

Forest of Reading 2024

White Pine

As Long As the Lemon Trees Grow
Written by Zoulfa Katouh



Salama's interest in horticulture can be seen throughout the book when she repeats names of flowers and their properties to herself as a way to calm down and find peace.

Layla's paintings have rich hues of colours, in particular blue, which Salama wishes she could see in the world. Kenan takes Salama to see the sunset and says they deserve to see the colours.

In this activity, we will use colouring as a calming technique, learn about various flowers mentioned in the novel, and use our creativity to colour them in non-traditional shades and hues.



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Daisies

In Chapter 1, Salama references daisies. Daisies symbolize innocence, cheerfulness, and purity. In Celtic mythology, legend has it that when a child died, the Gods sprinkled daisies onto the Earth to cheer up the grieving parents. While no flower could replace such a significant loss, the flowers brought small smiles to the parents' faces.



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Roses

Roses are referenced often in the novel. In one instance, white roses, a symbol of purity, are referred to in a flashback of Hamza and Layla's wedding. In another, a military man is killed and referred to as the man with the roses. Roses are often associated with war, heraldry, and badges.



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Gardenia

Salama repeats the name of the flower, gardenia in chapter 20 and says that it alleviates depression, anxiety and stress.



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Supporting Mental Health

Salama does not experience life as a normal teenager; she is a youngwoman who sees more death and destruction than anyone should in one life time. Salama's fear is manifested in an imagined companion, Khawf, who haunts her and advises her. In many ways, Khawf helps her to cope with the trauma that is happening around her.

There are many mental health resources available to students in Ontario who are suffering from trauma.

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is an illness which results from an experience of trauma. Learn more about PTSD (symptoms and supports) www.thelifelinecanada.ca .

Anxiety and Stress can also impact mental health and well-being. Check out the Student Resources at School Mental Health Ontario and Children Mental Health Ontario resources.

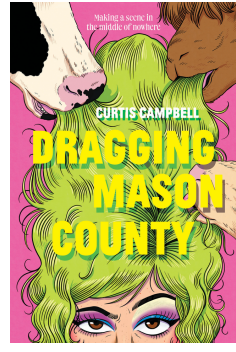
Task: Research mental health in Canada. Now create a poster which promotes awareness of mental health. Be sure to include ONE Canadian resource and ONE strategy on your poster. Be sure to check to see what supports are available at your school.



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Dragging Mason County
Written by Curtis Campbell



Acronyms

There are many identities contained within the 2SLGBTQ+ acronym. The acronym itself is not standard across all peoples and places. Some just use LGBTQ+. Some use LBTTIQQ2SAA. Some people like to use the word “queer” in an act of reclaiming the word. Others prefer not to use it. There is no one size fits all when speaking of gender and sexual identity.

This article from the CBC talks about the different versions of the acronym and what the letters represent:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/lgbtq-queer-sexual-diversity-pride-labels-acronym-1.3661094>

Using resources available to you, such as books, periodicals, or websites, choose one of the letters from the acronyms mentioned (preferably one that you aren't familiar with) and research what it means. Did you discover new information you didn't already know? Share what you learned with at least one other person.

Here are some online resources to get you started:

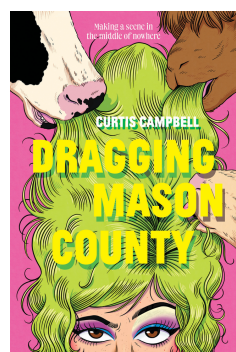
- Egale - <https://egale.ca/awareness/terms-and-definitions/>
- Government of Canada - <https://women-gender-equality.canada.ca/en/free-to-be-me/2slgbtqi-plus-glossary.html>



