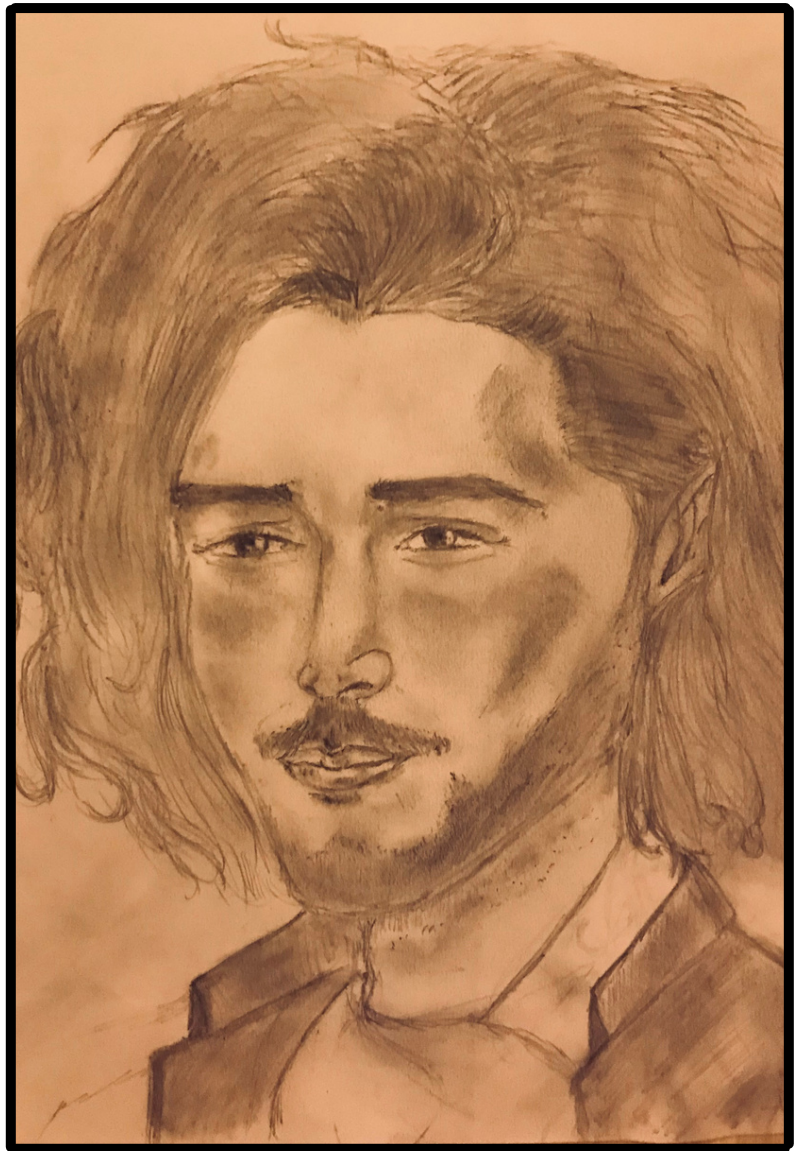


# Chicklit Spring 2021



**Dragon eye,  
by Miren Donegan**



**Hozier, by Oisin Wernick**

Hello and welcome to the spring edition of Chicklit! I tried a new format for this one, so I hope you enjoy it :)  
Theo, editor



