



Pack a Punch Contest Entries

Gabriel, 12, Utah ~ Finalist

#1

Dear Rainbow Magazine,

I love reading your magazine each month. My family owns a Volkswagen Beetle and we like to play slug bug on family road trips. Every time, I would be the one to spot out the most Bugs on every trip.

But when I read your poem "The Disappearing Beetle" I was devastated. If the poem you're making is actually true, will the Bugs vanish from the road forever?

The Volkswagen Bugs have always been my favorite car. If they disappear, then maybe I can't play the slug bug game anymore. Moreover, I will not have a dream car to purchase! My life will be ruined if the Bugs disappear! Is your poem true or not?

Your Bug loving friend,
Billy H.

Bug loving Billy,

I got your letter talking about our poem “The Disappearing Beetle.” I want to say to you that the poem is partially true. Now, I know it’s hard saying that it’s partially true. But don’t worry, I will have the reasons in the next paragraph.

Now why the answer is half true is because the nature of Volkswagen is to bring back their classic and famous vehicles. For example, in 2020 they are bringing back their bus, like the green bus from Disney-Pixar’s “Cars,” because it’s just the tradition.

The other half is true. Beetle sales have been declining this year. The Beetle is a famous car and still ever more popular. It was used by the Nazis in World War II and soon enough it became a people car. I know that car means a lot to you and it does to a lot of people. Who knows? Maybe one day Volkswagen will bring back its iconic automobile. And you, my friend might have your dream car back in the lot.

Best Wishes,

Quincy T. (Editor of “Rainbow Magazine”)

#2

Dear Mr. Editor,

I love reading your magazine every month. I have a collection of your magazines because I use them to read to myself when I get bored. Your magazine is the best magazine in the world in my opinion!

My favorite issue was the one about cars. I have been curious about the future of cars ever since I read your issue. I was wondering something: What are self-driving cars? This type of car has been intriguing to me. I wonder if there are any self-driving cars in the world? Can you help me answer this question, please?

Yours Truly,
Arin Moles

Ms. Arin,

I got your letter in the mail. Thank you for subscribing to our magazine. We really appreciate it.

Now you chose the right person to write to. I give advice to curious readers like you who have this question. Self-driving vehicles can be sedans, SUVs, minivans, vans, pickup trucks, etc. that do not require humans to take control and operate their vehicle safely. Instead the car does it for them. How does the car do this? Take Google’s prototype cars for example. These cars use lasers, radars, high-powered cameras and sonar technology. Software then processes the inputs of the artsy-fartsy futuristic material, plots a path, and then sends the instructions to the car’s “actuator.” The car’s “actuator” controls the acceleration, braking, and the steering. Strict coded rules, algorithms that are used to avoid obstacles, predictive modeling, and knowing the difference between objects helps the software follow traffic laws and navigate around obstacles.

There are partially self-driving cars right now so that means a human needs to step in if the car encounters uncertainty. Fully self-automated cars are ones that can drive completely by

themselves. Some fully self-automated cars don't even offer a steering wheel. Check out Tesla or Waymo for more information on the future of fully self-automated cars.

Sincerely,
Quincy Tromohausen

James H., 11, Texas

Hello, my name is Larry Licker and I am six. My real name is Larry Jones, but I have a habit of licking blocks of salt for goats. But the reason I am writing to you is that your magazine about mythology has nothing to do with goats!

Why would you ruin a perfectly good magazine? For some reason while I am writing this, my big brother Levi is laughing about something. He also is trying to tell me the difference between livestock and mythology, but I know that there is no difference!

Despite the lack of goats, I liked your poem about Troy. It was such a funny poem, I nearly fell of my bed! Would you please think about making a poem on salt lick, or about livestock?

Your main goat farming kid,
Larry "Licker" Jones.

Hello! My name is James, and I am the editor of the magazine. I am so glad that you like my magazine! However, I am so sorry that you didn't find enough goats in the magazine.

As a small child I loved salt ,too. Occasionally I would shake the saltshaker on my hand, then I would lick the salt off. Also, on my last trip to Tractor Supply, my little brother wanted to know if he could lick the salt blocks.

I don't know about a poem on goats, but I could do a poem on goat men. These half goat half men were in Greek and Roman mythology, known as Fauns and Satyrs. Also, I believe that livestock might not be about mythology, but that is just a thought.