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Going Social

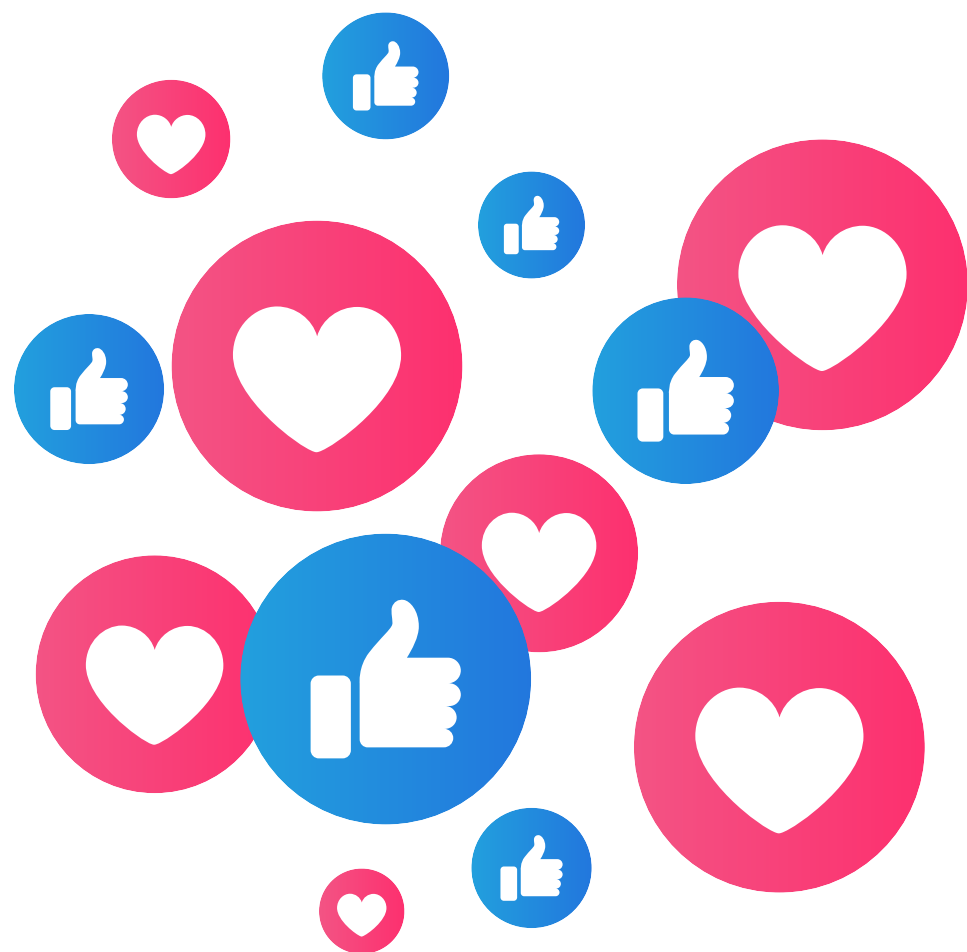
At times the plot of the novel is pushed forward through social media posts on the platform, *Poster*, which has similarities to our real-life social media platforms.

Instagram, Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), Snapchat, and TikTok – how many of these social media platforms do you use in your own daily activities?

Task: Pick one character from the novel and design a social media page for that character to be posted on the imagined *Poster* platform. You can use paper or a computer to design the page.

Try to imagine what photos your character would post? What captions would they write? What else do you think should be included in their profile?

Share your character's profile with at least one other person.

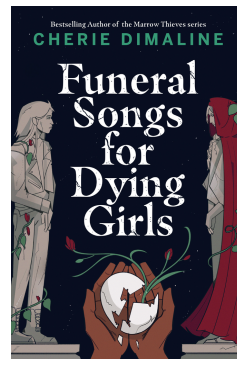


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Funeral Songs for Dying Girls

Written by Cherie Dimaline



Word Scramble

Unscramble the letters below to spell out words related to the story.

LFUNREA

TOSHG

MRYEETEC

NMTOMENU

NIVREA

GSRIL

ETIRURAOMMC

UDAEHTN

MURSME

GSOSN

VAEDARGYR

EUDIBR

YINDG

ANSWERS: FUNERAL, GHOST, CEMETERY,
MONUMENT, RAVINE, GIRLS, CREMATORIUM, HAUNTED, SUMMER,
SONGS, GRAVEYARD, BURIED, DYING