**By Niamh Donegan**

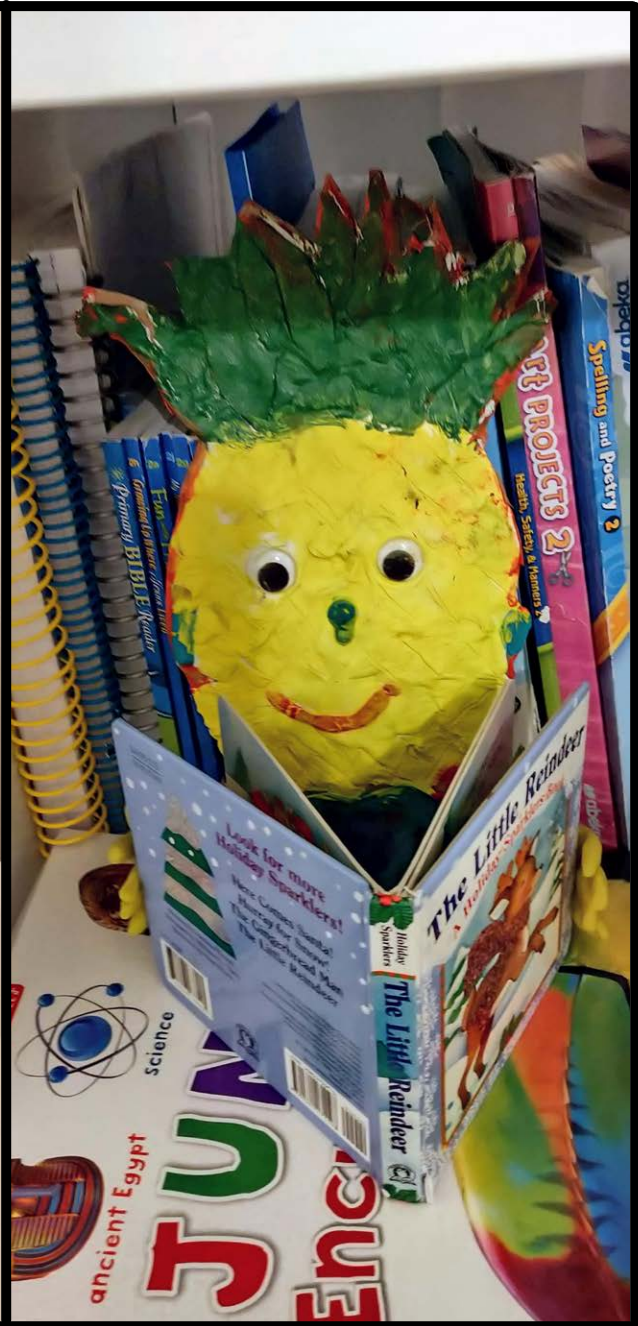


**By Aimee, age 11**

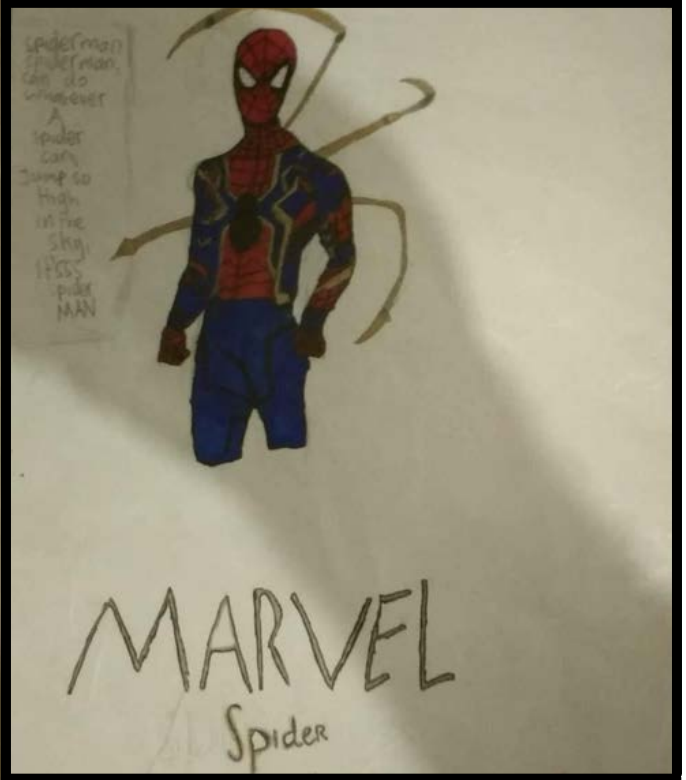
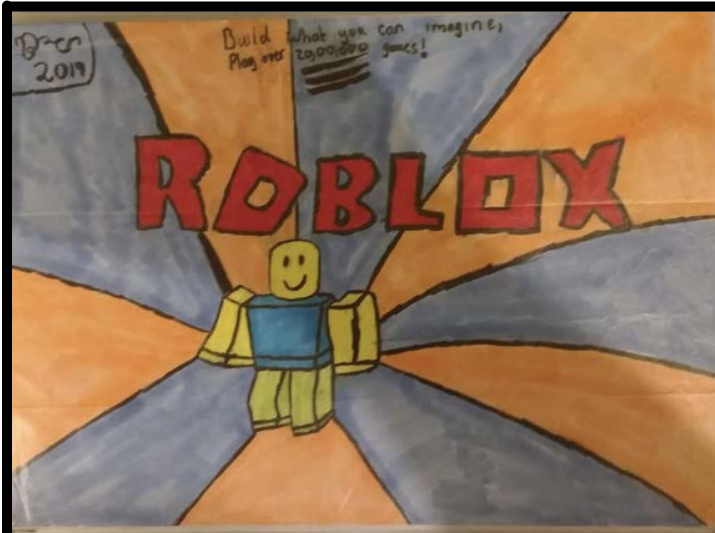


**Levi with his solved collection of Rubik's Cubes**

**From Levi, age 7**



**Pete the Pineapple, ready for World Book Day. Made from clay, paint and recycled cardboard.**



**Drawings by David Carroll**



**Dumbledore, by Oisín Wernick**

# Save the Trees!

by Juliet Mary Ring

Trees are really important and some of us don't know it. That's why I'm writing this. To spread awareness for trees. We can't live without them. They clean our air, they stabilize our ground, they provide animals and other plants with home, food, shelter, and warmth. We don't appreciate them, we cut them down!

If you want to help save the trees here are some things you can do:

You can write a note to the government, like I did – the more people the better. (You won't get arrested.)

If you have the time and space you can plant some Irish native trees (the more the better) and look after them. But remember: native. Otherwise it's not half as good.

You can also just spread the word by telling your friends and family and getting them to say it too. Win!!!!

Thank you for reading this

Get to know your native trees: birch, holly, hawthorn, blackthorn, hazel, willow, elder, beech, Scots pine, and more.

# A Lego house, by Noah Tormey.



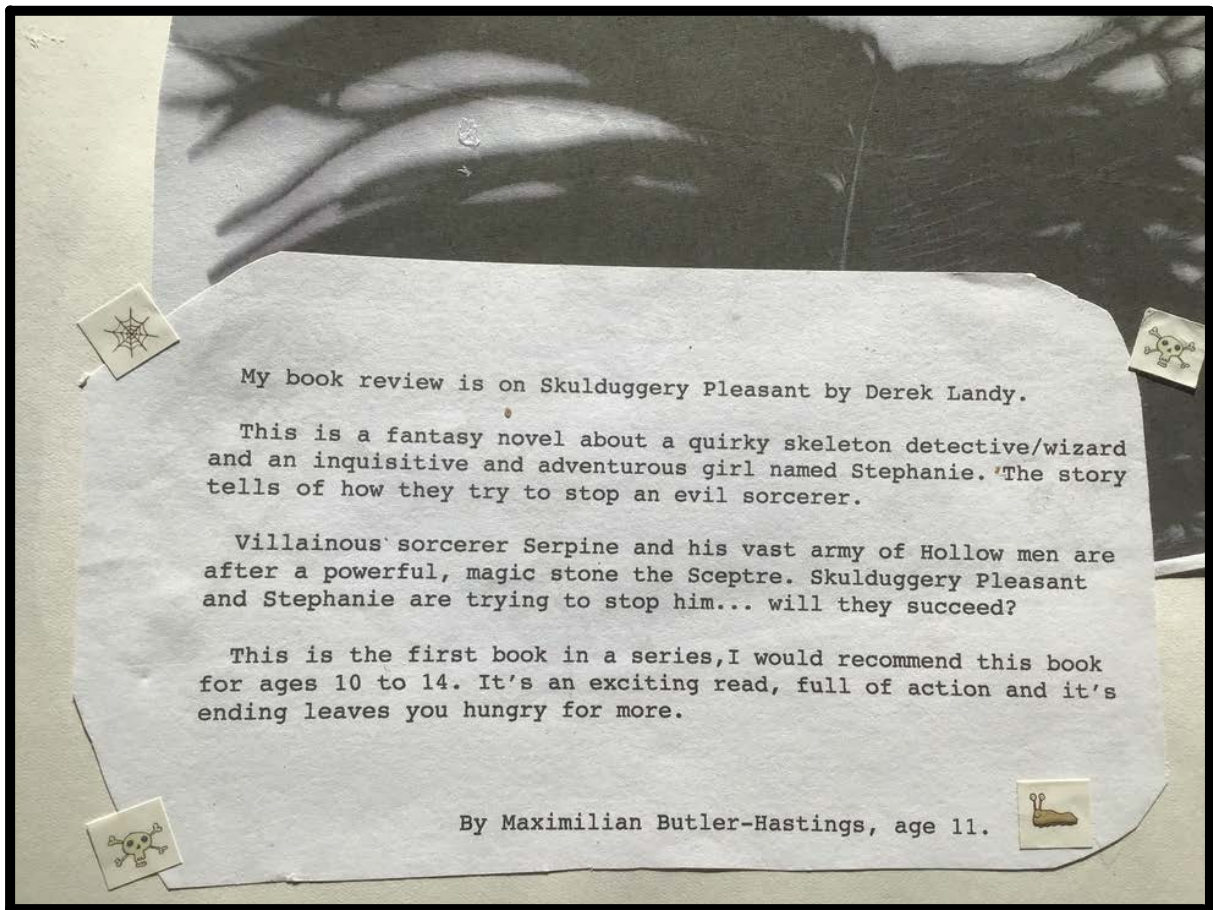
**Room 1: This is the first room in my house. It's the game room. It has a pool table and an arcade machine. This is basically the party room.**