Have a nice salt lick,
James H.

Lily-anne H., 13, Prince Edward Island

DEAR EDITOR,

I have been receiving your "Chicken Corner" magazines for the past 3 years, and have enjoyed every one. The contents are extremely interesting, they are inspiring me to look at chickens differently, like the way they relate to me. I have 10 chickens currently, and used to have 15. They live in our old chicken-coop, and I let them out during the day. One day, I went into my chicken coop, and heard a big racket. Five of my chickens' heads had mysteriously disappeared. Otherwise, their bodies seemed unharmed. Do you have any ideas what happened? Thank you very much!

Sincerely,
Polly Trudgery (Age 12)

MISS POLLY TRUDGERY

Thank you for the letter of encouragement. In your letter you asked me about your headless chickens. Your chicken coop has a role in this, there are some (1+) holes in your coop, where a weasel, mink, etc. can fit in. One of them has visited your flock. That is surprising they didn't get your whole flock. You mentioned they made a big racket when you came in. The creature got in at night, and then when it heard you it skedaddled, not yet through all your chickens, conveniently for you! To make sure this doesn't happen again, check the entire coop, top to bottom, for the tiniest hole, (or big hole) and securely attach wood or sturdy wire to any holes found.

Editor,
Lily-anne

Josiah C., 11, Singapore

To the editor of the worst magazine in the world (!),

I HATE your issues SO much! My brother reads them EVERY DAY! He knows about EVERY SINGLE CAR IN THE WHOLE WORLD thanks to you! EVERY DAY I hear quotes, and opinions, and facts that I have no interest in what-so-ever. I know, poor me. Will you PLEASE stop making them!!!!

Yours (in disgust)

SINCERELY, Gertrude

Little miss-car-hater,

I take your letter as a compliment. It is very heartwarming to know that someone loves my issues so much that they would share their knowledge with other people! As for your last request, I now feel I should work even harder to produce my issues. Hopefully one day you will read and enjoy them too.

Yours sincerely,

Josiah

Jayna D., 13, California

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am simply appalled by your magazine *Sugar and Spice*. In your last issue there was included a recipe (Woe!) that no young lad or lass should ever place their hands upon. It was such an awful, taste bud-threatening recipe... Well, here is my tale: I had just received my latest issue of *Sugar and Spice* and, upon reading the delightful content within, spied a particular "Spice Filled Chili" recipe. Since my large pantry is continuously stocked with canned goods such as beans in case of an earthquake, and because I am always one who enjoys a nice chili, I decided to make the fateful recipe. Woe! Oh, if I had not seen those cookery instructions! As I crafted this chili, I was surprised when it called for numerous amounts of spicy things: 2 cups of Sriracha, 4 whole jalapeños, and 5 tablespoons of chili powder. I paid no heed to those massive amounts. Oh, woe is me! When I tasted that horrid chili, my poor taste buds were rapidly singed right from my tongue! My frantic screams echoed throughout the neighborhood as I tried to stop the painful burning. Let me save you from more horrid descriptions as you most likely understand what I am telling you. You HORRID, HORRID people! How DARE you include such a recipe in your magazine! I am enraged! You shall pay my expensive doctors bills for my poor tongue! And know, editors, that I shall truly resign my dutiful subscription shortly hereafter. Woe to those who use that recipe!

Your horrified customer,

Lady Mary-Anne Augusta III

Miss Augusta III,

I sincerely apologize for the discomfort and frustration our “Spice Filled Chili” recipe has caused you. Our team here at *Sugar and Spice* will be deeply disappointed to lose one of our faithful subscribers. I have reviewed the recipe in question and concluded that you might have been too vigorous in your spicing. Spice, when overdone, can ruin the taste of the dish you are cooking. The recipe for “Spice Filled Chili” called for a tablespoon of Sriracha, 2 whole jalapeños (seeds removed,) and 3 teaspoons of chili powder. I am afraid that you might have misread our instructions in the recipe, causing the chili to be unusually spicy. Because your discomfort was caused by a simple exaggeration of the amounts and not the actual recipe, *Sugar and Spice* shall decline to reimburse you for your doctor’s bills. We shall, however, offer you a free month’s subscription if you are interested to continue receiving *Sugar and Spice*. We hope you consider our offer and we apologize for your spice fiasco.