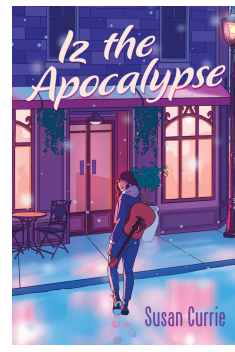


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Iz the Apocalypse

Written by Susan Currie



Movie Casting and Poster

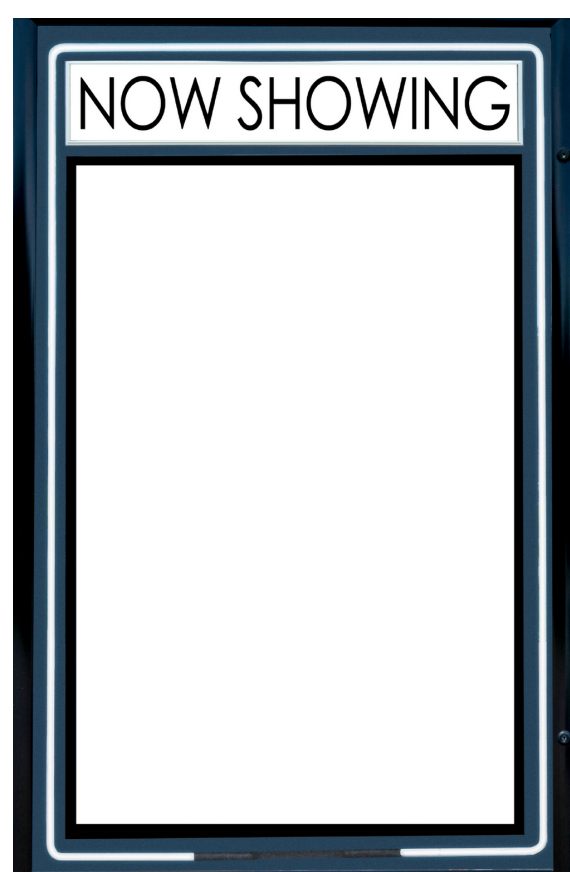
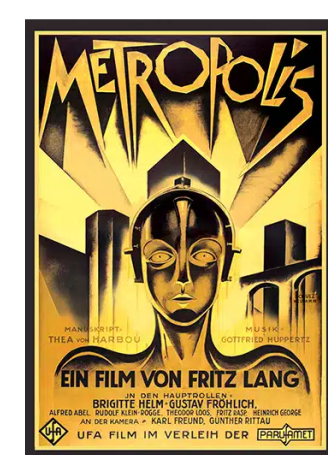
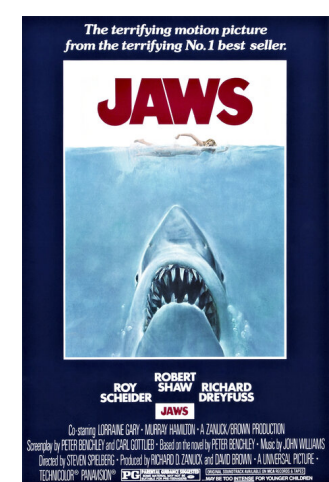
Books being turned into movies is a huge trend. Hollywood has come calling and wants to make a movie version of *Iz the Apocalypse*. Let's hope it doesn't disappoint!

Task:

1. Create a cast list, including the director. Who would you cast for the main roles?
2. Create a poster to advertise the upcoming movie.

Requirements for Poster

- Title
- Main Actors names
- Images
- Catchy tagline to intrigue the audience
- Release date
- Director
- A studio logo

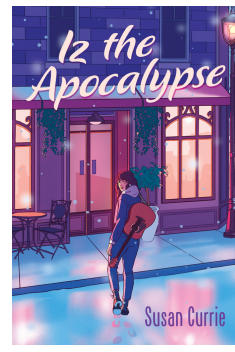


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Iz the Apocalypse

Written by Susan Currie



Music for the Soul

Music is an important part of Iz's life. She listens to music, plays music and writes her own songs. Music and songs are the soundtrack to her life. Music can make us remember good times and comfort us when we are down or keep us motivated.

Task:

- How does music impact or influence your life? Reflect on how music has helped you in some way.
- Create a list of 10+ songs that characterize your life.
 - Happy songs
 - Inspiring songs
 - Childhood favourites
 - Songs that remind you of special events
 - Songs that define key moments in your life
- Reflect on why each song is important to you.
- If possible, create the actual playlist so it can be played for everyone.



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Mall Goth

Written by Kate Leth



Time Capsule

Set in 2003, *Mall Goth* creates deep feelings of nostalgia for anyone who lived through these years. For example, on page 7, Kate Leth shows us Liv's bedroom which gives us a glimpse into a teenager's life at this time. From the posters on the wall to the bedding to the stickers on the nightstand, each of these things is recognizable and resonates powerfully with some people.

Task: Create a your own time capsule for young people of the future. Imagine a person in 2043 reading a story about life in 2024; what are the things you'd put into a time capsule? What do you want them to know about your life today? About technology, about the country, the food, etc.?

You can sketch your ideas in the space below, or use the chart to make a list of your ideas. Or do both! Be creative but thoughtful.

Super Task: Now that you have an idea of what items truly represent life in 2024, go ahead and create an actual time capsule. Gather the items you listed, place them in an air tight container and put it somewhere safe and that won't be found for a while. You could bury it in your backyard or hide it in your basement, or...