**Room 2: This is the second room of my house. It's the kitchen. The kitchen is run by Chef Bob. He likes to cook scrambled eggs and pepperoni pizza.**

**Room 3 :Room 3 is basically the sitting room because it has a TV and a sofa. It's the only room that has a really good view.**

**Room 4: This is the last room in the house. It's the bedroom. It has an escape ladder to the party room and some more clothes to wear, and also it has a balcony over the party room and soon it will have a bathroom.**





**A book review on Skulduggery Pleasant, by Maximilian Butler-Hastings**



**By Zohar Cohen-Brener**



**The Book with No Pictures is really funny, even though it doesn't have any pictures. It's by B. J. Novak. I got it for Christmas. Ask Santa for a book, you might get lucky and get it.**

**By Kara Tormey, age 6**



Book Review |

Book Title WINGS of fire

Author Tu. t. Sutherlam

**Plot:** What happens in the story?

Start: clay and his friends escape from under the mountain and they get captured by Queen scab. Part two: they are taken prisoners. and clay meets a girl dragon called felix clay trusted her but she betrays him. Part three: they escape and clay finds his family!

**Characters:** Who is in the story? What is their personality like? What do they look like?

clay: loyal, friendly. ~~glory:~~ glory: smart, sarcastic most of the time. Sunny: happy, excitable, terrible at keeping secrets. starflight: smart, really likes to study, does not like to fight. tsunami: can fight anything will fight anything. and this is what they look like.

**Setting:** Where is the story set? When is it set? What is the weather like?

PYRRHEA, (Dragon Island)  
?  
**CLEAR**

**Your Opinion:** What was your favourite part of the story and why?

I ~~think~~ Love this book soooooo much. I like the book cuz it has dragons and I love dragons

**A book review by Miren Donegan**

# Theropod dinosaurs

Theropods were two-footed and usually meat-eaters. Most had short arms and long legs. Some had feathers too, and a few significant species evolved into birds. The name theropod means beast-footed. It was previously thought that all carnivores were theropods classed in the saurischia (lizard-hipped); however we now know that theropods evolved in the ornithoscelida (bird-hipped), while other carnivores, such as Herrerasaurus, evolved separately in the saurischia. Theropods lived from the Carnian stage of the late Triassic (235 mya) to the end of the Maastrichtian stage of the late Cretaceous (65 mya). Maybe they evolved a little bit sooner. Maybe they died out a little bit later. Who knows? Scientists are working to find out, maybe even right now as you are reading this!

## Tyrannosaurus rex

T. rex lived during the Maastrichtian stage of the late Cretaceous period (65–70 mya). It could reach 12.4 m long and 6 m tall. It could run at 32 km/h and may have hunted in packs. T. rex had an enormous skull at 1.5 m long with snapping jaws of 1.2 m in length containing 50–60 teeth. Its teeth were 15–25cm long.

Left: Model T. rex. Right: Baby T. rex with papier-mâché background.



# Allosaurus

**Allosaurus was unearthed and named by Charles Marsh in 1877. It is sometimes known as the lion of the Jurassic. A lot of Allosaurus fossils have been found. 'Big Al'\* is probably the most well-known. Allosaurus had an S-shaped neck.**

# Velociraptor

**Velociraptor had 80 very sharp curved teeth. It probably if not definitely had feathers. It had a 9 cm curved killing claw on each of its hind feet.**



# Slug World

by Colm Brosnan

**I have three snails with golden markings and a black snail. I started making it four years ago. I have more snails than slugs in Slug World. I sort them by colour and pattern.**



**This shows grey, whitey and wall-chip snail families.**

**This shows yellow snail family and one black.**

## Trees Word Search

W R O W I H A A Z H M A T G C  
A T S I U R P O N U S H W D A  
A T K L A R P T G L A A D O A  
N O R L S Y L T R W L L O R W  
E S P O C H E S T N U T G A A  
D O O W D E R H U R I F W I K  
P C L N W C O T T O N W O O D  
P K Y S E R M R D H I C O U I  
M R R P N N A O S T P P D Q L  
H L R R R D C A P K A L D E R  
O A E U E E Y A L C K L E S H  
H R H C N U S N O U N P U K A  
A C C E O P G S Y B I R C H W  
T H A Z E L P A M N H W R D L  
D C I N C E S W E Y C U D N T

Alder

Apple

Ash

Aspen

Birch

Buckthorn

Cedar

Cherry

Chestnut

Chinkapin

Cottonwood

Cypress

Dogwood

Elm

Fir

Hawthorn

Hazel

Larch

Maple

Oak

Pine

Poplar

Redwood

Sequoia

Spruce

Sweetgum

Sycamore

Walnut

Willow

Yew

# I love homeschooling!

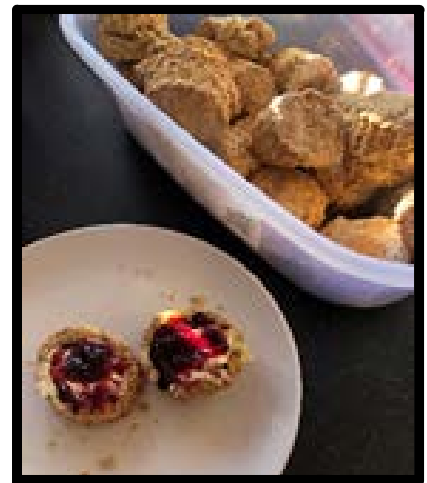
by Rianna Leyden, age 14

I was in second year in secondary school when it became increasingly obvious to me that school just was not for me. I heard about homeschooling before, and I asked my parents what they thought of it and if it would be possible. At first, they were a bit reluctant and dubious, but that was also because we hadn't researched enough about it. Once we researched it more, it seemed more possible.

In January 2020, my parents decided that we could give it a shot, but we planned to do it some time in the future, maybe not as soon as it happened! In February 2020, school got so bad that Mam and Dad just said that I could start homeschooling the next week. I thought I would be so relieved and excited, but to be honest I was just nervous because I thought I would just be home for a few weeks and then sent back into school. Luckily for me, I didn't go back to school!!!

When I first started homeschooling I did the Junior Cert curriculum. I loved being homeschooled, but it was very restrictive following the curriculum, and obviously being at home I wanted to do fun things (for example: baking, art, reading, ballet, etc.). At the time I didn't think of them as educational, I just thought of them as fun! It wasn't until the first HEN meeting we attended, my parents and I could now see how beneficial and liberating it could be to not follow the Junior Cert curriculum. As my parents are both teachers, this was a big step for all of us to take.

The freedom of not following traditional education has allowed me to follow and develop my own interests. For example, I almost always bake or cook something every day. I read every evening. I do a lot of ballet and fitness. I play piano a lot as well.







Recently, I decided to make a fairy house to put in our local woods to hopefully bring some joy and fun for younger kids, especially during covid. Naturally, I have to do maths every day. But for art, English, science, languages, history, IT, and geography, I'm doing a project called 'How Ballet Evolved'. For instance, ballet started during the Renaissance. So, I researched how it began, and next I will go into more detail about that era. This project is presented as a scrapbook, so that is how it incorporates art.

For anyone who is considering not doing the traditional curriculum, I would definitely recommend homeschooling. If you are stuck on how to do all the subjects, I would suggest picking something you are interested in, a hobby (or maybe even two!) and doing a project on it.



And remember that living is learning so going for a walk or helping to make the dinner is all an education. A year ago, I never thought I would ever say this, and yet here I am right now saying it. 'I LOVE SCHOOL!'



# Entering the Teen Table

by Lucy Hood

My body felt like jelly, my legs quaking; the tables where the teenagers sat throbbed with the hum of their conversations, their sickly laughs. Soon I would have to find a chair but not yet; I needed time to settle, to absorb all the details of the room, the chairs blue and stiff, the faces of the teenagers, gleaming eerily above the artificial light of phones, the floor sucking against my shoe. Don't break in abruptly, my thoughts hammered, just act normal. My body shivered as a pair of eyes raked over me, a little sneer curving over a girl's lips, she glued herself back to her phone.

I let out a breath. Why was I strange with other people of my age, when I knew I loved the thrill of socializing, talking to people, brimming with confidence as I told them funny stories, playing with them, running through the billowing wind, fresh air flowing down my lungs? But the people I liked were normally younger than me, rarely the same age except for a few.

My feet slowly peeled away from the floor, moving me towards a table. A girl lifted her eyes from her phone. Gingerly, I let my body slip into the chair. The girl watched me then swooped her eyes back to her phone's screen. Silence met me, occasionally broken by whispers, hissing like fierce geese. A girl, the leader of the group, propped her elbows on the polished surface of the table, 'Hi.' Her voice was sweet, dripping with honeyed tones.

I gripped the edge of my seat, 'Um, hi.'  
The girl laid her phone on the table. I could see it was a new one, flat and sleek, its case a shining silver. She tossed her dark blonde ponytail behind her ear, 'What class are you?'

That was what I was dreading. Soon all eyes would be locked on me and I would be trapped.

Heat rose in my cheeks. 'I'm home schooled.'

The girl raised her eyebrows. 'Home schooled? Does the teacher come to your house or something?'

My stomach coiled, the chair pressed into my back. 'No, my mum teaches me.' A smirk spread on the lips of another girl, her chocolate brown hair fastened in long plaits. 'Oh, your mum? But wouldn't you want a teacher to make you clever?' My insides boiled, my hands curdled in my lap. I was clever, I knew loads about history and enjoyed delving myself deep into books of ancient and exotic kingdoms; I loved birds, and my mind was stuffed with thousands of species, their courtship displays, their artistic flair, and then there were chickens, my life. My mind burst with knowledge of the beautiful misunderstood birds, the hundreds of breeds, their intelligence, the experiments I had done unlocking chickens' secrets. I clenched my hands over the chair, fighting my lips.

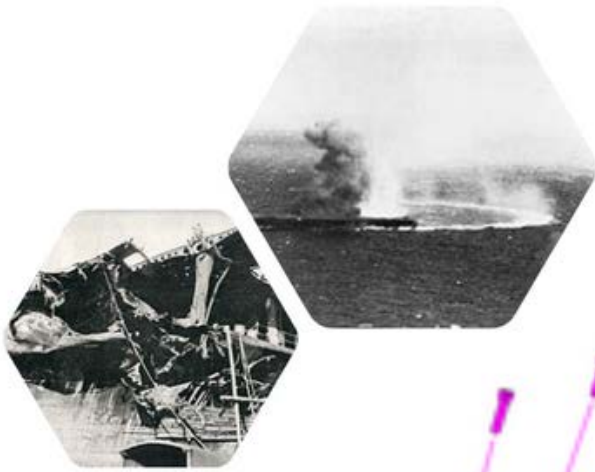
'Anyway.' The blonde girl switched her eyes away from me, then muttered something I couldn't hear. The brown-haired girl nodded, whispering urgently to a girl with a freckled face, then the conversation turned to the alien subject of phones and social media.

I stared glumly at the scene, wondering when I was allowed to talk, the girls' mutters, oohs and ahhs, buzzing over to each other, whizzing fast and furious from burbling lips. Occasionally their glances would slip to me, and their faces grew blank, unreadable.

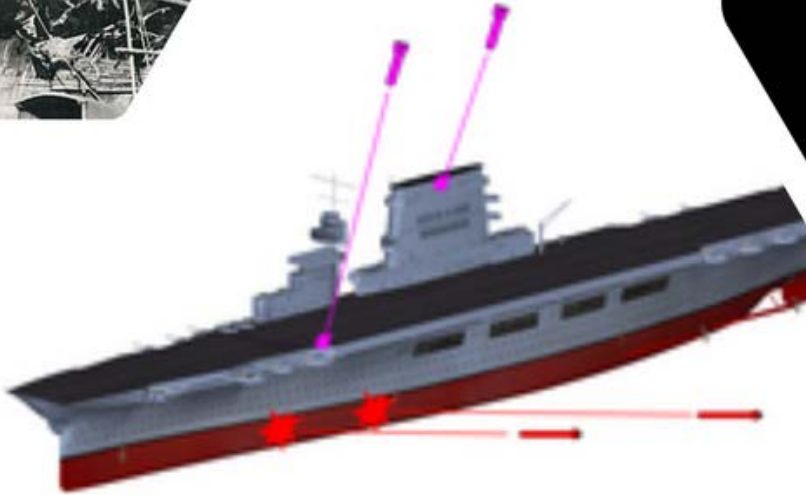
I shoved myself further into my chair, the buzzing increasing, pounding my eardrums, their lips opening wider, churning the air, mumbling, murmuring, thrumming, laughs clattered, rattling the air.

Then the lips ceased.

Taking my chance, I escaped the chair.



## BATTLE OF THE CORAL SEA in PICTURES by Joshua Strozer



The United States and Japan fought the Battle of Coral Sea. The Coral Sea is near Papua New Guinea and the Great Barrier Reef. There is mixed reviews of who won. Both Japan and the US lost fleet carriers.

These are the ships that were in the battle for the United States: 2 fleet carriers, 8 cruisers, 14 destroyers, 2 oilers, and 128 carrier aircraft. Japan had 2 fleet carriers, 1 light carrier, 9 cruisers, 15 destroyers, 5 minesweepers, 2 minelayers, 2 submarine chasers, 3 gunboats, 1 oiler, 1 seaplane tender, 12 transports, and 139 carrier aircraft.

Losses for the US were 1 fleet carrier sunk, 1 destroyer sunk, 1 oiler sunk, 1 fleet carrier damaged, 69 aircraft destroyed, 656 killed. Losses for Japan were 1 light carrier sunk, 1 destroyer sunk, 3 minesweepers sunk, 1 fleet carrier damaged, 1 destroyer damaged, 1 smaller warship damaged, 1 transport damaged, 69-97 aircraft destroyed, and 966 killed.

SOURCE for Strengths, Losses, and Casualties: Wikipedia contributors. (2021, March 8). Battle of the Coral Sea. In Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia. Retrieved 20:27, March 11, 2021, from [https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Battle\\_of\\_the\\_Coral\\_Sea&oldid=1010940181](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Battle_of_the_Coral_Sea&oldid=1010940181)





**Joy Strozer, age 6, with her Magna-Tiles creation. She built a structure which includes a castle, two castle bedrooms and a large dancing car garage.**

# Do I think Shakespeare is relevant to students in Ireland?

By Liadhain Quaid

There are two sides to every story. The positives, the negatives, the antagonist and protagonist. Therefore, I find it difficult to choose whether Shakespeare is relevant to students in Ireland or not. It is not a black or white question, it's a grey area in between.

Shakespeare wrote amazing plays, stories and sonnets that are still very relevant to today's world. Love, heartbreak, jealousy and rivalry are all main themes in many of his plays – for example, *Romeo and Juliet*. This means the student develops an understanding and can empathise with the character's feelings, motives and thoughts. Although this means it's useful for students to study Shakespeare, there is a barrier which greatly affects their usefulness. This barrier is the language. Shakespeare was a sixteenth-century writer. The English language has changed significantly since then, so there will be confusion in the comprehension. Phrases mean different things now to what they meant then, and this could cause problems in studying these works.

As I just clarified there are pros and cons to the use of Shakespeare as material for any student to study. In any case though, they are astounding literary works from the hands of a literary genius.