Sincerely, Robert Digoly
Editor in Chief *Sugar and Spice* magazine

Lydia C., 14, Minnesota

Dear Madam (If you are dear to anyone),

Your magazine shows up in my mailbox every month, unwanted! It is filled with ungraceful things like jokes, information, and terrible, fascinating articles on all kinds of things! You make my husband read, of all pastimes. When I picked up your magazine last week (to throw it in the trash, of course) I couldn’t help but notice that you spelled “grey” wrong, and decided I must look into it and see if you made any other horrific grammatical errors. I found that in the article on page 32 about your adventures with squirrels you mentioned that you used to have a swing set in your backyard. But you did not tell us what happened to it. I am- I mean, your very unwise readers are dying to know what became of your swings, so I would recommend you tell about that in your next issue. Not that I will be reading it, of course. Although I suppose if I have gone to the work of writing you at all, you won’t have to cancel my subscription until next month, just so I-my husband will be able to answer the questions that have been pestering my mind for a week. Also, on page 26 you have a poem about making s’mores. You made a huge mistake in that cinquain you said your marshmallow was golden brown! Marshmallows should never be golden brown. You should stick them straight into the fire to smolder for a while, then roll them in the ashes, obviously. Doesn’t anyone know how to cook a s’more these days?

Sincerely, your devoted scorners,

Ms. Edith Brown

Ms. Edith Brown,

We appreciate your time and concern over our grammar, but I assure you you will find no mistakes. Our proofreaders are as thorough as you. As for your comment about the word “grey”, there is no right or wrong way to spell it! And now, to tell you a little bit about my swing set. The swingset was small and simple, but my siblings and I had many adventures on it. We rode horses on the swings, passed strenuous tests on the monkey bars, and spotted pirates from the ship’s mast. It was our place of safety when the whole backyard was an ocean, it was a place of fear when the leader told you to walk the plank. The swing set had always been old and creaky, and shook anytime you rocked the swings. My whole family was waiting for the next big storm to sweep it off the ground and drop it again, or the wind to simply blow it over. But the swingset held its ground. However, it was still shaky and deemed unsafe by my mother, so eventually we took it down ourselves, though we will never forget the fun we had on it. So here is your answer, Ms. Brown, and I hope you enjoy reading it—to your husband, of course.

Sincerely, Lydia C.

Elisabeth H., 14, North Dakota ~ 1st Place

Dear Editor,

My name is Timmy, and I am 10 years old! I absolutely LOVE your magazine!!! Every time it’s my turn for Show-and-Tell, I bring in the latest issue! In fact, you have inspired me to start my own magazine about living in the city!

Unfortunately, however, I have a confession to make! I have done something terribly awful, and I didn’t even realize it!!!! LAST MONTH, I COPIED EVERY SINGE PAGE OF YOUR MAGAZINE AND DISTRIBUTED THE COPPIES TO EVERYONE I KNOW!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! I was just so excited, because I want all my friends to enjoy your magazine too!!! I didn’t realize there were copyright laws until my teacher called me to her desk, showed me the copy I gave her, and explained about the said laws!!! I was shocked!!!!!! In fact, I swooned and fell face first into her lap!!! (It was kind of embarrassing.)

In order to fix my mistake, I have enclosed all the money I have! Is it enough to pay for any losses you may have suffered? If not, I will quit school, find a full-time job, and hopefully make enough money to pay you back!

Once again, I am SUPER sorry!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! You can sue me, or do whatever you want; my life is in your hands!

With A LOT of regret,
Timmy P. John

Dear Editor,

My grandma ordered your magazine for me, but I don't like it. She says it is educational, but I don't think so. I think you write with lots of mistakes all the time.

You have all your information wrong. you talked about giant tractors in your last issue and there was a picture, but you have to be lying! Tractors can't have ten wheels. I know because I saw it in a book. They can only have four I bet you photoshopped the picture to look impressive.

It's is also boring. I don't want to hear about farming and stuff in the country! That's for boring adults to read. I want to hear about interesting things! Why don't you write about dogs and cats? They are much more cuter than tractors.

I am going to stop getting this magazine if you don't talk about dogs and tacs. You should call the magazine a Fluffy World: the Cutes animals. If you take my advise you will make more money.

Your wise and inteligent adviser,
Victoria S. Shrineburgson

Bree G., 15, Alberta

Al Funcoot

2364 Rowdy Road

Winnipeg, Winkler

(411) 364-0185

notreallycountolaf@innocentcitizen.com

Thursday, January 8th, 1998

Lemony Snicket

833 Articulate Alley

Terrible Town, Stickler

(833) 541-3307

comparativelyinnocent@volunteer.com

Dear Mr. Snicket,

I feel that I must write to you regarding your magazine. Your tales of the Baudelaire orphans are nothing but lies. I have met these children myself, and they are nothing but a nuisance. You claim that they are polite, though they are quite rude. You also claim that they are kind and well-behaved. This isn't true either.

They are selfish kids that have only weakened V.F.D.'s structure. They care only about themselves. The Baudelaires are not innocent children. Violet, Klaus, and Sunny have set many fires, have broken many laws, and have lied to and betrayed many innocent people. They are brutal criminals and should be treated as such, and turned in to the proper authorities!

Please quit spreading your slanderous lies, and rewrite your magazine entirely, or discontinue it. This magazine is misleading to many innocent civilians.

Sincerely,

Al Funcoot

Lemony Snicket
833 Rowdy Road
Terrible Town, Stickler
(833) 541-3307
comparativelyinnocent@volunteer.com

Monday, January 12th, 1998

Al Funcoot
2364 Articulate Alley
Winnipeg, Winkler
(411) 364-0185
notreallycountolaf@innocentcitizen.com

Dear Mr. Funcoot,

Thank you for approaching my magazine with your complaints. However, you do not fool me with your name. Your name Al Funcoot is an anagram of the name "Count Olaf". The word anagram being a phrase which here means "a word, phrase or name formed by the rearranging of letters". The Baudelaire orphans have done nothing wrong.

Due to their unfortunate circumstances, on several occasions the Baudelaires, although kind and noble people, have had to commit some questionable acts. My years of research disprove your beliefs of them being horrible people who have caused harm to many others. They have always done everything in their power to help noble people, but they were unfortunate enough to be pursued by you, and had to do horrible things due to these unfortunate circumstances.

You, however, Count Olaf, have committed a great many murders and set a great many fires, all without remorse. Your only reason you have ever given to justify your actions is you feel that it is your only option. You were once a very noble man, but you have strayed from being a noble volunteer to becoming nothing but a criminal.

Please think more about your own actions before considering kind orphans to be wicked. They have done nothing the way you said they did, and they deserve to have themselves heard properly through my magazine. I will continue writing my issues the way I have been writing them, as I would like the public to hear only the truth. The truth being a word that you disrespect greatly, and try to hide from at every opportunity.

With all due respect,

Lemony Snicket

P.S., You really should just turn yourself in for your crimes. Though I highly doubt you will.

John Peter Q., 13, Pennsylvania

Dear Editor,

I am short on time, in writing this letter of utmost importance, so I hope you feel quite honored in receiving such a courteous letter from one of your devoted readers and overcharged subscribers, but your pricing is merely yet another problem for another day. My purpose in writing to you this day is that you be sufficiently warned of a matter on which I will elaborate shortly.

The matter which I bring before you today is that of the discussion of the character and goodwill of your columnist Caleb Whiznewsy, in his article costuming today, I clearly recall the threat inlaid in his text thus; "...So help me, I will not rest until I see the day when not one reader of this magazine will wake up the next morning..."

I wish to make myself perfectly clear on this point; I will not hesitate, upon the occasion that he begins to even make a pretense of approaching me threateningly, to call the police and have him hanged that very day, with no qualms on my part, whatsoever, I assure you!

Your over-charged subscriber,
Fearfully determined,
Sassafras Whiznewsy

P.S. It would be much appreciated on my part if you would at once fire Tornado Caleb Whiznewsy.

Dear Miss Sassafras,

I am grateful for the time and thought you dedicated to the improvement of my magazine and the refinement of my writers' characters. However, after a brief discussion of the aforementioned columnist Caleb Whiznewsy, it became apparent that you were, in fact, his sister. Therefore, I hope you will not mind my imprudence and bluntness in answering no to your request to fire your brother for righting an article on bringing costuming to the whole world, that when strung together out of context can barely be construed as a threat. I know this is quite a stretch; but I can hardly afford to let my best journalist go. And, just to ease your mind, the full passage which you felt threatened by was;

"If I end up fortunate enough to have an even a slight excess of money, so help me, I will not rest until I see the day when not one reader of this magazine will wake up the next morning of a day in which a single infant is born into a family without knowledge of the art of costuming."

I hope this will clear matters up between you and your brother but if not, that is not my business. Running the risk of repeating myself, I hardly think that your brother's dedication to spreading the art of costuming is worth firing, much less arresting, him.

Sincerely,
Editor

Clinton M., 12, New Zealand

dear madim

my daghter gots them magazens of yours and I is apaled at your puntuation and thigs in them and what kinds of magazens doesnt even have there full stops and thingys right and my daughter from reading them have got bad writing skills and it be very not good enuff that you be able to wrote there things and let innisent pople read them. what is the world coming to if persons don't even know any basecs of skills of puntuation and if thats nat bad enuff they be wroting them in magazine thigs and I will not live with it and if you do not up your stuff you shall got no more money from me for your thingys

sincely
mrs. crabb

Dear Mrs. Crabb

We are truly sorry that you do not find our grammar and punctuation adequate. We can assure you that in the future we will put the utmost care in making sure that they are at a top standard

Sincerely

Summer M.

Camryn G., 14, Alberta

Dear Editor of *Human Happenings* magazine,

My name is Aly, queen of the Cavitica. Your magazines have always been highly sought after by our colony. Our larvae in particular are the most voracious readers of your magazine. They're all just so interested in your magazine's research and efforts to educate ant society on the happenings of humans in order to protect antkind.

Recently, this interest has become even stronger. Inside of the colony there has been a trend in young ants craving a "different life". Not the typical "different life" that larvae are known for thinking of: the life of a resendibite or a "time-traveller" as some like to call them. These young ants want to *research humans*, for your magazine and for the sake of antkind itself.

I know that these larvae will never truly be a part of our colony with this daring dream so strong in their hearts. With these ants you could have *loyal*, competent workers; competent because they want your magazine to succeed. I'm writing to you today, to recommend some of these young ants. We hope you will consider taking them under your queen's wings.

Recommended Ants:

Aro Cavitica: A female larvae who loves your magazines. She reads and rereads them daily. She practices her stealth skills so she can spy on humans in the interest of your magazine. She's dedicated her whole life to stealth training so she can be one of you.

Atu Cavitica: Atu Cavitica is so determined to be a part of your crew, she broke into *Human Happenings* Headquarters when she was still an egg! She somehow made her way to the front desk disguised as an adult ant with the help of leaves and sticks to obtain an interview. Her disguise was so convincing, she was only caught because her language skills were underdeveloped.

I hope you will consider these young ants' aspirations and allow them to serve on your Magazine's crew. I am confident they can assist you in your objective to stop the ghastly squishing of ants your magazine aims to stop. The Cavitica colony, and all of antkind is cheering you on.

Sincerely,

Aly Cavitica

Dear Aly Cavitica,

Hello! My name cannot be disclosed, but I am so glad to learn the identity of the egg that got past our level 5 security! All of us are looking forward to meeting Atu Cavitica, she is hired on the *spot*. She has the skills needed to hold an extremely important position in our magazine, which we can't disclose.

Any other ants who want to apply should send applications directly to Vorrbyn Colony 4 RT ago (before the Vorrbyn Colony was stepped on) through standard time travel. Thank you for supporting our magazine and its cause!

Sincerely,

Assistant Editor of *Human Happenings* Magazine whose name cannot be disclosed.

Note: The position *Human Happenings* has in mind for Atu Cavitica is to implement new technology to transform an ant into human form to infiltrate human society.

Hannah W., 12, Rhode Island

Dear Ma'm,

I'm in love with your magazine! Every time an issue comes, I scream with absolute joy. I've been obsessed with Descendants since the start! I am the first & most devoted fan. I've read all the books, junior and graphic novels, seen every movies billions of times, memorized every line, song, movement, and look. I have everything Descendants! I've always wished there was more. Are they going to make any more Descendants movies or books? I wish they would! Anyway, when I found out you were making a Descendants magazine I danced around my house & school singing and screaming all day, and I subscribed right away! When the first issue finally came in, I hugged my mailman so hard, I think he almost puked. I keep precise track of when the magazine is coming in, so I always know what day the magazine is coming on. The second time he came with the magazine, he planned on coming up to the house, dropping the mail in the yard and run away. But, I was waiting for him. I ambushed him when he climbed out of his truck. He handed over my magazine quickly, but he still had to deliver the rest of our mail. Now when he brings the magazine, he steps out and away from the truck, with his hands up. I run up to him and snatch my magazine from where it sits on the dash. Then I run back inside and avidly read it! Thank you so, so, so much for the magazine!

A suggestion for the magazine: Each issue features a character! Starting with Carlos!!!!!! He. Is. The. Best!!!!!! Also, what is Dove Cameron like?!

Thanks for all of your crazy amazing magazines that I attack my mailman for,
Jilly Cazban

Dear Miss Cazban,

I received your letter of the 10th. Thank you for being a loyal and avid fan. At this time Disney is not planning on a fourth Descendants movie, nor is Mrs. Cruz planning on more books. I'm glad you enjoy the magazines. Your letter is one of many fan letters we receive a month, so you are not alone in your love of the magazine. You are also, quite surprisingly, not alone in attacking your mailman. Perhaps all our readers should go easier on the mailmen so they can relax. In answer to your question about Miss Cameron; she is amazing. I had the privilege of meeting her when I began the magazine, and it was a great experience.

Thank you for your suggestion of starring a character in each magazine. I will pass it along to the writers along with all the other hundreds of suggestions. If I remember correctly, you are about the 23rd person to have made the suggestion, each one requesting to start with a different character. Perhaps if more readers make the suggestion, our writers will consider it.

Thanks for writing,

Kathy Swam

Madison C., 12, California

Dear Madam,

I am your #1 fan! I love all the "DANCE!" magazine issues, especially the ones about musical theater and tap. I really enjoy your step by step tutorials on how to do interesting dance steps like a la seconde turns. Since I have a subscription for your magazine, I get to show off a new dance move and get to teach it to all my friends each month. I will have a subscription for "DANCE" magazine for as long as they continue to be manufactured.

The one thing that I would suggest would be that you add in a dancing on Broadway article. You can incorporate things like what an audition is like for something so prestigious, or incorporate what is it like at a rehearsal, and write about the twelve year old who is so in love with your articles and requested an ingenious article idea etc... Until then, I will keep subscribing.

Your #1 fan,
Madison Cuda

Miss Cuda,

I have received your letter. I'm glad that you enjoy our issues so much. From subscribers like you, we will be able to continue manufacturing more issues. The crew and I love when we receive fan letters and requests from our subscribers. The feedback lets us know what we need to do to make our subscribers satisfied with our issues.

In regards to your request, the crew and I will definitely discuss and consider the idea of a "dancing on Broadway" article. Unfortunately, we are unable to write about our beloved subscribers because of privacy laws. But, if we do decide to create an issue with the theme "dancing on Broadway", I will make sure to send you the issue as soon as possible. We appreciate your request and any more that you send.

Sincerely yours,
Editor

Jennaya C., 13, Ontario ~ Finalist

Dear Madam,

I read in your latest issue of Fantastic Fowl that chickens generally get along fine with each other, though there is usually a bully in the flock. I have noticed some bullying in my flock, but it's most of my hens bullying each other, not just one bullying the rest! They yank each others combs for no reason that I can see, and when I tweak their tails to try to stop them, what do they do? They run away and peck someone else! There must be some mistake in your magazine. It seems that in a flock of 12 chickens, 12 of them are bullies. I suggest that you correct that article about 1 bully in a flock immediately so as not to mislead other readers, and, to make up for me giving you that suggestion and bothering to read your magazines at all, you can answer this: what can I do to reduce pecking in my flock?

Or I may just end my subscription.

Sincerely,
Joan Peeve

Miss Peeve,

I received your letter, and I understand your frustration. It is true that I did write an article concerning the subject of having just one bully in the flock, and I still believe it is true. However, your experience with comb-pecking chickens is not unusual. In fact, it is very normal. Though it may seem a chicken pecks another for no reason, it turns out that chickens have a hierarchy, and must keep their place in it. The higher in status a chicken is, the better things she gets, like first pick at treat time, the best nesting box, and so on. So when it seems to a chicken that a hen lower in the pecking order (as it's called) than her is getting a bit rebellious, a quick peck usually puts her back in her place. The bullies are the ones that peck excessively. There is no way of reducing

the amount of pecking in a day, when it comes to higher chickens pecking lower ones, so just let your chickens be when they peck, because it's part of their way of life, and the yankings rarely damage a hen's comb.