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Time Capsule Sketch



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Time Capsule Chart

What would you put in your time capsule?	Why?



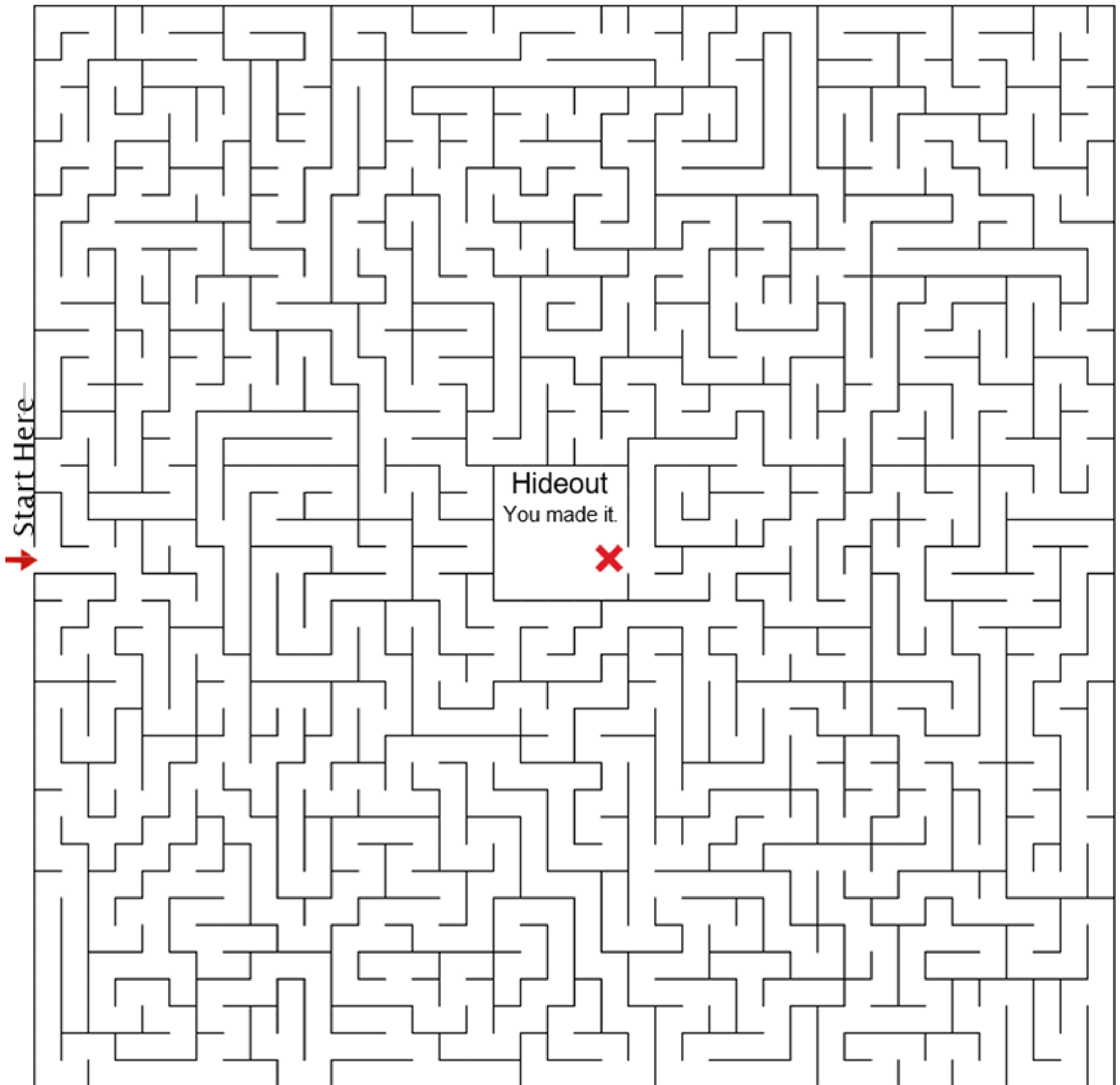
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Of Light and Shadow
Written by Tanaz Bhathena



Can you find your way back to the hideout!



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Of Light and Shadow
Written by Tanaz Bhathena



Vision Board

Definition of a vision board: “a collage of images and words representing a person's wishes or goals, intended to serve as inspiration or motivation.” ~from the Oxford Dictionary

Task: Get Creative! Pick one of the characters from the book *Pieces of Me* and create a vision board for that character. Think about their goals, dreams, career, etc. You can draw, use cutouts from magazines, whatever you need to represent the character.

Examples of a vision board:

