



## Teacher Interviews Part IV: Meet Ms. Huller-White

Clara Rapoport and Peyton Applegate, Sophomore Reporters

We interviewed Ms. Huller-White, an Art teacher at the high school. We both have had her as our 3D design teacher and learned so much in her class. She explained her career path, how she became interested in teaching, and the happiness she gains from it today. We could really tell Mrs. Huller-White really loves working at the high school and we are glad to have had her as a teacher for multiple years.

S: Why did you get into this profession?

T: Well that's a bit of a story. So, I started my career as an artist in college and I knew I wanted to have a career as a commercial artist doing design illustration. I got my bachelor's degree in fine arts and that's what I did for about 20 years. I worked as a graphic designer and illustrator and had a lot of fun doing that. I had my own business for a while. I worked for an advertising agency in special effects photography and it was very exciting. It was kind of just when computers were used in the mainstream and so that made my job really interesting, especially for the special effects stuff. I knew that teaching was something I wanted to do, but I wanted to have this experience first. So, I got to a point in my career where I was just kind of feeling, "Okay, I'm getting bored. I'm not having as much fun as I used to and it's a good time for me to go back to school." Plus, I had money. I could afford my master's degree and I could afford graduate school. I got a position teaching part-time and I got my license. I was teaching elementary school, but I was going to graduate school and I got my graduate degree. I knew when I was done I wanted to teach high school because I wanted to be able to use all of the things I learned in my professional career as a commercial artist and apply them as a teacher. Elementary teaching was fun, but it was, for me, just a good experience. One of the things I learned was that some rules for elementary schoolers still apply to high schoolers, like kindness and having empathy, and to stage the whole project very carefully so you know exactly what you need to do, while not assuming anything. All the things I learned from teaching in elementary school, I still apply in my teaching to high school and they serve me really well. So, that's how I got into teaching, here I am. I've been teaching here for 7 years and I taught for 3 years at the elementary level. It's my 10th year of teaching.

S: Do you have a favorite memory from teaching?

T: I think it's not just one specific thing; it's when I see a student really discover what they can do and they get very excited about their work. I think that is something that really inspires me as a teacher. It makes me want to go back and do more. Maybe come up with some new ideas or expand the projects I do with students. I work on making the projects bigger than they have been in the past because the feedback I get is that the students felt a bit limited and lacking choices, so I give them more options. I think they become a little bit overwhelmed, but they figure it out. I think, for me, the most memorable moments are when students discover what they're capable of doing and then they just have so much fun with it and that, to me, is a very special thing that's in every grade level.

S: Any funny or wacky things that have happened?

T: Well, yeah...accidents usually. But really funny things? I guess I don't have anything specific. It's more sometimes students will open up a jar of something and it goes flying all over the place and that becomes a moment and that happens whether it's ink or paint or glaze.

S: Yeah, there's that girl in my 3D design class who spills water everyday.

T: It's more accidental stuff that happens for the funny moments. But, it is always fun when I'm teaching and students start to really share their ideas with me. Then we have a lot of fun and crack some jokes and have a good time with it. I don't have anything specific in that regard.

S: Is there a moment when a student has taught you something?

T: Oh my goodness. Yes. Everyday, seriously. Everyday I learn something. Everyday's an adventure. It's like, "Oh my goodness I could do that better," or "Look at what that student did," or "I could never think of that in a million years!" and "How fabulous is that idea." For me, it's also very exciting to see what you guys do when I'm working with you because it's just so much fun to learn something new from my students everyday and that's what keeps me coming back because, otherwise, it would be really boring.

## Why Do So Many Teens Hate Classical Music?

Alix Livermore, Junior Reporter

The majority of teens, or at least the ones I know, do not enjoy classical music. Why? I couldn't tell you. I like classical music, and I'm a kid! Whatever the reason is, it obviously transcends simple matters of taste because the sheer number of young adults that dislike the genre is astounding. In fact, according to the Los Angeles Times, classical music is used all over the country to repel teens from public places: so not only is classical music disliked by the youth of today, but also it is used like bug spray to shoo them away!

Classical music has been a staple of world history for centuries with famous musicians such as Beethoven and Bach composing tremendously popular pieces. So what I want to know is why have pop, rap, and hip-hop completely taken over the charts today and captured the hearts of teens everywhere? Not to say that those genres are in anyway inferior to classical, but it's interesting to consider why the popularity of one has risen at the expense of another. The explanation that classical is boring is not a substantial argument considering the exciting crescendos and dynamic sweeps that characterize a lot of classical concertos. And the lack of words is made up for by the aforementioned characteristics that illustrate emotion and tone as clearly as any lyrics. The thumping beat of rap can be found in a conductor's motions, guiding the constant timing of the music just as in any popular tune created.

An important factor that seems to play a big difference in the loss of interest in classical music is the fact that today's style of dance among young people is very different from what we would have seen in the last few centuries. Rather than the formal setting of a ballroom, dancing has moved to the club and to house parties where dancing has become a very different type of tradition. I suppose it is easier for kids nowadays to meet up and dance in homes rather than take the time to learn the more traditional dances of the past and get to settings where classical music is played. The types of hot trends that blow up on the internet are sometimes new dances, set to the tune of the latest rap or pop song. Yet what's to stop those very same people from jamming out to a nice orchestral piece?

In any case, what I refuse to accept is the stigma that classical music is boring, because if anything, that is the last thing that it is. I understand if you don't like the sound of classical songs, because you are entitled to your opinion, but what I don't understand is the total rejection of the genre as a whole. So, if you are someone who completely disagrees with everything I just said, I'd love to hear your opinion because I really don't understand why such a beautiful style of music has been so utterly rejected by millennials.

## Coco Movie Review

Clara Rapoport, Freshman Reporter

Release date: November 22, 2017

Cast: Anthony Gonzalez, Gael García Bernal, Benjamin Pratt, Alanna Ubach

Director: Lee Unkrich

Summary:

*Coco* is a fun loving story based on the Mexican holiday, Dias de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead. This story shows Miguel, a young boy who loves music and admires his idol who has inspired him, Ernesto de la Cruz, a famous musician from the 30s and 40s. Miguel has trouble showing his love for music, since his family for many generations has banned any type of music from their home. After Miguel's great, great grandfather left his family in the past to become a musician, leaving his wife and child, generations of the family have excluded any form of music from their lives and have been working in shoe-making for many generations since then. One day, when trying to sneak into Ernesto's grave to get his very well-known guitar, he ends up going to the other side, the land of the dead, where Miguel sees many of his past generation relatives, but he can only go back to the living if he follows his great great grandmother's wishes, to never make music again. He refuses this offer and, while trying to leave, finds help from Hector, a man who can't go back to the living on Dias de los Muertos, because no one has a picture of him and very few remember him, except for Coco. Miguel and Hector go through a crazy adventure to help each other, and along the way find out many things neither of them knew before.

Review:

*Coco*, rated 96% by Rotten Tomatoes, is a great one and really surprised me. I thought it would just be another generic Disney movie, but it amazed me for many reasons. First of all were the graphics; for example, the Land of the Dead was so detailed and colorful. I was surprised at how just one image could be so detailed.

Another strength of the movie is its plot and how it was able to swing the viewer's emotions back and forth. Most people, including myself, cried during some parts and laughed at others. There were so many plot twists, too, which did not let you sit still in your seat. Even the characters were very detailed and showed a lot of emotions. Each character, living or dead, had their own personality. The whole movie took six years to make, which is one of the longest time periods for making a movie for Pixar. This made sense once I saw *Coco*. The director, Lee Unkrich, said he was so inspired by the real life holiday of Dias de los Muertos, that he was just sure he had to make a movie about it. "The true beauty of the holiday began to emerge for me," said Unkrich. "I started to see the true potential to tell a unique story that could be big and adventurous and visually dazzling, but also have a solid, emotional core to it."

I recommend *Coco* to everyone. It may seem like it is just a kid's movie, but people of all ages can see it any time. The one hour and 49 minutes of the movie would be time very well spent. It is never too late to watch it. If you like good, warm-hearted movies, then take a trip to the Land of the Dead and see *Coco*.

## Winter Runners

Kristy Twaalfhoven, Junior Reporter

When the snow falls, the treadmill calls.

The first snow often scares runners away from the road and inside to the treadmill. As winter sets in, the mild running days of autumn are replaced by brisk winds, icy streets, and gloomy, gray skies. For outdoor runners, the cold brings numb fingers, snow crowding the sidewalks, and snow-blurred vision. Meanwhile, snowfall doesn't affect the condition of your favorite treadmill at the gym, where the temperature is perfectly maintained at your convenience. It's not surprising that people choose the treadmill over running out in New England winters - the indoors are well within our comfort zone. But, as someone who runs outdoors year-round, I encourage all indoor-runners to be a little more daring.

We all know that exercise enhances both our mental and physical health. However, there are countless studies showing that outdoor exercise provides much greater benefits than indoor exercise. During the winter in New England, it's easy to go through a day to day routine without entering out into the natural light of day. Many people have a house-work-gym-house schedule, where the only time they take a breath of fresh air is when walking from the house to the car and back again. But, if those people substitute the treadmill run at the gym for a run outside, that adds a sufficient chunk of time in daylight, breathing in the crisp, fresh air, to your daily schedule. Running year-round also improves adaptability. We learn to acclimatize to any conditions, and at the same time, we build mental toughness. Going for a run takes motivation on its own. But forcing yourself out the door into the snow for a long run, away from the cozy comfort of a trusty treadmill, takes a plethora of willpower, and a whole lot of grit. Consequently, winter runners are the toughest of the tough. The familiar saying, "when the going gets tough, the tough get going," is especially applicable when it comes to winter running. Lastly, consider the feeling of accomplishment after a long run outside versus a long run inside. When I come home after a run outside in sub-freezing temperatures, I feel rather impressive, and my rosy red cheeks are proof of the challenge I have just overcome. I feel more deserving of a hot shower, snug sweatpants, and warm cup of tea than had I run inside in an easy, monitored running environment. The cold weather does come with risks. For example, we are more likely to lose the feeling in our hands, to face tight muscles at the beginning of a run, and for tears to collect in our eyes from the frigid wind gusts. But taking the risk and learning to adjust to new (sometimes extreme) conditions makes us stronger runners, and more versatile as individuals.

I dare you: brave the cold. Buy some quality sports gloves, perhaps an Under Armour and ear warmers. Prepare to join the tough-runners community. And who knows, you may learn to love a snowy run! The roads and trails are awaiting; now it's up to you. Are you tough enough to be a winter runner?

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