Sincerely,
J. Peach

Tessa S., 13, Nova Scotia ~ Finalist

Not dear Sir,

This is Hera, queen of the gods. I am writing you in the form of a complaint. How dare you say such awful things about me. I will have you know that I am nowhere near as evil as you make me sound. Why, I only torture the annoying mortals a little bit. And as for the ones that I did kill, well, they deserved it! The Nhyads had it coming to them, flirting with my husband. I only burnt down a few of their forests. And they should be more careful of their trees being so flammable. Take back everything you said or the forests won't be the only thing burning.

Yours NOT sincerely,
Hera, queen of the gods

P. S. I'd watch my step if I were you

Hera,

I am sorry that you are offended by the things I wrote in the article. However those things were all very honest and direct quotes. For you to tell me to remove the things I said is an interruption of free speech. So I

This is the new editor. Before our ex-editor could finish writing this letter he was mysteriously turned into a bug. Hera, please forgive us. The entire magazine team wants to apologize.

Sincerely,
Tessa (new editor)

P.S. Please do not turn me into a bug.

Faith L., 12, California

Dear, Miss Faith

My name is Ichabod Tiggywiggle. Your magazine is fascinating, I have one question though. How is it possible for miss Lori's horse to know what she's feeling? I can't believe horses can sense emotions!

I am terribly allergic to cats and dogs, so I've only ever owned a goldfish, and goldfish obviously can't sense emotion. The goldfish died two days after getting him. That did not help my emotions one bit! My fish had strict diet of pop rocks and coco puffs. I wonder what went wrong. If you could write back telling me how to take care of goldfish my mom said she would get me a new one (after the incident with num nums).

I love your magazine if I could have a dog or cat I would look in the section about cats and dogs to know what they like and how to take care of them. I do have chickens. I read about your Chicken Dust Bath Resort of Ramona. I loved the idea of pampering my chickens so much that I took my chickens Princess Lay-a and Hen Solo. They had the time of their lives. Now they go in for a spa treatment every month! Please keep sending me issues of the new magazines that come out, then I'll read up on how to take care of goldfish.

Sincerely,

Ichabod Tiggywiggle

Dear Mr. Tiggywiggle,

I am delighted to hear that you appreciate my magazine. I agree, it seems incredible that horses can sense human emotions. I was surprised myself when I interviewed Ms. Piedra for the article. It made me so curious that I did some research on the subject. I discovered that studies show horses can synchronize their heart rate to their riders and trainers when they work together. According to an article called "*Horses can Read Human Facial Expressions*" in the science section of the Atlantic, "Domestic horses respond to the tiniest change in tone of voice, quality of touch, or stiffness of their rider's body." It went on to quote a study which showed the horses heart rates would change based on the facial expression of the humans they were most familiar with.

I'm sorry to hear about your allergies to cats and dogs. Perhaps a companion horse is just what you may need. I do believe that fishy flakes from Walmart are a far superior diet than pop rocks and cocoa puffs for most swimming creatures. I shiver to think of what your tank cleaning chores must've been like. Give my kindest regards to Princess Lay-A and Hen Solo.

Sincerely,

Faith L.

Editor in Chief

Domestic Animals Magazine

Gabriel C., 14, Ontario

Dear Sir,

The last time I bought a new lawn mower was twelve years ago, and after reading your extremely positive report about on the Cub Cadet 163cc Self Propelled lawn mower last month, I decided that it was time for a new one.

Then, later on in the issue you revealed that Cub Cadets are just “MTDs in disguise”, and so, seeing as the Cubs are so much more expensive then the MTDs, with basically the same parts, I went for a MTD Gold 163cc Self -Propelled mower instead, assuming that I would get the same results.

I was wrong.

It's a hassle to run, feels underpowered, and is incredibly ugly, (if I may say so myself) having nothing Gold about it at all.

Could you please clarify the difference between these two brands for me?

Sincerely,
Charles S. Redmond

Mr. Redmond,

I apologize for my exaggeration. It is true that many parts Cub Cadet uses for their mowers are MTD parts, but there is at least one major difference that defines Cub Cadet and its machines. It is described in one word.

