zoom calls where we could hide behind the comfort of our blank squares (and logging off early if we were lucky enough to have technical issues), to having to endure the course of our jam-packed schedules everyday. It is not fair to your body or your mind if you are not getting rest after this tough transition. Personally, journaling about my experiences during the pandemic has been a great outlet to relieve emotions that I have bottled up during the course of the lockdown. I have been learning to not get so wrapped up in trying to have my journal match a certain Pinterest aesthetic. Instead of focusing on how it looks, I focus on how the act of writing makes me feel. The stream-of-consciousness writing technique (where you write anything and everything that crosses your mind) helps ground me back to writing au-

thentically. In addition, guided meditations are great to calm nerves, especially if COVID statistics are making you feel anxious. Further, I recently took a mental health day and came back to school feeling more refreshed and accomplished. I am also an avid reader, and as silly as it sounds, books have been a helpful escape from the COVID reality. Truly becoming immersed in a world different than ours has given me a sense of relief throughout this uneasy time.

In addition, we never got the opportunity to fully see what freshman year at Marblehead High had to offer, and it is valid if you are feeling disappointed. If there was a club that you wanted to join last year but did not get the chance to, check if you can join in this year! This school year has been a tough hurdle to jump, but it is not too late to find your footing. During the height of quarantine last year, I pessimistically assumed that extra-curriculars would be shut down this year, and I would have no way of getting myself more involved in the MHS atmosphere. However, I joined two more great clubs! Although they have been remote most of the year, they helped me feel more connected within the school environment.

Lastly, go easy on yourself. It is challenging to go back to old social situations, study habits, sleep schedules, and any other routine that many have gotten lost in the pandemic. Just take this school year day-by-day, and then summer will be here before you know it!

## Series Review:

### Shadow and Bone

Ila Bumagin, Freshman  
REPORTER

*"It melds the storylines together into something that fans and nonfans alike will adore."*

*Shadow and Bone*, based on Leigh Bardugo's fictional world, the Grishaverse, has brought fantasy to the center stage after debuting on Netflix on April 23. The casting is perfect. The actors take Bardugo's words and make them reality. Not only that, but they are diverse, moving away from the stereotype of every character being a white heterosexual male. From Jesper (Kit Young), a bisexual sharpshooter, to the religious spy Inej (Amita Suman), everyone can find themselves represented. The only complaint I could make—because I hope you can tell that I liked the show—is that the plot doesn't follow the storyline of the two book series. Instead, it melds the storylines together into something that fans and nonfans alike will adore.

In the recent chart-topping *Shadow & Bone*, orphan Alina Starkov (Jessie Mei Li) is thrown into the civil war of her country, Ravka. The nation is being attacked on all fronts: from the North is magic-hating Fjerda (many Ravkans practice magic), from the South, the attacking Shu Han, and the Fold of Darkness that divides the country in two—literally! Soon, Alina learns that she has the unprecedented power to

destroy the Fold; she is the legendary Sun Summoner. However, she is fought over by the mysterious Darkling (Ben Barnes), her best friend Malyen Oretsev (Archie Renaux), and the money-driven merchants of the far away Kerch. That brings us to the thieves



hired by said wealthy merchants to capture Alina: Kaz Brekker (Freddy Carter), Jesper Fahey (Kit Young), and Inej Ghafa (Amita Suman). Although the band of kidnappers (aka The Crows) seem at odds with each other as the show begins, they open up throughout, both to each other and the

## The Ultimate AP Lit Study Guide

Sophie Hauck, Senior  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

*"I really want students to become a part of this conversation and say, 'Well does this book have something to give to us, to society?'"*

Considering every book that you have read in your life, which work inspired your most visceral reaction? Was it a cult classic whose critical acclaim you vehemently protest, or the hidden gem you believe everyone would be better for reading? Marblehead High School English teacher Neil Moloney recently posed this question to 24 seniors in his AP Literature and Composition class, asking them to write an annotated bibliography detailing every work of literary merit they have read in high school.

"Mr. Ryan used to do this project with seniors, and the goal initially was for students to list and annotate every book they've ever read," says Mr. Moloney. "Children's books, board books, all the way up to young adult books, into their middle school and high school careers." This year, Mr. Moloney adapted the project for the AP class so that students "focused on works that could be used for the AP exam."

The annotated bibliography is not only a study guide, says Mr. Moloney. This assignment allows "students to review works they could write about on the exam but also to think through the effects books have had on them." Mr. Moloney admits that this effect is often surprising, especially compared to students' methodical answers during class discussion. "I always enjoy getting these visceral, 'This is how I feel about the book!' [annotations]," he says.

Lane Davis organized her annotated bibliography based on how desperately she wants to punch each book's protagonist. At the bottom of the list, J.D. Salinger's *The Catcher in the Rye*:

Salinger, J.D. *The Catcher in the Rye*. Little, Brown and Co, 1951.

"One of the most iconic high school classics, J.D. Salinger's *The Catcher in the Rye* tells the story of Holden Caulfield again and again. Telling from a

audience. Fans of the books may note the absence of three key characters in *The Crows*: Wylan van Eck, Matthias Helvar, and Nina Zenik. Season Two, should it be confirmed, promises Wylan. Yet starting in later episodes, we see Nina Zenik (Danielle Galligan) and Matthias Helvar's (Calahan Skogman) complicated backstory that is only a flashback in the novel.

Whether you're a fan of the books or not, you will be drawn into the complicated world that is the Grishaverse. Diehard fans will notice all the deviations from the plot, and there are many. In the novels, some of the characters will never meet each other like they do in the show because the two series take place in different decades! Years after Alina saves her country from the Fold, the Crows go on a heist, many not even knowing who she is. But with Bardugo's seamless directing, the heist turns into a kidnapping of Alina, sewing the books and characters into one big masterpiece.

So go try it out! Fall in love with *Shadow and Bone*'s diverse cast, atypical characters, and alluring plot. Let's hope there's a Season Two!

mental institution, adolescent Holden tells of his dropping out of Pencey boarding school and a consequential reprimand from his condescending and annoying teacher Mr. Spencer. After a fight with his roommate Stradlater, he ventures to New York and annoyingly asks a cab driver about ducks. Checking into the hotel and seeing a couple across the hall, he calls a past stripper Faith Cavendish to meet up and hopefully have sex. He went to the Lavender room and danced and later thought of his ex, Jane Gallagher, and their near romance. He has an embarrassing encounter with the stripper Sunny, insults another ex, and Carl Luce, too. He dreams of being the "catcher in the rye." He tells his sister Phoebe of his troubles and plans to flee and she begs to come, too. Instead, he leads her to a carousel and watches her happily.

Although Holden is one of my least favorite characters of all time, there's no denying that Salinger's characterization was well developed considering that I developed such a strong opinion about its characters. His social interactions are very uncomfortable to read and Holden's narration is overflowing with complaints or speculations on others' phoniness. Holden encapsulates a moody teenage boy well.

Punchability: 100%; Holden needs to be humbled. He endlessly complains about people's lies, fakeness, and consequential "phoniness" while he lies to his parents, teachers and even strangers about his own identity. Very hypocritical and proud, Holden could use a good wake up call."

"Sometimes books are read for hundreds of years, but when we read it today, we see that maybe this isn't what we thought it was," says Mr. Moloney. "I really want students to become a part of this conversation and say, 'Well does this book have something to give to us, to society?'" When he continues this project next year, Mr. Moloney says that he'll ask students to annotate each book from the AP Lit curriculum as soon as they finish reading in order to "make [this essential question] a more ingrained part of the curriculum."

*Head to mhsheadlight.com to read more student annotations + the full article!*

## Calling All MHD Students!

What does a healthy ocean and harbor look like to you? Celebrate Marblehead Ocean Week by entering Sustainable Marblehead's Youth Media Competition!

Create a piece of original content (a short video, animation, audio podcast, news article, or poster) to help generate awareness and inspire action to protect our harbor and ocean.

Open to all students K-12. Send submissions to harbor@sustainablemarblehead.org by May 21, 2021. Winners will be announced June 3 and awarded prizes!

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