That word is QUALITY.

Cub Cadet may be owned by MTD, but operates independently to some degree, and has to make their own money. They make their own engines, or use engines from Quality companies like the legendary Honda (which I'm willing to guess your old mower was for lasting more than a decade) and build exceptional machines around it using MTD parts. They also cater to Canadian customers and rank up with the big names in yard care.

MTD on the other hand is a better parts supplier than a machine assembler, and does not rely on their few models for income. Instead they supply the companies under their roof, and rake in the money. Their mowers are cheap machines despite the Gold stuck in the title, and they try to save money in many ways (including not giving their machines very good facials) unfortunately sacrificing Quality for cost.

Being a professional I would advise that you spend a little more and buy a machine that lasts. The times are changing and with so many new companies popping up right and left (many of which are using MTD parts) I think we should stick with the tried and true brands that have never failed us.

So I should probably change that sentence to “Cub Cadets are just highly refined MTDs”.

Yours,
George SaeRon

Hudson K., 13, California

Dear Editor,

I know you own and edit the most popular magazine on the planet, but your awards predictions for the 2019-2020 NBA season are absolutely absurd! Since when did Kyrie Irving win mvp! He's never even been in the top three! I know he just moved to a new team, but he got more playing time in Boston. I highly suggest a more reliable superstar like...Hmm...I don't know, maybe LEBRON JAMES? Also, I know Luke Kennard is decent, but he's not getting rookie of the year, obviously, because he's not even a rookie! That is a huge mistake in the magazine. I might just cancel my subscription if this stuff keeps going on. Although the easiest way to fix this and other mistakes is to fire yourself and hire me as editor. Now that I think about it, I'll call the president and ask. (30 minutes later) Well, pack your bags! I'm the new editor and owner of this magazine!

Not so sincerely,

Sherm Sherm

Timothy C., 12, California

Dear Zach Maserati,

I was so impressed by how well you described fencing for me! Right after I read your magazine, the first thing I did was beg my strict mom if I may join a fencing club. And after two weeks of begging, my mom finally gave in! It's exactly what you said! It was difficult and boring at first, but eventually, I began to like it! I'm in foil, and yesterday was my first tournament. It was only a foil tournament and pretty small compared to the tournaments you've mentioned. I don't know

how you do it, but I didn't get a 3rd place in my first tournament. I felt like quitting, but I remembered that you talked about perseverance, and guess what? I got 1st place in my next tournament! I tried to do what you did: trip over nothing. In addition, I attempted to work out like you, but I couldn't even do a single push up! My legs are complete jell-O. After running a 15 minute mile, I literally could not fence for a week. I heard that you are starting a new you-tube channel, so I'm taking my chances. I think you should make a video of 'How to do 100 push-ups in a minute' or 'How to run a 6 minute mile.' I know it sounds like these suggestions are dedicated to me, but it's definitely not. **I** need to be strong and skillful for my future fencing, so please do a video to help **me**. I'd be the first to watch it. (and that's a +1 view for you).

Your new best friend,
And +1 viewer,
Fencoe Phomcer

Dear Fencoe Phomcer,

I'm so glad to know that someone in this football/basketball/baseball/soccer world, started fencing, especially in foil. You see, foil is the medium rare for fencing because epee is slower than foil, and sabre includes the same complicated rules. So essentially, you can switch to either one! I(f you desire!) I'm also glad that you remembered to persevere. I remember one of my coaches was losing a bout in sabre with a score of 2-8, but endured and didn't let his opponent to score any more points then ended up winning, 15-8. Just remember to continue to practice perseverance.

I can sense that you admire me so much that you'd take almost any advice you receive from me, so here it is. Don't be like me, be yourself. Especially never try to trip over nothing, because one, it's almost impossible, and two, I ended up losing that bout.

When I first started fencing, I was exceedingly obese, and always ran 1 mile with a result of 17 minutes or more. I couldn't even lift myself from my bed, so I simply rolled off it... It's true I'm starting a new you-tube channel, and was actually thinking exactly about the same things you suggested. I'll most likely do videos like that for my first posts because I myself couldn't do almost any exercise when I first started fencing. If my decisive decision decides to decide that, then I'll mail you 2 days before I ever post anything related to what you "read" in my mind.

Sincerely,
Zach Mazerati